

## LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY IN NIGERIA: CHALLENGES, CURRENT STATE, AND PATH TO TRANSFORMATION

Ewododhe Abel Akpotu Chukwuka

Dept of Agricultural Economics

Delta State University of Science and Technology, Ozoro

*abelakpotu@gmail.com*

---

### ABSTRACT

*This research overview was aimed at suggesting remedies to the problems that have long plagued the livestock industry in Nigeria. This study, though not exhaustive, has proffered transformative strategies like technology adoption, value addition and processing, and access to finance, among others.*

**Keywords: Livestock, Farmers, Animal inputs, Feeds, Nigeria, Value**

---

### INTRODUCTION

The livestock enterprise in Nigeria performs a vital role in offering food security, employment opportunities, and contributing to the country's financial system. However, the arena faces numerous demanding situations that avert its growth and improvement (Jimoh and Shittu, 2019). This article aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the livestock industry in Nigeria, highlighting the demanding situations it faces and proposing capability strategies for its transformation.

The current state of the farm animal industry

The farm animal enterprise in Nigeria is characterized by a widespread dependence on subsistence farming, constrained access to fashionable technology, and low productivity. Despite having certainly one of the most important cattle populations in Africa, Nigeria's contribution to global livestock breeding and exports remains modest (Ibrahim and Adebambo, 2019). The enterprise is mostly dominated by smallholder farmers, who face diverse demanding situations in terms of infrastructure, right of entry to finance and credit score, animal health offerings, and a susceptible coverage and regulatory framework. The excessive cost of feeds and different inputs is a sizable project that detrimentally impacts the livestock industry in Nigeria. This mission is specifically applicable to rooster poultry farming, pig farming, and fish farming, in which feed costs represent an enormous portion of production prices (Adebayo et al., 2019; Fakoya and Ewuola, 2020).

The following factors, such as dependence on imported feed ingredients, insufficient local production of feed ingredients, inadequate investment in feed processing facilities, limited competitiveness, and limited research and development, were proffered by various authors (Ogunsanmi *et al.*, 2020; Oresegun *et al.*, 2020; Olabode, 2021; Adepoju *et al.*, 2021), to contribute to the excessive value of feeds and other animal inputs in Nigeria.

### Strategies for Transformation

To transform the livestock enterprise in Nigeria, several key techniques can be carried out:

#### Technology Adoption

Adopting modern-day technologies, including stepped-forward breeding techniques, precision agriculture, and record analytics, can enhance productivity and performance within the livestock domain. Srinivasan and Castellanos-Navarette (2020) explore the implications of the promotion of virtual structures, remote sensing, and cell programs to include facilitating knowledge trade, getting access to statistics, and market linkages for farmers. Technological improvements can allow better ailment surveillance, efficient document retention, and knowledgeable selection-making in farm animals' management.

#### Value addition and processing:

Investing in processing facilities, which include meat processing equipment, dairy processing plants, and leather-based industries, will add value to livestock merchandise and increase earnings generation. In addition, it can provide opportunities for revenue increases, create employment opportunities, and improve the quality and marketability of Nigerian farm animal products. In Okoye et al. (2020), the authors emphasized that the establishment of better control standards and the

advancement of branding can further enhance the competitiveness of Nigerian livestock products in domestic and worldwide markets.

### **Market development**

In an opinion review, Omunyin-Mewese and Oluyole (2020) suggested that strengthening market linkages, establishing formal market systems, and executing reliable marketplace record structures will promote the marketing and distribution of farm animals' products. In furtherance, Hasyim et al. (2020) highlighted initiatives consisting of putting in place farm animal markets, enhancing transportation infrastructure, and developing value chains that join producers and purchasers that can facilitate efficient trade and offer higher marketplace entry for livestock farmers. The formation of producer institutions, cooperatives, and partnerships among farmers and agribusiness firms can empower farmers, enhance their bargaining strength, and facilitate their worthiness for credit facilities.

### **Access to finance and credit**

Enhancing the promotion of finance and credit for farm animals to farmers is important. Providing financing alternatives tailored to the desires of different stakeholders in the livestock value chain can provide the essential capital to put money into modern-day practices, infrastructure enhancements, and technology adoption (Khan and Beard, 2019). Collaboration with financial institutions, the established order of farm animal credit score schemes, and the advertising of financial literacy among farmers can notably grant access to finance and credit score facilities.

### **Research and development**

Making an investment in studies and progress for the farm animal industry is essential for addressing demanding situations, enhancing productivity, and promoting innovation. Collaborations among research institutions, universities, and private actors can facilitate era switching, potential building, and expertise dissemination to farmers. Studies should be designed to concentrate on breed improvement, ailment control mechanisms, breeding packages, feed management, and sustainable farm animals' production practices (Muthini and Lusweti, 2019; Tameru and Worku, 2019).

