

## BETTER CHICKEN COMMITMENT

India

In 2017, a group of organisations, working individually with many major food companies agreed on the most pressing welfare concerns related to broiler production, and how to best mitigate those concerns. Although these organisations do not necessarily work in tandem, they agreed on the benefits of speaking with one voice when engaging companies on broiler welfare issues.

The organisations drafted broiler welfare policy language addressing the main welfare concerns, and necessary improvements which they agree represents meaningful progress. A version of this letter for Asia is laid out below.



Note: These are just some of the organisations using the Better Chicken Commitment in markets around the world.

Now it is time for Asian markets to come forward and join this league for the better welfare of chickens in our respective countries by sourcing responsibly. The timeline for Asian countries is 2030 and you shall commit that:

“By 2030, we will require our chicken suppliers to meet the following requirements for 100% of our products:

1. Adopt breeds that demonstrate higher welfare outcomes, like Hubbard Redbro (indoor use), JA757, 787, 957, 987, or Norfolk Black; Rambler Ranger, Ranger Classic, or Ranger Gold; or others that meet the criteria of the RSPCA Broiler Breed Welfare Assessment Protocol or Global Animal Partnership (GAP)
2. Maximum stocking density of 2.7kg/ ft<sup>2</sup> (30kg/ m<sup>2</sup>) and prohibit broiler cages. Lower stocking densities result in better welfare outcomes
3. Provide birds enriched environments including
  - At least 50 lux of light, including natural light
  - Meaningful enrichments including suitable perching spaces and pecking substrates (atleast two per 1,000 birds),
  - Full floor coverage with dry and friable litter
  - Air quality: the concentration of ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) must not exceed 20 ppm and the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) must not exceed 3 000 ppm.
  - No cages or multi-tier systems if they are used in the specific market
4. Process chickens in a manner that avoids pre-stun handling and instead utilizes ‘effective electrical stunning without live inversion’ or a ‘multi-step controlled-atmosphere processing system (CAS)’ that induces an irreversible stun
5. Demonstrate compliance with all standards via third-party auditing”