THE EFFECT OF CHANGES IN TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY ON MORTALITY RATES IN INTENSIVELY REARED CHICKENS AND RABBITS IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO AND BARBADOS OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS.

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Rising humidity and temperature levels are dangerous to the production of rabbits and chickens in the Caribbean. With both temperature and humidity at higher than normal levels, both rabbits and chickens experience heat stress, some reduction in weight, decreases in feed intake and feed conversion rates. This study aims to analyze and discuss the occurrence of changes in temperature and relative humidity and their effects on mortality rates in rabbits and chickens. We hope to determine management strategies to lessen these effects and to educate farmers on the risks associated with higher humidity and environmental temperatures. The study was carried out by obtaining daily temperature and humidity data from the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Office and the Barbados Meterological Office and mortality rates data from multiple chicken and rabbit farms in both countries. We hypothesize that mortality rates increase when both environmental temperature and relative humidity levels are higher.

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