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<b>Proposal Title:</b>	
<b>COMMERCIALIZATION OF THE PRODUCTION OF AN EFFECTIVE          NATURAL GROWTH PROMOTER MADE FROM COMPOSITE BLENDS OF          HERBS AND SPICES FOR BROILER CHICKEN</b>	

## INTRODUCTION

There is growing interest in the developing countries of the world today to promote the production of fast-growing animals such as poultry, as a result of increasing demand for animal protein. Animal protein consumption in Nigeria is about 10 g per capita per day, while the recommended daily intake is 50-65 g per capita per day. This significant gap in animal protein supply has devastating health implications with 11 % of Nigerian children suffering from malnutrition and 43.6 % being stunted (Denisova, 2015). Hence, there is the urgent need to increase the supply of animal protein in order to reduce this deficiency gap.

Broiler chicken grows very fast and provides tender meat for human consumption. However, the cost of production keeps increasing as a result of the cost of feed ingredients, particularly protein and energy ingredients. The rising cost of poultry feed is a major concern to the development of the poultry industry in the developing countries; hence, the use of growth promoters to improve growth, prevent disease and improve feed utilization. This is a known strategy used to improve the efficiency of the poultry industry. Currently, antibiotics, and sometimes hormones, are being used as growth promotants; which have been identified to have grave negative consequences in humans consuming animal products produced using these chemicals. Antibiotics usage had been banned in Europe and many other countries of the world due to their negative effects of inducing drug resistance in man as a result of their leftover residues in the meat of farm animals. Of recent, phyto-genic feed additives as growth promoters have caught the attention of researchers. Using locally-available herbs, spices, medicinal plants and plant extracts which have been known to improve digestibility, reduce feed conversion ratio (FCR); and also possess anti-microbial, anti-bacterial, anti-fungal, anti-viral, anti-inflammatory, anti-parasitic, anti-mutagenic and immune-modulatory properties; a composite blend was produced which when fed to broiler chicks from day-old, made the birds attained a minimum weight of 2.5 kg in five weeks!

The goal of this proposal therefore, is to make this locally-produced growth promoter readily available to poultry farmers, through large-scale commercial production. Through commercialization, the composite blend would be made available to farmers in Nigeria for large scale production of broiler chicken, for the birds to attain maturity of 2-3 kg in 5 weeks! By this, a lot of foreign reserves expended on the importation of antibiotics and growth promoters would be saved!!

### **BUDGETARY ESTIMATE**

The Table below summarizes the budgetary estimate required for the full commercialization of the locally-produced natural growth promoter.

<b>S/NO</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF ITEM</b>	<b>RATE</b>	<b>TOTAL (₦)</b>
1.	Rentage of a suitable and comfortable accommodation or facility for the production of the natural growth promoter	₦500,000 per year.	500, 000.00
2.	Purchase of an attrition mill for the grinding of the needed herbs, spices and other ingredients.	₦500,000	500, 000.00
3.	Purchase of a one tonne capacity mixer	₦1, 500, 000	1, 500, 000.00
4.	Purchase of a 2000 kVA generator and accessories, for power supply.	₦700, 000.00	700, 000.00
5.	Purchase of a sealing machine for proper sealing and packaging.	₦650, 000	650, 000.00

6.	Purchase of packaging materials for 10,000 sachets of natural growth promoter.	₦2, 700, 000	₦2, 700, 000
7.	Purchase and processing of one tonne (1000 kg) of herbs, spices and medicinal plants	₦4, 000, 000	4, 000, 000.00
8.	Cost of hiring workers and labourers for one year (12 months)	₦50, 000 per month	600, 000.00
9.	Cost of transportation, marketing and other logistics for one year (12 months)	₦60, 000 per month	720, 000.00
10.	Other miscellaneous expenditure (fuelling, apartment maintenance, etc)	₦250, 000	250, 000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>₦12, 120, 000.00</b>

## CONCLUSION

The poultry sector in Nigeria needs a boost; what with the high cost of poultry feeds and feed ingredients. Using highly effective growth promoters sourced from locally-available herbs, spices and medicinal plants to promote the fast growth and maturity of broiler chicken, will in the long run, reduce the cost of production of poultry birds, increase profitability by poultry farmers, and save millions of foreign exchange used in importing antibiotics and other growth promoters into the country. Hence, investing in the large-scale production of this natural growth promoter is a worthwhile and rewarding venture!