



Livelihood Status of Poultry Farmers in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria

J. O. Ifabiyi^{1*}, R. S. Adisa², S. A. Ahmed³, F. E. Evwierhurhoma⁴

¹ Agricultural Economics and Extension Services Department, Kwara State University, Nigeria.

² Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, University of Ilorin, Ilorin Nigeria.

³ Department of Agricultural Technology, Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin, Nigeria.

⁴ Dept. of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, Dennis Osadebay University, Anwai Road, Asaba, Delta State, Nigeria.

Abstract

Poultry production activities provide employment opportunities, income, and nourishment for the majority of Nigerians. This study assessed the livelihood status of poultry farmers in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. A total of 150 poultry farmers were randomly selected for the study using a questionnaire to collect information. The data was analyzed using frequency count, percentage, mean, standard deviation, Pearson Product-Moment Correlation (PPMC), and Multiple Regression Analysis. The results reveal that about 51.3% of the farmers have no access to veterinary services, 80.7% operate all year round, and 66% have high livelihood status. Disease outbreaks/high mortality (mean=1.57±0.60), high production costs (mean=1.53±0.62), and high temperature (mean=1.47±0.58) were the main factors affecting poultry production in the study area. The lack of adequate information/extension services on poultry production ($r=-0.206$), high production costs ($r=-0.165$), theft ($r=-0.321$), high feed costs ($r=-0.288$), and lack of credit facilities ($r=-0.169$) had significant and inverse relationships with the livelihood status of the farmers. The socio-economic determinants of their livelihood status were age (-0.268 , $p<0.05$), education (3.323, $p<0.05$), income (-1.708 , $p<0.01$), and access to extension services (8.625, $p<0.01$). The study therefore recommended the provision of veterinary services to the farmers to reduce the outbreak of disease and the high mortality rates as well provide support in the form of grants to cushion the impacts of high production costs.

Keywords: Livelihoods status, Poultry farmers, Small-holders

Address for Correspondence:

J. O. Ifabiyi. Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension Services, Kwara State University, Nigeria. E-mail: john.ifabiyi@kwasu.edu.ng

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Introduction

Agriculture plays an important role in the Nigerian economy and is a vital means of livelihood and food security for the majority of the people in the country (6 and 14). Nigeria

has approximately 70.8 million acres of arable land area for the cultivation of crops (6). Its agricultural sector is dominated by rainfed agriculture, poor agricultural outputs, land tenancy issues, inadequate access to extension services, and high post-harvest food losses due

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to transportation and marketing issues (6, 11, 13 and 14).

The poultry sub-sector is the most commercialized livestock sector in the country (4 and 19). According to (4) the industry is estimated to comprise of about 200 million birds, 300 metric tonnes of meat, and 650 metric tonnes of eggs per year, and employs approximately 85 million people. Nigerian is the 5th largest producer of chicken meat in Africa with about 238.3 metric tonnes produced annually (19, 20). According to (17), Nigerians consume about 1.9 kg of chicken meat per capita in a year, which is relatively low compared with the USA (49.3 kg), South Africa (32.98 kg), and Ghana (7.67 kg). Also, annual egg consumption per person in Nigeria is approximately 65 eggs as against 279 for the USA (17).

Of late, many young and unemployed Nigerians have been encouraged to take advantage of the large Nigerian population and the high demand for poultry products to enhance their livelihoods and increase their income, which would certainly decrease their poverty level. Livelihood refers to the process of making a living (3) and is considered manageable when 'it can deal with and recover from strains, sustain or improve its capacity, while not depleting the natural resource base' (20). Livelihood status is the level of satisfactory and manageable access to income and capital to meet basic needs (7). Turner (22) described sustainable livelihoods to be the outcome of manageable opportunities for the next generation, paying net paybacks to other livelihoods. Sustainable livelihood is an active idea that offers ways to eliminate poverty and how underprivileged persons organize their lives (2). Livelihood results are the accomplishments and compensations that households anticipate obtaining through the employment of specific activities and approaches (11). These results can also be designated as the expectations of the household (18).

Although extensively utilized elsewhere the sustainable livelihood framework (SLF) is a suitable model for investigating the livelihoods

of smallholders (16). The livelihoods of poultry farmers in Nigeria are affected by the lack of access to modern poultry production facilities, poor poultry stocks, and high cost of production (5). Therefore, it is essential to quickly produce research data on the livelihoods of poultry farmers to favorably influence government policy towards the farmers and the other actors in the poultry industry. Also, there is a paucity of information on the livelihood status of poultry farmers in the study area. This study thus aimed to breach that gap by examining the livelihood status of poultry farmers in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.

