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Challenges Faced By Local Poultry Framers in Zaria Metropolis of Kaduna State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study aimed at investigating the challenges faced by local poultry farmers in Zaria, Kaduna state with emphases on their socio-economic characteristics, type of production system and challenges faced by the respondent's farmer in the study areas. Well structured questionnaire was used to elicit information from seventy (70) respondents in the study area. The result shows that majority (63.4%) of the respondents were females, 51.4% had secondary education while 65.7% are civil servants. Also the result shows that 60% were single and 41.4% have five years and above experience in local poultry production. 70% of the respondents practice semi-intensive system of rearing while the challenges faced by the farmers in the study area shows that predators accounted for 28.6%, disease attack 22.8%, poor hatching 21.4% and death of brood 14.3%. In conclusion, it is recommended that intervention be made by veterinarians around the study areas in order to curb losses due to diseases. Equally, technical know-how for improving production is made available to poultry keepers through extension service, capacity training of poultry farmers to enable them cope with challenges of modern poultry farming.

Keywords: Poultry production, challenges, local farmers, domestic chickens.

Introduction

Poultry production is one of the fastest ways of obtaining animal protein within a short period because of its short generation interval (Adedeji *et al.*, 2014). Chicken is the most commercialized poultry species (Daniel, 2009). Apart from chicken other poultry species includes guinea fowl, turkey, duck, pigeon and more recently ostrich commonly reared birds in Nigeria. Poultry, as an aspect of livestock production outnumbers all other forms of livestock in Nigeria and not surprisingly is found throughout the country wherever there are human settlements (Adeyemo and Onikoyi, 2012). Its offer of highest turnover rate and quick returns to investment outlay in the livestock enterprises has made it unique (Adeyemo and Onikoyi, 2012). The exotic breeds have stimulated an industrial advancement of the poultry industry through specialization as egg or meat type strains to satisfy the increasing demand for poultry commodity in the food market (Rekwot *et al.*, 2015). Despite the leading role of poultry production in the livestock industry, it's not without challenges, most especially the local poultry chicken which is known to possess qualities such as the ability to hatch their own, brood and scavenge and possess appreciated immunity against endemic diseases.

This work sought to identify the challenges faced by local poultry farmers in Zaria metropolis and suggest possible solutions.

Materials and Methods

The study was carried out in Zaria, a major city in Kaduna State Nigeria. It stands at a height of about 670m above sea level and more than 640km away from the sea. It is located on latitude 11°04' N and longitude 7°33' E. It covers an area of about 300km² with a population estimate of about 1, 0180,800 (NPCC 2006). The climate characteristics exhibited by Zaria is that of a tropical continental savannah climate with a distinct wet and dry season. The average annual temperature is 24.9°C and an average annual rainfall of 1050mm (NIMET, 2011).

The survey study involved random distribution of questionnaires to ten (10) different households in seven (7) different areas within Zaria metropolis. The areas covered included Shika, Bomo, Sabongari, Samaru, Gaskiya, Tudunjukun and Gelleysu. The households were chosen on the basis that they practice traditional method of domestic chicken production. A total of seventy respondents were contacted for the survey.

Analysis of data was done by simple descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution and percentages.

Result and Discussion

Table 1 shows the data of the correspondent farmers. The result showed that 70.0% of the respondents were females when compared to the 30% which accounted for the males. This indicates that females are more involved in domestic chicken production. This corresponds with the findings of Ajala *et al.* (2007), who agreed that young women are mostly involved in poultry production in rural areas. Result on the educational background showed that the correspondent farmers (51.4%) had secondary education which implies that the farmers could understand a level poultry management and possibly new technology in poultry production as observed by Anosike *et al.* (2015). Based on occupation, the result showed 65.7% of the correspondents were civil servants while the least among them were poultry farmers having 5.6% suggesting that poultry farming is an attaché to other occupation practiced by the correspondent farmers. Their marital status also showed that majority of correspondent farmers (60%) were single and 37.1% are married. The experience of the respondents on chicken production showed that 41.4% had 5 years and above of experience. These suggest that the farmers have good knowledge of poultry production and management. These are in consonance with earlier reports by Anosik, *et al.* (2015).

Table 1: Respondent Personal Data

Sex		
Parameters	Frequency	Percent
Male	21	30.0
Female	49	70.0
Total	70	100.0
Educational status		
Parameters	Frequency	Percent
No Response	2	2.8
Primary	8	11.4
Secondary	36	51.4
Tertiary	22	31.4
Others	2	2.8
Total	70	100.0
Major occupation		
Parameters	Frequency	Percent
No response	2	2.8
Poultry Farming	4	5.7
Farming	18	25.7
Civil Servant	46	65.7
Total	70	100.0
Marital Status		
Parameters	Frequency	Percent
No Response	2	2.9
Married	26	37.1
Single	42	60.0
Total	70	100.0
Experience of Chicken Production		
Parameters	Frequency	Percent
No Response	8	11.4
1-3years	11	15.7
3-5years	22	31.4
5years above	29	41.4
Total	70	100.0

Table 2 shows the production system and housing of domestic chicken. Seventy percent of the correspondent farmers (70%) practiced the semi-intensive system of production. This simply implies that the farmers were conscious to provide the necessary requirements for the chickens. Also, 15.7% practiced extensive/backyard system while the least of them (8.6%) practiced intensive system of production. The type of

housing provided however were mud block and zinc housing among others which were poorly constructed. Except on some large scale farms, most of the domestic chicken and other poultry species in Nigeria are kept under semi-intensive or extensive management systems. The present study confirms earlier reports of Ajala, *et al.* (2007), in which the authors argued that attempts were not being made to improve this facility as the local chickens are neglected.

Table 2: Production System and Housing of Domestic Chicken

Parameters	Frequency	Percent
No Response	4	5.7
Extensive	11	15.7
Semi Intensive	49	70.0
Intensive	6	8.6
Total	70	100.0

Table 3 shows some challenges faced by local poultry farmers. The results showed that majority (28.6%) of the respondents reported that predators (rats, snakes, hawks, dogs and cats) were the major challenges faced in local poultry production. This report agrees with the findings of Ajala *et al.* (2007), who revealed that predators were the major problem facing poultry production in rural areas. Similarly, disease outbreak accounted for 22.9% (Newcastle and fowl pox) while poor hatching accounted for 21.4%. Least of the challenges as obtained are death of brood (14.3%) and stealing of brood (10%). This result is in line with the findings of Ajala, *et al.* (2007) and Aromolaran *et al.* (2013), who reported that diseases, death of brood and poor hatching were common challenges faced by poultry farmers in rural areas.

Table 3: Distribution of Challenges Faced In Local Poultry Production

Challenges	Frequency	Percentages (%)
No Response	2	2.9
Predators	20	28.6
Diseases	16	22.9
Poor Hatching	15	21.4
Death of Brood	10	14.3
Stealing of Brood	7	10.0
Total	70	100.0

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study showed that interventions need to be made by veterinarians around the study areas and areas where local poultry are kept in order to curb losses due to diseases. Equally, technical know-how for improving production and management should be made available to poultry keepers through extension services and capacity training of poultry farmers to enable them cope with challenges of modern poultry farming.

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