

SOCIO-CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF POULTRY FARMERS IN THREE STATE OF SOUTHERN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACTS

This study reports socio-cultural characteristics of poultry farmers in three southern states of Nigeria: Imo, Akwa Ibom and Oyo states. Fifteen poultry farmers were sampled in each state with the aid of well structure questionnaires, making a total of 45 respondents. Data generated were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as means, frequencies and percentages. Gender distribution of the farmers was 66.67% for male and 33.33% for female. The highest number of respondents were within 31- 40 years' age bracket (46.63%), followed by the age group of 41-50 years (22.10%). The results showed that 82.20% of the respondents were married, had formal education up to secondary school level, with 66.60% of them being educated up to tertiary level although most of them in the south east studied courses not related to animal agriculture, while all the graduate respondents of south-south zone studied agriculture and animal production related courses. Many of the poultry farmers (42.20%) had 6 - 10 years' experience in the industry, while another 20.00% had 11-15 years' experience. It was concluded that poultry farmers in Southern Nigeria have formal education they are likely to properly evaluate various production factors and make the appropriate decisions on adoption of modern and recent technologies in poultry production, thus making the dissemination of poultry farming improvement information in the zone easy.

Keywords: Farmers, poultry, animal agriculture, southern Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

The poultry industry has contributed significantly to the growth of the Nigerian economy through direct and indirect impact on national gross domestic product (GDP) and provision of animal protein, employment and income to the different segments of the population (Sonaiya, 1999; Oyesola and Olujide, 2000). Traditional method of poultry keeping exists side by side with the commercial system in the study area (Chima, 2011). Each of these two systems is associated with features of scale, stock, husbandry and productivity. However, between these two distinct prototypes, intermediate grades have evolved over time in response to the natural agro-economy and consumer demands (Adene and Oguntade, 2006). The poultry production systems in Nigeria are influenced by many factors such as health and diseases, housing, feeds and feeding, sales and disposal of products and socio-cultural background of practitioners (Adedeji *et al.*, 2014).

The socio-cultural characteristics of farmers include the sex, age and marital status, educational background, field of study for the educated ones and duration of experience in the poultry business (Bassey *et al.*, 2018). The belief system of the farmers may also be of significance. The estimation of the socio-cultural characteristics of poultry farmer in southern Nigeria will among other benefits contribute to knowledge and provide data needed by relevant agencies for policy formulation and intervention strategies.

This study was to evaluated the socio-cultural characteristics of poultry farmers in three southern states of Nigeria namely Imo, Akwa Ibom and Oyo states.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was undertaken in three states: Imo, Akwa Ibom and Oyo representing south east, south-south and south west geo political zones of southern Nigeria respectively. The states were selected purposively because of the high levels of commercial poultry activities reported in them (Akandu, 2012). Each of the three states is divided politically into three senatorial zones, and one of the senatorial zones was selected purposively in each state, namely Owerri, Uyo and Ibadan zones for south east, south-south and south west states respectively. One local government area was also selected purposively from each senatorial zone in which 15 poultry farmers were also selected from a town in each selected local government area. Thus, 90 respondents participated in the study.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUES:

The sampling design was therefore multi-stage sampling. The criteria for selection were those stated above, in addition to willingness to participate in the study and the participant having a functional poultry farming enterprise. The data for the study were generated with the aid of structured questionnaires and personal interviews. The actual survey was preceded by a preliminary informal survey of the study areas through which the researcher familiarized himself with issues associated with poultry farming in the study areas, while also explaining the purpose of the study to the participants.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS:

Data generated were subjected to descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, percentages and means (SAS, 2001).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1 shows the socio-cultural characteristics of poultry farmers in southern Nigerian states of Imo, Akwa Ibom and Oyo. Gender distribution of the farmers as shown in the table was 9(66.67%) for male and 6(33.33%) for female. The highest number of respondents were within 31-40 years age bracket (46.63%) and was followed by the age group of 41-50 years (22.10%). The least value was however recorded by the >60 years group that recorded 6.60%. This indicates that young people are actively in poultry farming in the study area. Similar results were reported by Okoli *et al.* (2004) for Imo state, Bassey (2014) for Akwa Ibom state and Ogegbuna (2014) for Anambra state. Across the zones, south east had the highest number of youthful (20 – 40 years) poultry farmers (73.3%), followed by south west (66.6%) and south-south (33.20%). The marital status results of the respondents showed that 17.76% were single, while 82.20% are married. However, breakdown of the result showed early marriage pattern for southwest zone of the country, where all respondents are married (100%), while the married respondents were 66.66 and 80.00% for south east and south-south zones respectively.

