



Constraints Affecting Stakeholders' Services Delivery among Commercial Poultry Farmers in Southwest, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study was carried out in Southwest, Nigeria. Survey research was adopted for the study. For the sampling procedure, a multistage sampling procedure was used to select respondents for the study. The first stage involves random selection of three states namely; Ogun, Oyo and Ondo State from the six states in the Southwest. The second stage involves the purposive selection of three Local Government Areas with prominence in poultry enterprise. The third stage involves cluster sampling technique to select three hundred and sixty five (365) poultry farmers from the LGA initially selected. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire. Data were analyzed using frequency counts, percentages, mean and standard deviation. The findings revealed that most of the respondents faced severe constraints of high interest rate ($\bar{x} = 1.99$), for non-availability of vehicles ($\bar{x} = 1.99$), long distance to market ($\bar{x} = 1.99$), long distance to research institutes ($\bar{x} = 1.94$), high cost of extension agents patronage and unavailability of subsidized prices of inputs ($\bar{x} = 1.95$) in their production activities. The study concluded that constraints such as high interest rate, non-availability of vehicles, long distance to market, inadequate research institutes, high cost of extension agents patronage and unavailability of subsidized prices of inputs affected stakeholders' services delivery on productivity of commercial poultry farmers in the study area. It is therefore recommended that government and stakeholders should make available necessary policies, infrastructural facilities and poultry equipment to the farmers.

Keywords: Constraints; delivery; poultry farmers; services; stakeholders

1. Introduction

The domestication of birds such as chicken, ducks, quails, turkey, and geese with the intent of rearing them for meat, egg production as well as using their incidental products such as faecal droppings and feathers in industries as natural unprocessed materials is known as poultry farming (Stiles, 2017). The rearing of birds originated many years ago, which emanated by collection of their eggs and young ones from their natural habitat which later resulted into domesticating them as farm animals with people.

Intensive poultry production was introduced into Nigeria over fifty years ago and has developed rapidly especially in the last few decades as an important livestock business enterprise in the country (FAO, 2000, 2019). The Nigeria poultry industry is estimated at twelve trillion naira (approx. eight Billion US Dollar), and is comprising of approximately 180- 200 million birds, which produces 15.8 billion tons of eggs and 1.5 million tons of poultry meat annually in 2025 (PAN, 2025). Commercial poultry industry has become a significant contributor to the Nigerian economy, providing food, employment opportunities and income for many individuals and households (Adebayo

(*et.al* 2005, Adesiji, *et.al* 2013, Anosike, *et.al* 2015, Osabohien, *et. al* 2020).

Poultry production activities involve many players or stakeholders (individuals, groups, organizations). Activities of these stakeholders are critical to the production, storage and marketing. Stakeholders of poultry livestock sub-sector include the producer (poultry farmer), veterinary services, marketing, extension, input supply, credit support services and research institutes. The judgment about the stakeholder that need to be considered in the Poultry sub-sector will be based on the assessment of the role of each actor in creating the "mix" of conditions that will assist poultry farmer to optimally function and sustainably benefit from the opportunity provided by the industry. Sustainable development of poultry sub-sector will depend on a collective performance oriented synergy formed by the stakeholders. This amplifies the importance of the inter dependency which exists among the stakeholders (Aderinto, 2010)

However, commercial poultry farmers are confronted with low productivity and profitability due to poor quality of stock, feeds, prevalence of poultry diseases, inadequate information on modern poultry production, unavailability of credit and storage facilities and bad market network (Mensah-Bonsu *et al.* (2019). Although, the complementary services such as training of poultry farmers on the modern production system, access to input, provision of credit facilities, provision

Opeifa, D. A., (2026). Constraints Affecting Stakeholders' Services Delivery among Commercial Poultry Farmers in Southwest, Nigeria. *The Vocational and Applied Science Journal (VAS)*, vol. 20, no. 1, pp. 46-51.

