

Full Length Research Paper

Poultry Farmers' Preference for Commercial and Self-Compounded Feeds in Ido Local Government Area of Oyo State

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ABSTRACT: This study investigated the poultry farmers' preference for commercial and self compounded feeds in Ido Local Government Area of Oyo State. The data were collected with the use of well-structured questionnaires administered to sixty (60) respondents and fifty-two (52) questionnaires were retrieved. Descriptive (frequency and percentage) and inferential (Chi-square) statistics were used to analyze the data obtained from the study. The socio-economic characteristics of the respondents in the study area showed the (90.4%) were males and within the age range of 30-50years (92.3%) and had tertiary education (69.2%). Chi-square analysis shows that a significant relationship exists between the choice of commercial and self- compounded feed due to quality of feed ingredients, the technicality in production, cost of feed, (71.2%) transportation and (71.2%), and attitude of feed vendor and availability of feed ingredient (71.2%). The study concluded that poultry farmers prefer using self

compounded feed instead of commercial feeds because self compounded feed are of better quality than commercially compounded feed, self compounded feed is cheaper, while commercial feeds cost more, farmers choose feed based on the perceived quality of the feed, their technical ability to produce feed by themselves, ease of transportation, the attitude of feed vendors and availability of feed ingredients. Based on this finding, it was recommended that farmers should be encouraged to form cooperative societies; government should encourage crop farmers in the study area to produce grain and other needed ingredients in the poultry feed so as to improve the availability of feed ingredients to the feed miller.

Keywords: Commercial feed, self-compounded feeds, poultry farmers, Oyo State

INTRODUCTION

Poultry enterprise is a relevant livestock sector (Bonsjak and Rodic, 2008) and gives plenteous low cost food of high quality grade (Alder and Pym, 2009). Poultry birds contribute meaningfully to human food through its supply of meat, eggs, and industrial raw materials. The advantage of poultry over other livestock is primarily due to the short and relatively quick turn over on investment

and high quality protein production (Adeyemo *et al.*, 2010). Furthermore, it's a provider of income and employment compared to other livestock section (Demeke, 2004).

Feed is the most important input for poultry production especially in intensively managed systems where birds depends solely on what is provided for them to meet their

nutritional needs. Feed costs alone account for over 70% of the total cost of livestock and poultry production (Ogunfowora, 1994; Oluyemi, 1998). If the cost of feed could be lowered, the profit margin of livestock or poultry farmers would increase. However, Nigerian livestock farmers, especially poultry farmers who depend on commercial feeds for their birds, have been facing a number of problems which included; increasing feed cost (Salami, 1995. Tewe, 1996). Deteriorating feed quality and an inconsistency in the weight of bagged feeds (Etukudo, 1998; Ogunwolere and Onwuka, 1997). Bird's growth and meat quality depends on the quantity and quality of feed used (Decuypere and Bruggeman, 2007). The exorbitant cost of commercial feed has made farmers to think of alternative ways of overcoming the challenge and as such go extra mile in converting feed to gain.

Therefore, it is essential to examine the different quality of poultry feeds in relation of profitability. Most of the medium to large scale poultry farmers compound feed by themselves, while a good number of small- scale poultry farmers use commercial feeds in an effort to save time and stress (Decuypere and Bruggeman, 2007). The increasing price of livestock feed can be attributed to the rise in the cost of raw materials. The scarcity of raw materials, in turn led to another very serious problem which is the instability in feed prices (Olaseinde, 1994; Tewe, 1996). For many decades, poultry farmers in Nigeria relied on commercial poultry feeds. Such feed sources were characterized by continuous increased costs and inconsistent quality (Etukudo, 1998; Ogunwolere and Onwuka, 1997; Tewe, 1996).

Except for feed manufacturers who keep to the standard in poultry feed formulations, many feed companies in the country make very poor quality feeds, a situation which has lead huge losses. Poor quality feeds lead to slow growth in chickens, low egg production, diseases or even death (Etukudo, 1998). As a result of growing human population, there is high demand for poultry product (FAO, 2002). The rapid growth of broiler demands that they be supplied with high quality diet, which will satisfy both nutritional demands as well as ensuring high profit.

