



Assessment of Women's Involvement in Poultry Production in Ogun State

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Abstract

This study assessed women's involvement in poultry production activities in Ogun State, Nigeria. Multi-stage random sampling was used to select a total of one hundred and forty (140) women involved in poultry production activities. Data was analyzed with descriptive statistics such as mean, frequency and standard deviation while the hypotheses were tested with linear regression and Spearman-ranked correlation at $p \leq 0.05$ level of significance. Results revealed that the average age of the women was 40 years, married (87.9%) with average years of experience and household size of 9 years and 6 persons respectively. Women sourced poultry production-related information from poultry associations (94.3%), social media (85.7%) and family and friends (77.1%). The major factors influencing women's involvement in poultry production were greater financial independence (4.63), improved access to better health facilities (4.60) and self-reliance (4.51). The constraints associated with women's involvement in poultry production were limited access to modern technology (1.48), inadequate capital (1.43) and the problem of weather variability (1.41). Significant relationship existed between women involvement in poultry production and marital status ($t=2.441$), household size ($t=5.541$), amount realized from poultry business ($t=-2.833$), lack of access to credit and finance ($r=-0.262$) and incidence of pest and diseases ($r=-0.179$), improved household food and nutrition security ($r=0.249$), increased workload ($r=0.179$), less time for self-improvement ($r=0.350$), lack of submissiveness of some women to their husbands ($r=-0.340$) and less friction in the family with regards to resource management ($r=0.175$). In conclusion, women's involvement in poultry production activities was low. It was therefore recommended that women should be supported by the government through the provision of credit facilities for improved participation in poultry production activities.

Keywords: Assessment, women, involvement, constraint and poultry production

Introduction

Nigeria's economy is still based on agriculture for growth, development, poverty reduction, GDP contribution, employment, and income production (Olorunwa, 2018). Agriculture contributed to the nominal GDP in the first quarter of 2023 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2023). Between 2003 and 2007, agriculture also contributed almost 42% of the real Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and the subsector grew by an average of 7.4% over that time (Ike and Ugwumba, 2011). Despite agriculture's enormous economic benefits in Nigeria, the sector is currently struggling, and the nation, which once exported food, now imports food. (Adedeji *et al.*, 2017). It is impossible to overstate the significance of food, and particularly of meeting the Food and Agricultural Organization's per capita protein requirement, for the growth of the Nigerian economy. Rural households have

recently seen declines in food intake due to a lack of supply, accessibility, and pricing (Adedeji *et al.*, 2013).

An integral component of Nigeria's agricultural economy is the production of livestock. It gives the economy access to meat, clothing, fuel, fertilizer, and draught power (Yusuf *et al.*, 2016). Raising animals also provides additional income for small and marginal farm families (Olorunwa, 2018). Livestock, such as cattle, fish, sheep, goats, pigs, and poultry, is Nigeria's main source of food. Poultry production refers to the control of domesticated birds for use as food, a source of income, or other purposes. It has amazing potential to increase Nigeria's protein supply and is significant among livestock-based jobs because of its enormous potential to promote rapid economic growth and deliver the quickest returns on investment. (Aminu and Hermanns, 2021). The poultry industry plays a

significant role in Nigeria's economy since it provides a consistent source of animal protein in the form of meat and eggs. (Ayinde *et al.*, 2012; Nmadu *et al.*, 2014). About 58.2 percent of total animal production in Nigeria is poultry. This is due to poultry's quick generation time, high feed conversion ratio, and status as one of the most straightforward, affordable, and superior sources of animal protein in the country. Since eggs are believed to contain almost all of the necessary vitamins, minerals, and amino acids, chicken production is the most creative and profitable way to improve the availability of high-quality protein diets. (Branckart *et al.*, 2000).

