

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS

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EBONYI STATE**

Dr. Ogba Ernest Ituma

Volume No.3 Issue No.3 September 2014

www.iresearcher.org

ISSN 227-7471

THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNAL "INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS"

www.iresearcher.org

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POULTRY PRODUCTION A KEY TO MEAT SECURITY IN EBONYI STATE

Dr. Ogba Ernest Ituma

Dept of Technology and Vocational Education, Ebonyi state University, Abakaliki

(NIGERIA)

ogbaernestituma@yahoo.com

Abstract

Poultry production is a strong tool for meat and eggs provision to the consumers, for protein intake in their individual diet. Then, to achieve, the desired goals and objectives of meat security in the state. The researcher posed three research questions to guide the study. The areas of the study is Ebonyi State of Nigeria. The design of the study was descriptive survey research design. The population for the study was one thousand, five hundred and twenty five (1,525) comprising one thousand, five hundred poultry farmers and twenty five poultry (Bird) sellers who are not producers. The sample for the study was one hundred and fifty seven (157) from the three educational zone in the state. Instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire, developed by the researchers. The instrument was validated by three expert one in measurement and Evaluation and two in Agricultural Education option in the same faculty and university. The instrument was administered to the poultry farmers and the poultry bird sellers. The data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation. The major finding of the study were as follows. That poultry (Birds) constitute one of the major sources of meat and eggs supply to the consumers in the study area. That poultry farmers produce reasonable number of birds and make available in the market. That the price of poultry birds was affordable in the study area. Among the recommendation made was that poultry farmers should intensify effort to make the birds more available and affordable to the consumers.

Key words: Meat, Poultry, Security, key, farmer

1. INTRODUCTION

Poultry farmers are those farmers that specialize in the rearing of poultry birds like fowls, turkey, and ducks, among others in their farm. In the same vein Igwe (2008) view poultry as the wide range of birds of several species that renders economic and nutritional services to man. He stress that poultry (birds) reproduces freely on their own under free range system and effectively thrive well under good management for poultry farmers to maximize their profit. He opinioned that birds are one of the most important aspect of animal production, which is a dependable sources of meat for human consumption. In the same vein, Nwankwo (2006) maintain that poultry (birds) is a profitable business opportunity for entrepreneurs. He stress that poultry production is one of the fastest growing segment in animal industry, which produces meat and eggs as their primary sources of economic value. Therefore, poultry production is the act of raising domestic birds such as guinea fowls turkey, ducks, geese, fowls, pigeon, among others for the purpose of producing meat and eggs for human consumption. However, the meat diet of people from birds increases World Wide, because, poultry (birds) have no cultural and religious restrictions. Based on this, poultry (bird) meat has made an acceptable standard across the globe for human consumption. (Eze, 2005). F.A.O. (2008) stress, that meat security implies the state of having access to safe and nutritious meat that meet dietary need of our people. Therefore, meat security in this contest implies having access to poultry bird meat. Meat security means that all people at all time will have physical and economic access to adequate poultry bird meat. Meat available refers to sufficient quantity of poultry (bird) meat on consistent basis. Meat access refers to having sufficient resources (physical and economic) utility refers to normal use of meat and its basic knowledge of meat to life. In another development Nwite 92007) maintain that meat system must be ensured for production, distribution, processing, marketing, acquisition and consumptions of meat. Therefore, poultry (birds) meat have to be processed, distributed, marketed, for human consumption to remove scarcity of meat and ensure constant supply of meat. Therefore, the focus of the paper is to investigate how the production of poultry (birds) is a key to meat security in Ebonyi State, Nigeria.

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS

The continuous demand for protein meat intake by individuals, has reached an alarming rate in Ebonyi State, Nigeria. However farmers have faced different challenges in animal production especially ruminants, in order to meet the

demand for protein meat requirement within their areas and maximize their profit. Then poultry birds is monogastric animal with most acceptable type of meat for protein sources. Therefore, the need for this type of animal production for human consumption becomes the worries of the researcher. However, the focus of the paper is to investigate, how, poultry production is a key to meat security in Ebonyi State.

3. THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study is to investigate how poultry (birds) production, is a key to meat security in Ebonyi State of Nigeria. Specifically, the study tend to:

- Determine, the extent of poultry birds, farmers make available for sales in the market.
- Determine the extent of affordable prices that poultry birds are sold in the market.
- Determine the extent of sufficient poultry (birds) bought by the consumers.

4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the extent of quality poultry birds farmers make available in the market.
2. What are the extent of affordable prices that poultry birds are sold in the market?
3. What are the extent of sufficient poultry (birds) bought by the consumers (sales record).

5. METHODOLOGY

The area of the study is Ebonyi State, Nigeria. It is one of the state in the south East Geo-political zone of the country. The design for the study is descriptive survey. The population for the study is one hundred, and eight three (183) poultry farmers in Ebonyi State. The population is the sample, because of its small size in number. The instrument was face validated by three experts one, in measurement and Evaluation, two in agric. Education in the department of technology and vocational education of the same faculty and university. Crown back alpha reliability coefficient was used to test for the internal constancy, which yielded 0.76 that was good enough for the study. The instrument was administered to the poultry farmers, and dealers that buy and sales in the market days. With the help of two research assistant. One in each education zone. The data collected was analyzed using means and standard deviation. The findings of the study were as follows:

1. That quality poultry (birds) was made available in the market by the farmers.
2. That poultry (birds) was sold at affordable prices in the market.
3. That sufficient poultry (birds) bought by the consumers from dealers and poultry farmers sales records.

Research question I: What are the extent of quality poultry (birds) farmers make available in the market.