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of market information, disease management and policy support programmes provided by the stakeholders such as veterinary officers, marketers of poultry products, agricultural extensionists, input suppliers and credit support providers among others have been on for quite sometime in Nigeria, the challenges of commercial poultry farmers remain unabated due to unavailability or inadequate access to these stakeholders' services (Almasi *et. al*, 2023). It is against this back ground that this research intends to assess the constraints affecting the stakeholders' services delivery among commercial poultry farmers in Southwest, Nigeria.

1.1 Objective of the Study

The study assessed the constraints affecting the stakeholders' services delivery among commercial poultry farmers in Southwest, Nigeria. The specific objectives are;

1. To identify socio-economic characteristics of commercial poultry farmers in the Study area.
2. To determine the constraints affecting the stakeholders' services delivery among commercial poultry farmers in the Study area.

1.2 Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study;

1. What are the socio-economic characteristics of commercial poultry farmers in the Study area?
2. What are the constraints militating against access of commercial poultry farmers to stakeholders' services?

1.3 Hypotheses

Ho1: There is no significant relationship between selected socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and constraints militating against stakeholders' services delivery.

Ho2: There is no significant relationship between constraints militating against stakeholders' services delivery among commercial poultry farmers.

2. Methodology

The Study was carried out in southwest, Nigeria. Survey research was adopted. Multi-Stage sampling technique was used to draw sample for the study. The first stage involved a random selection of 50% of the States in the Southwest Nigeria. The states selected were Ogun, Oyo and Ondo that dominate poultry production in Southwest Nigeria. The second stage involved purposive sampling of three Local Government Areas (LGAs) with prominence in poultry enterprise in each state. The Local Government Areas selected were Odeda, Ado/Odo/Ota and Ifo in Ogun State; Oyo East, Lagelu and Afijo in Oyo state and Ondo West, Owo and Akoko Northwest in Ondo state. Cluster sampling technique was used to select two communities where poultry farming is prevalent in each of the selected Local Government Areas. From the list of registered poultry farmers by Poultry Association of Nigeria (PAN) Chapters of the selected

states, 10% of the registered commercial poultry farmers were selected to make a total of 365 respondents.

Data were collected with the aid of structured questionnaire. Collected data were analyzed with the use of descriptive statistics such as frequency count, percentage, mean and standard deviation.

3. Results and Discussion

Result of sex in Table 1 shows that majority (70.4%) of the respondents were male while 29.6%) of them were female. This implies that most of the respondents that were involved in poultry production are male. This may be because poultry production requires more time, energy and devotion. The findings agrees with the findings of Zongoma, *et,al* (2015) who reported that production activities in the production enterprise to be mostly attributed to men based on the level of work involved. This result further corroborates the findings of Yusuf *et al.*, (2016) that male dominance is consistent with gender role pattern of the society where male plays role of household head and also provides for the family. From the table, it shows that most of the respondents are adult and in their active years. This is in accordance with the findings of Mutisya, *et.al* (2016) that also reported that farming communities in the present day agriculture especially poultry production comprised of adults and active individuals. This is further supported by the findings of Olorunwa (2018) that broiler farmers in Lagos State were physically strong and mentally alert to face challenges which poultry farming requires. This could make them get more involved in poultry production. Result of marital status in Table 1 shows that majority (94.0%) of the respondents were married, (4.7%) separated, (1.1%) widowed while (0.3%) of them were divorced. This is an indication that majority of the respondents were married and have family responsibilities and therefore will engage in more poultry production to increase their financial stands. This may help them to meet their family needs and other expenditures coming from the communities. This is in accordance with the work of Solomon, *et.al* (2019) who also found majority of his respondents in a farming community to be married in a similar study carried out. Result of religion in Table 1 shows that majority (63.8%) of the respondents were Christians while 36.2% of them were Muslims. This implies that most of the respondents who engaged in poultry production were practicing different religions and an indication that commercial poultry production do not have any religion restriction. Result of educational qualification in Table 1 shows that (69.3%) of the respondents had Tertiary education, (14.0%) of them had primary education, (8.5%) of them had no formal education while (8.2%) of them had secondary education. This implies that most of the respondents were literate having higher education and this could make them understand the techniques involved in poultry production. Likewise, majority of the respondents could be reached through print and broadcast media. This will help them in their poultry production as they would have knowledge to maximize

