

Poverty relief and sustainable incomes is what drives Mike Bosch

Animal Voice asked farmer Mike Bosch to remind us of what's so special about *Boschveld chickens* (bearing in mind that he won *Animal Voice*'s Excellence in Humane Farming Award, back in 2009!):



"The Boschveld chicken", he says, "is derived from a cross of three indigenous African breeds, namely Venda, Matabele and Ovambo."

"Rural farmers need a resilient chicken that can fend for itself, stay alive, and yield enough meat and eggs to feed the family. That's the Boschveld chicken."

**Boschveld's easy-to-construct
MOBILE CHICKEN RUN comes with
100 chickens, a solar panel and
battery pack, vegetable seeds, young nut
and fruit trees, training and skills transfer.**



One of the smaller units is pictured above

Entrepreneurial rural citizens are showing that, with the Boschveld system, they can make around R4000 per month.

In addition:

- They're uncaged but lay eggs in the morning and roost at night in a mobile chicken run
- They exercise their natural behaviours
- There's no beak-trimming or de-toeing
- There's no killing of male chicks
- There's no inhumane culls for 'spent' hens

They also have a minimal carbon footprint:

- No need for huge extractor fans to run 24 hours a day to suction out the ammonia fumes produced by the hens' droppings in the battery sheds
- No artificial lighting as is required in the battery sheds
- No need for environmental control in scorching summer months

The mobile system provides:

- Fresh soil every 30 days
- The best protein for good health (*eggs*)
- Farming skills, entrepreneurship, employment, and food security
- Green energy (the solar panel and battery pack provide enough power to charge 13 cell phones, 5 lap-tops and 4 LED lights)
- Vegetables (grown with the chickens' natural compost instead of costly synthetic fertilizer and pesticides)
- Animal welfare that includes all Five Freedoms for Animals
- Saplings

