



POULTRY PRODUCTION AS A TOOL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY: NEW DIRECTION FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IN NIGERIA.

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Abstract

The paper examined poultry production and its significant contributions to the global economy; despite the significant role of poultry business in the society, the poultry production in Nigeria is still at subsistence level and the sector is facing numerous challenges ranging from social, economic and institutional factors. It's observed that, worldwide the demand for poultry and poultry products are tremendously increasing as a result of population growth. It was revealed that, poultry production in Africa contributing insignificantly to the economy when compared the production capacity and marketing of poultry in places like Asia, America, China, Brazil etc. However, with the existing global demand for livestock and livestock product, there is need for economic diversification in agricultural production especially in poultry venture by training the farmers through seminar and workshop and provision of financial support to the intending and existing farmers so that to encourage and promote the subsistence production to commercial standard and by doing so it can serve as a means for engaging many people into business and reviving the Nigerian economy, to be food secured and stand a good basis for economic development and sustainability.

Keywords: *Poultry, production, economic, development and sustainability*

Introduction

Agriculture contributes significantly to the unindustrialized countries' economy, especially in the provision of food for the rapid growing population, feed for animals, supply of raw materials to the growing industrial sector, a

major source of employment for one-half of the population, generation of foreign exchange earnings, and provision of standard market for the products of the industrial sectors and those engaged in marketing of the products (World Bank, 1998). Similarly, Agriculture plays a central role in the economic development of a nation. In spite the tremendous agricultural potentiality, in Nigeria, the rural dwellers constitute the majority of the population and produce more than 90% of the food supply in the country, and majority of these farmers are small scale producers (Gani and Adeoti, 2011).

Poultry has a great economic importance to the entire humanity because it provides meat and eggs for the growing human population. The bones are being used as bone meals to farm animals. The demand for poultry and poultry product is high especially in developing countries, while the production is in subsistence level far below the market demand more especially in developing countries like Nigeria, for instance in Ghana Poultry consumption continues to rise as about 92 percent of the meat consumed in 2012 was imported, while the domestic meat production for both commercial and non-commercial or backyard poultry production accounted for only 8 percent (Kusi *et al.* 2015).

However, this study focuses on: Nature of production and the demand for poultry and poultry products, the importance of poultry production, the challenges associated to poultry business and useful recommendation for efficient poultry production.

Poultry Production in Nigeria

Poultry have been on existence for over 150 million years, dating back to the original wild jungle fowl, Now include ducks, geese, turkeys, pigeons, peafowl, guinea fowl and chickens in the list of species named poultry (Darre, 2015).

Moreover, livestock currently contributes between 25 and 30% of the Agricultural GDP of developing countries and that is expected to rise up to 50% over the next 20 years (Ministry of agriculture, 2012). USDA, (2013) in Essay sauce, (2020) reported that commercial poultry production in Nigeria was estimated at about USD 800 million. Poultry sector contributed about 25% of the agricultural domestic products of the Nigerian economy and with this outcome rated Nigeria as the leading country in Africa in terms of eggs production, but fourth in broiler production, this report showed that Nigeria still have to improve on broiler production. However the poultry industry is growing

seven times faster than smallholder livestock systems in emerging economies like Brazil and China. However in Africa livestock production is still largely in the hand of smallholders (Ministry of agriculture 2012). Smallholder poultry production is practiced by the majority of rural households throughout the developing world; despite the fact that its contribution to livelihoods appears to be insignificant when considered the demand of the products. Smallholder farming systems worldwide constitute a myriad of different ways of providing livelihoods for rural families, depending on:

- i) agro-ecological conditions;
 - ii) sociocultural and economic factors;
 - iii) access to markets; and
 - iv) Other means for generating income apart from farming activities.
- However (Kryger, *et al*, 2010).

Types of smallholder poultry production system:

- i) The scavenging system – a form of production characterized by low inputs, where birds are freely and scavenge for all or most of their food
- ii) The free-range system – in which poultry are provided with some supplementary Feed, water and, occasionally housing, and;
- iii) The semi-commercial system – in which poultry are provided with feed and water and kept in fenced-in areas.

