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PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF POULTRY PRODUCTION IN GWAGWALADA AREA COUNCIL, FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, ABUJA, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted in Gwagwalada Local Government Area of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, to examine the problems and prospects of poultry production. For data generation, 16 farmers were randomly selected from each of the nine (9) districts that make up the Local Government Area, thus making a total of 144 respondents for the study. Both interview and structured questionnaires were used for the study. Data collected were analyzed using percentages. 52.08% of the famers are male. An overwhelming majority (56.25%) have tertiary education. Majority (52.08%) of the farmers adopted intensive system of management, though about 21.533 and 26.39% practiced extensive and semi intensive systems respectively . majority (76.39%) of the respondents had over 2 years of experience in poultry keeping Majority (68.753) of the respondents reported that no extension services are available in the study area, though 32.25% said extension services are available. Majority (69.44%) of the farmers reported that they obtained their veterinary drugs from private stores instead of government clinics. About 62.50% of the farmers utilize self-made feeds to feed their poultry. Water supply does not appear to be a problem for farmers in the study area, as overwhelming majority (62.50%) have access to tap water. The major (45.14%) disease affecting poultry production in the study area is coccidiosis. Other common diseases are fowl pox (30.56%), Newcastle (17.36%) and chronic respiratory disease (13.89%).It was found out that poultry production has good prospects as well as problems which need to be addressed to encourage more farmers to go into poultry production in Gwagwalada Local Government Area.

Keywords: Poultry production, Prospects, Respondents, Structured questionnaire

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian population is growing at a fast rate implying that more food will be required to ensure that people are not underfed or do not suffer from malnutrition. (FAO 2020)

FAO (1988) suggested 85.98g as the total minimum protein intake per adult head per day, out of which 35g should be of animal origin. According to Njoku (2011), Nigerians, on the average consume about 10 grams of animal protein per day; obviously, this consumption level is less than the recommended 35 grams per adult head per day.

To avert this ugly trend, there is the need to improve on the production of animals with shorter generation intervals. Poultry is one of such animals that have shorter generation interval (Njoku, 2011). Besides, poultry has high rate of productivity and can easily adapt to most areas (Smith, 2010). The production cycle of poultry can be as short as six weeks for broilers and eighteen weeks for layers. Poultry has a low capital requirement, quick return on investment and it suffers no ecological constraint or religious taboo making it the best logical solution to our national meat scarcity problem (Obioha, 1992).

The total poultry population in Nigeria is estimated to be 133 million, consisting of about 123 million local chickens and 10 million exotic chickens (Akinurumi *et al*., 1989). This estimate suggests that there is need to increase production, especially of the exotic breeds which have the genetic potential to bridge the animal protein deficiency gap.

Poultry products, especially broiler chickens, are widely consumed in Nigeria and other parts of the world due to their affordability, relatively short production cycle, and high protein content (Bawa *et al* 2019). However, the rising costs of conventional feed ingredients, including soybean and maize, have led researchers to explore alternative protein sources that could sustainably support poultry production without compromising nutritional quality (Oladokun & Kolawole, 2020; Onu & Madubuike, 2018).

The broad objective of this study was to investigate the problems and prospects of poultry production in Gwagwalada Area Council of FCT, Abuja.

The overall objective of the study was to determine the level of poultry production in Gwagwalada Area Council of FCT, Abuja

The specific objectives include:

i. The level of education of the poultry famers in the area.

ii. The breeds, sources and number of poultry kept by farmers.

iii. Determine the systems of management.

iv. Identification of challenges faced by the poultry farmers.

2.0 MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Study area

The study was conducted in Gwagwalada Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja, Nigeria. Apart from crop farming, poultry farming is also common in the Local Government. The Local Government is made up of 9 districts.

2.2 Data collection

Both primary and secondary data were collected and used for the study. The secondary data was collected from the Agriculture Department of the Local Government; these include textbooks, journals and other resources. The primary data on the other hand was collected through the use of structured questionnaires. One hundred and sixty (144)) questionnaires were administered on poultry farmers within the study area. The information obtained was on biodata, income, health and husbandry.