Because of the exceptional results that women have achieved when given important administrative roles, governments and well-intentioned individuals all around the world have recently become interested in empowering women (Deepali, 2015). The IMF estimated in 2005 that empowering women would dramatically lower poverty in Nigeria. Gaining their participation in lucrative chicken production is one of the many ways that Nigerian women can be empowered. Nigeria's growing population will certainly result in a rise in the demand for poultry meat, calling for higher production. (Ahiwe *et al.*, 2015).

According to Adamu (2018), women's productive contributions to agriculture are greatly devalued because their labour at home, on the farm, and in unofficial businesses is not paid for. Women characterized as "invisible" workers make up the majority of the Yoruba ethnic groups' labour force in the southern region of Nigeria where yams, maize, tobacco, and cassava are grown (Adisa and Akinkunmi, 2012). Women are extensively engaged in agriculture (Adamu, 2018 & Ozigbo *et al.*, 2014), and manage almost all parts of food processing activities (Mufutau *et al.*, 2022). Also, Nigerian women involved in poultry production often experience high cost of feed, problems associated with disease control, unreliable power supply, poor management techniques, lack of storage or processing facilities, lack of technological know-how, and many other challenges. However, it appears that there is a lack of research on women's participation in the production of poultry. Given the challenges, the study assessed women's involvement in poultry production in Ogun State by providing answers to the following research questions:

- i. What are the socio-economic characteristics of women involved in poultry production?
- ii. What are the sources of poultry production-related information available to women?
- iii. Are the women involved in poultry production in the study area?
- iv. What are the factors influencing women's involvement in poultry production in the study area?
- v. What are the constraints associated with women's involvement in poultry production in the study area?

Hypotheses of the Study

Ho₁: There is no significant relationship between women's involvement in poultry production and selected socio-economic characteristics.

Ho₂: There is no significant relationship between women's involvement in poultry production and the constraints associated with women's involvement.

Methodology

Study area

This study was conducted in Ogun State, Southwest, Nigeria. It was created on the 3rd of February 1976 with Abeokuta as the State capital. The State lies within Latitude 6 °N and 8°N and on the Longitude 2°E and 15°E. It has a total land mass of approximately 16,409.26 square kilometres. The State is bounded in the West by the Republic of Benin, in the South by Lagos State and in the North by Oyo and Osun States. The inhabitants are mainly Egbas, Yewas, Ijebus, and Remos. Farming is the major occupation of the people especially those living in the rural areas.

Population of the study

The target population of the study comprised all women involved in poultry production in Ogun State, Nigeria.

Sampling size and technique

Multi-stage sampling procedure was used to select the respondents for the study. In the first stage; 50% of the four (4) divisions in Ogun State were randomly selected. This led to the selection of the Egba and Yewa divisions. Egba and Yewa have Six (6) and Five (5) Local Government Areas respectively. In the second stage, a purposive sampling method was used to select 30% of the Eleven (11) Local Government Areas in the selected Divisions, where poultry production is mostly done. This led to the selection of two LGAs in each division. Thirty-five (35) women poultry farmers were selected from each of the four (4) LGA. This led to the selection of One Hundred and Forty (140) women involved in poultry production which constituted a sample size for the study.

Data analysis and statistical tools used

The tools used for data analysis include descriptive and inferential statistical tools. The descriptive analytical tools used include frequency distribution, percentage and means while Chi-square (H₀) and Spearman's rho (H₀ & H₀) were used as inferential tools to test the study hypotheses at p≤0.05 level of significance.

Results and Discussion

Socio-economic characteristics of women involved in poultry production

The result of the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents is depicted in Table 1. Women who were actively involved in poultry production had an average of 40 years. This represents a virile age for active participation in poultry operations. This is synonymous with Ume *et al.* (2016), who reported that the bulk of the women involved in poultry farming in Nigeria were energetic, able-bodied and active groups that were not only enterprising but would supply the much-needed farm labour in the farm enterprises. The majority (87.9%) of the women were married. This indicated that

most of the women involved in the poultry business are responsible, caring individuals with good mothering ability which is required in maintaining a good managerial standard in poultry work. This result is similar to the findings of Akerele and Aderinto (2019) which revealed that the majority of poultry farmers were married. An overwhelming majority (95.0%) had some years of schooling in the formal educational system. The reason for this might not be unconnected with the fact that poultry farming requires high literacy standards and precision for the correct administration of drugs, feeds, record keeping and taking of prompt management decisions. The result is consistent with the findings of Adisa and Akinkunmi (2012), which affirmed that women who participated in poultry production as a sustainable livelihood choice in Oyo State, Nigeria were well educated. Over half (54.3%) of the respondents practiced Christianity while 44.3 percent practiced Islamic Faith. This means that the study is likely to be balanced religious-wise.