S/N	CONSTRUCT	RESPONSE OPTION		
		X	SD	REMARK
1	Pullet is one of the quality poultry (birds) available for sales in the market .	3.44	0.65	Accepted
2	Cockerel is one of quality poultry (birds) available for sales in the market.	3.23	0.76	Accepted
3	Broilers is one of the poultry (birds) available for sales in the market.	3.01	0.81	Accepted
4	Old layer is one of quality poultry (birds) available for sale in the market.	3.28	0.76	Accepted
5	Turkey is one of the quality poultry (birds) available in the market	2.31	0.48	Accepted
6	Geese is one of the quality poultry (birds) available in the market.	3.03	0.75	Accepted
7	Guinea fowl is one of the quality poultry (birds) available for sales in the market.	3.05	0.76	Accepted

Table 1 revealed that all the items on the table had their mean scores within the criterion level, This implies that quality Poultry bird were available for sales in the market for consumptions.

Table Question 2

What are the extent of affordable prices that poultry (birds, were sold in the market

Table 2 (affordable prices of poultry birds).

S/N	CONSTRUCT	RESPONSE OPTION		
		X	SD	REMARK
1	The extent of prices for pullents is (,1000-1,500)	2.61	0.84	Accepted
2	The extent of prices for a crockery is (800-1,200)	2.53	0.76	Accepted
3	The extent of prices for an old layer is (1,000-1,500)	2.58	0.72	Accepted
4	The extent of prices for a broiler is (1,000-150)	2.50	0.92	Accepted
5	The extent of prices for a guinea fowl is (1,000-1,500)	2.11	0.610	Accepted
6	The extent of prices for a turkey is from (1,000-2,000)	2.58	0.70	Accepted
7	The extent of prices for a matured ducky is from (800-1,200).	2.61	0.84	Accepted
8	The extent of prices for a Geeze	2.56	0.71	Accepted

Table II: revealed that item 1-6 and 8 had their mean score above 2.50. This implies that prices for poultry (birds) were affordable for consumptions to buy such birds, like guinea fowl, pullet, broilers, old layer, cockerel, turkey, among other with affordable prices. Item 7 indicate that duck, are consumed like other birds.

Research Question 3

What are the extent of sufficient poltry (birds) bought by the consumer from dealers and poultry farmers.

S/N	CONTRACT	RESPONSE OPTION		
		X	SD	REMARK
1	Farmers sells pullet. In each week 200-300	2.61	0.84	Accepted
2	Farmers sells cockery each week 300-350	2.53	0.76	Accepted
3	Farmers sells old layer two week 400-450	2.58	0.72	Accepted
4	Farmers sells broilers each week 200.300	2.50	0.92	Accepted
5	Farmers sells turkey each week 200-250.	2.72	0.61	Accepted
6	Farmers sells guinea fowls each week 200-240	2.58	0.70	Accepted
7	Farmers sells ducky each week 20-50	2.46	0.69	Accepted not

Table 3 revealed that items 1-6 had their mean scores above the cut off point of 2.50. This implies that the poultry farmers dispose many poultry birds (sales) within a week and months to consumers based on their sales record. Item 7 indicated that ducky is consumed like other birds.

6. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study revealed that in Ebonyi State quality poultry (birds) are produced and made available to the consumers to buy at all the time Such birds like cockerel, pullets, broilers, old layer, layers, turkeys, guinea fowl ducky among others. The findings is in line with the study of Okeke (2005) who opinioned that poultry farmers contributes in making meat available all the time in the state. There is need for government non-governmental Agency to entisfy effort of the poultry farmers in order to ensure the security of meat in the state. The study is in line with the federal government policies on assisting farmers to, produce more meat in Ebonyi State and Nigeria in general. The study in table, revealed that the prices for poultry (birds were affordable, for consumers to buy such birds like guinea fowl, pullets, cockerel, broilers, old layers, turkey among others. As, shown in table. That 1-6 and 8 has their mean rating above 2.50 only item 7 has means below 2.50. This study is in line with study of Nwite (2008) whose study revealed that meat production. Since, poultry birds maters within the shortest period, for sales, and farmers increases their economic status after sales. It shows that price range for poultry meat is less than other meat sources in terms of affordability.

The study in table 3, revealed that poultry farmers dispose many poultry birds within a week, and months as recorded in their sales records. The items mean rating (1-6) were above 2.50. This implies high sales records by each poultry farmer in the farm. Item 7 t which is below 2,150, show that the demand for duck is low compared with other poultry birds demand by the consumers. The records by each poultry farmer in their farm. The demand of poultry birds by consumers were high. This study was in line with the federal government policies in increasing meat supply to consumers for their proteain intake and ensure their health standard in Nigeria. The study is in line with the study of Okonkwo (2005) who opinioned that effective utilization of our monogastric animals-will complement the effort of our rural farmer in meat supply to the consumers. That, breeding such monogastric animal for commercial purpose will attract more consumers and farmers sources of income will increase and change for their wellbeing in the society.

6.1 Major findings

1. That quality poultry birds were available in the market for sales to the consumers.
2. That, the prices for poultry (bird) were affordable for consumers to buy in the market.
3. That, poultry farmers disposes many poultry (birds) in the market for consumers to buy on daily bases, weekly and monthly as recorded in their sales books.

7. CONCLUSION

From the findings of the study. It revealed that poultry farmers' produces quality poultry birds for sales in the market and the prices for the quality birds were affordable by the consumers and many poultry birds were sold to the consumers within days and weeks in a month as recorded by the individual poultry farmers in the state.

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Statement:

I hereby confirm that this research paper is my own original work and I have cited all sources that were used.