

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF POULTRY FARMERS IN SABON GARI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, KADUNA STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the socio-economic characteristics of poultry farmers in Sabon Gari Local Government Area, Kaduna State, Nigeria. Located within the Sudan Savannah ecological zone, the area experiences dry and semi-arid conditions with distinct wet and dry seasons. Data were collected from 125 poultry farmers using purposive sampling technique with a structured questionnaire from three wards (Samaru, Dogarawa, and Basawa) out of the twelve (12) wards. Descriptive analysis was used to analyse the data. The analysis revealed that 62.40% of respondents were male, with a mean age of 38 years, indicating a youthful and productive workforce. Additionally, 82.40% of farmers had attained tertiary education, which suggests a high level of literacy among poultry farmers. The average flock size was 284.78 birds, and poultry farming was the primary income source for 34.40% of respondents. The study concludes that poultry farming in the region is predominantly male-driven, involves a well-educated population, and exhibits potential for commercial expansion. Recommendations include targeted interventions to support female participation and improved access to financing.

Keywords: Socio economic characteristic, Poultry farmers, Sabon Gari

INTRODUCTION

Poultry farming plays a critical role in food security, employment generation, and income diversification in Nigeria (Akinwumi and Adeoti, 2020; Oladejo and Owofemi, 2021). In Sabon Gari Local Government Area of Kaduna State, the sector has experienced notable growth due to increasing demand for poultry products (Adebayo and Lawal, 2022). However, assessing the socio-economic characteristics of poultry farmers is crucial for informed policy formulation and effective intervention strategies to enhance productivity and sustainability (Ojo *et al.*, 2023). This study aims to examine the key socio-economic factors that influence poultry farming in Sabon Gari Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Sabon Gari Local Government Area (LGA) of Kaduna State, Nigeria, within the northern region of the country. Sabon Gari LGA is positioned between latitudes 11°03'N and 11°15'N and longitudes 7°30'E and 7°45'E. This location places it within the Sudan Savannah ecological zone, characterized by dry and semi-arid conditions, marked wet and dry seasons, and predominantly grassland vegetation interspersed with shrubs and scattered trees (Abaje and Giwa, 2007).

Sampling Procedure and Sampling Size

Sabon Gari Local Government Area was purposefully selected due to its significant volume of broiler production. Subsequently, three (3) wards were randomly selected from twelve (12) wards. These selected wards are Samaru, Dogarawa, and Basawa. The Yamane (1967) formula was used to randomly select one hundred and twenty-five (125) poultry producers. The analysis of the data was done using simple descriptive analysis

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results in Table 1 presents the socio-economic characteristics of poultry farmers in Sabon Gari Local Government Area of Kaduna State. The findings provide insight into various factors influencing poultry farming in the study area. The analysis of variables such as gender, age, flock size, and income sources offer a detailed profile of the farmers.

Gender

The gender distribution shows that 37.60% were female, while 62.40% were male, indicating a significantly higher level of male participation in poultry farming. The findings suggest that despite some level of female involvement, poultry farming remains male-dominated, possibly due to broader economic and structural factors that affect women's access to resources, land, and credit. These roles are often linked to sociocultural norms that assign heavier physical and financial responsibilities to men, while women may focus on supportive tasks or domestic duties. Musa *et al.* (2019) pointed out that men tend to dominate farm management and resource distribution, which can influence the scale of their participation in more capital-intensive agricultural ventures like poultry farming.

Age

The distribution of respondents across age categories shows that 22.40% were between the ages of 20-30 years, 40.80% were aged 31-40 years, 28.80% were in the 41-50 years range, and 8.00% were 51 years and above. The mean age of the respondents was 38 years, with a standard deviation of 0.89. This indicates that the majority of poultry farmers fall within the productive age group of 31-40 years, which could be a key factor in their ability to manage intensive farming practices. This finding is consistent with previous studies, such as Okoye *et al.* (2018), where younger farmers were found to be more inclined towards adopting modern farming practices.

Level of Education

The data shows that 82.40% of the respondents had tertiary education, 14.40% had secondary education, and 2.40% had no formal education. Only 0.80% had primary education. This high level of education among poultry farmers may reflect the increasing recognition of poultry farming as a profitable venture that requires technical knowledge and management skills. The results align with the findings of Adekunle and Alabi (2020), who noted that higher levels of education positively influence farm productivity and technology adoption.

Years of Experience

In terms of experience, 57.60% of the farmers had been involved in poultry farming for 1-5 years, 15.20% had 6-10 years of experience, 18.40% had been farming for over 11 years, and only 8.80% had less than one year of experience. The mean years of experience was 5.44, with a standard deviation of 0.41. These figures suggest that the majority of farmers are relatively experienced, which could contribute to improved farming outcomes. This finding aligns with earlier studies by Asogwa *et al.* (2017), where experienced farmers were found to be more skillful at managing the risks associated with poultry farming.

Flock Size

The result indicates that most farmers (70.40%) had flock sizes between 100-500 birds, while 21.60% had less than 100 birds. Only 7.20% had 501-1000 birds, and a small fraction (0.80%) had flocks exceeding 1001 birds. The mean flock size was 284.78 birds, with a standard deviation of 19.55. Larger flock sizes suggest commercial-scale operations, whereas smaller flock sizes may indicate more subsistence-level farming. These findings are consistent with Olayinka *et al.* (2021), who found that flock size correlates with farm income and capacity to manage resources effectively.

Main Source of Income

Poultry farming was the primary income source for 34.40% of the respondents. Other notable income sources included crop farming (12.80%), crop and other livestock farming (15.20%), civil service (28.00%), trading or small businesses (8.80%), and livestock consultancy (0.80%). This diversity in income sources suggests that many poultry farmers engage in multiple economic activities, likely as a strategy to mitigate risks and enhance livelihood resilience. Ogundele *et al.* (2018), who emphasised the importance of income diversification in sustaining farming households, reported similar findings.

Table 1: Distribution of Poultry farmers based on Socio-economic Characteristics

Variable	Freq. (n=125)	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Female	47	37.60
Male	78	62.40
Age		
20-30 years	28	22.40
31-40 years	51	40.80
41-50 years	36	28.80
51 years and above	10	8.00
Mean	38	
Std.dv	0.89	
Level of education		
No formal education	3	2.40
Primary education	1	0.80
Secondary education	18	14.40
Tertiary education	103	82.40
Years of Experience		
<1 year	11	8.80
1-5 years	72	57.60
6-10 years	19	15.20

11 years and above	23	18.40
Mean	5.44	
Std.dv	0.41	
Flock size		
<100 birds	27	21.60
100-500 birds	88	70.40
501-1000 birds	9	7.20
1001 birds and above	1	0.80
Mean	284.78	
Std.dv	19.55	
Main Source of income		
Poultry farming	43	34.40
Crop farming	16	12.80
Crop and other livestock farming	19	15.20
Trading/small business	11	8.80
Livestock consultancy	1	0.80
Civil service	35	28.00

Freq= Frequency, Std.dv = Standard deviation, n= number of respondents

CONCLUSION

The study revealed that poultry farming in Sabon Gari LGA is dominated by educated, economically active males, with considerable potential for expansion. To enhance productivity and sustainability, policies should be designed to provide women with better access to resources and training in poultry farming, and government and financial institutions should facilitate credit facilities to enable farmers to expand their operations.

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