

# SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF CATFISH FARMERS IN KUMBOTSO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KANO STATE

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## ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to analyze the socio-economic characteristics of catfish farmers in Kumbotso LGA of Kano state with the aim of identifying the socio-economic characteristics, the contribution of fish production as a source of income generation and the problems associated with small scale catfish farmers in the study area. Three communities were purposively selected based on the availability of large number of fish (catfish) farmers in the areas. Data were collected using structured questionnaires which was administered to 45 respondents were 15 catfish farmers were randomly selected from each location. The data obtained were analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequency and percentages). Results revealed that majority of the fish farmers were males (86.67%) and at their active age bracket (31-40) and most of them were secondary school certificate holders (53.33%). Thirty one (68.89%) of the respondents agreed that fish farming is the most profitable business in the study area while 55.56% revealed that fish production is the major source of income in the study area. The study also revealed that the major problems associated with small scale fish farmers in the study location were lack of capital (35.55%) and high cost of feed (28.88%). It is therefore recommended that, women should be encouraged to participate more in agricultural sector as their participation is critical to achieving food security and economic well being.

**Keywords:** socio-economic characteristics, catfish farming, Kumbotso

## INTRODUCTION

Fish farming is among the fastest growing animals based food production sector, particularly in the developing countries. Fish is said to be important source of food and income to many people in developing countries, for instance in Nigeria as much as 10% of the population depend wholly or partly on the fisheries sector for their livelihood (FAO, 2008). It also provides a rich source of protein for human consumption due to its readily digestibility and immediate utility by human body. Fish farming provide important service including supporting nutritional well-being providing feed stock for the industrial sector, making contributions to rural development, increasing export opportunities, more effective administration of natural reserves and conservation of biological diversity (Dagtaking *et al.*, 2007)

Fish production has not been fully explored as a strategy to reduce poverty level despite its potential to improve livelihood in rural communities. The low level of productivity result from lack of appropriate production knowledge and skills, inappropriate stocking rate, poor management and inadequate feeding due to high cost of feeds. Furthermore, inadequate attention has been devoted to the viability of the business itself.

The population's participation has contributed to the sustenance of fishing and fishing-related activities in Kano State. However, there is a need for expanded fish production as the residents struggle with unemployment and poverty. As a result, there is a considerable potential for their increased participation both at individual and groups levels. But in order to achieve this, substantial efforts must be made to precisely identify and assess the problems associated with small-scale fish production. Therefore, this study was designed to investigate the socioeconomic characteristics, contribution of fish production to revenue generation, and the problems associated with small-scale fish farming in Kumbotso L.G.A., Kano State.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research was conducted in three different communities namely Dorayi, Gaida and Kumbotso of Kumbotso Local Government Area (LGA) of Kano state, Nigeria. Kumbotso LGA is located at latitude 11°53'17"N and longitude 8°30'10"E. It covers an area of about 158km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 805,589 according to the national population commission projection (NPC, 2020). Its annual rainfall ranges from 850mm to 870mm. The three communities were purposively selected based on the availability of large number of fish (catfish) farmers in the areas where fifteen (15) respondents were randomly selected from each community among the catfish producers in the study location to give a total forty five (45). Data were collected using structured questionnaires which was administered to the 45 respondents and analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequency and percentages).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1: Socio-economic characteristics of fish farmers in the study area

Variables		Kumbotso	Dorayi	Gaida	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	11	15	13	39	86.67
	Female	04	-	02	06	13.33
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>
Age	18-30	05	04	04	13	28.89
	31-40	08	09	07	24	53.33
	41- above	02	02	04	08	17.78
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>Mean (<math>\bar{X}</math>)</b>				<b>34</b>	
Educational background	Primary	03	01	-	04	8.89
	Secondary	07	09	08	24	53.33
	Tertiary	04	05	07	16	35.56
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1 present the Socio-economic characteristics of fish farmers in Kumbotso L.G.A and the result shows that 86.67% of the respondents were male and only few females were involved in fish production in the study area. This agrees with the report of Veliu (2009) where he reported that women were not major players of agriculture in northern part of Nigeria. This is due to the traditional belief of people in the area that women should not be allowed to engage in laborious activities and are usually housewives. Majority of the respondents were within the age bracket of 31-40 (53.33%) and the mean age of the respondents was 34 years, this implies that most of the fish farmers are at their active age. Therefore, they have the tendency to be more productive and physically active to carryout fish farming in the study area (Olasunkanmi *et al.* 2012). The study also revealed that the respondents have acquired education in one way or the other with majority (53.33%) having secondary school certificate.

Table 2: Contribution of fish production as a source of income generation in the study area

Variables	Response	Kumbotso	Dorayi	Gaida	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Is fish farming one of the most profitable business in the study area?	Yes	12	09	10	31	68.89
	No	03	06	05	14	31.11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>
Is fish production the major source of income in the study area?	Yes	08	06	11	25	55.56
	No	07	09	04	20	44.44
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>
Does fish farming increase the economic well being of the nation?	Yes	09	12	08	29	64.44
	No	06	03	07	16	35.56
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2 presents the contribution of fish production as a source of income generation in the study area. And the result shows that 68.89% (31) of the respondents agreed that fish farming is the most profitable business in the study area. Majority of the respondents (55.56%) revealed that fish production is the major source of income in the study area.

Table 3: Problems associated with small scale fish farmers in the study area.

Variables	Location			Frequency	Percentage (%)
	Kumbotso	Dorayi	Gaida		
Lack of capital	04	05	07	16	35.55
High cost of feed	06	04	03	13	28.88
Lack of water	03	04	02	09	20.00
Market fluctuation	02	01	02	05	11.11

Proximity to market	-	01	-	01	2.22
Storage factors	-	-	01	01	2.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>

The problems associated with small scale farmers were revealed in table 3. The result shows that lack of capital was the major problems of the respondents (35.55 %) followed by high cost of feed (28.88 %), lack of water (20%) and then market fluctuation (11.11 %) while storage factors and proximity to market has the least percentage of 2.22 %. The finding of this study is in line with the result of Olaoye *et al*, (2013) where he reported high cost of feed as the major problem affecting fish farmers in Oyo state.

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The majority of the fish farmers in Kumbotso LGA were males and at their active age bracket and well educated. Fish production is a profitable business and one of the major sources of income in the study area, however, only few females were involved in the business. Therefore, the study recommended that women should be encouraged to participate more in agricultural sector as their participation is critical to achieving food security and economic well being. It also recommended that fish farmers should be encouraged to join fish farmers' associations and cooperatives in order to strengthen their financial capabilities so that they could access funds from financial institutions which prefer to deal with body corporate than private individuals since their major problem is lack of capital.

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