Demand and consumption of livestock and livestock products

The demand for livestock and livestock products is highly increasing as a result of rapid population growth and increased urbanization (Killebrew, *et al* 2010). As incomes increase, demand for higher-value and quality foods such as meat, eggs and milk rises, compared with food of plant origin such as cereals. These changes in consumption, together with sizeable population growth, have led to large increases in the total demand for animal products in many developing countries like Nigeria. However, in developing countries the per capita consumption of animal products is still less than a third of that in industrial countries, so there remains a significant potential to increase the contribution of animal products to the diet, both in absolute and percentage terms. The consumption of animal proteins in developed countries, increased in the 1960s

and 1970s from 44 to 55 g/capita/day. Consequently, the consumption remained fairly stable. While in developing countries, the level of consumption of animal proteins increased steadily from 9 g/capita/day in 1961/63 to 20 g/capita/day in 1997/99, there is still significant potential for increases in consumption (fao, 2015). They further projected that between 1997/99 and 2030, annual protein consumption in developing countries will increase from 25.5 to 37 kg per person, compared with an increase from 88 to 100 kg in industrial countries. Consumption of milk and dairy products will rise from 45 kg/ person to 66 kg in developing countries, and from 212 to 221 kg in industrial countries. While for eggs, consumption will rise from 6.5 to 8.9 kg in developing countries and from 13.5 to 13.8 kg in developed countries.

According to Ministry of agriculture (2012) and Ehui *et al.* (2003) they observed that the world production of poultry meat and eggs will approach 122.5 and 72 million metric tons respectively by the year 2020. The potential market size is presented by a projected growth of the global human population from 6 billion in 1999 and approximately 7 billion in 2011, to a total of 7.5 billion people in 2020, with the projected increases in the consumption of poultry and poultry products. Moreover, in Africa it is observed that, from 2000 to 2012 egg production is expanded by 1.1 million tonnes to reach 3.0 million tonnes, recording an average annual growth rate of 3.9 per cent. As this exceeded the global rate of 2.2 per cent, Africa's share of world total production expanded from 3.7 per cent in 2000 to 4.5 per cent in 2012 (Global poultry trends 2014).

However, CBN, (2020) reported that "the demand for poultry products is expanding as a result of population growth." According to the report, the Nigeria population is projected at 400 million by 2050 out of which 280 million are projected to live in the cities, significantly increasing the demand for poultry products. "Also, per capita consumption of chicken is still very low at 2.5kg in Nigeria, when compared to Brazil and South Africa at 30kg and 40kg, respectively" therefore the report from the CBN confirmed the assertion and projections of the previous scholars on the potential increase for the demand of animal protein in developing countries like Nigeria.

Factors to be considered when establishing a poultry farm

- a. Housing system: this is a very important factor to be considered; good housing is one of the key for success in poultry farming.

- b. Feed and feeding: a good feasibility studies on poultry farming before starting will go a long way to help in achieving the goals and success of the business, feeds and feeding carries larger part of the expenses in a poultry farm and adequate plan towards feeding can make the journey stress-free. The farmer can decide either to produce the poultry feeds or buy from the market. Proper feeding makes the birds grow faster and also their health is secured.
- c. Record keeping: this is *sine qua non* in any successful business. A proper record keeping will help the farmer to determine success or failures of his business. a proper record keeping will guide the farmer to make necessary adjustment for success of his poultry farm.
- d. Types of birds: this is another important factor one should consider in starting a poultry business what are the types of birds you want to raise? Chicken? (Layers or Broilers as applicable to other birds) Quail? Turkey? Goose? Duck? The farmer need decide for appropriate planning towards achieving his plan objectives.
- e. Purpose of the business: this is a very important factor to consider in a poultry farming business. Do you want to keep them for: Egg production, meat production, breeding (hatching of eggs into chicks). The purpose of the poultry business need to be specify so that all necessary arrangement can be put in place.
- f. Source of finance; capital in any business venture is one of the major factor that determine the success or otherwise. The source of capital may be from savings, friends, family, thrifts, cooperatives organizations, commercial banks, Agricultural banks etc. if its from bank one must have to get a guarantor/ collateral before securing loan. And also the charges for interest rate need to be considered before applying for bank facilities/loan.
- g. Poultry Equipment's and facilities: like: feeders, drinkers, egg trays heat source, waste disposal, incubator, culling cage (for keeping sick birds), clean water, feeds, and so on. Based on the areas and number of birds all the necessary equipment should be ready before starting the poultry business (kipkorir, 2016).