Table 1: Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage	Mean and SD
Sex			
Male	257	70.4	
Female	108	29.6	
Age			
33-38	4	1.1	
39-44	65	17.8	
45-50	89	24.4	
51-56	130	35.6	51±6
57-65	77	21.1	
Marital status			
Married	343	94.0	
Separated	17	4.7	
Widowed	4	1.1	
Divorced	1	0.3	
Religion			
Christianity	233	63.8	
Islam	132	36.2	
Educational qualification			
No formal education	31	8.5	
Primary education	51	14.0	
Secondary education	30	8.2	
Tertiary education	253	69.3	
Poultry size			
500	78	21.3	
1000	214	58.2	
2000 and above	73	20.0	
Farming experience			
3-7	91	24.9	
8-12	187	48.8	11±5
13-17	54	14.8	
18-22	42	11.5	

their input and increase their productivity. This is in tandem with the findings of Yeganeh, *et.al* (2018) that in their study consistently portrayed education as a dimension of human capital, which can help in the process of making adequate and informed decisions on poultry production. It is also in line with the findings of Ebukiba, *et.al* (2019) that high literacy enhances adoption of innovation and also a necessary tool for successful implementation of innovation for profitability. Result of poultry size in Table 1 shows that majority (58.7%) of the respondents had 1000 flock size, (21.3%) had 500 flock size while 20.0% of them had 2000 and above flock size in the study area. This is an indication that most of the respondents were producing on a medium scale level. Result of farming experience in Table 1 shows that majority (63.6%) of the respondents had 8-17 years of farming experience, (24.9%) had 3-7 years of farming experience while (11.5%) of them had 18-22 years of farming experience. The mean farming experience of 11±6 years implies that most of the respondents were experienced farmers who have engaged in poultry business for a longer years in the study area. The above corroborates the findings by Ambali, *et.al* (2012) who also conveyed experienced poultry farmers in engaging in poultry production in a similar study carried out. Also, the result is in tandem with the findings of

Bamiro *et al.* (2013) that higher experience is expected to translate to high level of productivity as the farmers bring their experience to bear on the job.

Result of constraints against access to stakeholders' services in Table 4 above shows that on credit institution, most of the respondents were faced with most severe constraint of high interest rate having highest ($\bar{x}$ =1.99). On transportation, non-availability of vehicles ($\bar{x}$ =1.99), on marketing, they were faced with most severe constraint of distance to market ($\bar{x}$ =1.99), on research institute, they were faced with most severe of distance to research institute ($\bar{x}$ =1.94), on extension agent, they were faced with most severe constraint of high cost of patronage ($\bar{x}$ =1.95), on procurement of input, most of the respondents were faced with most severe constraint of non-availability of subsidized price of input ($\bar{x}$ =1.95) while on veterinary services, most of the respondents were faced with most severe constraint of long distance to veterinary offices having highest mean of ($\bar{x}$ =1.96) in the study area.

Result on Table 2 shows that a significant relationship existed between respondents' sex ($\chi^2=4.976$, $p=0.026$), member of social association ($\chi^2=12.723$, $p=0.005$), position held in association ($\chi^2=13.564$, $p=0.007$) and their poultry productivity in the study area. This

