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**MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF  
ANIMAL PRODUCTION  
IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM**



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SCIENCE ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA**

**MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION  
IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM**

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# Contribution Of Livestock Production To Household Income In Ibadan Metropolis Of Oyo State In Nigeria

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## Introduction

Farming, the major activity in the rural areas of Nigeria, include the cultivation of both arable and perennial crops as well as Livestock and Fishery production. Livestock includes both domesticated and wild animals that are explicitly kept for the production of meat, eggs, milk and other by products. Fetuga (1977) defined domesticated Livestock as an organism utilized for converting feedstuffs into more nutritious animal products like milk, meat, egg among others.

Livestock also contributes to the provision of animal protein, where people suffer from malnutrition due to lack of protein in their diet. Akinterinwa (1995) reported in a study that Pre-primary school children and their mothers were deficient in the level of protein and calorie when compared with the recommended level by WHO.

Protein requirements are met from both animal and plant sources. Plant protein accounts for approximately 70 percent of the protein in human diets while animal protein accounts for the remaining 30 percent or even less as in Nigeria (Abott, 1972).

Studies carried out in Kenya, Egypt and Mexico reveal that children do not get enough protein in their diet (ILRI, 1995). Livestock production has helped in utilizing resources efficiently especially in the use of lands- hilly, sloppy land, can just be put under pasture and used for feeding and raising Livestock.

Majority of farmers in third world countries live in the rural areas. They operate on small-scale, with small capital holdings, low level of technological innovations. The Nigerian rural sector is characterized with poverty, neglect and absence of adequate infrastructures (Olugbile, 1993).

According to Dar *et al* (1996), in Philippines, majority of the farmers are small holders, with 68 percent of the rural population living in poverty. Small ruminant raising offers prospect of augmenting the dwindling supply of meat and milk in the countries, providing additional income to families of small holders, providing economic employment to idle family members and optimizing utilization of farm resources.

Also in Botswana, an economic survey of the importance of small ruminant enterprises of small holders farmers was carried out. Results revealed the ruminant enterprise as profitable and economically viable, contributing a substantial amount to total household income. Its contribution of 5 percent to the household income exceeds that Crop production by more than 100 percent (Panin and Mahabile, 1997).

In India, livestock production is being said to be the second largest contributor to the rural income, at the same time, the most equally distributed source of income (Birthal and Singh, 1995). According to Jeyatileka *et al* (1998), it was discovered in Sri Lanka that the highest average monthly income (RS 13590) was received by farmers who engaged in Livestock production as a secondary source of income, contributing 43 percent of total income, while in Namibia, livestock was found to be a minor source of income but a major source of capital and food security. (Matanyaira, 1997).

Omotayo (1998) reported that the use of animal traction (i.e. using animals for agricultural cultivation) in Nigeria, by independent household had higher average net income than both the depended and non-users household. The impact of contribution of Livestock production to household income in past studies had revealed that it is significant.

## Objective of Study

The main objective of this study is to determine the contribution of livestock to the household income of farmers through the following specific objectives:

To study the socio-economic characteristics of farmers.

Identify the different livestock enterprise practices by the farmers.

## Methodology

This study was carried out in the Ibadan North Local government area of Oyo State, Nigeria. Primary data was collected by the use of structural questionnaires, through personal interviews. Five areas were chosen from the local government area including the University of Ibadan Campus, Bodija, Sango, Agbowo and Yemetu areas.

A total of one hundred and fifty respondents were used in this study.



## Results And Discussions

Table 1 reveals the results of the socio-economic characteristics of the farmers used for the purpose of this study. 28 percent of them were females, while most of the farmers fell into Age 30-39, being the youthful age with strength. They are mostly married, seeking for a means of livelihood for their families, due to the present situation of unemployment in the nation. 60 percent of these farmers did either did not go to school at all or did not have the opportunity of attending one early. 78 percent of the farmers have other things they are doing and are involved in agriculture as a matter of interest, and as additional source of income.

Table 2 shows small ruminants –sheep and goats were mainly kept (25%) by the respondents, which can be kept under extensive system with little or no strict feeding pattern, as well as feeding on household waste, which requires no financial burden.

These small ruminants also do not have any religious taboos attached to them unlike some Livestock like pigs, especially in the study area where a predominant number of Muslim reside. The Cattle was not rampant for keeps, due to availability of space, revealing just 1 percent. Poultry production, which constituted about 11 percent, was found to be mainly the local kinds of birds, which are kept and allowed to scavenge for their foods. Only a few kept the improved breeds of poultry, the educated.

Table 3 shows the different percentages contributed by each source to the total household income of a hundred respondents. It clearly shows that livestock production contributes the highest proportion to the total household income (43.9%), confirming the fact that majority were involving in livestock production.

Trading and office jobs also made slightly significant contributions to the household income due to the urbanization and commercial activities happening in the area, they contributed 12.42% and 18.96% respectively. Hired labour as a source of income was not significant because of the amount of effort that has to be put into it.

### Conclusion

This study has shown that Livestock Production can contribute significantly to the household income farmers. It has also shown that livestock production can be undertaken much and energy spends by farmers, since most animals reared are left to themselves (Extensive system of Production). It is a venture that little or no capital is required yet the returns are significant but there could also be increase in the total output if more attention is drawn to the nutrition as well as welfare. Hence, there are still a lot of potentials involved in livestock production.

### Recommendation

Farmers should be encouraged to keep livestock to supplement household income. Hybrids should also be raised, not only the local breed of birds. Improvement in livestock production methods should be embarked upon by experts/specialists.

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**Table 1:** Socio Economic Characteristics of farmers

Variables	Frequency	%
Gender		
Male	108	72
Female	42	28
Age		
<30	13	9
30-39	47	31
40-49	38	25
50-59		
60-69	42	28
Marital Status	10	7%
Single		
Married	13	9
Divorced	122	81
Widowed	6	4
Educational Level	9	6
Non-Formal		
Adult Literacy	34	23
Primary	56	37
Secondary	41	27
Farming as an Occupation	19	13
Primary		
Secondary	72	48
	78	52

Source: Field Survey, 2000

**Table 2:** Distribution of Livestock by respondents.

Livestock kept.	Frequency	%
Poultry	23	15.0
Pigs	6	4
Cattle	1	1
Goats	33	22
Sheep	15	10
Others	10	7
Poultry and Goats	8	5
Sheep and Goats	38	25
Pigs, Goats and Sheep	6	4
Poultry, Goats and Sheep	4	3
Pigs and Sheep	3	2
Poultry and Sheep	3	2
Total	150	100

Source: Field Survey, 2000

**Table 3:** Contribution of the different sources of Income to Household Income

Source	Income Contributed (N)	%
Crop Production	21,850	32.14
Livestock Production	41,450	43.90
Trading	11,730	12.42
Hired Labour	960	1.02
Office Jobs	17,904	18.96
Others	528	0.56

\*Computed from field data, 2000.