

## Characterization of the production and of the parameters of breeding ducks in the area of peri-urban N'Djamena

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### Abstract

The study aimed to characterize duck production and identify reproductive parameter in the peri-urban area of n'djamena, chad. A cross-sectional and retrospective survey was conducted during the months of January and February 2022 among 212 producers selected at random from the 19 villages in the study area. The results showed that this breeding is mainly in the hands of men (70%). These breeders are married (86%), aged on average  $42 \pm 0.96$  years and educated for the most part (75.48). They have practiced duck farming for an average of  $11.08 \pm 0.52$  years and are mainly farmers (61.32%). The duck is the highest poultry species (99%) in this area with an average number of  $16.11 \pm 1.04$  heads. The free-range farming method is adopted by almost all breeders (97%). The objective of breeding is dirty and self-consumption (88.21%). The ducks' diet is based on cereals, kitchen residues and cereal bran (66.5%). The ducklings are weaned at  $2.08 \pm 0.045$  months and are bred at  $6.6 \pm 0.09$  months. The ducks have an average of  $2.40 \pm 0.39$  laying cycles per year with an average of  $13.05 \pm 0.13$  eggs per clutch. The average hatching rate is  $84.59 \pm 0.60$ . The main constraints mentioned by 86.32% of breeders are diseases, food and lack of attention. The diseases that plague livestock have various symptoms with only one appearance per year (81.34%), leaving the majority of producers defenseless, of whom only 14% practice medical prophylaxis. In view of the constraints to its breeding mentioned by the breeders and sti still traditional practice, this production records acceptable parameters of reproduction which could be improved by supervisory actions for better productivity for the benefit of the breeders.

**Keywords:** Peri-Urban Area of N'djamena; Duck Production; Constraints; Opportunities

### 1. Introduction

In developing countries, village poultry or traditional dominates and practice in rural, peri-urban and urban (Fotsa, 2008), because it requires low levels of inputs, contributes significantly to food security, the fight against poverty, the ecological management of healthy natural resources and represents a source of employment for disadvantaged groups (Gueye, 1998 ; Khan, 2004). Poultry farming local is an important activity in several african and asian countries where it is an important source of animal protein and income (Zaman *et al.*, 2004). The breeding of waterfowls including the duck has experienced strong growth in recent decades worldwide (Faostat, 2018). The development of the production of ducks is likely to impact and improve the conditions in the human diet. Although on a global scale, the biggest part of the poultry meat and eggs come from the Gallus species, some parts of the world use significantly more ducks for this type of production (Pingel *et al.*, 2012).

In Africa, the production of ducks has increased 6-fold from 1961 to 2010 (Yakubu, 2013). The ducks have a number of advantages compared to other poultry species, in particular because of their resistance to diseases. They are robust, they are very good marauders, and are easy to gather. One of the drawbacks of the ducks, when they are reared in

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confinement and fed with balanced rations, due to the fact that they waste a lot of food because of the shape of their beak. This makes the use of animal food, less effective, and this also explains why their meat and their eggs are more expensive than those of chickens (FAO, 2021). Breeding ducks breed local (*Cairina moschata*) is an important source of income for farmers (Fasina *et al.*, 2007) and is one of the rare opportunities for savings and investment (Sharmar, 2007).

In Chad, According to the Ministry of Livestock and Animal Production, livestock chad is estimated to be 93.8 million livestock units which 34.6 million heads of poultry. Poultry, it is dominated by the farming of chicken with 26.6 million head, or 77% of the total workforce. Other poultry are made up of ducks, geese, guinea fowls and pigeons (MEPA, 2018). The breeding of monogastrics (pigs, poultry) is increasing due to the increase in demand linked to population growth (Mopaté, 2002). In regard to the rearing of ducks, there is no recent study on the breeding duck local Chad namely the duck of Barbarism. However, data have been produced in 1999 this species to N'djamena in particular, its culture and its productivity.

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Material

#### 2.1.1. Environment and period of study

The study on the characterization of the production and reproductive parameters of the ducks was carried out during the period of January to February 2022 in 19 villages of the peri-urban area of the city of N'djamena. This study area has a semi-arid climate, dry and hot with two seasons, a dry season and a wet season. The precipitation in this area is highly variable. The villages are divided into 3 provinces namely the Chari Baguirmi, the Hadjer Lamis and the province of N'djamena. Most of the selected villages are located on the banks of the Chari river, or Logone and bringing together a significant number of producers of duck, local (Canard de Barbarie : *Cairina moschata*) (Figure 1).