The results of educational qualification of the respondents showed that all had formal education up to secondary school level. The overall secondary school education limit of the respondents were 40.00 and 62.10% for tertiary level. Further breakdown of the results showed that south east with 73.30% had highest number of tertiary education graduates in poultry farming, followed by the 66.70 and 40.0% recorded in the south west and south-south respectively. These results however showed that 66.60% of the tertiary level educated farmers in the southeast studied courses not related to agriculture or animal agriculture, while all the graduate respondents in the south-south zone studied agriculture and animal related courses. Similar results of highly educated small-scale pig farmers have also been reported in Imo state, especially the peri-urban farmers (Okoli *et al.*, 2009; Moses, 2019). However, the overall results of the southern region showed that 12.23% studied agriculture, 23.33% studied animal science, 26.70% studied animal health, 8.90% studied veterinary medicine, while 28.87% studied courses outside the above mentioned disciplines. These results are contrary to the finding of Moses (2019) that most small-scale pig farmers in Imo state studied courses that are not related to agriculture before venturing into livestock farming.

Majority of the poultry farmers (42.20%) spent between 6 and 10 years in the industry. This was followed by the group with 11 - 15 years experience (20.00%). However, the fewer farmers in the studied areas (8.83%) are the group that have more than twenty years of experience in poultry farming. Across states however, Akwa Ibom state recorded the highest value (53.30%) for the 6 -10

years of experience, followed Imo state (40.00%) and Oyo state (33.33%). Similar results were reported by Bassey *et al.* (2018) when comparing farmer years of experience in Akwa Ibom and Anambra state. These results also show that more farmers entered into poultry farming in Akwa Ibom and Imo states than Oyo state in the last 10 years.

Table 1: Socio-cultural characteristics of poultry farmers in three states of southern Nigeria

Parameter	Imo State (n=15) Frequency (%)	Akwa Ibom State (n= 15) Frequency (%)	Oyo State (n=15) Frequency (%)	Mean (n=45) Frequency (%)
(a) Sex				
Male	9(60.00)	11(73.40)	10(75.00)	30(66.67)
Female	6(40.00)	4(26.60)	5(25.00)	15(33.33)
(b) Age (years)				
20-30	3(20.00)	1(6.60)	1(6.60)	5(11.06)
31-40	8(53.30)	4(26.60)	9(60.00)	21(46.63)
41-50	2(13.30)	6(40.00)	2(13.30)	10(22.10)
51-60	1(6.60)	3(20.00)	2(13.30)	6(13.30)
Above 60	1(6.60)	1(6.60)	1(6.60)	3(6.60)
(c) Marital status				
Single	5(33.30)	3(20.00)	0(0.00)	8(17.76)
Married	10(66.60)	12(80.00)	15(100.00)	37(82.20)
(d) Educational qualification				
Nil	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)
Primary	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)
Secondary	4(26.60)	9(60.00)	5(33.30)	18(40.00)
Tertiary	11(73.30)	6(40.00)	10(66.70)	27(62.10)
(e) Tertiary education discipline				
Agriculture	0(0.00)	1(16.70)	2(20.00)	3(12.23)
Animal science	2(16.70)	2(33.30)	2(20.00)	6(23.33)
Animal health	2(16.70)	2(33.30)	3(30.00)	7(26.70)
Veterinary	0(0.00)	1(16.70)	1(10.00)	2(8.90)
Others	8(66.6)	0(0.00)	2(20.00)	10(28.87)
(f) Years of experience				
1-5	3(20.00)	1(6.60)	2(13.30)	6(13.30)
6-10	6(40.00)	8(53.30)	5(33.30)	19(42.20)
11-15	2(13.30)	3(20.00)	4(26.60)	9(20.00)
16-20	2(13.30)	2(13.30)	3(20.00)	7(15.53)
Above 20	2(13.30)	1(6.60)	1(6.60)	4(8.83)

CONCLUSION

Poultry farmers in Southern Nigeria have formal education, suggesting that the farmers are likely to properly evaluate various production factors and make the appropriate decisions on adoption of modern and recent technologies in poultry production, thus making easier the dissemination of poultry farming improvement information in the zone.

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