

Socio-Economic Characterization of Local Guinea Fowl (*Numida meleagris*) Populations in three Agro-Ecological Zones of Burkina Faso

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ABSTRACT

Background: The guinea fowl (*Numida meleagris*) is widespread in Burkina Faso in a traditional system, where it is bred in freedom. The objective of this study was to characterize, at the socioeconomic level, local populations of guinea fowl at three agro-economic zones.

Methods: The study was conducted in three agro-ecological zones (Sahelian zone, northern Sudan zone, and southern Sudan zone) of Burkina Faso. To do this, 120 breeders due to 40 breeders per zone were the subject of socioeconomic surveys.

Results: The results shown that training in poultry farming and schooling of livestock farmers were higher in the south (60% and 43%) than in the north and the Sahel. In guinea fowl management, women's participation was higher in the north than in the two zones (southern and Sahel) where the participation of children and men was high. In the Sahel, production was primarily intended for self-consumption and donations (75%), while in the north and south it is heavily used for breeding and sales (60%). The average price of guinea fowl and egg was higher in the south (3000 and 75 FCFA), followed by that of the Sahel (2500 and 60 FCFA) and the north (2200 and 50 FCFA). The major constraints were health problems and brutal deaths in the south, north and sahel (60%).

Conclusion: It emerges from the study that in the Sahel the social aspect is important, in the north; the activity was more monetarized while in the south the self-consumption is remarkable.

Key-words: Burkina Faso, Characterization, Guinea fowl, *Numida meleagris*, Socioeconomic

INTRODUCTION

Food for African populations remains deficient in animal protein despite the increase in ruminant production in African countries and the massive importation of meat ^[1]. Faced with this challenge, governments were encouraging the development of production of short-cycle animals, namely poultry ^[2]. Burkina Faso produces around thirty (30) million head of poultry a year. In poultry farming, the breeding component of guinea fowl is particularly important ^[1].

The guinea fowl (*N. meleagris*) was a species highly appreciated for its meat and eggs in West Africa ^[3]. Its breeding occupies a place of choice, given its socio-economic importance (rites, sacrifices, donations), nutritional in the lives of the populations ^[4] and is a source of income for the communities ^[5]. Despite these various forces, the development of local guinea fowl farming is hampered by the low productivity of animals reared in an extensive rambling system ^[6]. However, improved breeding conditions could increase the productivity of local guinea fowl ^[6-8].

The general objective was to understand the socioeconomic characteristics of the local populations of guinea fowl (*N. meleagris*) of the Sahel, South Sudanian and North Sudanian ecotypes of Burkina Faso in order to guide decision-making in development programs of Guinea Fowl Farming in Burkina Faso.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

Site of the study- The study was conducted in three agro-ecological zones (Sahelian zone, northern Sudan zone, and southern Sudan zone) of Burkina Faso among the four cited by Seydou^[9]. The choice of areas had been made taking into account the importance of raising guinea fowl in the regions of the mentioned areas. Agro-ecological zoning is shown in Fig. 1.

The Sahelian zone is located in the extreme north of Burkina Faso. It covers an area of 36.166 km² or 13.3% of the national territory. It is a region characterized by low rainfall (≤ 400 mm). In this area, the data were collected in the province of Seno.

The northern Sudanian zone, The North Sudanese zone has an average annual rainfall of between 700 mm and 900 mm. Its temperature varies between 22.7°C and 35.4°C. In this area, data were collected in the Central West region in Boulkieimde province.

The southern Sudanian zone, the annual rainfall of this zone is between 900 mm and 1200 mm. The average temperature is 27°C. In this area, data were collected in the Hauts-Bassins region in the Houet and Kenedougou provinces.

