

Poultry production in countries in the South

Varied farm situations

In Southeast Asia, half of the poultry population is raised intensively on medium to large scale commercial farms. The other half is a source of income for small farmers who keep only a few dozen ducks, chickens, geese, or turkeys. The birds live together in close proximity to the farmer's family, especially the children, who take care of and play with them. At certain times of day and during certain periods of the year, poultry and humans share the same habitat.



Broiler farm on raised piles in Vietnam, 2002 – Vincent Porphyre, © Cirad

In Africa, intensive poultry farming (or aviculture) has been developed in North Africa (from Morocco to Egypt), South Africa, and around the large cities of the Gulf of Guinea (Lagos, Abidjan, ...) and East Africa (Addis Ababa, Nairobi, ...). Elsewhere, backyard-bird farming dominates, with similar promiscuity between people and poultry found in Southeast Asia.

In Madagascar, the situation closely resembles Asia: large areas are covered by rice fields with numerous geese and duck farms in close contact with pigs and people.

Virus markets

Live-bird markets are a prime location for the transmission and spread of viruses. Contaminated animals that do not present an obvious sign of disease may be bought and transported to a new environment that is conducive to the spread of the virus. In addition, small-scale farmers and merchants often come in close contact with the poultry while transporting them by hand, bicycle, cycle rickshaw, in public transportation, or in the market stalls.



Poultry cages at the Mopti market in Mali, 2006 – Alexandre Caron, © Cirad

The return of unsold goods

Healthy birds may be contaminated in the market by other diseased poultry and if they are not sold then spread the virus upon their return to the family farm.