

THE CHANNELS OF SUPPLY OF SMALLHOLDER VILLAGE POULTRY FLOCKS IN SOKOTO STATE

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ABSTRACT

Twenty-nine (29) copies of an open ended questionnaire were administered at Gangaren Dange and Dogon Karfe from October to December 2010 to determine the sources of indigenous poultry and eggs and various distributions from flocks to consumers. Items covered in the questionnaire included: the respondent's particulars, species of poultry and eggs supply, and motivation, challenges and prospects. The two locations were under Dange Local Government and Bodinga Local Government, respectively. Information obtained was analyzed using descriptive statistics. Results obtained showed that about 60% of the hawkers had an experience of about 20 years in the business; most of them generated less than ₦2,000 per week. Three-quarter of them sourced their fowls and eggs through rural collectors in about a dozen villages.

Keywords: smallholder poultry, sources, distribution, motivation and prospects.

INTRODUCTION

Indigenous poultry have been in small scale production for a long time. In the rural areas poultry production is important because of the divergent roles it plays. Sale of eggs and live birds in urban and rural markets is one of the sources of cash earnings available to rural families (Gefu *et al.*, 2002). In Africa, village poultry contributes over 70% of poultry products and 20% of animal protein intake (Kitanyi, 1998). Chickens are numerous in most regions of the world. In the developed countries, production units for meat and eggs are large and intensive, with individual birds housed singly in cages or housed together in large numbers. Under these conditions, one operator can care for large numbers of birds with high labor efficiency and good control of disease and the environmental factors affecting production (Encarta, 2009).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sampling site

The survey was conducted at two locations along two major roads in Sokoto State; Gangaren Dange (along Sokoto-Gusau road) and Dogon Karfe (along Sokoto-Jega road).

Collection and processing of samples

The data collection involved administration of a checklist on fowls and eggs sourcing and hawking through personal interview with hawkers. Emphasis was put on the supply of the birds and the different channels through which they were

obtained by the hawkers with a view to getting to the village flocks, which serve as repositories for the hawked poultry products. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation, proportion and range).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Hawkers length of experience

The results obtained from the survey showed that 62% of the poultry sellers had an experience of about 20 years in the business while the others (38%) had an experience of about 10 years. Therefore, most of the respondents had been in the business for quite a while (Table 1).

Source of products

Most of the poultry hawkers (about 76%) sourced their products (fowls and eggs) through rural collectors while the remaining 24% went to the neighboring villages for the materials (Table 2). These villages include Wababi, Gi'eri and Illela bisallam in Dange Local Government, and Dandun Mahe (Shagari Local Government), Dogon Daji and Jabo (Tambuwal Local Government), Jabe, Kabawa and Dabaga (Yabo Local Government) and Lozobi and Arewa (Bodinga Local Government).

Number of collectors

The study revealed that the majority of the poultry hawkers (about 52%) had not more than three collectors, the reason that they did not want to go for unhealthy birds from unknown rural collectors. Another reason they gave was that the business

involves a smallholder farming system. This agrees with a research conducted by (Kryger *et al.*, 2005) where the term "Smallholder farming system" refers to the many diverse forms of production found in smallholder societies across the world (Netting, 1993). Usually, the "smallholder farming system" is conceived in terms of what is not: not capitalist, not large scale and not technologically intensive. Twenty-four percent had no collectors (Table 3).

Regularity of supply

Most of the respondents (72%) received up to three supplies per week while 3% of them received up to six supplies per week (Table 4). This is as a result of cost of maintenance. 24% did not buy from the collectors.

Weekly income

The poultry hawkers generated a low income which tallies with their complaint of 'no market'. Most of them generated less than #2000 per week (Table 5). Some of them might even spend up to two days without selling a single bird or egg.

Conclusion

Hawking of fowls and eggs at the two study sites has been on for decades. Chief socio-economic constraints include lack of markets, poor marketing management, and poor infrastructural and institutional support. Nonetheless, the hawkers look forward to brighter future.

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Table 1: Distribution of hawkers according to length of experience

Length of experience (year)	Frequency	Proportion (%)
5 – 10	7	24.14
11 – 15	9	31.03
16 – 20	12	41.38
21 – 25	1	3.45
Total	29	100

Table 2: Distribution of poultry hawkers according to source of products

Source	Frequency	Proportion (%)
Rural collectors	22	75.86
Self	7	24.14
Total	29	100

Table 3: Distribution of hawkers according to number of collectors

No. of Collectors	Frequency	Proportion (%)
1 – 3	15	51.72
Many	7	24.14
None	7	24.14
Total	29	100

Table 4: Distribution of hawkers according to regularity of supply

No. of supplies per week	Frequency	Proportion (%)
1 – 3	21	72.41
4 – 6	1	3.45
None	7	24.14
Total	29	100

Table 5: Distribution of poultry hawkers according to weekly income

Weekly income (#)	Frequency	Proportion (%)
1000 – 1999	14	48.28
2000 – 2999	10	34.48
3000 – 3999	1	3.45
No response	4	13.79
Total	29	100



Plate 1: Some Domestic Fowls at Dogon Karfe.



Plate 2: Some Guinea Fowls at Gangaren Dange