Women involved in poultry production had spent an average of 9 years in the business. This analysis showed that women who participated in the poultry industry were individuals with adequate experience. This is in line with the findings of Amugo and Odinwa (2022) which revealed that the average women's experience in poultry farming was 7 years in Nigeria. The majority (52.2%) of the women had a household size of 6 people. This implies that most of the women had dependent household members benefiting from the poultry business. This observation is in agreement with the report of Abushe *et al.* (2023) that most women farmers in Nigeria had significant household numbers. Also, women poultry farmers earned N566,890.98 annually. This analysis revealed that women participating in the poultry business were of high-income class bracket capable of meeting the huge capital outlay required by the business (Ume *et al.*, 2016). The majority (58.6%) of the women engaged in poultry farming as their main occupation. This is expected as most households in rural areas depend mainly on agriculture as their primary source of livelihood. This result is in line with that of Adepoju and Obayelu (2013) which revealed that the majority of the rural populace in Nigeria are farmers.

Sources of poultry production-related information available to women

Table 2 presents the distribution of the women based on sources of poultry production-related information available to them in the area. From the table, it was asserted that the women sources from poultry association (94.3%), social media (85.7%), family and friends (77.1%), radio (75.7%), television (63.6%), extension agent (61.4%), and middlemen (50.7%). This implies that the respondents sourced agricultural information on poultry production mainly from informal sources, probably because of proximity and affiliation compared to other information sources. The finding is in line with the finding by Belton *et al.* (2020) which states that most information on farming is obtained from informal sources such as fellow farmers

and relatives. This finding is also supported by Obazi *et al.* (2022) that female farmers sourced agricultural information on poultry production from fellow farmers, agro-input dealers and veterinary personnel. It was also reported by Mufutau *et al.* (2022), that women's sources of information were friends, family and middlemen.

Women's involvement in poultry production

Table 3 shows that the women are involved in poultry production activities such as marketing of eggs (1.73), cleaning of shelter (1.71), treatment of birds (1.71), marketing of birds (1.69), purchasing of eggs (1.66), construction of shelter (1.64) and feeding of birds (1.50). Other activities involved by the women in the area include purchasing of birds (1.41), buying of birds (1.31) and watering of birds (1.21). From the result in Table 4, it was concluded that the extent of involvement of women in poultry production activities was low (52.1%) while 47.9 percent highly involved in poultry production. This implies that the respondents' extent of involvement in poultry production activities was low. This could be a result of men initiating the act of farming including poultry production and taking responsibility for major initial activities while women only play supporting roles. This is in line with the findings of Amugo and Odinwa (2022) and Mufutau *et al.* (2022) which indicated that participation of women in poultry farming in Nigeria was generally low likewise other agro-economic activities like artisanal fishing.

Factors Influencing women's involvement in poultry Production

Table 5 presents the distribution of the respondents by factors influencing women's involvement in poultry production. From the table, the factors as perceived by the women using the mean value include: greater financial independence (4.63), improved access to better health facilities (4.60), it encourages self-reliance (4.51), it encourages higher participation in family decision making (4.45), offers wider acceptability/respect among peer groups (4.33), improved household food and nutrition security (4.26), higher purchasing ability to acquire desired home items (4.19), improves the attention given by the husbands (4.01), less time for self-improvement (3.67), increased workload (3.51), leads to less friction in the family with regards to resource management (3.39) and some women are no longer submissive to husbands (3.30). Income is a very important factor in the commencement and operation of any business venture. Income is a major deterrent factor to women's involvement in poultry production as poultry production demands a lump sum of income for its operational expenses.