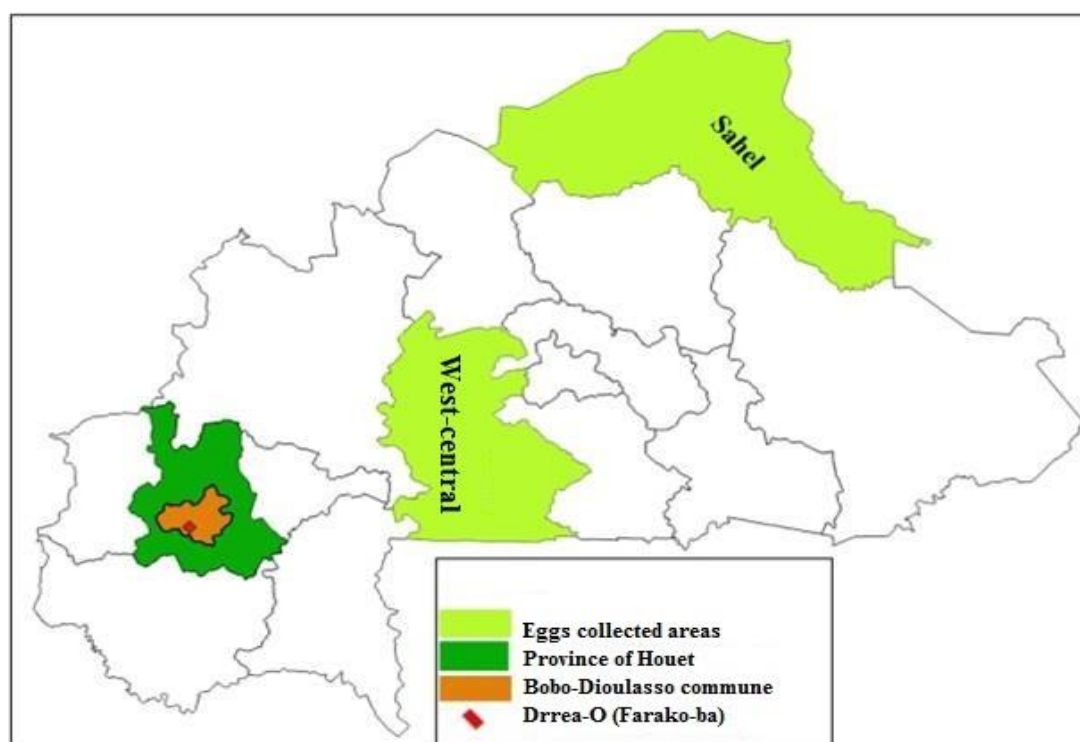


Fig. 1: Data-gathering areas in Burkina Faso

Collection of data and sampling- The collection of data was realized at August 2017 to December 2017. We used the random sampling method for the choice of farmers. Indeed, it was done by a semi-structured survey. Producers must have at least one year of experience and be between 15 and 80 years old. In each area, a small proportion of women practising Guinea Fowl farming were selected. In each agro-ecological zone, 40 breeders or a total of 120 breeders were interviewed about information relating to the socio-economic characterization of the guinea fowl, namely the production objectives, the role played by each family member, the reasons for the samples taken and

proportions of use of guinea fowl and its eggs, the constraints related to Guinea Fowl farming.

Statistical Analysis- For data processing, a database was created using the Sphinx 4 software and then transferred to the IBM SPSS statistics.20 software and the Microsoft Excel 2013 spreadsheet. The data analyzes (qualitative and quantitative) were done with the Xlstat 2007 software. Between the nominal qualitative data, the analyses were made with the IBM SPSS statistics.20 and Sphinx 4 software. Charts were generated with the Excel 2016 Spreadsheet.

RESULTS

Profile of farmers in the three agroecological zones-

More than 80% of the guinea fowl producers encountered were men in the three agroecological zones of Burkina Faso. The breeding of guinea fowl was therefore a male activity in Burkina Faso. In fact, the producers met in the agroecological zones were essentially married (87.17%) and that more than 60% had agriculture as their main activity. In addition, over 80% of producers had received no training in guinea fowl breeding. For the level of education, the majority of

breeders surveyed in northern Sudan had no level of education. On the other hand, in Southern Sudan the majority had primary education and in the Sahel the majority of the producers were educated in the Koranic school. Concerning the question of religion, Fig. 2 shows the religion of the producers according to the agroecological zones in Burkina Faso. Chi-square statistical analysis revealed a moderately significant difference at the 0.5% level ($p < 0.005$ and $Cr < 0.70$) of religions between the three ecotypes. Unlike northern Sudan, Muslims dominate in southern Sudan and the Sahel.

