

FARM MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA

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**AGRICULTURE AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:
STRENGTHENING THE NEXUS IN A COVID-19 ERA**

PROCEEDINGS OF THE



**ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF FARM MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA**

**HELD AT:
UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR, CALABAR
CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA**

**ON THE:
15TH - 18TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

**EDITORS:
IDIONG C.IDIONG, SUSANA B. OHEN,
EKANEM A. ETUK, JOHN B.EFFIONG,
IDEBA E. ELE, EMMANUEL O. EYO, AND
SYLVANUS O. ABANG.**

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FARM MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA**

CALABAR 2021

**HOSTED BY
UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR, CALABAR
CROSS RIVER STATE**

**THEME:
AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:
Strengthening the Nexus in a Covid 19 era**

**DATE:
15TH – 18TH November, 2021.**

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**SUB THEME: THE PARADOX OF
NIGERIA'S LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT
IN AN EMERGING ECONOMY**

ANALYSIS OF FARMERS' PRODUCTIVITY AND PRODUCTION CONSTRAINTS IN LIVESTOCK ENTERPRISES IN KWARA STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study analysed farmers' productivity and production constraints in livestock enterprises in Kwara State, Nigeria. Multi-stage sampling procedure was used to select 127 smallholder livestock farmers. A structured questionnaire complimented with interview schedule was used to obtain cross-sectional data from the farmers. Total factor productivity formula and Kendall's non-parametric statistics were used to analyse the data obtained. Results show that sheep with TFP value of 3.85 was the most productive livestock enterprise in Kwara State while broiler enterprise with TFP value of 2.96 was the least productive. The most severe production constraints encountered by the farmers were high cost of acquiring credit facilities ($\bar{X} = 15.62$), high cost of feed ($\bar{X} = 13.22$), high incidence of diseases ($\bar{X} = 13.14$), poor/shortage of veterinary services constraint ($\bar{X} = 12.98$), Limited capital ($\bar{X} = 12.83$) and high cost of acquiring breed stock ($\bar{X} = 12.77$) among others. About 64% farmers were in agreement with the ranking of the constraints affecting livestock enterprises in the area. The study concluded that the livestock farmers were relatively productive in the area but are faced with production constraints that pose significant threat to their productivity. It was recommended that government's intervention and remedial efforts should be tailored towards subsidized inputs such as feeds and brood stock, improved veterinary services as well as adequate and effective farm advisory/extension services.

Keywords: Productivity, Constraints, Livestock Enterprises, Farmers, Kwara

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture has continued to contribute immensely to the wellbeing of Nigerians as well as the economy of the country. It does not just feed the population at large but also creates employment to large number of people, especially in the rural areas, and provides raw materials for agro-based industries (Sani *et al.*, 2013). The livestock industry as an important component of the general agriculture is a key contributor to the economic growth and development of any nation as it has the capacity for providing food, employment, farm energy, manure and revenue for the farmers and even the government as argued by Ojiako and Olayode (2008). Livestock production in Nigeria constitutes 6% of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 25% to the agriculture sector over the last two decades (Ogunniyi and Ganiyu, 2014). The authors further reported that there are about 1 million heads of sheep and 7 million goats in the sub humid region of the country representing 3% and 16% respectively of the total ruminant animals in the region.

The livestock enterprises provide suitable strategies for the farmers towards augmenting their farm income and in all intent, enterprise diversification. Kayouli (2007) argued that livestock production is predominantly practiced by the resource poor smallholder farmers who are mostly rural dwellers. These smallholder farmers are faced with many production constraints which has inhibited their productivity and income in livestock enterprises. Many research efforts have been made to analyse profitability, technical efficiency and production constraints of these farmers in livestock enterprises in Nigeria. Some of these efforts are evident in the works Baruwa (2013), Bamaiyi (2013), Ogunniyi and Ganiyu (2014), Bamiro *et al.* (2015), Ibeunet *et al.* (2019) and Jacob (2019) among others. Some of these studies have reported that middlemen exploitation, high and rapid increases in feed price, high volatility of output prices, insufficiency of market information, inadequate funds, diseases, poor extension service and lack of veterinary facilities constitutes some of the major setbacks in livestock production which could have significant implication for the farmers productivity.