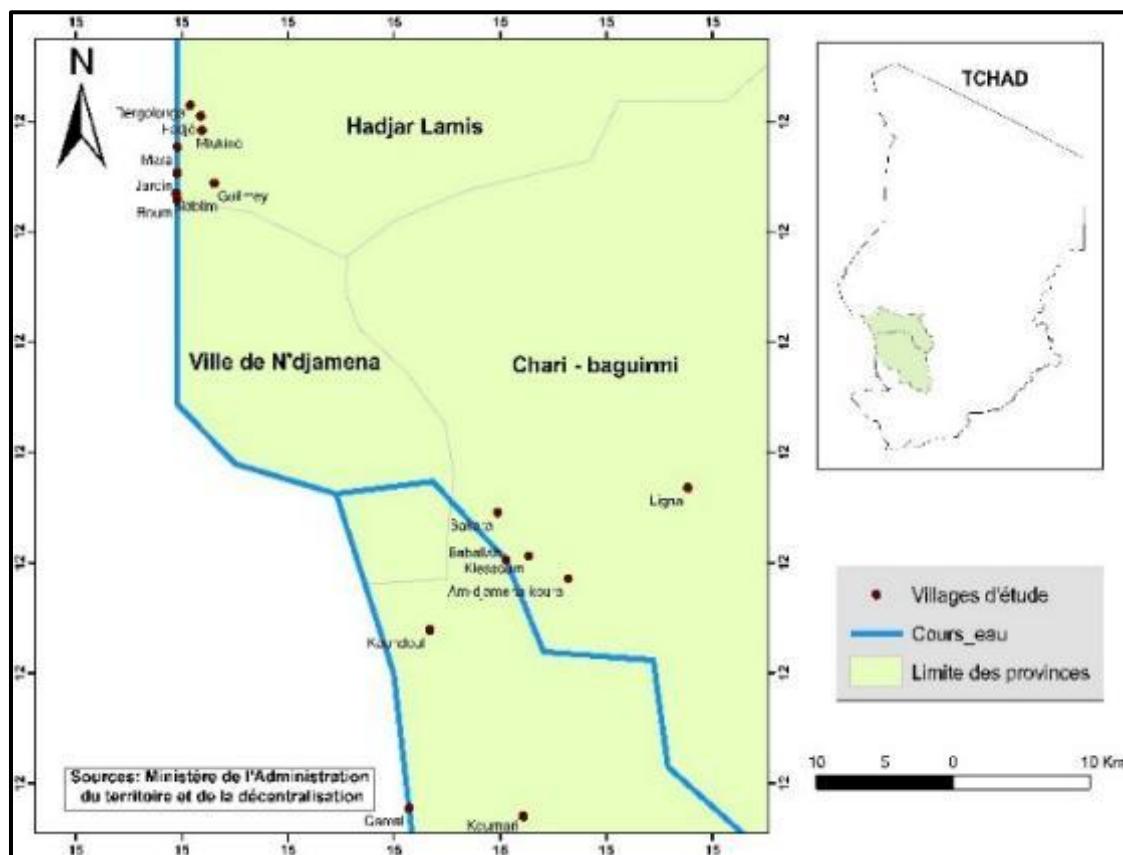


Figure 1 Distribution of villages in the study

### 2.1.2. Study material

It consists of an interview guide and questionnaires. Animal material affected is the duck. The questionnaires included information about the study environment, the characterization of the breeder (name and surname, age, sex, religion, ethnicity, marital status, occupation, and experience farming, husbandry (housing, food, driving, health and the different modes of production), reproductive parameters, the constraints and opportunities of the production of ducks.

### 2.2. Method of investigation

The methodology used in this study was a cross-sectional survey and retrospective by direct interviews with the operator. She has appealed to the memory of the breeders, while retracing the different stages of breeding ducks. In the study area, 212 producers of duck have been identified, and the choice was based on the criteria of accessibility and availability of information. Each of 212 breeders has been subjected to a direct conversation for the collection of the data that has been effective in the farms during the study period.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Socio-professional profile of the breeders

The age of the farmers (Table II) indicates that they are relatively young, with practical breeding of about eleven years on average.

**Table 1** Distribution of farmers according to the age and experience

| Parameters                  | Minimum | Average $\pm$ standard Deviation | Maximum |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|---------|
| Age                         | 15.00   | 42.00 $\pm$ 0.96                 | 75.00   |
| Number of years of breeding | 1.00    | 11.08 $\pm$ 0.52                 | 50.00   |