Feed cost is often a major limiting factor in chicken production. Many farmers are looking for some alternative ways of boosting their profits, many farmers change from one commercial feed to another in search of better feed (Ogundipe, 2002) while a good number have decided to be producing their own feed. As a matter of fact, feed costs as well as the quality of the feeds are among the factors which dictate farmer preference for commercial or self- compounded as feed (Adebayo *et al.*, 2002; Umeh and Odo, 2002).

This study therefore seeks to assess the farmers' preference in terms of quality of feed and factors affecting the choice of commercial feeds and self compounded feeds for their poultry.

METHODOLOGY

Area of study

The study area was Ido government area in Oyo State, Nigeria. This area was selected because of rate of production and consumption of poultry (chicken). It is situated along Ibadan-Eruwa road. Ido Local Government is one of the 33 local government areas in Oyo State of Nigeria. It was created in 1989 from the formal Akinyele Local Government Area with a land area of 986km² and total population of 103,261 based on 2006 national population census (NPC, 2006). It shares boundaries with Oluyole Local Government, Ibarapa- East Local Government, Akinyele Local Government, Ibadan South-West Local Government and Ibadan North-West Local Government Area in Oyo state and Odeda Local Government area in Ogun state. The council presently has ten wards for ease of administration. The Population is dominated by civil servants, artisan and farmers who are involved in production and consumption of livestock (for example, poultry farming); and crop farming due to a large hectares of grassland NPCN, (2006).

Sampling technique and sample size

A multistage sampling technique was used for this study. Ido Local government has 10 wards out of which three were randomly selected. Two villages were randomly selected using simple random sampling from the selected wards. Simple random sampling technique was also used to select 10 respondents from each of the wards: ward 1(10 at Akufo, 10 at Idi Osan), ward 2 (10 at Ijokodo; 10 at Akinyele) and ward 5 (10 at Ido, 10 at Ajibade) making sixty and fifty-two (52) questionnaires were retrieved.

Methods of data analysis

The data were collected using primary source of data collection from poultry farmers in the study area with well-structured questionnaires. Frequency distribution and percentage were used to analyze the demographic data of the respondents while chi-square was used for others data collected from the respondents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 revealed the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents where 90.4% were males while 9.6% were females. This implies that poultry farming in Ido is basically an affair of the male gender. The age of the respondents revealed that they are youths and agile as 7.7% were from 30 years and below, 34.6% were between 31 and 40 years old and 57.7% were between

Table 1: Socio-economic characteristics of respondents Ns=52.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	47	90.4
Female	5	9.6
Total	52	100.0
Age (years)		
30 and below	4	7.7
31-40	18	34.6
41-50	30	57.7
Total	52	100.0
Religion		
Christianity	33	63.5
Islam	19	36.5
Total	52	100.0
Educational level		
Primary education	1	1.9
Secondary education	15	28.8
Tertiary education	36	69.2
Total	52	100.0
Farming experience (years)		
1-5	18	34.6
6-10	33	63.5
>11	1	1.9
Total	52	100.0
Level of income (₦)		
50,000 and below	9	17.3
51,000-80,000	15	28.8
81,000-100,000	28	53.8
Total	52	100.0
Feed formulation		
Trained	40	76.9
Not trained	12	23.1
Total	52	100.0
Feed used		
Commercial	14	26.9
Self-compounded	38	73.1
Total	52	100.0
Flock size		
1000 and below	10	19.2
1001-5000	12	23.1
5001 and above	30	57.7
Total	52	100.0

41 and 50 years of age. This implies that the activities of poultry in the study area require energy and the youths in the study area are gainfully engaged especially in the poultry industry. The poultry farmers are mainly Christians (63.5%) and are well educated as 69.2% had tertiary education, 28.8% have secondary education and only 1.9% has primary education. This means that the poultry farmers in the study area have the basic grip of their requirements to maximize the opportunities in the poultry industry. Quite a number of the respondents have a basic understanding of the environment and can decide what is best in terms of the skills involved in poultry production as 63.5% have 5-10 years experience in poultry farming, while 34.6% have less than 5 years

experience. The 63.5% is enough to train upcoming poultry farmers and educate them in the field. About 53.8% make between ₦80,000-100,000 monthly from poultry production. This implies that poultry production is a profitable venture in the study area and that it is enough to sustain the investors. A quite larger proportion of the respondents are trained to formulate feed (76.9%). This is a reflection of the educational level of the respondents and the acclaimed high profitability of the venture. The use of self-compounded feed by 73.1% of the population shows their preference and proper understanding of the act of formulation. The fact that 57.7% of the respondents have above 5001 birds in their flock shows that the area is relatively peaceful, conducive for poultry production.