Table 2: Constraints against access to stakeholders' services

Constraints	Severe	Mild	Not a constraint	Mean
Credit institution				
High interest rate	364 (99.7)	1 (0.3)	-	1.99
Non-availability of collateral	361 (98.9)	4 (1.1)	-	1.98
Late disbursement of funds	356 (97.5)	9 (2.5)	-	1.97
Transportation				
High cost	340 (93.2)	23 (6.3)	2 (0.5)	1.92
Bad roads	17 (4.7)	207 (56.7)	141 (38.6)	0.66
Non-availability of vehicles	364 (99.7)	1 (0.3)	-	1.99
Marketing				
Poor pricing	36 (9.9)	178 (48.8)	151 (41.4)	0.68
Irregular price control	353 (96.7)	3 (0.8)	9 (2.5)	1.94
Distance to market	364 (99.7)	1 (0.3)	-	1.99
Research institute				
Lack of adequate information	299 (81.9)	7 (1.9)	59 (16.2)	1.65
Lack of trust of research information	265 (72.6)	37 (10.1)	63 (17.3)	1.55
Distance to research institute	348 (95.3)	13 (3.6)	4 (1.1)	1.94
Extension agent				
High cost of patronage	347 (95.1)	18 (4.9)	-	1.95
Inadequate extension officers	277 (75.9)	83 (22.7)	5 (1.4)	1.74
Distance to extension office	276 (75.6)	84 (23.0)	5 (1.4)	1.74
Procurement of input				
High cost of obtaining modern equipment	345 (94.5)	12 (3.3)	8 (2.2)	1.92
High cost of transporting inputs to farm	342 (93.7)	23 (6.3)	-	1.93
Non-availability of subsidized price of inputs	348 (95.3)	17 (4.7)	-	1.95
Veterinary services				
Inadequate veterinary officers	333 (91.2)	32 (8.8)	-	1.91
High cost of patronizing veterinary services	15 (4.1)	26 (7.1)	324 (88.8)	0.15
Long distance to veterinary offices	355 (97.3)	6 (1.6)	4 (1.1)	1.96
Decision rule	< = 1.5 Mild constraints		> = 1.5 Severe constraints	

Table 3: Result of chi-square analysis between selected socio-economic characteristics of respondents and their poultry productivity

Variables	χ^2	Df	P-value	Decision
Sex	4.976	1	0.026	S
Marital status	3.645	3	0.302	NS
Religion	0.372	1	0.542	NS
Educational qualification	0.961	3	0.811	NS
Member of social association	12.723	1	0.005	S
Position held	13.564	4	0.007	S
Level of significance: 0.05				

Table 4: Pearson correlation analysis between constraints militating against access of respondents to stakeholders' services and their poultry productivity

Variable	r value	p value	Decision
Constraints militating against access of respondents to stakeholders' services	0.439	0.011	S
Level of significance: 0.05			

implies that respondents' sex, being a member of social association and position held in the association significantly influenced the productivity of poultry in the study area. This means that being a male or female and actively participating in social association contributed to the level of respondents' productivity in the study area. The result further shows that there was no significant relationship between marital status ($\chi^2=3.645$, $p=0.302$), religion ($\chi^2= 0.472$ $p=0.542$), educational qualification ($\chi^2= 0.961$, $p=0.811$).

Table 3 shows that there is a significant relationship between constraint militating against access of respondents to stakeholders' services ($r=0.439$, $p=0.011$) and their poultry productivity. This implies that the constraint militating against access of respondents to stakeholders' services significantly influenced the productivity of poultry in the study area. This means that the more severe the constraint militating against access of respondents to stakeholders' services, the lower the possibility of the respondents to have increased poultry productivity and vice-versa in the study area.

4. Conclusion

Poultry industry has become a significant contributor to the Nigerian economy, providing food, employment opportunities and income for many individuals and households. However, the industry is faced with low productivity. To address this challenge, various stakeholders such as agricultural extension agencies, input suppliers, financial institutions and government agencies have introduced various services to support commercial poultry farmers but there are certain constraints encountered in the delivery of the services among the commercial poultry farmers. The study concluded that challenges such as; high interest rate, transportation, non-availability of vehicles, marketing, long distance to market, non-availability of research institutes, long distance to research institutes, high cost of extension agents patronage, procurement of inputs and non-availability of subsidized prices of inputs were constraints faced by commercial poultry farmers in accessing the services of stakeholders' in the study area.

5. Recommendations

It is therefore recommended that veterinary offices should be located where they are easily accessible to commercial poultry farmers as well as inputs. Since research institutes play important roles in poultry production by generating knowledge, technologies and support systems that improve productivity, profitability and sustainability, they should be accessible and affordable to farmers. In addition, production tools, establishment of more agricultural based research institutes, animal health facilities, good road network, vehicles and affordable credit facilities be provided by the government, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders in the poultry industry for commercial poultry farmers to boost their productivity.

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