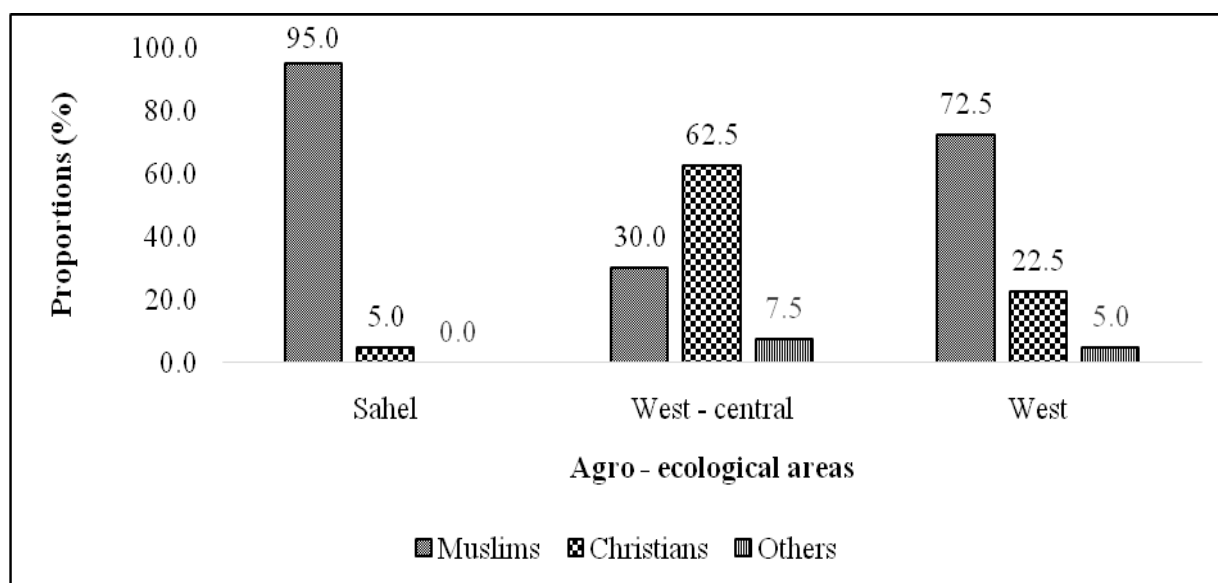


Fig. 2: Producers religion in Burkina Faso

Farms of local guinea fowl (*N. meleagris*)- The appreciation of Guinea Fowl Farming industry by the producers is mentioned in Table 1. We must remember that the breeders were motivated on the one hand because of the economic profitability of the activity, the quality of the meat and the ease of the guinea fowl on

sale; on the other hand, the motivation of the farmers was related to its immediate adaptation of the environment, the cultural aspect, the high productivity. There were other types of motivation (the guinea fowl's docility, hardiness, and passion etc).

Table 1: Appreciation of the Guinea Fowl farming industry by the producers

Appreciation	Agroecological areas			Average
	Sahel	West-central	West	
Adaptation of the environment	37.5	15	87.5	46.7
Docility	0	5	0	1.7
Rusticity	5	27.5	0	10.8
Facility breeding	40	20	17.5	25.8
Productivity	32.5	12.5	57.5	34.2
Economic profitability	90	60	100	83.3

Quality of the meat	67.5	37.5	97.5	67.5
Facility of the sale	87.5	32.5	82.5	67.5
Culturel/Tradition	72.5	45	2.5	40
Passion	2.5	0	0	0.8

Mode of acquisition of guinea fowl and the origin of the first breeders- The method of obtaining the first breeders at startup was mainly based on the purchase of eggs for brooding and donating eggs for brooding. Others have obtained it either by family inheritance or by the purchase of breeding stock. It should be noted that the first breeders generally come from their regions and/or neighboring villages but sometimes from other regions or villages far from their own.

Breeding methods, breeds, habitats- In the agroecological zones of Burkina Faso, the guinea fowl breeding system was mainly the traditional/extensive mode; this was met more than 90% in all three ecotypes. The semi-intensive mode was also met but in a minority way. As for the breed, all guinea fowl encountered were

100% native/local breeds. In the north and south of Sudan, traditional hen houses were mainly found 72.5% and 52.5% respectively while in the Sahel, the majority does not have a habitat to shelter the guinea fowl was 47.5%. Modern hen houses were found in minority areas in these areas. In the Sahel, cages were found at 10%.

Types of production, destination and reasons for harvesting guinea fowl and eggs- In the agroecological zones of Burkina Faso, guinea fowl production was based on the marketing of live guinea fowl and eggs. Others produce them for the flesh and for many others. The types of production are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Types of production of the Sahel, West-central and West-ecotypes of guinea fowls in Burkina Faso

Type of production	Agro-ecological areas			Average
	Sahel	West-central	West	
Marketing of live guinea fowl	90	95	95	93.3
Eggs	82.5	87.5	100	90
Meat	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Others	10	05	0	05

With regards to the destination of guinea fowl and eggs, the majority of producers claimed that it was essentially self-consumption (95% for guinea fowl and 99.2% for eggs), for sale (96, 7% for guinea fowl and 92.5% for eggs), for the reproduction of guinea fowl (98.3%) and hatching of eggs (99.2%) and donations (95% for guinea fowl and 93.3% for eggs). Some also speak of the exchange aspect and the cultural aspect (1.2%).