Other settings and functions of the breeders are grouped in table III

**Table 2** Parameters and functions of the breeders of ducks in the area surveyed

| Settings       | Features      | Headcount | %      |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| Sex :          | M             | 149       | 70.28  |
|                | F             | 63        | 29.72  |
|                | Married       | 183       | 86.32  |
| Marital Status | Single        | 20        | 9.43 A |
|                | Widow         | 9         | 4.25   |
|                | Christian     | 135       | 63.68  |
| Religion       | Muslim        | 76        | 35.85  |
|                | Animist       | 1         | 0.47   |
| ethnic Groups* | Sudanian Zone | 162       | 76.42  |
|                | sahelian Zone | 50        | 23.58  |
|                | Illiterate    | 50        | 23.58  |
| Level of Study | Primary       | 68        | 32.07  |
|                | Secondary     | 73        | 34.43  |
|                | University    | 21        | 9.91   |
|                | Agriculture   | 130       | 61.32  |

|                    |                         |     |         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----|---------|
|                    | Trade                   | 23  | 10.85   |
|                    | Official                | 22  | 10.38   |
| Main Activity      | Resourceful             | 20  | 9.43    |
|                    | Student and students    | 11  | 5.19    |
|                    | Fishing                 | 4   | 1.89    |
|                    | Breeding                | 2   | 0.94    |
|                    | Breeding                | 178 | 83.96   |
|                    | Agriculture-Breeding    | 21  | 9.91    |
| Secondary Activity | Livestock-Fisheries     | 6   | 2.83    |
|                    | Trade-Livestock Farming | 5   | 2.36 In |
|                    | Agriculture             | 2   | 0.94    |

(\*) In terms of ethnic groups in Chad, diversity has been observed, of which the most numerous of which are from the sudanian zone (76,42%) compared to those of the sahelian zone (23,58%).

### 3.2. Poultry species and other animals in the household

The majority of breeders (60,38%) raise the duck in association with the chickens only. Those who only practice the breeding ducks only constitute about 23%, while the association of several other species of poultry breeding ducks is observed (Table III).

**Table 3** Type of poultry raised in the lower courts

| Type of poultry                 | Effective | %     |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Ducks                           | 48        | 22.64 |
| Canards_Poules                  | 128       | 60.38 |
| Canards_Pintades                | 2         | 0.94  |
| Canards_Poules_Pigeons          | 21        | 9.91  |
| Canards_Poules_Pintades         | 6         | 2.83  |
| Canards_Poules_Dindons_Oies     | 1         | 0.47  |
| Canards_Poules_Pigeons_Pintades | 1         | 0.47  |
| Canards_Poules_Pintades_Dindons | 1         | 0.47  |

On the other animals in the lower course, the farmers have also associated to other animal species for breeding ducks. The recorded species were goats, pigs, cattle, sheep, and rabbits (Table V).

**Table 4** Other animal species observed in breeders of ducks surveyed

| The farms with other animals | the Effective | %     |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------|
| Goats                        | 59            | 50    |
| Sheep                        | 7             | 5.93  |
| Pigs                         | 5             | 4.24  |
| Rabbits                      | 2             | 1.69  |
| Cattle                       | 1             | 0.85  |
| Ovins_Caprins                | 25            | 21.19 |

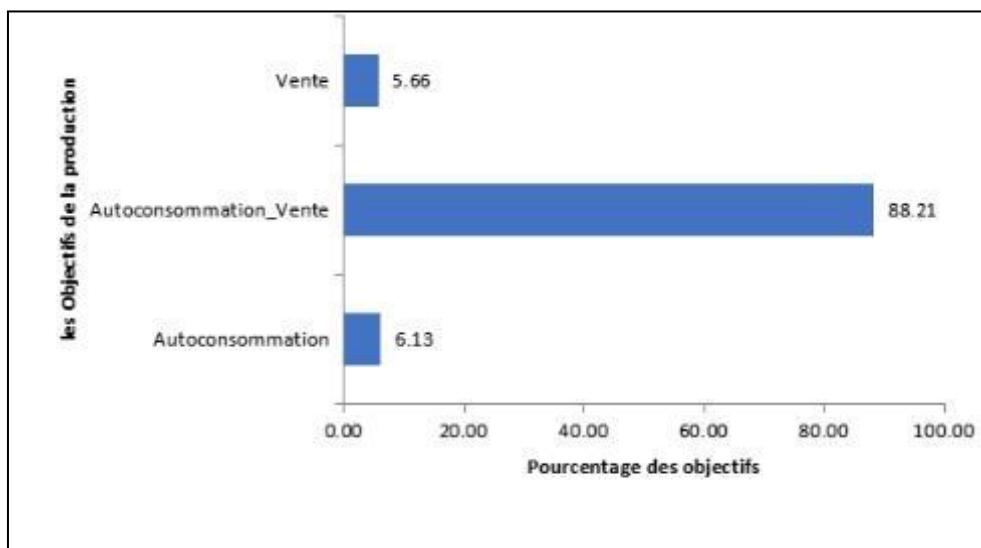
|                       |    |      |
|-----------------------|----|------|
| Caprins_Porcins       | 4  | 3.39 |
| Bovins_Ovins          | 2  | 1.69 |
| Bovins_Ovins_Caprins  | 11 | 9.32 |
| Ovins_Caprins_Porcins | 2  | 1.69 |

### 3.3. III Breed of ducks, mode of husbandry and production goals

Almost all farmers (99%) raise the duck race Barbarism called Duck Pear (*Cairina moschata*).

