



Global Advanced Research Journal of Agricultural Science (ISSN: 2315-5094) Vol. 4(8) pp. 479-484, August, 2015.
Available online <http://garj.org/garjas/home>
Copyright © 2015 Global Advanced Research Journals

Full Length Research Paper

Analysis of Determining Factors to Women's Participation in Poultry Production in Toro Local Government Area of Bauchi State, Nigeria

Gwary, M.M., Nuhu, H.S., Burabe, B.I. and Toro, N.A.

Department of Agricultural Extension Services, University of Maiduguri, Nigeria

Accepted 04 August, 2015

This study assessed the determinants of women's participation in poultry production in Toro local government area of Bauchi state, Nigeria. Primary and secondary data were used for the study. The data obtained were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The study revealed that many (43%) of the respondents was married. Majority (76.6%) were within the age range of less than 30- 40 years with a high proportion (53.4%) having no formal education. The major motivational factors influencing the women's' participation in poultry production include income (28.3%) and leisure (16.7%). The main constraints faced by women were costs of feeds (23%), poor access to change agents (18.8%), and poor management skill (17.1%). The result of the correlation analysis shows that the variables marital status($r=0.341$; $p\leq 0.01$) and access to credit ($r=0.285$; $p\leq 0.05$) had significant relationship with the level of participation of women in poultry production. Based on the result, it was recommended that poultry production should be supported by the government through provision of credit and loan facilities with low interest rates so that the women can overcome the problem of low capital base. There is also a need to ensure access to improved breeds that thrive well given the hot climatic condition prevalent in the study area.

Keywords: Women, Poultry production, Participation, Determining factors

INTRODUCTION

Background

Poultry keeping is a popular activity among rural women in most countries. In fact, women have been reported to be the predominant owners of rural poultry (Okitoil *et al.*, 2007). Poultry is an affordable livestock for resource of poor households. The enterprises provide regular output using small input and production can be undertaken by women in the household (Nielson *et al.*, 2003). However,

there are variation in the nature and intensity of women participation in agricultural activities between the various regions of the country depending on vegetation and other socio-economic cultural practice. Yoruba women of western Nigeria are mainly traders, Igbo women of Eastern Nigeria participate in farming activities while in the North their participation depends on the extent of the practice of female seclusion (*purdah*); they however actively participate in food processing activities and poultry activities. In addition, it is estimated that women grow half of the food in the world, but rarely own land. Despite their

*Corresponding Author's Email: mwadagwary@yahoo.ca

considerable involvement and contribution, women's role in livestock production has often been underestimated or ignored (IFAD 2007). Despite women varied level of production in agricultural activities across the nation, their contribution to agricultural activities remains invaluable to Nigeria food supply. Fabiyi *et al.*, (2007) opined that women have been found to contribute about 60% of the labour force; produce 80% of food and earn 10% of the money income, but own 1% of the farm assets.

In Nigeria, poultry is one of the major enterprises in livestock industry. However, in terms of women participation in poultry production, a survey undertaken by International Poultry Marketing Initiatives (IPMI) revealed that women prefers most of the production activities such as hatchery rearing, feeding, watering, protection and egg collection. In spite of the significant role of female farmers, their level of productivity is constrained because agricultural technology has been designed on the assumption that farm managers are men. This assumption gives rise to several other constraints on the progress of female farmers: failure of extension workers to reach them; limited access to credit inputs; lack of access to relevant technological information; and lack of incentive to increase productivity (Saito and Spurling 1992). Mbanelo (1990) and Nweke (1994), however, reported that most policies aimed at making agro-technological inputs accessible to female farmers in Nigeria were actually directed towards men. The importance of food and agricultural production requires a combined effort of both men and women. The efforts observed from the researchers were apparently considered in form of one gender over another, but these could be vocational difference. The Nigerian national population census of 2006 reported that about 49.97% were male and 50.03% were female. It was related that women had not benefit as much as men from economic development programme. This is because women are found to have limited opportunities to access and control over productive resource. Paying attention to the welfare of women farmers is necessary to improve the overall agricultural development of the country. This can be done by increasing women participation in training programmes and ensuring that improved agro-technology are friendly to women.

Poultry production is one of the ways of empowering women and a poverty reduction strategy. This is because poultry production business can be undertaken at the house backyard and does not require high initial capital. However a lot of women who ought to be engaged in poultry production are not doing so. The level of women's access to production and management resources as revealed by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) experience seem to be a major factor. It is important to note that poultry had been a frequent sub-component of IFAD long term project, usually targeting women. The most common type of support has been credit for poultry enterprises. When women are given a choice of

loan for a project, they often choose poultry keeping. This is due to the fact that they are familiar with the activity and set up costs are relatively low. Frequently IFAD project have also included other support activities such as the strengthening of veterinary institutions and services, the training of beneficiaries in health and husbandry practices and on-and off-farm adaptive research on topics related to poultry production (IFAD, 2007).

