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*Full Length Research Paper*

# Assessment on the Acceptability and Consumption of Quail Products (Meat And Eggs) in Jalingo, Taraba State – Nigeria

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The study of the assessment on the acceptability and consumption of quail products (meat and eggs) in Jalingo, Taraba state, Nigeria. The instrument used for the study was the structured questionnaire. A multi-stage sampling technique was adopted in selecting the respondents. Six wards were selected from the local government and twenty (20) respondents were randomly selected in each of the selected wards making the sample size of one hundred and twenty (120). Descriptive statistics such as simple percentage (%) was used as the tool for analyzing data. The study revealed that majority of the respondents (54.16%) were youths while 16.60% were above 46years. Similarly, 33.34% were applicants which mean there is a correlation between the age and the occupational status of the respondents. The result also indicated that most of the respondents (74.16%) have heard about quail before. Whereas, 62.50% have high level of acceptance of the quail products which was influenced by its availability and affordability (25% and 41.66%) respectively. On the other hand, the results of the assessment on consumption of the products shows that 66.67% have consumed the products before and only 33.33% have never consumed the products before. In a similar vein, those who consumed the products before, the result indicated that 50% were able to consume only the meat while those who consumed either the eggs or both meat and eggs were 25% each. The result, however, indicated that 91.67% of the respondents have accepted to encourage more production of the products in their locality. It was therefore, concluded that, the acceptability and consumption of the products in the area of study is high and has no negative effects on the health status of the inhabitants. Further study should be conducted to assess a wide range of acceptance and consumption of the products and more study areas could be covered to have more areas involved.

**Keywords:** Assessment, Acceptability, Consumption, Quail Products (Meat and Eggs).

## INTRODUCTION

Quails (*Coturnix coturnix japonica*) are small birds that have been around in the country for quite some time now. These small birds (17cm on average) usually have brown, black and grey color with white streaks. They are

fairly agile animals so much so that smaller cages are more conducive for them to minimize and/or avoid injuries Hassan (2003).

Quail farming has been increasing in popularity as it

**Table 1:** Personal data of the respondent

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<b>Age (years)</b>		
18 -25	35	29.16
26 – 45	65	54.16
46 and above	20	16.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	80	66.66
Female	40	33.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Marital status</b>		
Single	40	33.33
Married	30	25
Divorced	10	8.33
Widow	15	12.5
Widower	25	20.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Educational level</b>		
Non- formal Education	45	37.5
Primary School	15	12.5
Secondary School	25	20.83
Tertiary Education	35	29.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Occupation</b>		
Applicant	40	33.34
Civil servant	15	12.5
Farmer	35	29.16
House wife	15	12.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2014

is been considered a viable solution for the growing demand in poultry products. However, the demand for quail meat and eggs is high, though less investors venture into quail production as very little knowledge is known about raising the bird by the farmers.

Thus, unknown to many, quail is relatively easier to raise compared with domestic chicken, as they need less nurturing because they are not susceptible to some common poultry diseases (Kadam et al., 2006).

The eggs of quail are used in the same manner as those of chicken except that they are smaller. Five eggs of quail is equivalent of one egg of a chicken, due to their small size and attractive appearance quail eggs are often used for different purposes such that they can be consumed whole, sliced in salads or served boiled with a sauce. The meat is considered a delicacy which it may be fried or roasted and many recipes have been developed.

The study was aimed at assessing the acceptability and consumption of quail products (meat and eggs) in Jalingo of Taraba State-Nigeria.

## **MATERIALS AND METHOD**

### **Study Area**

The study area is Jalingo Local government area of Taraba state; it lies within the guinea savannah belt of North-eastern Nigeria. The temperature in the area rises to about 40°C in the months of March to June while during October to February the environment tends to be cold with the setting of the North-east trade wind (Taraba diary, 2008)..