For farmers, the samples were taken mainly for the purpose of feeding the families (95% for eggs and 96.7% for guinea fowl), cash (89.2% for eggs and 91.7% for guinea fowl), maintenance of relationships and social cohesion (87.5% for eggs and 92.5% for guinea fowl) and many others such as schooling, pharmaceuticals, etc. (5%).

Proportion of use of guinea fowl and eggs- In the agroecological zones of Burkina Faso, 45% of producers reserved 2 to 4 guinea fowl out of 10 for breeding. This proportion was mostly found in the northern Sudan area (72.5%). In the Sahel and southern Sudan, however, 4-6 guinea fowl were reserved for breeding respectively 47.5% and 67.55%. Thus 4 to 6 guinea fowl were generally reserved for sale (45%) overall. Only one guinea fowl out of 10 was usually reserved for self-consumption, donations, trade respectively 70%, 76.8%, 23.3% of producers.

Like guinea fowl, 60.8% of producers reserve 2 to 4 eggs out of 10 for brooding. This proportion was mainly found in the northern Sudan zone (60%) and Sahel (85%).

In southern Sudan, however, the majority of producers (55.5%) reserve 4 to 6 eggs out of 10 for brooding. Thus 2 to 4 eggs out of 10 were generally reserved for sale (54.2%) overall.

Prices of guinea fowl, eggs and places of sale- In the agroecological zones of Burkina Faso, the price of the egg varies from 40 to 100 FCFA. According to the meele farmers (84.2% on average), the price of the best-known egg went from 50 to 75 FCFA. Regarding the price of guinea fowl, it varies from 2000 to 4000 FCFA and does not vary according to the types of plumage. But the price of white guinea fowl was generally higher than that of other types of plumage. According to the agro-farmers (59.2% on average), the best known price for guinea fowl ranges from 2500 to 3000 FCFA but in large cities like Bobo Dioulasso and Ouagadougou, for example, white

guinea fowl generally range from 3500 to 4000 FCFA. It should be noted that in Burkina Faso, the price of guinea fowl was not gender-based and that sales were mostly at home, on the farm, at the sector or village market and other markets such as nearest big cities.

Main constraints in the guinea fowl production chain-

The main constraints related to the breeding of guinea fowl were diverse. They were technical, sanitary, food and commercial. In Burkina Faso, guinea fowl were reared under precarious technical conditions. Indeed, the lack of habitat, drinker, feeder, nest, food; problems (health, predation, hatching, and space), mortalities, slow growth, low productivities, theft and others were constraints reported by farmers in agro-ecological zones. The five major constraints were discussed in Fig. 3.