2.3 Data analysis

The categorical data collected were analyzed using percentages.

3.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Socio-Economic Characteristics

The social - economic characteristics of the respondents is presented in Table 1 it indicates that 52.08% of the famers are male. An overwhelming majority (56.25%) have tertiary education. A good number of the majority respondents (59.03%) are married while majority (76.39%) of the respondents had over 2 years of experience in poultry keeping . This imply that majority of poultry farmers in Gwagwalada are highly educated, which is good for the poultry industry

Table 1: Socio -economic characteristics of respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Sex		
Male	75	52.08
Female	69	47.92
Educational Level		
No formal education	15	10.42
Primary education	20	13.89
Secondary education	28	19.44
Tertiary education	81	56.25
Marital Status		
Single	59	40.97
Married	85	59.03
Farming experience		
< 1 year	10	6.94
1 year	24	16.67
2 years and above	110	76.39

3.2 System of management, source of chicks and Initial capital

The various management systems, sources of chicks and initial capital are presented in Table 2. Majority (52.08%) of the farmers adopted intensive system of management, though about 21.533 and 26.39% practiced extensive and semi intensive systems respectively. Allowing birds to roam about as it is done under extensive system could expose them to danger, theft and even lower their productivity leading to reduced income , this is in line with the report of Adamu *et al* , 2019, about half of the poultry keepers use extensive and semi intensive systems

Table 2: Type of system, source of chicks and source of initial capital

Variable	Frequency	Percentage

Farming System		
Intensive	75	52. 08
Extensive	31	21.53
Semi_ intensive	38	26.39
Source of Chicks		
Hatchery	70	48.61
Large poultry farms	29	20.14
Open market	45	31.25
Source of Capital		
Personal savings	98	68.06
Bank loans	26	18.06
Cooperatives	20	13.89

3/3 Extension services, sources of feed, water and drugs

Data in Table 3 reveals availability of extension services. Majority (68.753) of the respondents reported that no extension services are available in the study area, though 32.25% said extension services are available. Lack of extension impacts negatively on agricultural production. In similar manner majority (69.44%) of the farmers reported that they obtain their veterinary drugs from private stores instead of government clinics. About 62.50% of the farmers utilize self-made feeds to feed their poultry. Water supply does not appear to be a problem for farmers in the study area, as overwhelming majority (62.50%) has access to tap water., this is a plus for the poultryy producers as good and adequate water supply is essential in poultry production,

Table 3: Extension services, source of feeds, water and drugs/vaccines

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Source of feeds		

Self-made	90	62.50
Commercial	35	34.31
Both	19	13.19
Source of Drugs		
Government clinics	44	30.56
Private stores	100	69.44
Extension Services		
Available	45	31.25
Not available	99	68.75
Source of Water		
Tap	90	62.50
Borehole	24	16.67
Well	20	13.89
Ponds/stream	10	6.94

3.4 Common diseases affecting poultry production

Common diseases affecting poultry production in the study are presented Table 4.

The major (45.14%) disease affecting poultry production in the study area is coccidiosis .Other common diseases are fowl pox (30.56%), Newcastle (17.36%) and chronic respiratory disease (13.89%).This corroborates there[port of Okoh *et al* ., 2020 that coccidiosis was the most common poultry disease within the north central zone of Nigeria

Table 4: Common diseases affecting production

Diseases	Frequency	Percentage
Coccidiosis	90	62.50
Fowl pox	35	34.31
Newcastle	19	13.19
Chronic Respiratory disease		

Common diseases affecting poultry production

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4.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Conclusion

From the results of the study, it can be concluded that there are prospects for poultry production in Gwagwalada Area Council. Majority of the farmers are graduates of tertiary institution. It is opined that, education has a profound impact on livestock production. However, some problems are militating against poultry production in the study area. These include inadequate extension service and finance. Most of the farmers do not have access to bank loans.

4.2 Recommendations

I It would therefore be recommended that the number of extension agents should be increased to assist farmers with technical knowhow

II Commercial banks should increase the level of finance to farmers.

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