The specific objectives of the study were to:

1. Identify the enterprise characteristics of the respondents in the study area.
2. Describe the livelihood status of poultry farmers in the study area.
3. Assess the factors affecting poultry production in the study area.
4. Analyse the relationship between the factors affecting poultry production and the livelihood status of the poultry farmers in the study area.
5. Identify the socioeconomic determinants of the livelihood status of the poultry farmers in the study area.

Materials and Methods

This research was conducted in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. Ilorin comprises five local government areas (LGAs), namely Ilorin South, Ilorin East, Ilorin West, Moro, and Asa. The sampling procedure comprised a three-stage process. The 1st stage involved a random sampling of the three LGAs of Ilorin South, Ilorin East, and Ilorin West. For the 2nd stage a random sampling of 5 communities within each LGA was conducted while in the 3rd stage 10 poultry farmers were randomly selected from each community. Altogether 150 poultry farmers were selected for the survey.

The livelihood outcomes of the farmers were based on a 5-point Likert scale where Strongly Disagree=1, Disagree=2, Undecided=3, Agree=4, and Strongly Agree=5. The livelihood index score was

determined on a scale of 5.0. The livelihood status score was categorized as 0 - 1.67 (Low), 1.68 - 3.34 (Moderate), and 3.35 - 5.0 (High). The factors limiting poultry production had three levels i.e., 1 (Not a Factor), 2 (Less Severe), and 3 (Highly Severe).

The data collected was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics such as frequency counts, percentages, means, Pearson Product-Moment Correlation (PPMC) and multiple regression analysis. Statistical analysis software for the social sciences (SPSS) was used to analyze the data.

Results and Discussion

Poultry Farming Characteristics of Respondents: As shown in Table 1, the average number of chickens, turkeys, and ducks reared

was 104, 46, and 22, respectively, implying that the respondents were smallholder farmers based on the classification by (9) that such farms possess fewer than 1,000 birds. The majority of the respondents (48.7%) used caged housing while 51.3% had no access to veterinary services. In terms of ownership, 92.0% of the respondents leased/rented the poultry house and pen, and 80.7% operated throughout the year, indicating that poultry production is an important means of livelihood. The findings reveal that the majority of respondents (74.7%) used their personal savings for their poultry business.

Table 1. Poultry Farming Characteristics of Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Std. Deviation
Number of Birds Reared				
Chickens				
0	6	4.0		
1–100	96	64.0	104	65.50
Above 100	48	32.0		
Turkeys				
0	94	62.7		
1–100	31	20.7	46	18.24
Above 100	25	16.7		
Ducks				
0	102	68.0		
1– 00	23	15.3	22	17.28
Above 100	25	16.7		
Type of Poultry Housing System				
Deep litter	21	14.0		
Cage	73	48.7		
Free range	20	13.3		
Both deep litter and cage	36	24.0		
Main Water Source for Poultry Production				
Borehole	32	21.3		
Rivers	23	15.3		
Wells	87	58.0		
Rainfall	8	5.3		
Pipe Borne	0	0.0		
Access to Veterinary Services				
Yes	73	48.7		
No	77	51.3		
Poultry House/Pen Ownership Type				
Owned	12	8.0		
Lease/Rent	138	92.0		
Poultry Farming Operating Period				
Festive/Seasonal period only	29	19.3		
All Year Round	121	80.7		

Source of Credit		
Personal Savings	112	74.7
Family/Neighbour	0	0.0
Friends	18	12.0
Cooperative Societies	12	8.0
Banks	8	5.3

Source: Field survey, 2024.

Livelihood Status: Table 2 reveals that 56.7% of the respondents had high financial-asset status, 64.7% had moderate physical-asset status, 80.7% were of high social-asset standing, 72.7% possessed high human-asset status, and 79.3% had moderate natural-assets level from poultry farming. This denotes that poultry farming is a vital source of livelihood for the farmers as several resources/assets

were utilized to enhance their productivity. It also infers that poultry production contributes significantly to the livelihoods of poultry farmers. This is in line with (8 and 14) who noted that agricultural enterprises were the key sources of income and livelihood for the majority of people in developing nations.

