

## **RESEARCHER BETS ON NEW VACCINE TO KICK OUT NEWCASTLE DISEASE**

A distressing video of chicken supposedly infected with Newcastle disease left poultry farmers with many unanswered questions about the disease. In the video widely shared among farmers on social media, dozens of chicken feeding in a dimly lit room suddenly start arching their heads backwards as they uncontrollably move back and forth. Others hysterically throw themselves on the ground and writhe for a while, trying desperately to tuck their restless heads in their wings before they fall silent. And Irene Ogali, a PhD student at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) says the disease has devastating results when it attacks birds. “Farmers can experience up to 100 per cent losses when Newcastle disease attacks their birds because the condition spreads so fast,” says Ms Ogali. But the biggest challenge that poultry farmers face, according to Ms Ogali, is overreliance on obsolete vaccines that do not respond to the disease-causing virus which has, with years, evolved locally.

<https://www.farmers.co.ke/article/2001324905/researcher-bets-on-new-vaccine-to-kick-out-newcastle-disease>