For the mode of breeding, almost all of the breeders livestock in freedom (97%). A very small minority (3%) cattle in confinement. The monitored farms are made most often by the whole family (76%) than by breeders only (24%).

Figure 2 reveals that the main objective of the livestock production in the study area was home consumption and sale of the ducks.



**Figure 2** Objectives of the breeding of ducks reported by farmers in the study area.

### 3.4. Characteristics and hygiene of housing/Canardières

It can be seen from Table V that the canardières type of wall, roof and floor of beaten earth have been dominant and that almost all of The breeders will have cleaned and disinfected these accommodation with a frequency of one to two times per month.

**Table 5** Characteristics and hygiene of housing of ducks in the area of investigation

| Parameters | Characteristics | Frequency (%) | Total |
|------------|-----------------|---------------|-------|
| Wall       | of rammed Earth | 64.42         |       |
|            | Baked Bricks    | Of 35.1       | 100   |
|            | Block           | 0.48          |       |
| Roof       | clay            | 62.98         |       |
|            | Plate           | Of 35.1       | 100   |
|            | Wood            | 1.44          |       |
| Floor      | Straw           | 0.48          |       |
|            | of beaten Earth | 97.59         |       |

|                           |                         |      |     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------|-----|
|                           | Cement                  | 1.92 | 100 |
|                           | Pad                     | 0.49 |     |
| Practice of cleaning      | Yes                     | 99   | 100 |
|                           | Non -                   | 1    |     |
| Frequency of cleaning     | once/month              | 42   |     |
|                           | Two times/month         | 55   | 100 |
|                           | Two or more times/month | 3    |     |
| Practice of disinfection  | Yes                     | 51   | 100 |
|                           | No                      | 49   |     |
| Frequency of disinfection | once/month              | 20   |     |
|                           | Two times/month         | 63   | 100 |
|                           | Two or more times/month | 17   |     |

The disinfectants used are the modern, most used insecticides ( ), products, or traditional and a combination of both (Table V).

**Table 6** The products of disinfection used by breeders ducks on the farm

| Product of disinfection | Effective | %     |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Insecticides            | 72        | 67.29 |
| Ash                     | 14        | 13.08 |
| Cendre_Feu              | 10        | 9.34  |
| Insecticides_Cendre     | 4         | 3.74  |
| Insecticides_Cendre_Feu | 3         | 2.8   |
| Cendre_Plantes          | 1         | 0.93  |
| Smoke                   | 1         | 0.93  |
| Insecticides_Plantes    | 1         | 0.93  |
| Plants                  | 1         | 0.93  |

### 3.5. Feeding the ducks

#### 3.5.1. Equipment (water drinkers and feeders) and feed the ducks

**The presence of the trough, and their nature** : almost all of The farmers (98%) have a source of water in their farms, against (2%) who do not have it. They use for the majority (74%) of drinkers of the traditional type (half bottle, half barrel, kitchen utensils, song of the canary). By contrast, 26% use of water drinkers modern type.

**The presence and types of feeders and nature** : The majority of farmers (81%) have feeders and the rest (19%) do not. These feeders are used by almost all the farmers (99%) were of the traditional kind (sheet, plate, mat, half bottle, cookware, half barrel).

**For the food distributed**, the breeders are several kinds of food to the ducks, including the association of cereal food waste and sounds of grain was the prevailing practice (Table VI).

**Table 7** The Type of food served to the ducks in the farms surveyed

| Types of food that are served                         | Actual | %       |
|---|--------|---------|
| Grains, Residues of kitchens and Sounds               | 141    | 66.5    |
| Grains, Residues of kitchens, Sounds and Draft        | 31     | 14.62   |
| Cereals and Residues of kitchens                      | 30     | 14.15   |
| Grains, Residues of kitchens and Draft                | 3      | 1.42    |
| Grains, Residues of kitchens, Sounds and Concentrates | 3      | 1.42    |
| Residues kitchens and Sounds                          | 2      | 0.94    |
| Concentrated  | 1      | 0.47 In |
| Cereals and Sounds                                    | 1      | 0.47    |