However, in Kwara State, only meagre efforts have been made to analyse the livestock enterprises as well as the productivity and production constraints of the farmers. This study therefore attempted to analyse the productivity and production constraints of the livestock farmers in Kwara State, Nigeria. It specifically brought to fore the total factor productivity of the farmers in livestock enterprises and described the severity of the production constraints encountered by the farmers in Kwara State. The output of this study is expected to reveal areas of policy interventions that could help alleviate the smallholder livestock farmers' production constraints and enhance their productivity. Additionally, agricultural project administrators, policy makers, extension agents and researchers both in the public and private sectors will find the outcome of this study beneficial to their work.

METHODOLOGY

Area of Study

The study was conducted in Kwara State, Nigeria. Kwara State is located in North Central Nigeria between Latitudes 7°45'N to 9°30'N and Longitudes 2°30'E to 6°25'E. The mean annual rainfall ranges between 1000mm and 1500mm. The State has a total population of 2,371,089 persons (Kwara State Planning Commission (KWSPC), 2007) and a projected population of 3,490,209 as at 2020. The State has a total land area of 32,500 square kilometres (Kwara State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (KWSMANR), 2010). The average temperature ranges between 30°C and 35°C. The topography of the State which is mainly plain to slightly gentle rolling lands and the climatic condition favours the cultivation of various arable crops and rearing animals. The major tribes in the State are Yoruba, Nupe and Baruba. Other tribes present include Fulani, Igbo and Hausa.

Sampling Procedure

A multi-stage sampling procedure was employed for this study. All smallholder livestock farmers in Kwara State constituted the population of study. The farmers were identified and selected with the assistance of the village heads and the resident extension agents. A total of 127 livestock farmers were sampled for the study.

Method of Data Collection

Primary data were used for this study. The cross-sectional data were collected from the farmers with the aid of a structured questionnaire. The structured questionnaire was complimented with interview schedules. Resident extension agents and enumerators were trained to assist during the data collection process. This was to facilitate access given this category of extension agents and enumerators are conversant with the study locations and are familiar with the target farmer populations.

Analytical Techniques

Data analysis was done with total factor productivity and Kendall's non-parametric test statistics.

Factor productivity analysis

The productivity of the livestock farmers in Kwara State was determined with the total factor productivity formula adapted from Durba *et al.* (2019) and Ibeunet *et al.* (2019). The formula is expressed in equation (1) as follows:

$$\text{Total Factor Productivity (TFP)} = \frac{VOP}{VIE} = \frac{VOP}{TVC} \quad (1)$$

Where;

VOP= Value of livestock output (₦).

TVC = VIE = Value of inputs employed (₦).

Kendall's non-parametric analysis

A five-point Likert type rating scale was employed to measure the perception of the livestock farmers on the severity of the production constraints they face in their production activities. The 5-point Likert type rating scale was allotted as follows: Not a constraint = 1, Not Severe = 2, Undecided = 3, Severe = 4 and Very Severe = 5. This was then subjected to Kendall's non-parametric analysis adopted from Legendre (2005) to generate mean scores for each constraint and a

coefficient of concordance (W) which is a measure of the extent of agreement or disagreement among respondents based on mean ranking. The value of W ranges from zero to one. Zero implies perfect disagreement while one implies perfect agreement among the respondents based on ranking. The constraints were ranked according to their severity based on the mean scores to be generated from Kendall's non-parametric analysis. The Kendall's formula is mathematically expressed in equation (2) as:

$$W = \frac{12S}{m^2(n^3 - n)} \quad (2)$$

S was computed as specified in equation (3):

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^n (R_i - \bar{R})^2 \quad (3)$$

\bar{R} was computed as specified in equation (4):

$$\bar{R} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n R_i \quad (4)$$

R_i was computed as specified in equation (5):

$$R_i = \sum_{j=1}^m r_{ij} \quad (5)$$

Where;

W = Kendall's coefficient of concordance,

S = Sum of squared deviations,

m = Number of respondents,

n = Number of objects (farmers' constraints) considered,

\bar{R} = Mean value of the total ranks

R_i = Total rank given to the i^{th} object (farmers' constraint) considered,

r_{ij} = Rank given to the i^{th} object (farmers' constraint) by the j^{th} respondent,

i = i^{th} object (farmers' constraint) considered, and

j = j^{th} respondent.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of Farmers Productivity in Livestock Enterprises in Kwara State

