

## ASSESSMENT OF CONSTRAINTS AFFECTING GOAT PRODUCTION AND MARKETING PRACTICES IN MAKODA AND UNGOGO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS, KANO STATE, NIGERIA.

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### ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to assess constraints affecting goat production and marketing practices in Makoda and Ungogo Local Governments Areas of Kano State, Nigeria. The study describe socioeconomic characteristics of goat rearers, as well as major constraints affecting goat production in the study area. A multistage sampling technique was used to select 130 farmers used for the study. Data were collected through the use of structured questionnaires which was later analyzed using descriptive statistics, (frequencies and percentages). Findings revealed average age of 44 (43.65) years among the respondents. Majority 56.92% of them were males, 83.85% were married and have average household size of 8 people among the respondents. Majority 56.92% of the farmers were found to be literate. The result further shows 60.77% of them as mixed farmers and 68.46% of them have average 13 years of farming experience with average flock size of 6 goats among the farmers. Diseases, inadequacy of feeds, poor markets and lack of promising breeds were identified from the study as major constraints affecting goats' production and their prices in the area. It is concluded from the study that farmers could obtain better goat prices and income to solve a lot of their economic, social and domestic needs if necessary veterinary extension personnel and facilities as well as means of making feeds more adequate year – round, introducing more promising breeds together with mass enlighten campaigns are made available at the reach of the farmers in the study area.

**Key words: Assessment, Constraints. Goat, Marketing, and Production**

### INTRODUCTION

Small ruminants (sheep and goats) contribute significantly to meat (and sometimes milk) production in Africa and hence, in meeting the current short fall created by the fast rising human population (Mukasa-Mugerwa, 1996). Gall (1981) reported that goat is numerous and widely distributed (scattered) in the tropics. In Nigeria, as at 2010, it was reported to have population of 34.5 million and 56 million sheep and goats respectively (FAO, 2010). Goats are small ruminant widely distributed throughout the geographical and climatic region of Nigeria. Goats adapt quickly and can be productive under almost any condition if they are properly managed (Jasen and Burg, 2004). Goat farming is not a new enterprise. Rearing goats is a profitable business. Goat production over the years in Nigeria has resulted in poverty alleviation and supply of high quality animal protein in order to meet the demand of animal protein for the country's teeming population (Anaeto *et al*, 2011). Goat farming can be suited with production of other livestock such as, sheep and cattle on low-quality grazing land. In tropical Africa and indeed in Nigeria, most sheep and goats are owned by farmers whose system of production and management are essentially traditional. About 96% of the traditionally managed goats are under free roaming and tethering system. Goats play significant role in the socio-economic wellbeing of the people. They are slaughtered during ceremonies and festivals, offer employments and serves as source of income to the farmers to meet their daily cash needs. In addition to miscellaneous functions, they also provide a source of investment, savings and as an insurance against disaster (Danguguwa, 1997). The skin of red Sokoto goats is well known for it is superior quality and command of high premium in the world markets (Ghude, 2017). Small ruminants play significant role in the food chain over livelihood of rural households, where they are reared largely by women and children (Lebbia, 2004).

Goat marketing is the most important and easiest step of goat farming business. Goat products like meat and milk has a huge local and global demand and popularity. Almost all types of people like goat milk and its meat. Therefore, good market is already available in almost every part of the world.

Commercial goat producers can target the international market and export the products to foreign countries (McCreight, 2015). The marketing of goats and goat products in tropics varies and depends on location and prevailing product condition.

The viability of goat's enterprise depends not only on technical and biological efficiency, but also on a well-organized production and marketing system. At present goats production and marketing are characterized by tradition, poor management, unrealistic pricing, inadequate promising breeds as well as inadequate and inefficient feed and feeding system. Hence this study is design to investigate socio-economic characteristics of goat producers, as well as to identify major constraints affecting production and marketing in the study area.