### 3.6. Characterization of the reproduction

#### III.1.5.1. The Structures and compositions of farms (Number)

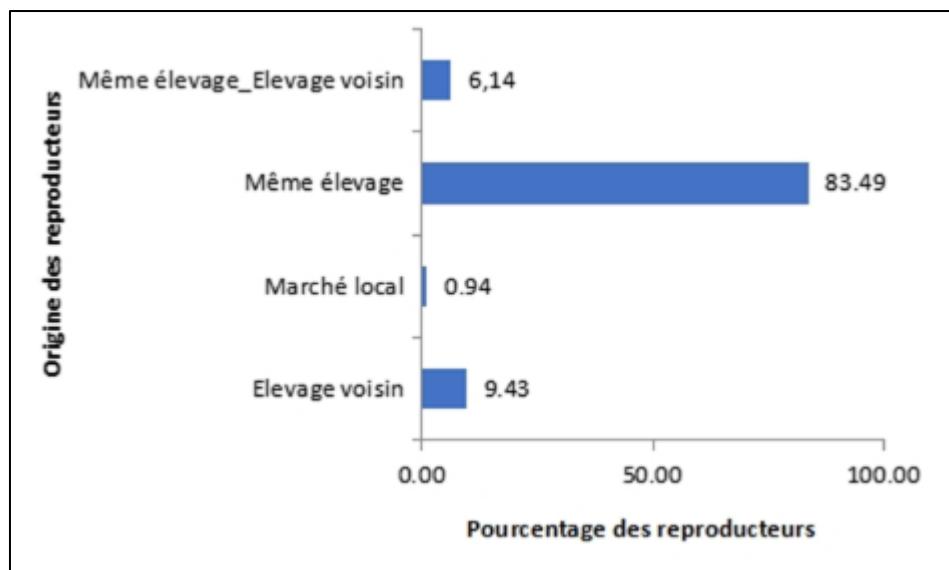
The structures and compositions of the holdings of the ducks in the study area are grouped in Table **VIII**.

**Table 8** The Structures and composition of low-courses in the area of investigation

| Settings                | Features | Actual | Minimum, | Average and standard Deviation | Maximum |
|-------------------------|----------|--------|----------|--------------------------------|---------|
| Composition of farms    | Males    | 432    | 1.00     | $2.47 \pm 0.1$                 | 10.00   |
|                         | Female   | 1106   | 1.00     | $5.22 \pm 0.3$                 | 33.00   |
|                         | Young    | 1069   | 1.00     | $8.42 \pm 0.64$                | 38.00   |
| Age of puberty (months) | Male     | -      | 4.00     | $6.98 \pm 0.12$                | 12.00   |
|                         | Female   | -      | 4.00     | $6.60 \pm 0.09$                | 12.00   |
| Number of breeding      | Males    | 373    | 1.00     | $2.07 \pm 0.10$                | 10.00   |
|                         | Female   | 1085   | 1.00     | $5.12 \pm 0.31$                | 33.00   |

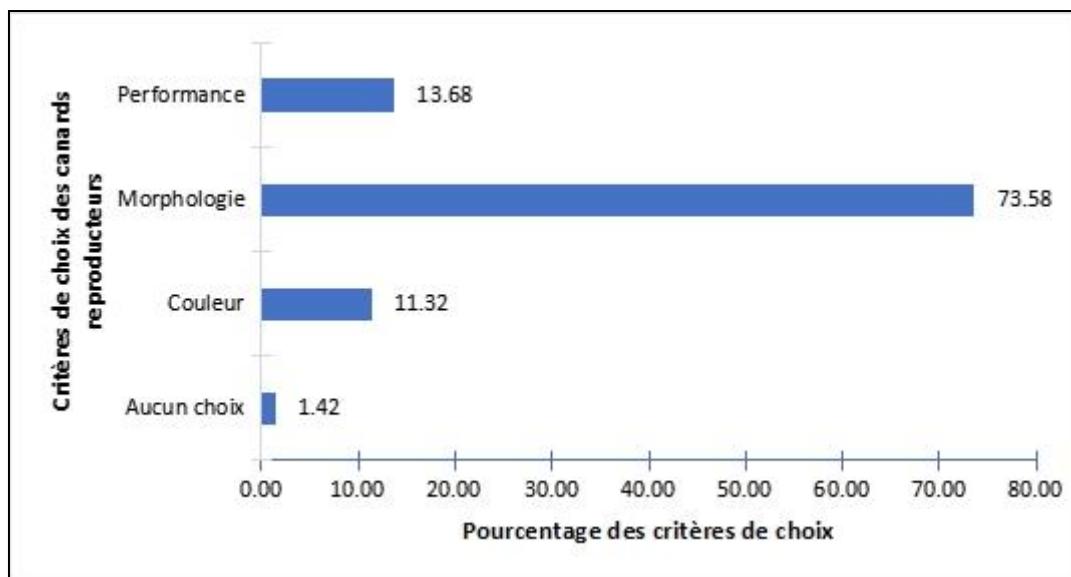
#### 3.6.1. Origin and criteria of choice of duck breeding

The ducks breeding were in their vast majority chosen in the same farmyard (Figure 3).