Economic Development and sustainability through Poultry production

Poultry production has a great multiplier effect on the economy, because once the production improved, large number of people will be employed into the poultry industry and as well as in feed industries and more also many people

will be engaged in the poultry marketing aspect. And at the long run the country will realized a reasonable amount of revenue through viable poultry production. However, it is reported that Livestock account for one third of Nigeria's agricultural GDP, providing income, employment, food, farm energy, manure, fuel and transport. And serve as one of the major source of government revenue (Nuru. 1984). Therefore, good investment in livestock production more especially poultry industry will serve as an avenue for effective and reliable means of economic diversification in Nigeria.

Importance of Poultry farming

- i) Poultry provide humans with food and fiber in the form of egg, meat and feathers.
- ii) Source of income to the farmers
- iii) Source of foreign exchange to the country through exports of poultry products
- iv) Poultry egg industry (layers) provides a continuous supply of eggs.
- v) Poultry manure for use as organic manure.
- vi) Job creation to those people who engage in marketing of poultry and poultry products in local, national and international levels.
- vii) It provides income and maintained the existing industries that engage in production of feed and other related facilities.
- viii) Poultry farming doesn't require much capital and a large space for starting as compared with other agricultural business. You need just basic capital and small area of land to start raising poultry.

Challenges facing Poultry farming

- i) Lack of production and marketing skills.
- ii) Lack of organization among producers
- iii) Inadequate regulatory framework in the poultry farming
- iv) low genetic potential of the local breeds
- v) Availability of hatcheries and breeding farms
- vi) Lack of credit facilities
- vii) Lack of awareness among farmers through extension services
- viii) Unfavorable weather condition (especially in the northern part of the country)

- ix) Lack of access to medicine and vaccine
- x) High cost of poultry feed

Conclusion

With the current economic predicament of Nigeria, having a large number of unemployed youth in the society, and the country is blessed with abundant human and natural resources. The agricultural production capacity for both crop and animals is insignificant to meet up the demand. Therefore, for a country like Nigeria to be food secured there is a need for economic diversification through agricultural production for both crops and animals. However, investment in poultry production would serve as a remedy in terms of job creation, food security, self- reliance and stand a good source for economic diversification in the developing countries like Nigeria.

Recommendations

- i. Seminars and workshops should be organized for poultry farmers in order to learn and update their knowledge of poultry production. This will ensure the availability of poultry and poultry products and hence serve as a good source of income to the farmers.
- ii. The government should use poultry production business as a means to pursue youth empowerment in order to reduce level of unemployment in the country. This measure will enable the Government to fulfill their promise of providing employment for our youth and also will reduce the violence and the issue of insecurities in our society.
- iii. Provision for capital and subsidize farm incentive to farmers would help to improve the productivity of poultry production.
- iv. Medicine and vaccine should be made available for effective poultry production.
- v. Establishing standard hatcheries and breeding farms is necessary for boosting poultry business among farmers.
- vi. Electricity should be made available for effective poultry production and for the storage of necessary facilities like vaccines.
- vii. Credit facilities should be made available for farmers with little or no interest rate, so that to encourage production.

- viii. Government should discourage the importations of frozen chicken, in order to boost domestic production and hence conserve country's foreign exchange.

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