A study by Rahman (2003) revealed that women had about 50% access to labour and good water source whereas their access rate were below 50% for resource such as improved chicks, feeds, vaccines, drugs, credit facilities as well as extension services. Some factors limiting women's access to credit frequently includes, high rate of female illiteracy, especially in the rural areas, fear of indebtedness, risk awareness, lack of collateral and little opportunity to access credit (Ikpi and Akinwumi, 1979).

Objectives

The main objective of the study is to assess extent of women's involvement in poultry production in Toro local government area of Bauchi state, Nigeria. The specific objectives in the context of the study location were to:

- i) Identify the socio-economic characteristic of women involved in poultry production;
- ii) Determine motivational factors influencing women's participation in poultry production;
- iii) Ascertain the level of women's access to production and management resource required for poultry production, and
- iv) Analyze constraints to participation in poultry production among the respondents.

Hypothesis

The hypothesis formulated to guide the study and tested accordingly was: There is no significant relationship between characteristics of the respondents and their level of participation in poultry production in the study area.

METHODOLOGY

Study Location

The study area is Toro local government area of Bauchi state. The state is located about 10km west of Bauchi town. The provisional census gives the population of the town as 181,654 for male and 167,750 for female. Making a total of 349,404 (National Population Commission, 2006) with a ratio of 1:0.9 respectively. The town shares boundary and similar climatic condition with Jos, Plateau State. By virtue of their proximity the town has an average temperature of 18^oc-22^oc which makes it conducive for poultry farming.

Sampling Procedure

The target populations for this study were the women poultry farmers in the study area. The sample was selected from a list (sampling frame) comprising of 200 women poultry farmers in the study area. A simple random sampling selection of 30% of women poultry farmers from the sampling frame was conducted which gave a total of sixty (60) respondents administered questionnaire. Two major types of data were used these are primary and secondary data. The primary data was obtained by the use of structured questionnaire. The secondary data was obtained from both published and unpublished materials such as text books, journals, papers and other related relevant information from internet.

Analytical Technique

Data collected were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution and percentage were used to analyze the objective of this study, while inferential statistics such as correlation were used to analyze the relationship measure how strongly two variable between the socio-economic characteristics and level of participation in poultry production measure how strongly two variable are lineally related.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic profile of Respondents

Data on the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents as revealed by the research is presented in Table 1. The variables include, age, educational attainment, marital status and household size.

The result as depicted in Table 1 shows that majority (76.7%) of the respondents were within the ages of less than 30-40 years. This by implication means that the study area has large number of productive, energetic and active women that are involved in poultry production. As evident in the table most (46.7%) of respondents had different level of education while more than half (53.3%) had no-formal education. The result clearly shows that high proportion of the respondents lack formal education. Similar result in age and education were observed by Fabiyi *et al.*, (2007) in their study titled "the role of women in Agricultural development and their constraints" shows that the women participating in agriculture were mostly young with low level of literacy. According to Adams (1984) formal education has the potential of making up some of the deficiency in an individual and can enhance understanding and communication in agriculture.

With respect to marital status the result revealed a preponderance of married respondents (56.7%) with 31.6%

being while 11.7% were divorced. The implication is that the respondents are likely to work hard to earn income to support their families. Result from the study (Table 1) indicates that household size with the highest frequency lies between 6-15 persons constituting a total of 65%. With this range, it could mean that the women poultry farmers could likely to have access to and utilize household members for labour instead of hiring labour.

Motivational factors influencing involvement in poultry production

Based on the data in the Table 2, some proportion of the respondents (28%) revealed that their motivational factor was the income they get from poultry production, 13.3% were motivated because it serves as a source of employment, 15.0% are been motivated by peer influence group and while only 1.7% are been motivated by egg production. This means that the respondent are mostly been motivated by the income they get from the poultry business. Table 2 depicts information on the motivational factors which influenced the respondents to participate in poultry production. Since the major influence is income, it implies that there is a need for economic empowerment of the women through necessary support for their poultry enterprise.

Perceived constraints to poultry production

The result presented on Table 3 show that the major constraints faced by women in poultry production is poor knowledge of management skill with a percentage of 33.3% of the total, 28.3% of the respondent faced both cost of feed and poor access to change agent, insufficient fund and household work falls within 20.0% while the least among with 18.3% faced constraint by lack of veterinary advice. 25.0% of hatchery problem was also a constraints faced by women participant. Sadaf *et al.*, (2006) also reported that inadequate number of female extension staff constitute a major constraint faced by women involved in agricultural production. This is mainly because of the local culture which forbids interaction between male extension workers and female farmers.