**Figure 3** Origin of ducks breeding

For the selection criteria, the majority of the producers in the study area, choose the ducks breeding based mainly on the morphology of the other criteria (Figure 4).

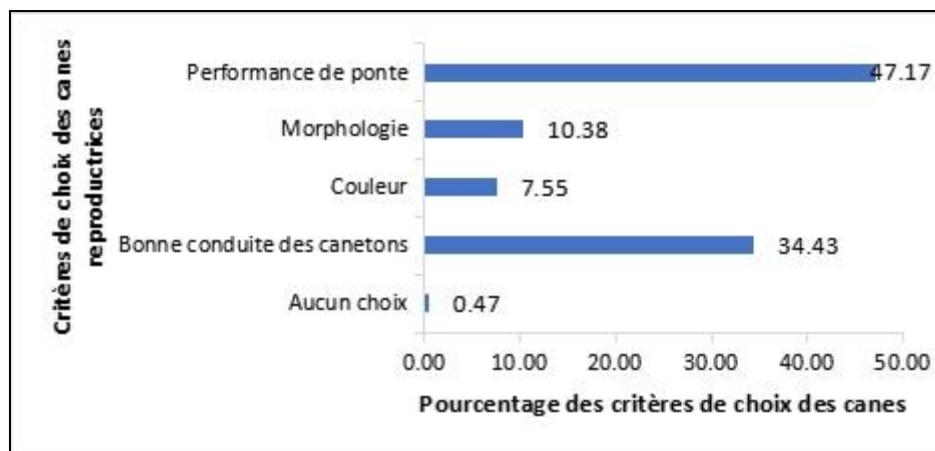


**Figure 4** Criteria for the selection of ducks breeding in the survey area

### 3.6.2. Origin and the selection criteria for breeding

The ducks are breeding were mostly from the same farm (97%). But there are also those that are purchased on the local market (2%) and farming neighbours (1%).

The criteria for the choice of the canes have been primarily based on the performance of laying track for the proper conduct of the ducklings (Figure 5).



**Figure 5** Criteria for the selection of ducks breeding in the farms surveyed

### 3.6.3. Fashion and reproductive parameters

The farmers of the study area surveyed say that they use in their operations that the mode of reproduction is not controlled.

It can be seen from table IX, the parameters of breeding ducks in the study area

**Table 9** The reproductive parameters of the canes in the survey area

| Parameters                         | Minimum | Average $\pm$ standard Deviation | Maximum |
|------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|---------|
| Age of reform males (Year)         | Of 1.00 | To $2.71 \pm 0.070$              | 7.00    |
| Age of reform females (Year)       | 1.50    | $3.48 \pm 0.060$                 | 6.00    |
| laying Cycle per Year              | 1.00    | $2.40 \pm 0.039$                 | 3.00    |
| Ages to the 1 <sup>era</sup> ponte | 5.00    | $6.81 \text{ era } 0.094$        | 1.00    |
| Number of eggs laid/ Cycle         | 9.00    | $13.50 \pm 0.130$                | 16.00   |
| Duration of spawning               | 9.00    | $13.50 \pm 0.130$                | 16.00   |
| Number of eggs hatched/ Cycle      | 9.00    | $13.51 \pm 0.130$                | 16.00   |
| Duration of brooding               | 28.00   | $30.07 \pm 0.107$                | 35.00   |
| Number of eggs hatched/ Cycle      | 7.00    | $12.03 \pm 1.967$                | 16.00   |
| Age of weaning (Months)            | Of 1.00 | To $2.08 \pm 0.045$              | 4.00    |
| Number duckling weaning            | 4.00    | $9.82 \pm 0.171$                 | 16.00   |
| Number of pre-weaning mortality    | 1.00    | $2.75 \pm 0.090$                 | 7.00    |
| Number of mortality after weaning  | 1.00    | $1.33 \pm 0.140$                 | 3.00    |

### 3.6.4. The hatching rate, survival to weaning and pre-weaning mortality

Table X shows the hatching rate, survival to weaning at 02 months and the rate of mortality before weaning.