The study was conducted in six wards of Jalingo local

**Table 2.** Assessment of acceptability of quails products

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Have you heard about quails before</b>		
Yes	89	74.16
No	31	25.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>How did you get the information about quails and their products?</b>		
Friends and relations	43	35.84
Radio	37	30.83
Literature	10	8.33
Television	30	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Do you accept quails products as part of human protein?</b>		
Yes	98	81.66
No	22	18.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>What is the level of your acceptance of quail products?</b>		
High	75	62.5
Moderate	30	25
Low	15	12.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>What is your reason for accepting quail products?</b>		
Its availability	30	25
Affordability	50	41.66
Nutritional values	10	8.33
Medicinal values	10	8.34
All of the above	20	16.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2014

government. The wards were chosen for the study in order to get information that will assist in furnishing the potential researchers with data concerning the acceptance and consumption of meat and eggs of quails in the area.

### Sample Size and Sampling Technique

A multi-stage sampling technique was adopted for the selection of the respondents. Six wards were selected from the local government area and twenty (20) respondents were randomly selected in each of the six (6) wards making a total of one hundred and twenty (120) respondents. The wards selected include, Mayo-gwoi, Sintali A, Sintali B, Kona, Mile six and Barade wards.

### Data collection and Analysis.

Data were collected with the aid of a structured questionnaire that was administered to the respondents. Descriptive statistics such as simple percentage was

used to analyzed the data generated.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Personal Data of the Respondents

The results of the personal data of the respondents are presented in Table 1. The result of the study revealed that majority of the respondents are youths (29.16%) and 54.16%) while 16.6% among them were 46 years and above which have exceeded the youthful age of 18-45 years.

The study also indicated that 66.66% (majority) are males this can be connected to the fact that men or males always have right to land as a productive resources than women which Quisumbing (1994) reported that there has been a great disparity between women and men in the size of land holdings.

The results also indicated that singles form the majority of those interviewed (33.33%), married individuals were only 25% while divorced and widows are 8.33%, 12.50%

**Table 3.** Assessment of the consumption of quails products

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Have you ever consumed quails products before?</b>		
Yes	80	66.67
No	40	33.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>If yes, which of the quails product?</b>		
Meat	60	50
Eggs	30	25
Both	30	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>How do you feel on consumption of any of these products</b>		
Is palatable	68	56.69
Not palatable	22	18.33
No difference with poultry products	30	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Where is the source of your quails products</b>		
Market	75	62.50
Quails vendors	25	20.83
Some quails farms around	20	16.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>How long have you been patronizing quails products</b>		
Some months back	35	29.17
Less than four years	63	52.5
More than five years	22	18.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Do you think any of these can be a reason(s) why some people do not accept and consumed quails products</b>		
Tradition	20	16.67
Religion	40	33.33
Nausea	35	29.17
Personal reasons	25	20.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Can you encourage more production of quails products in your locality?</b>		
Yes	110	91.67
No	10	8.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>In your opinion which methods do you think can be used to fast track the acceptability and consumption of quails products?</b>		
Create awareness/campaign	30	25
Increase production of the products	32	26.67
Public sensitization	40	33.33
Promotion of quails products	18	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2014

and 20.84% respectively. The result is by implication stating that divorced either male or female do find it

difficult to participate in accepting and consuming quail products.

On the educational attainment of the respondents, the result have revealed that 37.50% did not attend a formal education, 12.50% and 20.83% attended primary school and secondary schools respectively. Thus, only 29.17% of the respondents that have the highest level of education accomplishment. This result shows that most of the respondents were not educationally too informed.

The results on the occupation of the respondents indicated that Applicants (33.34%) form the major components of the respondents, farmers were ranked second since most of them were the target group who supposed to provide the needed impetus on this study. Other categories of respondents, (civil servants and house wives) were 12.50% each.