Table 2. Level of Livelihood Outcomes of the Respondents

Livelihood Outcomes/Assets	Level/Status	Frequency	Percentage
Financial	Low	9	6.0
	Moderate	56	37.3
	High	85	56.7
Physical	Low	15	10.0
	Moderate	97	64.7
	High	38	25.3
Social	Low	6	4.0
	Moderate	23	15.3
	High	121	80.7
Human	Low	3	2.0
	Moderate	38	25.3
	High	109	72.7
Natural	Low	18	12.0
	Moderate	119	79.3
	High	13	8.7

Source: Field survey, 2024.

As shown in Figure 1, the majority of the poultry farmer respondents (66.0%) enjoyed high livelihood status, 28.0% had moderate status, and 6.0% were of low livelihood status. This result further indicates that poultry farming contributes to the welfare of the farmers, in line with (12) who found that most farmers in the Southeastern States of Nigeria

had high livelihood status. The high livelihood status is expected to influence their standard of living. This result concurred with (10) who stated that a high level of livelihood is expected to have a positive influence on the standard of living of the poultry farmers in Kwara State, Nigeria.

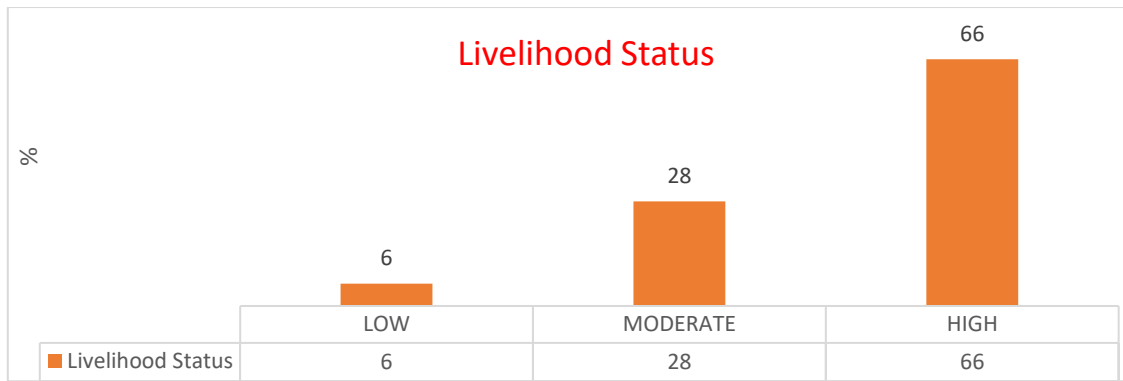


Figure 1. Livelihood Status of the Poultry Farmers.

Factors Limiting Poultry Production: Table 3 reveals that among factors limiting poultry production, disease outbreak/high mortality (mean=1.57±0.60) ranked the highest, followed by high production costs (mean=1.53±0.62), and high temperatures (mean=1.47±0.58). These three factors were

the main contributors affecting poultry farmers. This confirms previous studies that found disease outbreaks/high mortality, high cost of production, high temperature, and lack of start-up capital as the main factors affecting poultry farmers in Nigeria (1 and 10).

Table 3. Factors Limiting Poultry Production

Limiting Factors	Not a factor (%)	Less Severe (%)	Highly Severe (%)	Mean (SD)	Rank
Disease outbreak/high mortality	8 (5.3)	48 (32.0)	94 (62.7)	1.57±0.60	1
High production costs	10 (6.7)	50 (33.3)	90 (60.0)	1.53±0.62	2
High temperatures	6 (4.0)	68 (45.3)	76 (50.7)	1.47±0.58	3
Lack of start-up capital	25 (16.7)	33 (22.0)	92 (61.3)	1.45±0.76	4
Insufficient water in dry season	32 (21.3)	35 (23.3)	83 (55.3)	1.34±0.81	5
Theft	16 (10.7)	74 (49.3)	60 (40.0)	1.29±0.65	6
Predator issues	17 (11.3)	76 (50.7)	57 (38.0)	1.27±0.65	7
High feed costs	9 (6.0)	91 (60.7)	50 (33.3)	1.27±0.57	8
Marketing issues	21 (14.0)	90 (60.0)	39 (26.0)	1.12±0.62	9
Lack of adequate information/extension services	19 (12.7)	102 (68.0)	29 (19.3)	1.07±0.56	10
Low patronage/consumption of locally produced birds	20 (13.3)	106 (70.7)	24 (16.0)	1.03±0.54	11
Lack of credit facilities	27 (18.0)	100 (66.7)	23 (15.3)	0.97±0.58	12
Non-availability of high-quality birds	25 (16.7)	106 (70.7)	19 (12.7)	0.96±0.54	13
Inadequate technical know-how	25 (16.7)	107 (71.3)	18 (12.0)	0.95±0.54	14
Unavailability of machines/equipment	70 (46.7)	59 (39.3)	21 (14.0)	0.67±0.71	15

Source: Field survey, 2024.