**Table 10** The different rates

| Parameters                         | Minimum              | Average ± standard Deviation | Maximum |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| hatching Rate (%)                  | 55.56                | 84.59 ± 0.60                 | 100.00  |
| survival Rate to weaning (%)       | constitute 41.67 per | 81.53 ± 1.04                 | 100.00  |
| Rates of pre-weaning mortality (%) | 6,67                 | 22.94 ± 1.50                 | 58.3    |

### 3.6.5. Conduct health

The producers have stated that their ducks were suffering from different diseases, they reported the most frequent symptoms namely : diarrhoea (white, yellow, and green), the flow of the mouth, nasal discharge, paralysis, breathing problems, posture problems, the button at the rump, dizziness, and disturbances of vision, but with a frequency of occurrence variable. The other parameters of the conduct health are summarised in the table XI.

**Table 11** Conduct health

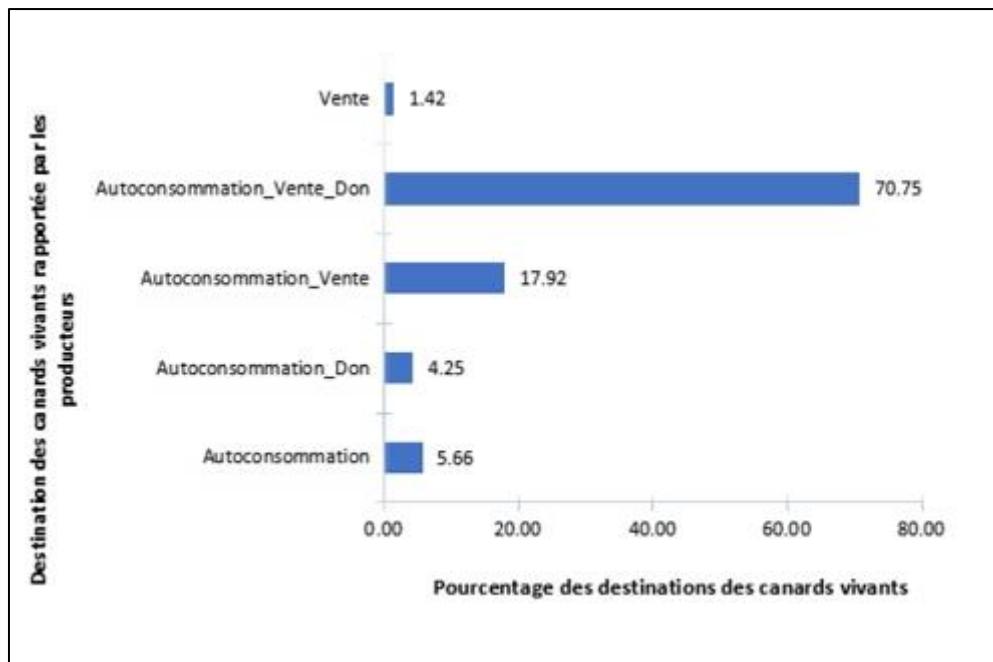
| Parameters                                 | Characteristics        | Frequency (%) | Total |
|--|------------------------|---------------|-------|
| prophylactic Measures                      | Yes                    | 14            | 100   |
|  | Non -                  | 86            |       |
| Frequency of the occurrence of the disease | once/year              | 81.33         |       |
|  | twice/year             | 16.27         | 100   |
|  | Two or more times      | to 1.44       |       |
|  | Not all years          | is 0.96       |       |
| Animals attacked                           | All age groups and     | 92            |       |
|  | Adults                 | 5             | 100   |
|  | Ducklings              | 3             |       |
| Products used                              | Modern                 | 59            |       |
|  | Traditional            | 29            | 100   |
|  | traditional and Modern | 12            |       |

## 3.7. Use of the production

### 3.7.1. Destination eggs, and ducks live

**Destination eggs** : the majority of the eggs of ducks are intended for reproduction (93%). The remains (7%) are used for the reproduction and consumption.

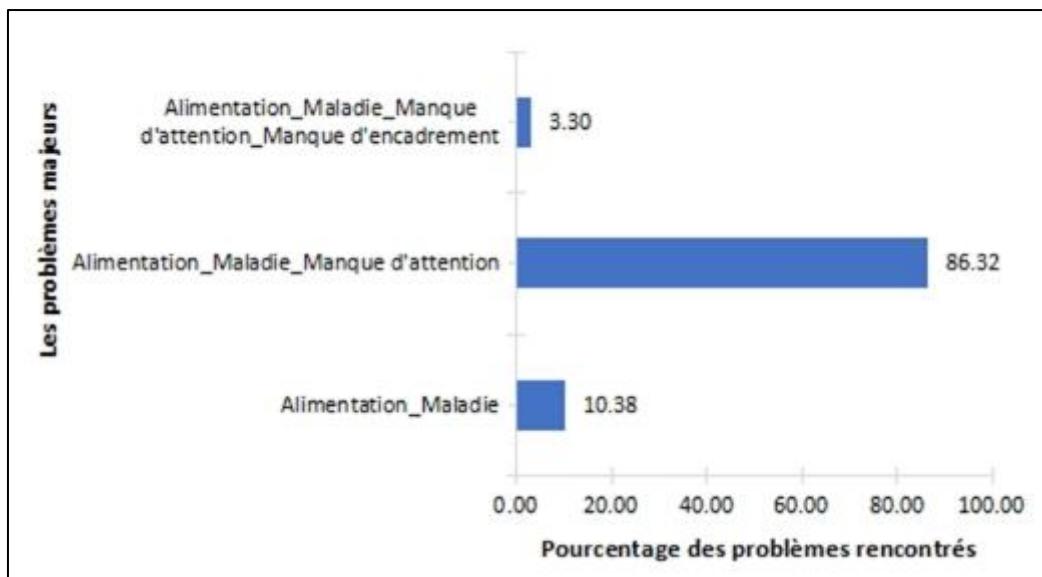
**Destination ducks live** : the major part of The producers raise ducks for home consumption-sale-don (Figure 6). Other destinations accounted for a low proportion. The difference was significant (P0,05) between the two destinations.