Table 2: Farmers' preference for commercial feeds and self-compounded feed.

Variable	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)
Commercial feed is available in greater quantity than self- compounded feed	28.8	71.2
Commercial feed is cheaper than self-compounded feed	28.8	71.2
Commercial feed saves time more than self-compounded feed	36.5	63.5
Commercial feed is richer in nutrients more than self-compounded feed	28.8	71.2
Quality of eggs is better with commercial feed than with self-compounded feed	28.8	71.2
Rate of growth is better with commercial feed than with self compounded feed	28.8	71.2

Table 3: Factors influencing choice of commercial feed and self-compounded feed production.

Item	Commercial feed (%)	Self-compounded feed (%)
Quality of feed ingredients	28.8	71.2
Ability to mix feed by oneself	19.2	80.8
Cost	19.2	80.8
Storability	40.4	59.6
Transportation	28.8	71.2
Attitude of feed vendors towards poultry farmers	28.8	71.2
Availability of feed ingredients	28.8	71.2

Table 4: Chi-square analysis of farmers' preference influencing choice commercial feed and self-compound feed production.

Variables	X ² -value	P-value	Decision
Quality	11.077	0.001	S
Technical ability	19.692	0.000	S
Cost	19.692	0.000	S
Storability	1.923	0.166	NS
Transportation	9.309	0.002	S
Attitude	9.309	0.002	S
Availability	9.309	0.002	S

S= ($P \leq 0.05$)

It is also an indication that poultry production could be the major sustenance means for the respondents.

Table 2 shows the farmers' preference for commercial feeds and self-compounded feeds. 71.2% of respondents disagreed to the facts that commercial feed is available in greater quantity, cheaper, richer in nutrients, gives better eggs quality and rate of growth than the self-compounded feed. This corroborates the findings of Ojo, (2003). Also, 63.5% of the respondents disagreed that commercial feeds save time than self-compounded feed. It can be deduced that the use of commercial feed was not popular among the farmers in the study area when compared with the self-compounded feed. The availability of many feed millers and the experience of the poultry farmers in the study area may also be attributed to this outcomes. Apantaku *et al.* (2006) reported that farmers preferred self-compounded feed due to higher quality and reduced cost of producing the feed. Table 3 shows the factors that influences choice of commercial feed and self-compounded feed in the study area. The result revealed that farmers prefer to compound their feeds by themselves as (80.8%) of the respondents have the ability to mix feed by themselves and cost is the factor

that influence their preference. Furthermore, result also shows that 71.2% of respondents claimed that quality of ingredients, transportation, and attitude of feed vendors and availability of ingredients are the factors that influence their preference for compounding their feed by themselves while 59.6% saw storability as the factor that influenced their preference for self compounded feed for their poultry birds.

Table 4 revealed the Chi-square analysis, significant relationship exists between the choice of commercial and self compounded feed in terms of quality of the feed, technical ability to mix feed, cost of feed, transportation, and attitude of feed vendors and availability of feed ingredients in the study area. Whereas, storability of feed has no significant relationship on poultry farmers' preference for compounded feed or self-compounded feed.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that the poultry farmers in the study area are mainly

young males, Christians who are highly educated, have above 10 years of poultry farming experience, earn around ₦100,000 monthly from poultry business and are trained to formulate feed for their birds. Majority of them have a flock size of above 5000 birds and prefer to use self compounded feed to commercial feeds, due to high quality of feed ingredient, reduced cost, their ability to compound their feed, availability of ingredients and improved productivity observed on their farms.

Recommendations

- (i) Government should provide farmers with loan and improved infrastructure in other to boost the production in poultry industry in the study area.
- (ii) Government should encourage the crop farmers in the area to produce more grains and other needed ingredients in the poultry feed in other to improve the availability of these feed ingredients to the feed millers and further reduce the cost of producing feed.
- (iii) Farmers should come together to form co-operative groups so as to be able to provide financial support and assistance to other farmers in other to increase their production.

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