Relationship between Factors affecting Poultry Production and Farmers Livelihood Status: The factors affecting poultry farming were significantly and negatively related to the livelihood status of poultry farmers (Table 4). The significant factors were lack of adequate information/extension services on poultry production (r=-0.206), high production costs (r= -0.165), theft (r= -0.321), high feed costs

(r= - 0.288), and lack of credit facilities (r= - 0.169). This implies that the higher the factors affecting poultry farming activities, the lesser the livelihood status (financial, physical, social, human and natural livelihood outcomes) of the poultry farmers in the study area.

Table 4. Correlation of Factors affecting Poultry Production and the Livelihood Status of the Poultry Farmers

Factors	R-value	P-value	Decision
Lack of start-up capital	0.028	0.731	Not significant
Unavailability of machines/equipment	0.037	0.650	Not significant
Insufficient water in dry season	0.082	0.321	Not significant
Inadequate technical know-how	0.096	0.245	Not significant
Low patronage/consumption of locally produced birds	-0.112	0.173	Not significant
Disease outbreak/high mortality	0.028	0.733	Not significant
Lack of adequate information/extension services on poultry production	-0.206*	0.011	Significant
High temperature	-0.047	0.568	Not significant
High production costs	-0.165*	0.044	Significant
Theft	-0.321**	0.000	Significant
Predator issues	0.070	0.397	Not significant
Marketing issues	0.096	0.241	Not significant
High feed costs	-0.288**	0.000	Significant
Lack of credit facilities	-0.169*	0.039	Significant

Source: Field survey, 2024.

Socio-economic Determinants of the Livelihood Status of the Poultry Farmers: Multiple linear regression analysis of the socioeconomic determinants of livelihood status in Table 5 reveal that age, educational status, income, and access to extension services had a significant relationship with the livelihood status of the poultry farmers. The R-square value of 0.441 and F-statistics value of 21.795 imply that significant socioeconomic variables predicted 44.1% of their livelihood status. The significant socioeconomic

predictors were age (-0.268, $p < 0.05$), education status (3.323, $p < 0.05$), income (-1.708, $p < 0.01$), and access to extension services (8.625, $p < 0.01$). Age and income had an inverse relationship with their livelihood status while education and access to extension services had a positive and significant relationship. This implies that age, educational status, income, and access to extension services were the socioeconomic determinants of livelihood status of the poultry farmers in the study.

Table 5. Multiple Linear Regression Analysis showing the Socioeconomic Determinants of Livelihood Status of Poultry Farmers

	B	Std. Error	Z Value	P Value
(Constant)	137.830	8.817	15.633	0.000
Sex	-1.414	2.300	-0.615	0.540
Age	-0.268*	0.122	-2.197	0.030
Marital status	-1.795	1.267	-1.417	0.159
Educational status	3.323*	1.652	2.012	0.046
Income	-1.708*	0.000	2.968	0.004
Years of experience	-0.153	0.249	-0.614	0.540
Household size	1.171	0.635	1.844	0.067
Membership of cooperative	0.734	2.553	0.287	0.774
Access to credit	0.805	1.161	0.693	0.489
Access to ext. services	8.625*	2.825	3.053	0.003
R Square	0.441			
Adjusted R Square	0.481			
Std. Error of the Estimate	21.795			

Source: Field survey, 2024.

Conclusion

The questionnaire survey revealed that the average number of chickens, turkeys, and

ducks owed by the poultry farmers in the study area was 104, 46, and 22, respectively. Wells were their main source of water for their poultry breeding and more than half had no access to veterinary services. Outbreaks of

disease/high mortality, high production costs, and high temperature were the main factors affecting the poultry farmers. The majority of them had high livelihood status although they were faced with various negative factors such as lack of adequate information/extension services on poultry production, high production costs, theft, high feed costs, and lack of credit facilities. The socioeconomic determinants of their livelihood status were age, educational status, income, and access to extension services.

Recommendations

Based on the study findings, it is recommended that:

1. Veterinary services should be extended to the poultry farmers to reduce disease outbreaks and mortality.
2. Support should be provided in the form of grants to cushion the effects of the high cost of production to ensure that small-scale poultry farmers can sustain their business.