## METHODOLOGY

The research was conducted in Makoda and Ungogo local governments' areas, Kano state. Makoda has an area of 441 km<sup>2</sup> and Ungogo has an area of 204 km<sup>2</sup>. Makoda has a population of 222, 399, while Ungogo has population of 369,657 at the 2006 census (NPC, 2006). The main livestock species in the study area are cattle, goats, sheep and also some species of poultry. Millet, rice, sorghum, groundnut, bean, maize and cassava are the major crops grown in the area. Multi stage sampling procedure involving purposive, proportionate and random techniques were used. Makoda and Ungogo local government areas were first purposively selected based on the existence of famous Dambatta Sunday market and growing Kwanar Ungogo small ruminant abattoir. In the second stage, sixty percent (60%) of wards of the two selected local governments areas of the study area was Proportionately taken giving a total of 13 wards (5 in Makoda and 8 in Ungogo local government). While in the third stage 10 farmers that were actively rearing goats were randomly selected in each of the 13 wards selected for the study in the areas. This gave a total of 130 goats producers selected and involved in the study. Data were collected from the respondents and analyzed using descriptive statistics that include frequencies, percentages, maximum, mean and minimum.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result in Table 1 shows the average age of the respondents was 44 years and this implies that the respondents in the study area are within the age range regarded as economically active innovative and productive. According to Ayoola (1999) young or middle age farmers are more flexible in decision making, risk taking and adoption of new ideas and technologies than older ones. The average household size of the respondents as indicated in Table 1 was 8. This implies that the more the household members, the more their contribution to the family farm/flock activities. The result is in line with finding of Bakoji *et, al*, (2012), who stressed that large household size assist to provide cheap family labour for an entrepreneurship activity like farming. By experience in farming, the result revealed a mean experience of 13 years among the respondents. This implies that the more years spent in farming, the more experience gained by farmers. The result is in line with Ihenacho (2000) who indicated that farming experience of farmers affect their managerial know – how and decision making to a large extent.

**Table 1: Quantitative socio-economic characteristics of the respondents**

Variable	Mean	Maximum	Minimum
Age	43.65	69	25
Farming Experience	12.68	41	02
Household size	7.92	20	01
Flock size	6.40	16	02

Source: Field survey, 2018.

Result of the study in Table 2 also shows that majority (56.90%) of the respondents were male and the remaining 43.10% were female. This impliedly shows that goat rearing among females in the area is regarded as an important economic enterprise. Majority (83.80%) of the respondents were married, with few (6.10% and 5.40%) Divorcees and widows. Only 3.8% of the respondents were singles. This finding supports the assertion by Ekong (2010) that early marriage is practiced more in rural areas than in urban centers, due to low levels of education, lower aspiration and dependence on agriculture

for livelihood. The results of the study shows that majority (56.90%) of the respondents were literates. This implies that respondents in the study area had one form of education or the other. USAID (2010) observed that the more educated the farmer is, the more the chances that the farmer would adopt innovations. Majority (57.70%) had contact with extension/veterinary extension practitioners. Extension service constitute a driving force for any agricultural development. Contacts with extension agent exposes farmers to information on new ideas, technologies and demonstrated by extension agents on regular basis (Herath and Takeya, 2003).

**Table 2: Qualitative socio-economic characteristics of the respondents**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	74	56.90
Female	56	43.10
<b>Marital status</b>		
Divorced	06	06.10
Married	109	83.80
Widow	07	05.40
Single	05	03.80
<b>Literacy Status</b>		
Literate	74	56.90
Illiterate	56	43.10
<b>Contact with extension/veterinary practitioner</b>		
Had contact	75	57.70
No contact	55	42.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field survey, 2018.

Diseases, inadequate feeds, poor markets, lack of promising breeds, thefts as well as parasites shown in Table 3 are the most important constraints affecting goat production and marketing in the study area.

**Table 3: Constraints militating against effective goat production**

Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Ranking
Diseases	92	70.77	1 <sup>st</sup>
Inadequate feeds	75	57.69	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Poor markets	31	23.85	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Lack of promising breeds	25	19.23	4 <sup>th</sup>
Thefts	22	16.92	5 <sup>th</sup>
Parasites	15	11.54	6 <sup>th</sup>

Source: Field survey, 2018.

## CONCLUSION

It is concluded from this study that goat production and marketing is being constrained by a number of factors in the study area apart from non-existence of a single goat marketers or producers cooperative society in the study area. Diseases, inadequate feeds, poor markets, lack of promising breeds, thefts as well as parasitic problems were the major challenges faced by goat marketing in the study area. To reduce food insecurity, unemployment and industrial under- development through improving better goat prices and income, the following recommendations should were made.

- The farmers should be adequately mobilized/ sensitized by extension workers to form smallholder goat marketing/producers cooperative societies.
- More extension/veterinary extension personnel should be employed so as to improve easy accessibility to them by the farmers.

- Agricultural input stores such as Kano State Agricultural Supply Company (KASCO) in Kano state should be re-sustained by government.
- Superior more promising breeds better than the farmers own breeds, should be brought and be made available to the farmers by government, Non-governmental organizations, development partners etc. at affordable prices.

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