



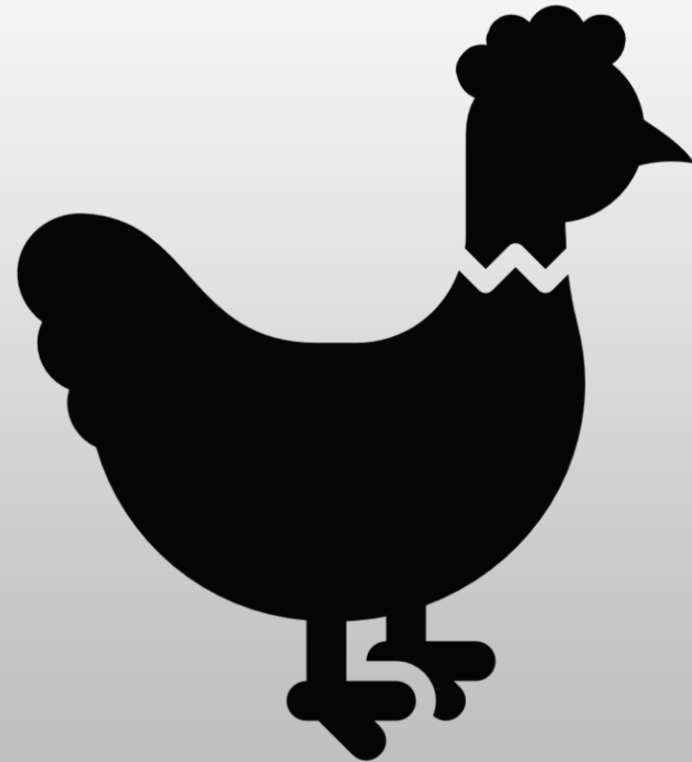
# **POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK GOVERNING CHICKEN CAGED FARMING IN NIGERIA**

*Presented By*

**Dr. Kikiope O. Oluwarore (DVM, MSc)**

at the West Africa Cage-free Conference, Ghana; April 2023

# INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND



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Poultry farming involves the domestic or commercial breeding and raising of a variety of birds such as chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese for their meat, eggs, or other by-products

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Nigeria is the most populous black nation in the world – estimated pop 213M

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About 95 million people (over 40%) of Nigeria's population are engaged in poultry farming, and 13 million households earn their livelihood and income from this industry (mostly small to medium) ([Punch Newspapers, 2022](#))

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Nigeria has the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest chicken population in Africa with annual production of 180 million chickens ([Awojulgbe, 2019](#); [Shittu, 2022](#)).

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Highest egg producer in Africa with 650 million tons of eggs produced annually

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4<sup>th</sup> highest chicken meat producer in Africa with about 450 million tons of meat produced annually ([Punch Newspapers, 2022](#); [CSIRO](#))

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The poultry industry is regarded as the most commercialized, organized, and well-established of the country's agricultural sub-sectors ([Mengesha, 2012](#)).

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The industry has a current net worth of about \$4.2 billion and contributes about 25% of agricultural GDP to the Nigerian economy.

## POLICY ISSUE

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Intensive farming systems for chicken production – especially the use of battery cages – has raised strong concerns on welfare conditions and negative impact on their well-being.

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Due to these welfare concerns and issues, many stakeholders and countries are demanding for implementation of welfare systems and practices in poultry farms – particularly calling for the transitioning, phasing-out or banning of BCs