Efforts must be made to address the factors negatively impacting the livelihood status of the poultry farmers such as lack of adequate information/extension services on poultry production, high production costs, theft, high feed costs, and lack of credit facilities.

Supplementary Materials

No Supplementary Materials.

Author Contributions

All authors contributed equally to this research.

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Institutional Review Board Statement

The study was conducted according to the protocol authorized by the Kwara State University Malete, Nigeria.

Informed Consent Statement

No Informed Consent Statement.

Data Availability Statement

The study was based on primary data collected from respondents.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors state that the absence of any conflicts of interest during the information gathering phase was essential to completing this research project.

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Note: A minor typographical error has been corrected in the online version of this article

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الوضع المعيشي لمربي الدواجن في إيلورين، ولاية كوارا، نيجيريا

جون أولواسيون إيفابيي^{1*}، رشيد سولاجبيرو أديسا²، شهيد أديمولا أحمد³، فيث إينوه إيفويرهوروما⁴

¹ قسم الاقتصاد الزراعي وخدمات الإرشاد، جامعة ولاية كوارا، نيجيريا.

² قسم الإرشاد الزراعي والتنمية الريفية، جامعة إيلورين، إيلورين نيجيريا.

³ قسم التكنولوجيا الزراعية، كلية ولاية كوارا التقنية، إيلورين، نيجيريا.

⁴ قسم الإرشاد الزراعي وعلم الاجتماع الريفي، جامعة دينيس أوساديباي، طريق أنواي، أسابا، ولاية دلتا، نيجيريا.

الخلاصة

ان أنشطة إنتاج الدواجن توفر العديد من فرص العمل والدخل والتغذية للنيجيريين. تقوم الدراسة على تقييم الوضع المعيشي لمزارعي الدواجن في إيلورين، ولاية كوارا، نيجيريا. اختيرت مائة وخمسين مزارعًا للدواجن عشوائيًا للدراسة، واستخدم استبيان لجمع المعلومات. حلت البيانات باستخدام تعداد الترددات والنسب المئوية والمتوسطات والانحرافات المعيارية ومعامل ارتباط بيرسون للحصة اللحظية (PPMC)، وتحليل الانحدار المتعدد. أشارت النتائج إلى أن حوالي 51.3% من المزارعين يفتقرون إلى الوصول إلى الخدمات البيطرية، ويعمل 80.7% منهم على مدار العام، ويتمتع 66% منهم بوضع معيشي مرتفع. كانت العوامل الأساسية التي أثرت على إنتاج الدواجن في منطقة الدراسة هي تشي الأمراض وارتفاع معدل الوفيات (المتوسط = 1.57 ± 0.60) وتكاليف الإنتاج المرتفعة (المتوسط = 1.53 ± 0.62) وارتفاع درجات الحرارة (المتوسط = 1.47 ± 0.58). كما أظهر الافتقار إلى خدمات المعلوماتية والإرشادات الكافية فيما يتعلق بإنتاج الدواجن ($r=-0.206$) وتكاليف الإنتاج المرتفعة ($r=-0.165$) والسرقة ($r=-0.321$) وتكاليف الأعلاف المرتفعة ($r=-0.288$) ومرافق الائتمان المحدودة ($r=-0.169$) علاقات سلبية كبيرة مع الوضع المعيشي للمزارعين. كانت العوامل الاجتماعية والاقتصادية التي تؤثر على وضعهم المعيشي هي العمر (-0.268 ، $p<0.05$) والتعليم (3.323 ، $p<0.05$) والدخل (-1.708 ، $p<0.01$) والوصول إلى خدمات الإرشاد (8.625 ، $p<0.01$). لذلك، توصي الدراسة بتوفير الخدمات البيطرية للمزارعين للتخفيف من تشي الأمراض ومعدلات الوفيات المرتفعة وتقديم الدعم المالي من خلال المنح للتخفيف من آثار ارتفاع تكاليف الإنتاج.

كلمات مفتاحية: حالة سبل العيش، مزارعي الدواجن، أصحاب الحيازات الصغيرة.

*المراسلة إلى: جون أولواسيون إيفابيي، قسم الاقتصاد الزراعي وخدمات الإرشاد، جامعة ولاية كوارا، نيجيريا.

البريد الإلكتروني: john.ifabiyi@kwasu.edu.ng