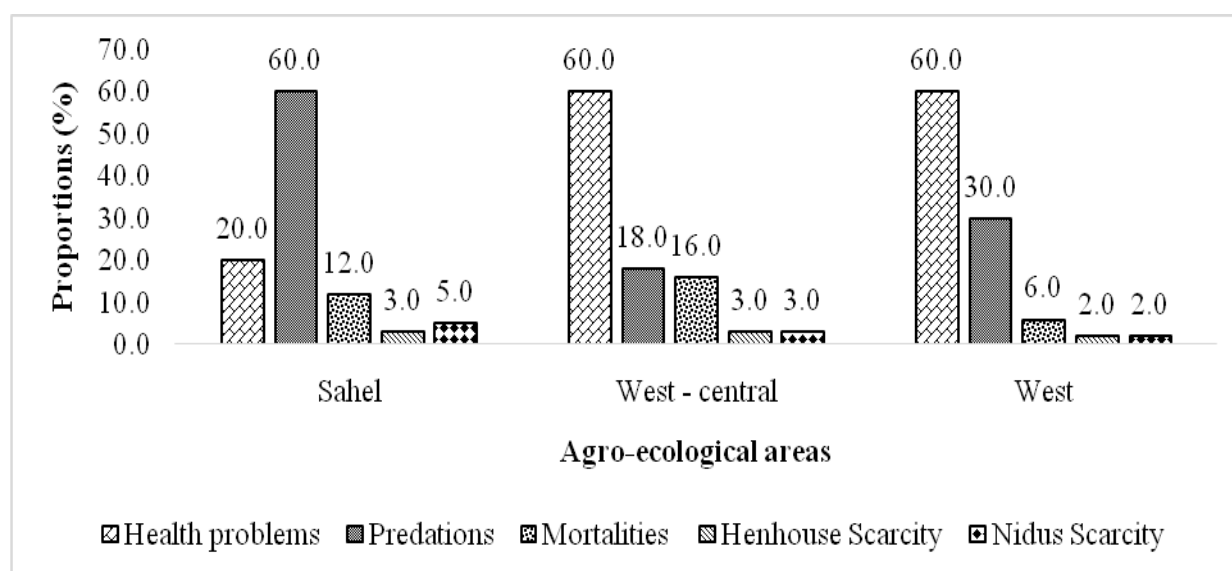


Fig. 3: Majors constraints of Guinea fowl breeding in Burkina Faso

These constraints were quoted in approximately the same proportions in the three agroecological zones, but the problems of predation and nests were mainly found in the Sahel, respectively 97.5% and 60%. In the Sahel, guinea fowl were very at risk because there were not enough trees and shrubs to allow animals to protect themselves from predators. Sanitary management of Guinea Fowl Farming was poor in the three agroecological zones of Burkina Faso. The health status of the guinea fowl is presented in Table 3.

The main signs of diseases encountered in the three agroecological zones of Burkina Faso are diarrhea, worms (internal parasites), insects/lice (external parasites), smallpox, drowsiness, loss of appetite,

diarrhea weight loss, scab/ringworm and others (paralysis, hard crop, lower wings, tremors, depressed wings, coughing, sudden death).

Food and trade constraints related to Guinea Fowl farming-

The dietary constraints were essentially related to the availability of aliments (59.2%), the costliness of aliments (83.3%), and the absence of specific ration (64.2%). The results are mentioned in Table 4.

Table 3: Sanitary management of Guinea Fowl Farming in the three agroecological zones of Burkina Faso

Agro-ecological areas	Method of prevention		Curative treatment		
	Modalities	%	Modalities	Veto	Pharmacopoeia
				%	%
Sahel	None	82.5	None	77.5	97.5
	Vaccination	12.5	Internal deparasitage	22.5	0
	Veto-treatment	17.5	External deparasitage	22.5	0
	Pharmacopoeia	0	Vitamin	15	0
	Habitat hygiene	2.5	Antibiotics	7.5	0
	Equipement hygiene	2.5	Others	0	2.5
West central	None	12.5	None	5	0
	Vaccination	45	Internal deparasitage	82.5	70
	Veto treatment	60	External deparasitage	15	15
	Pharmacopoeia	40	Vitamin	30	22.5
	Habitat hygiene	5	Antibiotics	60	95
	Equipement hygiene	2.5	Others	10	2.5
West	None	60	None	65	70
	Vaccination	22.5	Internal deparasitage	17.5	2.5
	Veto treatment	10	External deparasitage	17.5	2.5
	Pharmacopoeia	15	Vitamin	12.5	0
	Habitat hygiene	12.5	Antibiotics	5	5
	Equipement hygiene	12.5	Others	17.5	30
Average	None	51.7	None	49.2	55.8
	Vaccination	26.7	Internal deparasitage	40.8	24.2
	Veto treatment	29.2	External deparasitage	18.3	5.8
	Pharmacopoeia	18.3	Vitamin	19.2	7.5
	Habitat hygiene	6.7	Antibiotics	24.2	33.3
	Equipement hygiene	5.8	Others	9.2	11.7

Table 4: Dietary constraints of Guinea Fowl Farming in the three agroecological zones of Burkina Faso

Dietary constraints	Agro-ecological areas			Average
	Sahel	West-central	West	
Availability of aliments	75	75	27.5	59.2
Costliness of aliments	72.5	87.5	90	83.3
Absence of specific ration	100	12.5	80	64.2
Others	2.5	0	7.5	3.3

The majority of farmers (97.5%) practice supplementation. The distribution period was morning, noon and evening. It was in the morning that it was frequently practiced. This supplementation was based mainly on cereals, termites, and others. All categories were concerned but keets were given priority. Regarding the flow of eggs and guinea fowl, the majority of farmers said that there were no constraints.

Local knowledge to share: age and gender recognition criteria for guinea fowls- In Burkina Faso, the best known age of sex for guinea fowl was 2 to 4 months. Sometimes you have to wait 4 to 10 months to make the distinction. Some manage to distinguish sex in less than 2 months. The criteria of distinction were the form (ridges, heads, and barbels) the behaviors, the size of the legs. In fact, ridges and barbels were more developed in males than in females. Barbels were open in males and closed in females. Heads were larger in males than females. Legs were longer in males than females, so females were lower than males.