### Assessment of Acceptability of Quail Products

Table 2 revealed the results obtained on the acceptability of quail meat and eggs. The result shows that most of the respondents (74.16%) have heard about quails before. The information about quails and its products were gotten in different ways by the respondents. About 35.84% get their information on quail products through their friends and relations, 30.83% also revealed that they get their information through reading literatures and other readable materials on quails while 25% were able to access their information by audio-visual (Television) means. The different ways in which these information's were received by the respondents are all good medium through which the respondent can be enlightened or educated about quail production, distribution and consumption.

The result also shows that 81.66% of the respondents due to the different ways in which they get their information about quail and its products, they have accepted that quail meat and eggs are part of human protein. These have resulted in 62.5-% of those interviewed to accept the meat and egg of quail with high esteem. Although, 25% moderately accepted the products but few of them 12.50% have low level of acceptance, their low acceptance may be attributed to their low understanding of the products as per how it has been presented to them.

The study also shows that the reasons for accepting the quail products, some respondents (25%) have accepted the quail products because of its availability within the study area, about 41.66% which form the majority of those accepting the products due to its affordability by a common man. Also, some respondents revealed that they accepted the products because of its nutritional values and medicinal roles which the study shows as 8.33% and 8.34% respectively. More so, about 16.66% of the respondents have accepted the products because of all other reasons that were outlined by other respondents above. Thus, the result may be in

agreement with Agwunobi and Ekpenyong (1990) and Edache *et al.*, (2007) who have individually reported that quail eggs and meat have low cholesterol, less fat and high protein content and is a good quality meat for diabetic and high blood pressure patients and also the meat and eggs are of public health importance

### Assessment on the Consumption of Quail Products

Table 3 present the assessment on the consumption of quail products. The results shows that 66.67% of the respondents have consumed the quail products in the past while 33.33% have indicated that they have never consumed the products before.

In the same vein the study noted that 50% of the respondents were able to consumed only the meat while those who consumed eggs and both meat and eggs are 25% and 25% respectively. The result is an indication that the consumption of quail products are sharply on the increase. This is in tandem with Bulus *et al.*, (2013) who reported that Japanese quail is among the domesticated species of quails that are widely spread and commercially product for eggs and meat utilization.

However, the result of the study indicated that 56.69% of the respondents have confirmed that the quail products are palatable, this result tend to agree with Basil (2011) who reported that the eggs of quail are low in cholesterol and are very tasty while the meat is tender like the chicken meat. Thus, only 18.33% shows that the products were not palatable to them in consumption, but 25% of the respondents revealed that products were not different with other poultry meat and eggs on consumption.

The study further revealed that majority of the respondents (52.50%) have been patronizing the products in less than four years, other confirmed that some months back and more then five years back with the corresponding percents 29.17% and 18.33% respectively.

On the premise why some people do not accept and consumed quail products, the results revealed that the following were some of the reasons attached to that effect as tradition 16.67%, religion has 33.33% while Nausea and personal reasons have 29.17% and 20.83% respectively.

The results further shows that 91.67% of those interviewed have accepted the view that encouraging more production of quail products in their locality will be helpful while the remaining 8.33% of the respondents did not accept encouraging more production may be due to some of the reasons advanced above.

Even though, those respondents that were in support for more production of quail products have given their suggestions, 25% suggested that creating awareness and campaign will assist tremendously, 26.67% of the

respondents believed that if there is an increase in the production of the products it may influence its acceptance and consumption. Other suggestion revealed that the public need sensitization about the small bodied bird and its products (33.33%) while 15% of the respondents suggested that the promotion of the meat and eggs of this bird using different channels will further increase the rate of acceptance and utilization of the product.

## CONCLUSION

The results obtained from this study revealed that the acceptability and consumption of quail products in the area of study is 62.50% and 66.67% respectively. It can therefore, be concluded that the acceptance and consumption of the products (meat and eggs) have no any negative effect on the health state of the people; hence it can be accepted and consumed by the verse majority. Further study should be conducted to assess the wide range of acceptance and consumption of the products and to extend the study area.

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