The results of the total factor productivity of the farmers in livestock enterprises were presented in Table 1. The results show that a total of 14 livestock enterprises were identified in the area. These enterprises comprise of both ruminant animals and poultry birds. Based on the estimated TFP values, it was evident that the farmers were relatively productive in all the livestock enterprises in the area. The pooled result gave an average TFP value of 3.33. This implied that the farmers were relatively productive in the use of the available resources at their disposal. Hence, the production factors contributed to the productivity of livestock farmers in the study area. The results specifically show that farmers were most productive in sheep enterprise with a TFP value of 3.85. This implied that the farmers were able to recoup more than 3 times the amount invested. This was closely followed by cattle/sheep, cattle/goat/sheep and cattle/goat as the most productive enterprises with TFP values of 3.76, 3.71 and 3.63 respectively. On the other hand, broiler, broiler/cockerel and layer enterprises were the least productive livestock enterprises with TFP values of 2.96, 3.06 and 3.09 respectively. The productivity of livestock enterprises in the study area is in consensus with the reports of Bamiro *et al.* (2015) and Jacob (2019) that livestock enterprises are productive and profitable farm enterprises in Nigeria.

Table 1: Factor productivity analysis of the livestock farmers

Livestock farm enterprises	Total factor productivity value
Cattle	3.16
Goat	3.60
Sheep	3.85
Cattle/Goat	3.63
Cattle/Sheep	3.76
Goat/Sheep	3.30
Cattle/Goat/Sheep	3.71
Broiler	2.96
Layer	3.09
Cockerel	3.15
Layer/Cockerel	3.22
Broiler/Cockerel	3.06
Broiler/Layer	3.29
Broiler/Layer/Cockerel	3.37
Pooled result	3.33

Source: Computed from Field Survey Data, 2019.

Livestock Enterprises' Production Constraints in Kwara State

The perception of the smallholder livestock farmers on the production constraints they face was analysed using the Kendall's coefficient of concordance. The constraints were ranked in a hierarchical order according to their severity and the result presented in Table 4.17. The result of the analysis shows that the significance of the estimated value of Kendall's coefficient of concordance (0.636) at $p < 0.01$ probability level indicates that there is a 63.60% concordance or agreement among the smallholder farmers with respect to the ranking of the constraints affecting livestock enterprises in the area.

The mean ranking shows that the farmers viewed high cost of acquiring credit facilities ($\bar{X} = 15.62$) as the most severe production constraint they face in the area. Credit facilities are hardly available to smallholder farmers and where they are available there are lots of bottle-necks and constraints to accessing such. Many of the smallholder farmers involved in livestock enterprise production depends on other sources of finance for their farming activities. This result is in line with the findings of Baruwa (2013) and Ogah *et al.* (2014) who all identified difficult access to credit facilities as a limitation to livestock enterprise production in Nigeria.

Feed is essential for increased productivity of livestock enterprises. The farmers ranked high cost of feed ($\bar{X} = 13.22$) as the second most severe constraints in the area. This implies that nutritious animal feeds are not readily available and easily affordable for the smallholder livestock farmers. Since farmers venture into animal production for profit, they need to obtain feed at a price will ensure they break-even as well as make significant profit. Many livestock and poultry farmers have resulted to compounding their own animal feeds but are also faced with the challenge very expensive or unavailable raw materials. This finding is similar to that of Bamaiyi (2013) in a study on factors militating against animal production in Nigeria. High incidence of diseases ($\bar{X} = 13.14$) is also a major constraint to the smallholder farmers as it was ranked third on the list. This is similar to the finding of Adeshinwa *et al.* (2004), Maass *et al.* (2012) and Jacob (2019) who all reported that high incidence of diseases poses a major challenge to livestock farmers. Bamaiyi (2013) also argued that livestock diseases remain a veritable threat which inhibits the productivity of the livestock production industry. The spread of diseases among livestock is capable of wiping out the whole stock and thereby limiting the attainment of optimum plan by the farmers.

Next to this is the poor/shortage of veterinary services constraint ($\bar{X} = 12.98$) ranked fourth by the farmers. Veterinary services are needed by livestock producers in order to curtail infections and its spread of diseases among the animals.