Constraints associated with women involvement in poultry production

The constraints associated with women's involvement in poultry production as presented in Table 6 include limited access to modern technology (1.48), inadequate capital (1.43), the problem of weather variability (1.41), poor quality of breeds (1.38), lack of access to credit and finance (1.37), lack of access to resources (1.36), lack of

women extension worker (1.30), the incidence of pest and diseases (1.29), inadequate storage facilities (1.28), exploitation by middlemen (1.23), male dominant society (1.19) and low literacy (1.16). These constraining factors uncovered by this study were severe and may hurt the participation of women in poultry farming, hence the consequential low participation of women in poultry farming in the study area. This finding was supported by Garba *et al.* (2015) who indicated that women were faced with the problem of the high cost of feed, inadequate capital, and high cost of labour which hindered their participation in poultry production in Nigeria, also agrees with Odinwa *et al.* (2020) who posited that asset-poor women cannot enter into high-risk activities like poultry farming because they do not own enough (and do not have access to credit) to deal with snag risks.

Results of hypotheses of the study

Relationship between women's involvement in poultry production and selected socio-economic characteristics

The result in Table 7 shows that there was a significant relationship between the women's involvement in poultry production and socioeconomic characteristics of the women such as marital status ($t=2.441$; $p<0.05$), household size ($t=5.541$; $p<0.05$), amount realized from poultry business ($t=-2.833$; $p<0.05$). This is similar to that of Garba *et al.* (2015) who also found that the marital status of the respondents was significant in influencing women's participation in poultry farming in Nigeria. Adams (2017) also recorded that, age, family size, education level and income were positively related to women's participation in agricultural production. It is also consistent with the findings of Amugo and Odinwa (2022) who indicated that age, additional occupation, household size, and annual income were variables that influenced women's participation in poultry production.

Relationship between women's involvement in poultry production and the constraints associated with women's involvement

Table 8 shows that a significant relationship existed between women's involvement in poultry production and the constraints associated with their involvement. The constraints were lack of access to credit and finance ($r=-0.262$; $p<0.05$) and incidence of pests and diseases ($r=-0.179$; $p<0.05$). This is an indication that lack of access to credit and finance and the incidence of pests and diseases influenced women's involvement in poultry production activities. The negative sign in the coefficient indicates that the constraints reduce their involvement. This further supports the report of Odinwa *et al.* (2020) who posited that asset-poor women cannot enter into high-risk activities like poultry farming because they do not own enough (and do not have access to credit) to deal with snag risks.

Relationship between women's involvement in poultry production and the factors influencing women's involvement

Table 9 shows that a significant relationship existed between the factors influencing women's involvement and their level of involvement. The factors include: improved household food and nutrition security ($r=0.249$; $p<0.05$), increased workload ($r=0.179$; $p<0.05$), less time for self-improvement ($r=0.350$; $p<0.05$), some women are no longer submissive to husbands ($r=-0.340$; $p<0.05$) and leads to less friction in the family with regards to resource management ($r=0.175$; $p<0.05$). This is an indication that these factors influenced women's involvement in poultry production activities.

Conclusion

The study concludes that the majority of the women were young and middle-aged, married and well-educated. Over half of the women had low involvement in poultry production activities. Marital status, household size, amount realized from poultry business, lack of access to credit and finance, incidence of pests and diseases, improved household food and nutrition security, increased workload, less time for self-improvement, lack of submissiveness of some women to their husbands and less friction in the family with regards to resource management were significantly related with women involvement in poultry production.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, it was recommended:

- i. Women in poultry production should be supported and encouraged by the government to actively participate in poultry production as the major operators in the poultry industry in Ogun State.
- ii. Government and development agencies should develop potent micro-credit schemes to ensure that women who might want to venture into agriculture generally have access to loan/credit facilities. This can be achieved through the establishment or enhancement of microcredit schemes and microfinance banks targeted at women at low-interest rates.

