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Trs' Name: Olepor Ben

Contact: 0772426682

# Breeds of Chicken

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What is a breed?

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► A breed is a group of animals with specific characteristics/behaviours.

## Groups of breeds of chicken kept in Uganda

- 1. Local breeds (Indigenous)
- 2. Exotic breeds (Imported/foreign)
- NB: Exotic breeds can either be grouped as heavy breeds or light breeds.



### **EXOTIC BREEDS**

#### **HEAVY BREEDS**

- 1. Rhode Island red
- 2. New Hampshire
- 3. Orpington

#### LIGHT BREEDS

- 1. Ancona
- 2. Minorca
- 3. Light Sussex
- 4. White Leghorn
- 5. Skyers



#### Local breeds

#### **Characteristics of Local breeds**

- They are more resistant to diseases and parasites.
- They can withstand harsh climatic conditions than the exotic.
- They have a slow growth rate.
- They lay small and only a few eggs during each laying season.



# Disadvantages of keeping local breeds of chicken.

- They grow very slowly.
- They lay fewer eggs.

## How to improve upon the local breeds of chicken?

 Through cross-breeding of local breeds with exotic breeds to get a hybrid.



- Through selective breeding (choosing breeds of good quality).
- Through outbreeding the mating of different families of the same breed

### **Definition of Cross Breeding**

Cross breeding is the mating of animals of different breeds.



#### Advantages of cross-breeding

- Encourages fast growth in birds
- Results into more eggs being laid by the offspring.
- Improves on the productivity of poultry.



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