### **Reinforcing public-private partnerships**

Promoting collaboration between government institutions, research establishments, private stakeholders, and farmers' organizations is critical to dealing with the multifaceted and demanding situations confronted by the livestock enterprise. Public-private partnerships can facilitate expertise sharing, resource mobilization, and coordinated efforts closer to the enterprise's transformation (Uddin and Motlhanka, 2019). Proximity collaboration with stakeholders can lead to comprehensive coverage reforms, effective implementation of regulations, and focused interventions that cope with the particular needs of different players inside the farm animals' enterprise.

### **Conclusion**

The farm animal enterprise in Nigeria faces numerous challenges that preclude its boom and improvement. But, through strategic interventions and collaborative efforts, the field has the capability to be transformed and become a big driver of economic improvement and food sustainability. Addressing challenges associated with infrastructure, public health, breeding and genetics, animal nutrients, policy, and marketplace access will lay the foundation for the industry's transformation. Adopting technology, strengthening market linkages, progressing value addition, improving access to finance, making an investment in research and development, and fostering public-private partnerships are crucial steps towards a resilient, effective, and competitive animal industry in Nigeria. The transformation of the livestock enterprise does not solely ensure the capability to enhance the livelihoods of farmers and generate employment possibilities; it also contributes to attaining sustainable development desires in Nigeria.

### **REFERENCES**

- Adebayo, O. T., Kadiri, M. O., and Dairo, F. A. (2019). Comparative economic analysis of small-scale broiler and layer production in Ogun State, Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Animal Science*, 21(2), 62–73.
- Adepoju, A. O., Oluwatosin, F. M., Afolabi, A. D., Olagunju, A.O., Adeleye, I. A., and Adebayo, O. O. (2020). Evaluating the Competitiveness of the Nigerian Poultry Industry. *Nigerian Journal of Agriculture, Food, and Environment*, vol. 16(3), 39–48.

- Fakoya, E. O., and Ewuola, E. O. (2020). Economic benefits and challenges of pig farming in Ogun State, Nigeria. *Journal of Development and Agricultural Economics*, 12(5), 1–8.
- Hasyim, H., Hermawan, B., and Saraswati, D. (2020). The Effect of Partnership Livestock Market Development on Farmers' Income in North Hulu Sungai District, South Kalimantan Province. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 408(1), 012202.
- Ibrahim, K., and Adebambo, O. A. (2019). Status of Livestock Production and Management in Nigeria: A Review. *Journal of Agricultural Sciences*, 64 (2), 193-208. Jimoh, O. O., and Shittu, A. M. (2019). Sustainable Strategies for Agricultural Development in Nigeria: An Analysis of Opportunities and Challenges. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 10(3), 37–45.
- Khan, R., and Beard, R. (2019). Access to Finance and Credit Constraints: A Review of Recent Literature. *European Journal of Business and Management Research*, 4(1), 20–25.
- Muthini, D. M., and Lusweti, A. (2019). Farmer-University Research Linkages in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Review of Literature. *Open Journal of Social Sciences*, 7(12), 353–360.
- Ogunsami, O., Odularu, G. O., Okoruwa, V. O., and Tiamiyu, A. (2020). Analysis of Agricultural Transformation Pathways in Nigeria: Implications for Livestock Feed Development. *Journal of Agricultural Economics and Development*, 5(4), 117–128,
- Okoye, B. C., Eke, O. P., Uche, C. J., Chukwuezi, C. O., and Nwokorie, I. O. (2020). Enhancing Nigeria's livestock competitiveness through quality control and branding. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Economics*, 5(4), 325–341.
- Olabode, O. S. (2021), "Constraints to the Development of Livestock Production in Nigeria." *Livestock Research for Rural Development*, 33(4), 81–91.
- Omunyin-Mewese, S., and Oluyole, K. A. (2020). Improving Market Linkages and Supply Chains for Smallholder Pig Farmers in Southwest Nigeria. *Journal of Agricultural Extension*, 24(3), 121–131.
- Oresegun, A., Ojo, O. A., Olabode, S. O., Adefokun, O. R., Odewunmi, S. E. and Sowunmi, M. K. (2020). Feed Resources and Strategies for the Improvement of Livestock Production in Nigeria. *Journal of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine*, 9(2), 53–68.
- Srinivasan, S., and Castellanos-Navarrete, A. (2020). The implications of digital technologies for livestock value chains and smallholder farmers in developing countries. *World Development*, 134, 105018
- Tameru, S., and Worku, T. (2019). Role of Agri-Innovation Platforms in Enhancing Joint Learning, Knowledge Sharing, and Innovation Uptake for Improved Agricultural Productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa. *The Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension*, 25(3), 181–196.
- Uddin, M. B., and Motlhanka, D. (2019). Public-Private Partnerships in the Livestock Sector: A Tool for Enhancing Sustainable Livelihoods. *Sustainability*, 11(3), 593.