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Table 1: Distribution of respondents by socio-economic characteristics (n=140)

Variables	Frequency	Percentage	Mean±Standard deviation
Age			
≤ 30	3	2.1	
31-40	95	67.9	39.84±5.42
41-50	38	27.1	
> 50	4	2.9	
Marital status			
Single	4	2.9	
Married	123	87.9	
Widow	8	5.7	
Divorced	5	3.6	
Educational level			
No formal Education	7	5.0	
Primary school	14	10.0	
Secondary school	52	37.1	
Tertiary Education	67	47.9	
Religion			
Islam	62	44.3	
Christianity	76	54.3	
Others	2	1.4	
Poultry experience			
≤ 5	34	24.3	
6-10	69	49.3	8.68±3.82
11-15	33	23.6	
16-20	4	2.9	
Household Size			
≤ 3	29	20.7	
4-6	73	52.1	5.98±3.93
> 6	38	27.1	
Income			
≤ 100,000	6	4.3	
100,100-300,000	21	15.0	
300,100-500,000	59	42.1	
500,100-700,000	25	17.9	566,890.98±442,979.35
700,100-900,000	14	10.0	
> 900,000	15	10.7	
Primary occupation			
Farming	82	58.6	
Artisans	2	1.4	
Transportations	3	2.1	
Civil servant	43	30.7	
Others	10	7.1	
Other sources of income			
Farming	50	35.7	
Artisans	1	.7	
Transportations	10	7.1	
Civil servant	59	42.1	
Others	20	14.3	

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 2: Distribution based on sources of poultry production-related information available to women (n=140)

Sources	Frequency	Percentage
Poultry association	132	94.3
Middlemen	71	50.7
Radio	106	75.7
Television	89	63.6
Extension agent	86	61.4
Friends and family	108	77.1
Social media	120	85.7
Newspaper	64	45.7

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 3: Distribution based on women's involvement in poultry production (n=140)

Poultry production activities	Always	Sometimes	Never	Mean
Construction of shelter	94(67.1)	42(30.0)	4(2.9)	1.64
Buying of birds	52(37.1)	80(57.2)	8(5.7)	1.31
Feeding of birds	72(51.4)	66(47.2)	2(1.4)	1.50
Watering of birds	62(44.3)	45(32.1)	33(23.6)	1.21
Cleaning of shelter	100(71.4)	40(28.6)	-	1.71
Treatment of birds	99(70.7%)	41(29.3)	-	1.71
Purchasing of birds	65(46.4)	68(48.6)	7(5.0)	1.41
Marketing of birds	97(69.3)	43(30.7)	-	1.69
Purchasing of eggs	103(73.6)	27(19.3)	10(7.1)	1.66
Marketing of eggs	108(77.1)	26(18.6)	6(4.3)	1.73

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 4: Distribution based on the level of women's involvement in poultry production

Variables	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard deviation
Low involvement	73	52.1	15.59	2.44
High involvement	67	47.9		
Total	140	100.0		

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 5: Distribution by factors influencing women's involvement in poultry production

