Table of contents

List of Tables		viii
List of Figur	List of Figures	
Summary		2
Chapter 1:	General Introduction	9
Ĩ	1.1 Foreword	10
	1.2 Literature review	13
	1.2.1 Facts on poultry production systems in Jordan	13
	1.2.1.1 Commercial chicken production systems	13
	1.2.1.2 Local chicken production systems	14
	1.2.2 Limiting factors of local chicken production system	17
	1.2.2.1 Management elements	17
	1.2.2.2 Genetic potential	17
	1.2.3 Understanding the farmers' motivations to keep local chicken	18
	1.2.4 Investigation of the adaptive traits or genes	18
	1.2.5 Conservation of local chicken genetic resources	21
	1.2.6 Considerations before studying chicken production system	22
	1.2.7 Characterization of local chicken and their production system	23
	1.2.8 Poultry helminthes	24
	1.2.9 Nematode life cycle	25
	1.2.10 Studying the prevalence of helminthes species	26
	1.2.11 Studying the genetic resistance to parasites	27
	1.3 Overview of Jordan and the study area	28

Chapter 2:	On-farm Investigation of Local Chicken Biodiversity and Performance	32
	Potentials in Rural Areas of Jordan	
	2.1 Abstract	33

	2.2 Introduction	33
	2.3 Materials and methods	34
	2.4 Results	35
	2.5 Discussion	37
	2.6 Conclusion	39
Chapter 3:	Characterization of Local Chicken Production Systems and their	45
	Potential under Different Levels of Management Practice in Jordan	
	3.1 Abstract	46
	3.2 Introduction	47
	3.3 Materials and methods	48
	3.4 Results	52
	3.5 Discussion	58
	3.6 Conclusion	63
Chapter 4:	Prevalence and Burden of Gastrointestinal Helminthes among Local	65
	Chickens Production Systems in Jordan	
	4.1 Abstract	66
	4.2 Introduction	67
	4.3 Materials and methods	67
	4.4 Results	69
	4.5 Discussion	72
Chapter 5:	Response of Two Breeds of Chickens to Ascaridia galli Infections From	75
	Two Geographic Sources	
	5.1 Abstract	76
	5.2 Introduction	76
	5.3 Materials and methods	77
	5.4 Results	79
	5.5 Discussion	81
Chapter 6:	General Discussion	84
	6.1 Diversity and variants of phenotypes	85

6.2 Motivations to keep local chicken by rural families	
6.3 Flock size	
6.4 Production systems	
6.5 Breeding system	88
6.6 Productive and reproductive potential	89
6.7 Helminthes prevalence study	90
6.7.1 Implication of the study	90
6.7.2 Nematodes	92
6.7.3 Cestodes	93
6.8 Resistance to Ascaridia galli infection	94
6.8.1 Validity of resistance criteria	94
6.8.2 Effect of host genotype	96
6.8.3 Effect of parasites' geographic source	97

References

100

Appendix I	Questionnaire used in the characterization study of the local 115
	chicken and their production systems in the study area.
Appendix II	Description of the input factors used to evaluate the quality of 125
	management practice and inputs elements to calculate the
	management score