**Figure 6** Destination ducks live

### 3.7.2. Constraints and challenges related to the breeding of ducks

It is clear from figure 7 the different problems related to the breeding of ducks in the area.



**Figure 7** The major difficulties of farms

## 4. Discussion

The farmers of the study area are mainly men. This result is consistent with the one obtained in Chad (Mopaté *et al.*, 1998 ; Mopaté and Maho, 2005, Mahamat and Mukhtar, 2006) ; in the DRC (Moula *et al.*, 2012), Kenya (Ndegwa and Kimani, 1996), Côte d'Ivoire (Loukou, 2013), Burkina Faso (Hien *et al.*, 2005 ; Ouedraogo, 2018). However, this result is different from those obtained in Senegal (Gueye, 1998), Nigeria (Branckaert, 1999), Cameroon (Fotsa *et al.*, 2007) and in Senegal (Nahimana *et al.*, 2019) who argue that this activity of poultry is traditionally feminine. The farmers are mostly married. This result has been observed by Ndegwa and Kimani (1996), Fotsa *et al.*, (2002), Mopaté and Maho (2005), Mahamat and Muktar (2006) and Moula *et al.*, (2012), Mugumaarhahama *et al.* (2016), in their studies on hens

local. The majority of the farmers of the study area are instructing. The similar results were obtained by Dete (2016) in the farms duck in the department of the atlantic, and by Houessonon (2011) and Tougan (2008) in local chicken in Benin. The average age of the breeders of ducks in the study area is 42 years. These results are close to those reported by Houessonon and Youssao (2018) in the Agro-ecological zone in the South of Benin. The farmers practiced predominantly agriculture as the main activity. The same remarks were reported by Mopaté and Maho (2005), Mahamat and Muktar (2006), Moula *et al.* (2012), Ndegwa and Kimani (1996), Youssao *et al.* (2013) and Baruwa *et al.* (2018). The farmers of the study area are from various ethnic groups. This result is similar to that reported in Chad (Leng *et al.*, 2022), Senegal (Fall *et al.*, 2019), Burkina Faso (Hien *et al.*, 2005) and Chad (Mopaté and Maho, 2005 ; Issa *et al.*, 2013). The farmers have an average duration of about 11 years in the business of breeding ducks. These results are close to those found by Mopaté and Maho (2005) in the study on the characteristics and the productivity of the farming family of chickens villagers in the South of Chad. The same observations were made by Mahamat and Muktar (2006) in the departments of Chari-Baguirmi, Tandjilé Ouest, Chad, Mayo-Banyo , Cameroon ; Moula *et al.* (2012) in the Lower Congo (DRC) and Ndegwa and Kimani (1996) in Kenya in hens. The analysis of the different activities practiced by the farmers of the study area shows that the duck-breeding within the household is always associated with other activities. This result is similar to those of (Aboe *et al.*, 2006) in Ghana and (Moula *et al.*, 2012) in the DRC.

## 5. Conclusion

This study carried out on the characterization of the production and reproductive parameters of the ducks of barbarism in the peri-urban area of n'djamena has revealed that this breed is considered as a secondary activity and is practiced by producers mainly men, married, belonging to different layers professional or the main activity is agriculture. It is a breeding yet traditional in practice (rearing infrastructure, power mode, driving mode, and the care of the health of animals). According to the constraints for its farming reported by breeders and its practical yet traditional, this production has reproductive performance acceptable and deserve to be enhanced by the supervisory activities for better productivity. The breeders will be able to benefit from increased headcount and revenues from the sale of the ducks.

## Compliance with ethical standards

### *Disclosure of conflict of interest*

No conflict of interest to be disclosed. No

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