Table 4.17: Analysis of livestock enterprise production constraints

Constraints	Mean Score	Rank
High cost of acquiring credit facilities	15.62	1 st
High cost of feeds	13.22	2 nd
High incidence of diseases	13.14	3 rd
Poor/shortage of veterinary services	12.98	4 th
Limited capital	12.83	5 th
High cost of acquiring breed stock	12.77	6 th
Inadequate processing storage facilities	12.15	7 th
High cost of medications	11.86	8 th
High mortality rate	11.80	9 th
Low and unattractive prices for produce	10.97	10 th
Difficulty in getting good quality breed	9.99	11 th
Middlemen exploitation	9.98	12 th
Inadequate market information	9.32	13 th
Scarcity of fodder	8.59	14 th
Limited livestock capacity space	8.30	15 th
Weak/poor cooperative or farmers' association support	8.26	16 th
Pilfering/theft	7.98	17 th
Poor feed quality	7.78	18 th
Inadequate access to quality water	6.81	19 th
Inadequate extension and farm advisory services	5.64	20 th

Diagnostic Statistics

Kendall's Coefficient of Concordance (W)	0.636
Chi-Square	255.620***

Source: Computed from Field Survey, 2019.

Limited capital ($\bar{X} = 12.83$) ranked sixth among the livestock farmers' production constraints. This implies that the smallholder farmers are not able to afford the required inputs and other facilities that they need for maximum productivity. Capital is one of the most essential resources of production known to man. It is highly required to make investment in farm business such as the livestock enterprises and to sustain its productivity. Capital is one of the major constraining factors to the growth of the livestock sector especially in developing economies like Nigeria. Financial inadequacies have led to the slow growth and the contribution of the sector to the nations GDP. Smallholder farmers who are characterized by low income earnings dominates the livestock industry and as such, they are not able to handle the huge financial investment demands of the industry towards optimum productivity. This result is in line with the findings of Bamaiyi (2013), Baruwa (2013), Ogah *et al.* (2014) and Jacob (2019) who all identified that financial limitations as a major setback to livestock enterprise production in Nigeria.

Mores so, high cost of acquiring breed stock ($\bar{X} = 12.77$), inadequate processing and storage facilities ($\bar{X} = 12.15$) were among the severe constraints faced by the smallholder livestock farmers as they were ranked sixth and seventh respectively. There is generally a lack of proper modern infrastructure required for processing and storage of farm produce such as the livestock produce in developing countries like Nigeria. This is a major setback for the livestock industry towards achieving optimum productivity especially among the smallholder farmers.

The farmers also claimed that high cost of medications ($\bar{X} = 11.86$) and high mortality rate ($\bar{X} = 11.80$) are among the major constraints to livestock production is the area. These are closely related to poor/shortage of veterinary services and their combination could cause a devastation havoc to the output of the smallholder farmers. These findings are in agreement with argument of Lawal-Adebowale (2012), Bamaiyi (2013) and Jacob (2019) who that the maintenance and sustenance of wellbeing of farm animals in

terms of their health constitute a major challenge to efficient livestock production among Nigeria livestock producers.

Another severe constraint faced by the farmers is low and unattractive prices for produce ($\bar{X} = 10.97$). This is capable of discouraging the farmers from intensifying production towards achieving their profit maximization objective as they don't get the appropriate value for their produce. This may not be unconnected to the exploitative activities of the middlemen in livestock enterprises in the area.

In hierarchical order, a further perusal of the result in Table 4.17 revealed that the other production constraints faced by the smallholder farmers with mild to low severity includes difficulty in getting good quality breed ($\bar{X} = 9.99$), middlemen exploitation ($\bar{X} = 9.98$), inadequate market information ($\bar{X} = 9.32$), scarcity of fodder ($\bar{X} = 8.59$), limited livestock capacity/space ($\bar{X} = 8.30$), weak/poor cooperative/farmers' association support ($\bar{X} = 8.26$), pilfering/theft ($\bar{X} = 7.98$), poor feed quality ($\bar{X} = 7.78$), inadequate access to quality water ($\bar{X} = 6.81$) and inadequate extension and farm advisory services ($\bar{X} = 5.64$). These results are in line those of Adesehinwa *et al.* (2004), Bamaiyi (2013) and Jacob (2019) for livestock farmers in Nigeria. These constraints require urgent attention from the government and other relevant stakeholders in livestock industry to as to enhance optimum production of livestock enterprises among the smallholder farmers in Kwara State and Nigeria as a whole.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the results of this study, it can be concluded that livestock farmers in Kwara State are relatively productive in their enterprises and are faced with several production constraints which poses great threat to their productivity. The constraints based on their severity calls for urgent intervention and remedy. It was therefore recommended that; government in through the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources should consult policy makers and relevant agricultural institutions and agencies to formulate actionable remedial polices that will alleviate the constraints if the farmers and boost their productivity in livestock enterprises. Specifically, efforts should be tailored towards subsidized inputs such as feeds and brood stock, improved veterinary services as well as adequate and effective farm advisory/extension services.

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