DISCUSSION

Profile of farmers in the three agroecological zones- In the three agroecological zones, guinea fowl farming has been recognized as a male activity at more than 80%. These results were consistent with those of Sanfo *et al.* [5]; Seydou [9], which would justify this situation by the fact that there were sometimes conflicts between breeders and the older men especially would be better able to settle amicably the conflict situations. And this lack of training was justified by the lack of interest given to the breeding of guinea fowl by the breeders themselves on the one hand and the technical services on the other hand that focused on the chicken during different sessions of training.

Farms of local guinea fowl (*N. meleagris*)- According to the breeders, raising guinea fowl in Burkina Faso was economically profitable. Its meat was in quality then the guinea fowl adapts immediately to the environment in which was introduced, it has a cultural aspect. This confirms the results of Sanfo *et al.* [10], which showed that the sale of eggs and guinea fowls provides income to breeders and resellers.

Breeding methods, breeds, habitats- The breeding of guinea fowl (*N. meleagris*) was widespread in the three agroecological zones in a traditional system, where it

was bred in freedom. It has not yet improved. This situation was due to the hardness of the local guinea fowl. These results were similar to those of Boko *et al.* [1]; Sanfo *et al.* [11]; Dahouda [12]; Moreki and Seabo [13]; Obike *et al.* [14], which stipulated that guinea fowl were raised in most West African countries in an extensive system in which several varieties of guinea fowl were raised for meat and eggs.

Types of production, destination and reasons for harvesting guinea fowl and eggs- The guinea fowl production objective was based on the marketing of guinea fowl and eggs in order to ensure self-consumption and satisfy needs through sales. These results corroborate those of Houndonougbo [15], which showed that the production objectives of farmers were primarily meat and eggs. For self-consumption, 50% of farmers reserve two out of 10 eggs in Burkina Faso and only one egg out of 10 was generally reserved for donations, the exchanges respectively 62.5%, 14.2% of producers. These results corroborate those of Sanfo *et al.* [5]; Diabate [16], who had shown that traditional poultry farming was generally based on the exploitation of small numbers of local poultry.

Main constraints in the guinea fowl production chain- The results obtained were consistent with those of Boko *et al.* [1]; Sanfo *et al.* [5]; Dahouda *et al.* [17], which shown that the guiding system in which local guinea fowl were raised in Africa exposes guinea fowl to climatic hazards, diseases, predators and malnutrition according to the seasons which significantly affected their productivity.

The main signs of diseases encountered in the three agroecological zones of Burkina Faso were diarrhea, worms (internal parasites), insects/lice (external parasites), smallpox, drowsiness, loss of appetite, diarrhea weight loss, scab/ringworm and others (paralysis, hard crop, lower wings, tremors, depressed wings, coughing, sudden death). This situation was explained by the fact that producers did not know the sanitary products specific to their animals. Boko *et al.* [1] explained these results by the fact that the environment has an effect on the health of guinea fowl and this characterized by microbism richly supplied with ecto-parasites, gastro-intestinal parasites, bacteria and viruses in village farms that host several animal species with cross pathologies at a time. The majority of guinea fowl producers (97.5%) practice supplementation. But

here the notion of complementation was in the broad sense that was to say that the food was distributed without standards. This was in accordance with the results of Sanfo *et al.* [5]; Dahouda *et al.* [18], which showed that in this system of free-range farming, food supplementation was often absent and that breeders generally give a few handfuls of cereals and fragments of termite mounds to animals.

CONCLUSIONS

This study has made it possible to characterize the local guinea fowl (*N. meleagris*) at the socioeconomic level in the three agroecological zones (Sahelian zone, Sudanese North and South Sudan) of Burkina Faso raised in an uncontrolled environment. The absence of food rations and the non-attendance of veterinary services, the lack of control of production techniques by livestock farmers in production areas is a hindrance to the development of Guinea Fowl Farming in Burkina Faso despite its economic profitability and its great social role.

In view of all the results obtained in this study, our future research will focus on a disease susceptibility and variety stress study that can be used in breed improvement programs to improve productivity; the establishment of a genetic improvement program by selecting local varieties encountered in Burkina Faso to improve their productivity; the organization and training breeders to better ensure dissemination of selected varieties and the establishment of an organization and a control system for the food and health sector of local guinea fowl (*N. meleagris*).

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