



An insight on production, marketing and profitability of one humped camel (*Camelus dromedarius*) at Garin Alkali livestock market, Yobe State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study was conducted at Garin Alkali livestock market, Yobe State, Nigeria with the aim of obtaining information from camel keepers and marketers. A survey using structured questionnaire to retrieve information was used. From the present study, majority (68%) of the respondents was between the ages of 40–50years and all of them were males. Camel keeping and farming/business were the predominant occupation of the respondents (84%). All of them were committed to camel fattening with feed supplementation after grazing while transporting camels were through trekking as indicated by 88% of them. Prices of camels appreciated during Eid–El–Kabir festivity and all of them reported camel keeping as a profitable venture. In conclusion, the present report indicated that camel production contributed immensely to the improvement of livelihood and poverty reduction to the rural dwellers from the study area.

Key words: camel production, camel marketing, camel fattening, profitability

Introduction

Camels (*Camelus dromedarius*) are important livestock species naturally adapted to arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of the universe. Their uniqueness of surviving in an environment where other livestock species does not is a special attribute (Schwartz 1992). Among others, camels provide food (milk and meat) for the inhabitants, means of transportation, traction and cash. However, with declining in the per capita economic base of rural dwellers in the Sahelian zone of Northern Nigeria, still, camels provide means of livelihood despite breeding, production and environmental challenges Yohannes *et al.*, (2007) and Ghude *et al.*, (2017). Information on camel production, marketing and its contribution to rural dwellers specifically in Yobe State of Nigeria is inadequate. However, this study was designed to come-up with basic information in order to contribute in the platform of camel area of research.

Methodology

The study was conducted at Garin Alkali livestock market of Yobe state, Nigeria. Yobe state lies between longitudes, 12°00' and latitude 9°30'. It has hot and dry climatic conditions for most part of the year in northern parts of the state. The hottest months are March to May which temperatures ranging from 39°C to 50°C. The annual rainfall varies from 500mm to 900mm and rainy season is usually from June to September (YOSADP, 2012). Purposive sampling was used to retrieve information from the respondents and twenty five (25) questionnaires were administered. The survey was carried out between April and May, 2013. Simple descriptive statistics of frequency and percentages was used in data analysis.

Results and Discussion

Table I: Presented the respondents' personal data. Majority (68%) of the respondents are between the ages of 40–50years. All of them were males. Most (68%) of the respondents obtained Qur'anic education, (24%)



of the respondents attended secondary school and only (8%) attended primary school. This is in agreement with Ghude *et al.*, (2010) who reported that camel keepers do not adequately attend western education but Qur'anic school.

Table II: Presented a findings on camel production. Majority (84%) adopt camel rearing and farming/business. Years of experience in camels marketing had majority (60%) of the respondents with 16–20 years, most (32%) were between 11–15 years and only (8%) were between 6–10 years respectively. The report is in harmony with the reports of Evans *et al.*, (2013). **Table III:** Presented camel fattening. All of the respondents indicated their commitment in fattening camels through giving them some feed supplementation after grazing. All of them agreed that camels are responding to fattening. Transporting camels to the market is an important aspect in camel production. Majority (88%) of the respondents take their camels to the market through trekking while only (12%) use motor vehicles. This is in agreement with FAO, (2006) who reported that rural dwellers convey their agricultural goods either by using animals or trekking but only few use motor vehicles. **Table IV:** This table presented Marketing of camels. Majority of the respondents (88%) indicated the frequency of taking their camels to the markets for sale is on monthly basis. However, all of them indicated that the only means of pricing camels is by physical outlook. There is no means of using scales or other weighing devices in camels marketing. This also applied on other species of livestock across the most of African countries as reported by Ahmad (2011). **Table V:** Profitability of camel production. The cost of mature camel at market is above ₦90,000 as indicated by the majority (100%) of the respondents. The period of camel price appreciation as indicated by the majority (100%) of the respondents is during Eid–El–Kabir. According to the results obtained, all of them indicated that camel production is a profitable venture while all of them agreed that they realized not less than ₦10,000 per camel after fattening. This is in agreement with Ghude *et al.*, (2010) who reported that camel fattening is a profitable venture.

Table I: Respondent personal bio data information

Parameter	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
40–50	17	68
51–60	8	32
Total	25	100
Gender		
Male	25	100
Female	-	-
Total	25	100
Educational Qualification		
Qur'anic Education	17	68
Primary school	6	24
Secondary school	2	8
Total	25	100

Source: Field Survey 2013

Table II: Camel production

Parameter	Frequency	Percentage
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Nature of camel rearing		
Farming/camel rearing	21	84
Farming/camel rearing/trading	4	16
Total	25	100
Experience in camel marketing (years)		
5–10	8	32
11–15	2	8
16–20	15	60
Total	25	100

Table III: Camel Fattening

Parameter	Frequency	Percentage
Fattening of camel		
Fattening	25	100
Not fattening	-	-
Total	25	100
Camels' responding to fattening		
Responding	25	100
Not responding	-	-
Total	100	100
Conveying camels to the market		
Tracking	22	88
Trucks	3	12
Total	25	100

Table IV: Marketing of camel

Parameter	Frequency	Percentage
Valuing camels at sales point?		
Physical outlook	25	100
Scales	-	-
Others	-	-
Total	25	100
Frequency of attending market		
Weekly	3	12
Monthly	22	88
Occasionally	-	-
Total	25	100

Table V: profitability of camel production

Parameter	Frequency	Percentage
Sales of matured camel		
Below ₦90,000	-	-
Above ₦90,000	25	100



Total	25	100
Period of camel price appreciation		
Eid–El–Fitr	-	-
Eid–El–Kabir	25	100
Total	25	100
Profitability of camel production		
Profitable	25	100
Not profitable	-	-
Total	25	100
Profit realized per matured camel		
Above N10,000	17	68.00
Below N10,000	8	32.00
Total	25	100

Conclusion

Despite the fact that camel herders and marketers from the study area lack the technical and scientific knowledge of camel production improvement, still, they adhere to the production and marketing potentials of camels under traditional system of operation. Conclusively, the report indicated that camel production contributed immensely to the livelihood of the rural dwellers from the study area.

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