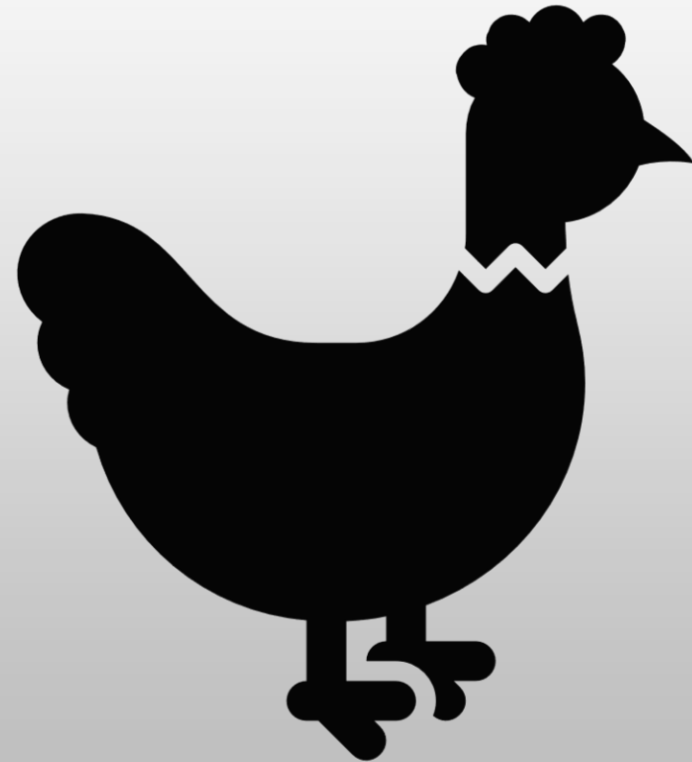
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We also now have increasing consumer demand and choice for purchase, trade and even exports of chicken (and related products) bred in cage-free systems with better welfare conditions

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**However, for farmers and stakeholders in both private and public sector in Nigeria, there evidence of high and increasing prevalence of BCs and poor knowledge of the welfare impacts of battery cages.**

# Policy Gaps for Battery Cages (and Cage-free implementation in Nigeria



# POLICY GAPS

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While Nigeria has a number of laws and policy frameworks that have made some provisions for animal welfare-related issues, there is no singular comprehensive one yet dedicated to animal welfare or hen welfare.

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Some existing animal-related laws include the; Animal Disease Law (for Vets) and the National Animal Health policy which is the first of its kind and has an animal welfare component but with reference to health and production

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**There is no singular law, policy framework or provisions that addresses the use of battery cages for poultry farming in the country.**

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A holistic and comprehensive Animal Welfare Law and Policy is currently being drafted and awaiting stakeholders validation. It is meant to align with the existing GAWS and AWSA. (Unclear if BCs are addressed there)

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In line with this, an Animal Welfare Council has been established with several TWGs, one of which is Livestock and Production TWG (includes Poultry)

## POLICY GAPS

- There is also inadequate knowledge of animal welfare, hen welfare and negative impacts of battery cages among policymakers – including veterinarians and other animal health and production officials in government. This has contributed to poor advocacy, lack of political will and buy-in to push for such legislative frameworks on battery cages and hen welfare

# Policy Recommendations



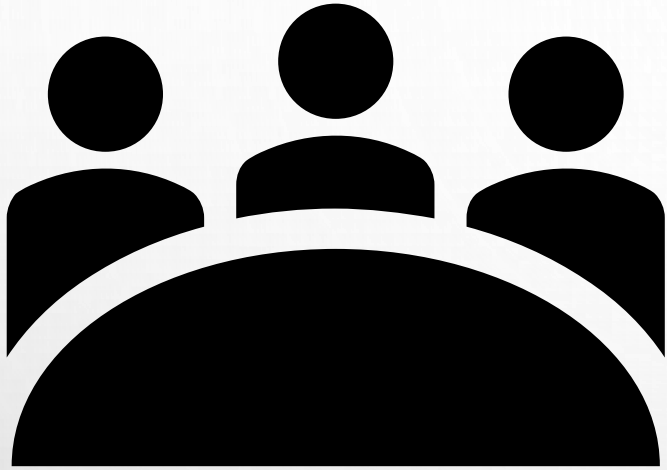


## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Promote the establishment and implementation of legal frameworks and policies that address animal and hen welfare in the country, including specific laws and policies that discourage the use of battery cages for hens.
- Set up and support specific TWGs that would focus on policy support and advocacy on cage-free farms and the welfare of hens
- Collate and provide supporting evidence that would guide the development of legal frameworks.
- Promote public awareness and education on the impacts of battery cage farming for advocacy and movement building that would support relevant legislative frameworks

# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Train and build the capacity of poultry farmers on alternatives cage-free housing frameworks that would help them adhere to the policy guidelines and frameworks, balance the welfare needs of hens and address/alleviate the economic concerns of the farmers and stakeholders who work in the poultry industry.
- Promote cage-free advocacy and discourse with retailers and consumers to purchase chicken meat, eggs, and other products from only farms that have welfare-enhancing cage-free housing systems for chickens.



# QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

Email: [kiki@onehealthdev.org](mailto:kiki@onehealthdev.org)