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Socio-Cultural Characteristics and Drug Use Habit of Poultry Farmersin Akwa Ibom State

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Abstract
Poultry keeping has been one of the most popular enterprises adopted by small and medium farmers in Nigeria. This study focused on the socio-cultural characteristics and drug use habits of poultry farmers in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria which was conducted in 14 local government areas of the state. Primary data were collected with the aid of structured questionnaires distributed to 70 poultry farmers of which 59 were returned. Data generated were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as means, frequencies and percentages. The results showed that farmers were mostly located in Uruan (23.7%), Uyo (23.7%), and Ibesikpo (15.25%). About 50.84% of the farmers were females of 20-30 years of age groups. About 29(49.15%) age bracket of respondents suggest that young people were more into poultry farming in the study area with 45.76% having secondary education and 40.67% having tertiary education. Also from the findings, 17.15% of the farmers used antibiotics, 16.27% used vitamins and 15.98% used vaccines and coccidial drugs. 70.68% of the farmers have used human drugs frequently in animal production. The study concluded that abuse and indiscriminate use of antibiotics and human drugs by farmers could be as a result of its availability and accessibility and also farmers' non-challant attitude. As such, there is need for effective education, training and awareness on the use of veterinary drugs and on the dangers of antibiotic resistance in poultry production in Nigeria to be provided to poultry farmers.

Keywords: poultry, socio-cultural, drug use habit, antibiotics

Introduction

Poultry keeping has been one of the most popular enterprises adopted by small and medium farmers in both rural and urban areas of Nigeria (Idowu *et al*., 2005). Poultry production in Nigeria has increased tremendously in the last few decades because it stands as a major step to efforts aimed at providing the needed high quality protein to her populace through meat and egg supply. (FAO, 2000; Chima, 2011). Modern poultry production venture presents certain challenges in terms of management, nutrition and maintenance of the productive health of the animal which has given rise to the provision of veterinary support services as an animal health management strategy. This operates either as a one-stop animal health management shop where all possible issues relating to the health of animals are tackled or as an avenue to consult only when all other strategies of disease control fail. This is especially the case for the small holder, often resource poor-farmers (Etuk *et al*., 2005).

The successful use of antibiotics in veterinary medicine has become particularly worrisome, especially due to their potential to be extended into the human food chain. Also, the possibility of reduced efficacy of such drugs which has been observed in some reports to be administered by non-qualified personnel (Thakur and Bajaj, 2006). However, when needed, drugs must be used responsibly after consultation of veterinary professionals and recommended treatment regime followed.

This study however, examined the socio-cultural characteristics and drug use habits of poultry farmers in Akwa Ibom State.

Materials and Methods

The primary data use in the study were generated from a field survey in the 14selected local government areas of Akwa Ibom state (Uruan, Abak, Ibesikpo,Ukanafun, Eket, Ibeno, Uyo, Ikono, Nsit Atai, Obot Akara, Etinan, Nsit Ibom, Ikot Abasi, Etim Ekpo) with the aid of 70 structured questionnaires administered to the poultry farmers of which 59 were returned.Akwaibom state is situated in South-south geopolitical zone of Nigeria with an annual temperature and rainfall of 26.4◦c and 2509mm respectively. The state lies between latitudes 4◦321 and 5◦331 North and longitudes 7◦251 and 8◦251 East.

The analysis of the data collected from the survey was done using simple descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution, percentage and mean.

Result and Discussion

The results showed that farmers were mostly located in Uruan (23.7%), Uyo (23.7%), and Ibesikpo (15.25%). About 50.84% of the farmers were females of 20-30 years of age groups. The finding supports the report of Gueye (1998) that approximately 80% of chicken flock in a number of African countries were owned and largely control by women. About 29(49.15%) age bracket of respondents suggest that young people were more into poultry farming in the study area with 45.76% having secondary education and 40.67% having tertiary education. Also from the findings, 17.15% of the farmers used antibiotics, 16.27% used vitamins and 15.98% used vaccines and coccidial drugs. 70.68% of the farmers have used human drugs frequently in animal production.

Table 1: Sociocultural characteristics of farmers in Akwa Ibom State

	Parameter	Frequency	Percentage
a.	Location		
	Uruan	14	23.7
	Abak	7	11.86
	Ibesikpo	9	15.25
	Ukanafun	1	1.69
	Eket	2	3.38
	Ibeno	1	1.69
	Uyo	14	23.7
	Ikono	1	1.69
	Nsit Atai	1	1.69
	Obot Akara	1	1.69
	Etinan	2	3.38
	Nsit Ibom	3	5.08
	Ikot Abasi	1	1.69
	Etim Ekpo	1	1.69
b.	Gender Distribution		
	Male	29	49.15
	Female	30	50.84
	Total	59	100
c.	Age Distribution		
	20-30	29	49.15
	31-40	20	33.89
	41-50	7	11.86
	51-60	3	5.08
	Above 60	-	-
d.	Educational Qualification		
	Nil	2	3.38
	Primary	6	10.16
	Secondary	27	45.76
	Tertiary	24	40.67
e.	Tertiary Education Qualification		
	Agriculture	4	18.18
	Animal science	6	27.27
	Animal health	5	22.72
	Others		
	Economic	1	4.54
	MBA	1	4.54
	B. Admin	1	4.54
	Civil Eng.	1	4.54
	Petrochemical	1	4.54
	Biochemistry	1	4.54
	Physics	1	4.54

Conclusion

The study concluded that abuse and indiscriminate use of antibiotics and human drugs by farmers could be as a result of its availability and accessibility and also farmers' non-challant attitude. Therefore effective education and trainings of poultry farmers on the dangers of antibiotics resistance in poultry production and also enforcement by government regulation agencies to help eliminate the abuse and indiscriminate use of antibiotics by farmers and animal health practitioners were recommended.

Table 2: Professional experience of poultry farmers

	Parameter	Frequency	Percentage
a.	Years of experience		
	1-5	37	62.71
	6-10	17	28.81
	11-15	4	6.77
	16-20	1	1.69
	Above 20	-	-
	Total	59	100
b.	Professional carrier		
	Full time	27	46.55
	Intermittent	5	8.62
	Part time	26	44.82
	Total	58	100

Table 3: Medication habits of the farmers

Parameter		Frequency	Percentage
a.	Frequency of medication in farms		
	Daily	4	5.55
	Weekly	15	20.83
	Monthly	8	11.11
	As case warrants	45	62.5
	Total	72	100
b.	Drugs used by the farmers		
	Antibiotics	59	17.15
	Coccidial drugs	55	15.98
	Vaccines	55	15.98
	Feed additives	42	12.20
	Vitamin supplements	56	16.27
	Growth promoters	39	11.33
	Mycotoxin binders	3	0.87
	Egg promote/formulars	21	6.10
	Yolk coloourants	8	2.32
	Acaricides	4	1.16
	Other		
	Waterleaf	2	0.58
	Total	344	100
c.	Frequency of human drugs used		
	Yes	17	29.31
	No	41	70.68
	Total	58	100
d. Types of human drugs			
	M&B (760)	2	7.40
	Tetracycline	9	33.33
	Nemycia	1	3.70
	Paracetamol	1	3.70
	Flagil	2	7.40
	Chloramphenicol	1	3.70

Vitamin C	3	11.11
Vitamin B_2	1	3.70
Folic acid	1	3.70
Immodium	1	3.70
B complex	1	3.70
Altracarbon	1	3.70
Septrin	1	3.70
Total	27	100

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