Statement	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean
Greater financial independence	98 (70.0)	36 (25.7)	4 (2.9)	-	2 (1.4)	4.63
Offers wider acceptability/respect among peer groups	53 (37.9)	80 (57.1)	7 (5.0)	-	-	4.33
Improved access to better health facilities	97 (69.3)	34 (24.3)	7 (5.0)	-	2 (1.4)	4.60
Improved household food and nutrition security	58 (41.4)	65 (46.4)	14 (10.0)	1 (0.7)	2 (1.4)	4.26
Increased workload	41 (29.3)	22 (15.7)	52 (37.1)	18 (12.9)	7 (5.0)	3.51
Less time for self-improvement	37 (26.4)	51 (36.4)	25 (17.9)	23 (16.4)	4 (2.9)	3.67
Some women are no longer submissive to their husbands	22 (15.7)	43 (30.7)	45 (32.2)	15 (10.7)	15 (10.7)	3.30
This leads to less friction in the family about resource management	15 (10.7)	43 (30.7)	68 (48.6)	10 (7.1)	4 (2.9)	3.39
Improves the attention given by the husbands	46 (32.9)	57 (40.7)	31 (22.1)	4 (2.9)	2 (1.4)	4.01
Higher purchasing ability to acquire desired home items	64 (45.7)	47 (33.6)	22 (15.7)	5 (3.6)	2 (1.4)	4.19
It encourages self-reliance	99 (70.7)	23 (16.4)	10 (7.1)	6 (4.3)	2 (1.4)	4.51
decision-making	97 (69.3)	25 (17.9)	6 (4.3)	8 (5.7)	4 (2.9)	4.45

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 7: Relationship between women's involvement in poultry production and selected socio-economic characteristics

Model Summary										
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change	Durbin-Watson
1	.667 ^a	.444	.387	1.91295	.444	7.754	13	126	.000	1.332

ANOVA						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression		368.888	13	28.376	7.754	.000 ^b
Residual		461.084	126	3.659		
Total		829.971	139			

Coefficients					
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)s	5.281	2.400		6.368	.000
Age	-.061	.040	-.136	-1.520	.131
Marital status	.982	.402	.189	2.441	.016
Educational level	.251	.249	.086	1.009	.315
Religion	-.380	.343	-.082	-1.109	.269
Poultry experience	-.139	.149	-.217	-.933	.353
Poultry experience	.383	.623	.121	.615	.540
Household Size	.423	.076	.680	5.541	.000
Amount realized from poultry business	-2.004E-006	.000	-.363	-2.833	.005
Income	.403	.243	.212	1.659	.100
Primary occupation	-.205	.111	-.131	-1.848	.067
Other sources of income	-.201	.126	-.128	-1.588	.115
How much do you realize from other sources	-9.725E-007	.000	-.101	-1.040	.300

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 8: Spearman ranked the correlation of the relationship between women's involvement in poultry production and its constraints

Constraints	r	p-value	Remark
Inadequate capital	0.160	0.059	Not significant
Low literacy	-0.061	0.471	Not significant
Limited access to modern technology	-0.015	0.857	Not significant
Lack of access to credit and finance	-0.262**	0.002	Significant
Lack of women extension worker	0.080	0.350	Not significant
Male dominant society	0.030	0.725	Not significant
Lack of access to resources	0.030	0.725	Not significant
Incidence of pests and diseases	-0.179*	0.035	Significant
Inadequate storage facilities	0.063	0.462	Not significant
Exploitation by middlemen	-0.124	0.144	Not significant
Poor quality of breeds	-0.028	0.739	Not significant
Inadequate space	0.016	0.849	Not significant
The problem of weather variability	-0.047	0.579	Not significant

Source: Field Survey, 2022. Significant @ $p \leq 0.05$ level

Table 9: Spearman ranked the correlation of the relationship between the factors influencing women's involvement and their level of involvement

Statement	r	p-value	Remark
Greater financial independence	0.056	0.511	Not significant
Offers wider acceptability/respect among peer groups	0.079	0.355	Not significant
Improved access to better health facilities	0.067	0.429	Not significant
Improved household food and nutrition security	0.249**	0.003	Significant
Increased workload	0.179*	0.035	Significant
Less time for self-improvement	0.350	0.001	Significant
Some women are no longer submissive to their husbands	-0.340**	0.001	Significant
This leads to less friction in the family about resource management	0.175*	0.039	Significant
Improves the attention given by the husbands	0.030	0.721	Not significant
Higher purchasing ability to acquire desired home items	0.110	0.196	Not significant
It encourages self-reliance	0.093	0.275	Not significant
It encourages higher participation in family decision-making	0.028	0.746	Not significant

Source: Field Survey, 2022. Significant @ $p \leq 0.05$ level