

# Nesting Area Maintenance for Small Holder Poultry Flocks



**Maintain clean, private nesting areas that encourage hens to exhibit normal nesting behaviour while reducing risk of bacterial contamination of the eggs laid.**

- Use clean, dry nesting material such as wood shavings or straw in the nest boxes.
- Introduce the hens to the nest boxes just before they exhibit nesting behaviour. This encourages the hens to get comfortable using the nest boxes and prevents them from laying eggs in high traffic areas such as on the coop floor.
- Provide one nest box per 3 to 4 hens to allow adequate space for hens to nest comfortably.
- Remove eggs from the nest boxes at regular intervals (minimum 2X daily). Collect more frequently when the hens start to lay in hot or cold weather.
- Pick up eggs found on the floor of the coop immediately.
- Close the nest boxes at night to prevent hens from using the nesting areas as sleeping areas.