Relationship between socioeconomic variables and participation in poultry production

Table 4 depicts information pertaining to test of the hypothesis analyzing the relationship between the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents and their and participation in poultry production. Based on the result in Table 4, there is significant correlation between participation in poultry production and marital status. This implies that there is an association between participation in poultry production and marital status. Married women are more likely to have children and because of this

Table 1: Socioeconomic characteristics of respondents (n=60)

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Age (years)		
Less than 30	35	58.4
31-40	11	18.3
41-50	11	18.3
Above 50	03	5.0
Educational background		
Primary education	09	15.0
Secondary education	10	16.7
Tertiary education	09	15.0
No formal education	32	53.3
Marital status		
Married	34	56.7
Single	19	31.6
Divorced	07	11.7
Household size (No.)		
Less than 5	11	18.3
6-10	18	30.0
11-15	21	35.0
16-20	6	10.0
Above 20	4	6.7

Source: Field survey, 2013

Table 2: Distribution of respondent based on the motivational factors influencing their participation in poultry production (n=60)

Motivational factors	Frequency	Percentage
Income	17	28.3
Source of employment	8	13.3
Source of leisure	10	16.7
Peer influence	9	15.0
Source of food for family	6	10.0
Research purpose	4	6.7
Meat production	5	8.3
Egg production	1	1.7

Source: Field survey, 2013

Table 3: Constraints to women participation in poultry production in the study area (n=60)

Constraint	Frequency	Percentage
Insufficient fund	12	20.0
Domestic and Household work	12	20.0
Cultural /traditional belief	13	21.0
Poor management skill	20	33.3
High cost of feed	17	28.3
Poor access to extension services	17	28.3
Inadequate veterinary services	11	18.3
Hatchery problem	15	25.0

Source: Field survey, 2013

Table 4: Correlation analysis of the socio-economic factors on the assessment of women participation in poultry production

Variable	Correlation coefficient (r-value)	Significance
Education background	-0.102	NS
Marital status	0.341**	S
Household size	0.185	NS
Access to credit	-0.285*	S

Source: Result of correlation analysis, 2013

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

responsibility placed on them, they are likely to be involved in business that will provide income to enable them partake in feeding the family. The result also depict that the correlation between participation in poultry production and access to credit is positive and significant. This implies that credit access could increase participation in poultry production. Credit if properly utilized could strengthen the existing enterprise to a higher level, so that streams of income will grow and therefore enhance savings of the women. The correlation coefficient

($r = -0.102$) between educational background and participation in poultry production reveals that there is a negative correlation between educational background and participation in poultry production which by implication means that the relationship between the two variable is inversed or indirect. This could also mean that educational background of the respondents has nothing to do with the participation in poultry production.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the result on the socio-economic characteristics of the respondent, majority were within the economically active age bracket most are married with large household size. Marital status and access to credit was found to have a positive and significant correlation with participation in poultry production. The major conclusion deducted on the research finding from the study area indicate that women are actively involved in poultry production, however their level of participation is significantly limited by the constraints such as poor access to change agents, cost of feed, poor knowledge of management skills, lack of veterinary advice. Other factors are: poor or inadequate agricultural program for empowerment, poor extension services and inadequacy of awareness women in the importance of poultry production

in the growth of the economy and increase in the level of protein in the nation. In order to sustain and in fact improve women participation in poultry production and against the backdrop of finding of the study, the following are recommended:

- Proper and improved extension services should be given to the women farmers. This will help in widening their scope of production as well as the ways of solving those problems they faced in Poultry production.
- Credits and loan facilities should be made available to the women with a single digit interest rate so that the women can overcome the problem of inadequacy of capital. This will maximize their potential of poultry production in order to enhance their contribution of food security in the nation.
- There should be consideration on the type of breeds of chicks that thrives well with the climatic condition of the study area. Also, quality and improved breeds should be used in the study area.
- The women should be encouraged to form cooperative societies so that they can jointly tackle the constraints limiting their full involvement in poultry production.

REFERENCES

- Adams ME (1984). *Agricultural Extension in developing countries*, longman Group Ltd, 2nd Edition.
- Fabiyi EF, Danladi BB, Akande KE, Mahmood Y (2007). Role of women in Agricultural development and their constraints; *Pakistan journal of nutrition*, vol,6(6) Pp676-678.
- IFAD (2007). *Women livestock managers in the third world: a focus on technical aspects*. Retrieved from http://www.ifad.org/gender/thematic/livestock/live_toc.htm
- Ikpi AA, Akinwumi JA (1979). *The future of poultry industry in Nigeria*. Proceeding of first National seminar on poultry production, Zaria. Nigeria.

- Mbanelo M (1990). *Women: A potent labour force in grassroots development*. A paper presented At the national conference on development at the grassroots in the 1990s, 16-17 may, Hotel presidential, Enugu, Nigeria.
- Nielsen HN, Thilsted SH (2003). The impact of semi scavenging poultry production on the Consumption of animal source foods by women and girls in Bangladish. *J. Nutr.*, 133:4027S-\$030S.
- Nweke AN (1994). *Role of women in agricultural production in Awka education zone of Anambra state: Implication for adult education in Agriculture*. University of Nigeria Nsuka, Nigeria. Unpublished M.Ed thesis.
- Okitoil LO, Obali MP, Murekefu F (2007). Gender issues on poultry production in rural holds of western Kenya. *Res. Rural ev.*, 19: Art 17.
- Rahman SA, Adamu JF (2003). Estimating the level of women's interest in Agriculture: An Application of logit Regression model. *The Nigerian journal of scientific research*. 4(1):45-49.
- Saito KA, Spurling D (1992). *Developing agricultural extension for women farmers*. World bank, Washington, DC, USA.