

## GENDER DIFFERENCE IN DECISION MAKING IN POULTRY FARMING IN EDO SOUTH AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE ZONE, NIGERIA: IMPLICATION FOR COMMUNICATION

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### Abstract

The study investigated gender difference in decision making in poultry farming in Edo South agricultural extension service zone of Edo State, Nigeria and its implication for communication. The objectives include to analyze the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, determine the level of women involvement in decision making in poultry farming, ascertain the difference in labour involvement between male and female in specific poultry activities and to identify the factors limiting poultry farmers production in the area. The respondents (76 males and 82 females = 158) were sampled through a multi-stage sampling technique and the research instruments were questionnaire forms and interview schedules (for literate and non-literate farmers). Both descriptive and inferential statistics (t-test and ANOVA) were used to analyze the objectives and hypotheses of the study. Results showed that the mean age of the male and female respondents was respectively 42.6 and 45.2 years, their farming experience was 11.7 and 9.9 years respectively with a household size of 6 persons for both group of respondents. The mean farm size was 540 and 407 birds, respectively. The result showed that women competed favourably with males in decision making in the farm (procurement of chicks/birds (male mean = 3.68; female mean = 3.55), selection of chicks/birds (male mean = 3.66; female mean = 3.40)) and that there was no much difference in gender participation in poultry activities (feed procurement (male mean = 3.11; female mean = 3.04), routine medication and vaccination (male mean = 3.05; female mean = 2.84)). Poultry farmers production was found to be limited by some major factors like inadequate capital (mean = 3.21), cost of feeds (3.11), cost of labour (mean = 3.01) However, based on findings, recommendations were advanced.

**Keywords:** farming, gender, production, poultry, decision making.

### INTRODUCTION

Poultry refers to all birds of economic value to man (Atteh, 2004). The author stated that poultry is great importance to man. In that, it provides man with meat, egg, research and medicinal purpose, production of manure (used to fertilize our soil) and feathers used for aesthetic values and traditional titles. Atteh (2004) stressed that the production rate of poultry has grown so

much in the recent past and this is attributed to the wide acceptance (across religious, traditional and cultural boundaries) of poultry meat and its product. Buttressing this fact, FAOSTAT (2013) report stated that since 2001 to 2011 and beyond, poultry products in Nigeria had been rapidly expanding in the past years, increasing from 185,300 metric tones in 2001 to 268,000 metric tones in 2011. Despite the growth rate, production level has not been able to meet its demand. The lag in production led to years of importation of poultry meat. Although there has been ban on importation of poultry meat since 2002, but due to the porous nature of our (Nigeria) border and the numerous entry points into the country, large volumes of undocumented and illegal imports are still being carried out (FAOSTAT, 2013).

Apart from the point above, Moser (2009) indicated that a major constraint plaguing poultry farming is the issue of gender discrimination. This has to do with a look down or relegation of the females by their male counterparts. Gender differences affect the distribution of resources and responsibilities between men and women that are shaped by ideological, religious, ethnic, economic and cultural determinants (Moser, 2009). Confirming this assumption, Rahman and Ibrahim (2007) reported that there has been a great disparity between men and women in their involvements in farm activities and decision making process on farms. Over the past decade, awareness of gender issues in development has steadily increased (Rahman, 2007). According to FAO (2007) gender is the relations between men and women, both perceptual and material. The issues on gender bothers on what role men and women ought to play in the society. There have been socially constructed roles for men and women based on perception. Even at that women have been reported to be the predominant owners of poultry (Okitoi, 2007). Despite this report, women's role in livestock production has often been underestimated or ignored (IFAD, 2007). These gender strives have affected women in particular in several ways.

Women contribute tremendously to agricultural output but unfortunately they hardly, until recently, benefited from agricultural incentives and innovations because of economic suppression, social and traditional practices which undermine the constitutional provisions on the equality of men and women. Gender discrimination is the reason for the non-inclusion of women in the decision making process of poultry farming. Meanwhile, Rahman and Ibrahim (2007) stressed that the productivity of women depends on the rate of their

involvement in farm decision making process. The authors further stated that the non-inclusion of women in decision making process could be counterproductive because such a situation could give rise to conflict. In remedying this ugly trend, women should be seen as stakeholders and so be part of the consultation process in major decision making process in poultry production since raising poultry is a popular activity among women in most countries, including Nigeria (Okoh, *et al.*, 2010) Against this background, it becomes obvious that more needs to be done to create room for women's involvement in major decision making process in where poultry farming is concerned.

### Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of the study was to examine gender difference in decision making in poultry farming in Edo South agricultural extension service zone of Nigeria and determine its implication for communication. The specific objectives were to :

- i. Describe the socio-economic characteristics of poultry farmers in Edo South agricultural extension zone of Edo State.
- ii. Determine the level of women involvement in decision making in poultry farming in the study area.
- iii. Ascertain the difference in labour involvement between male and female in specific poultry activities and;
- iv. Identify the factors limiting poultry farmers' production level in the study area.

### Hypotheses of the Study

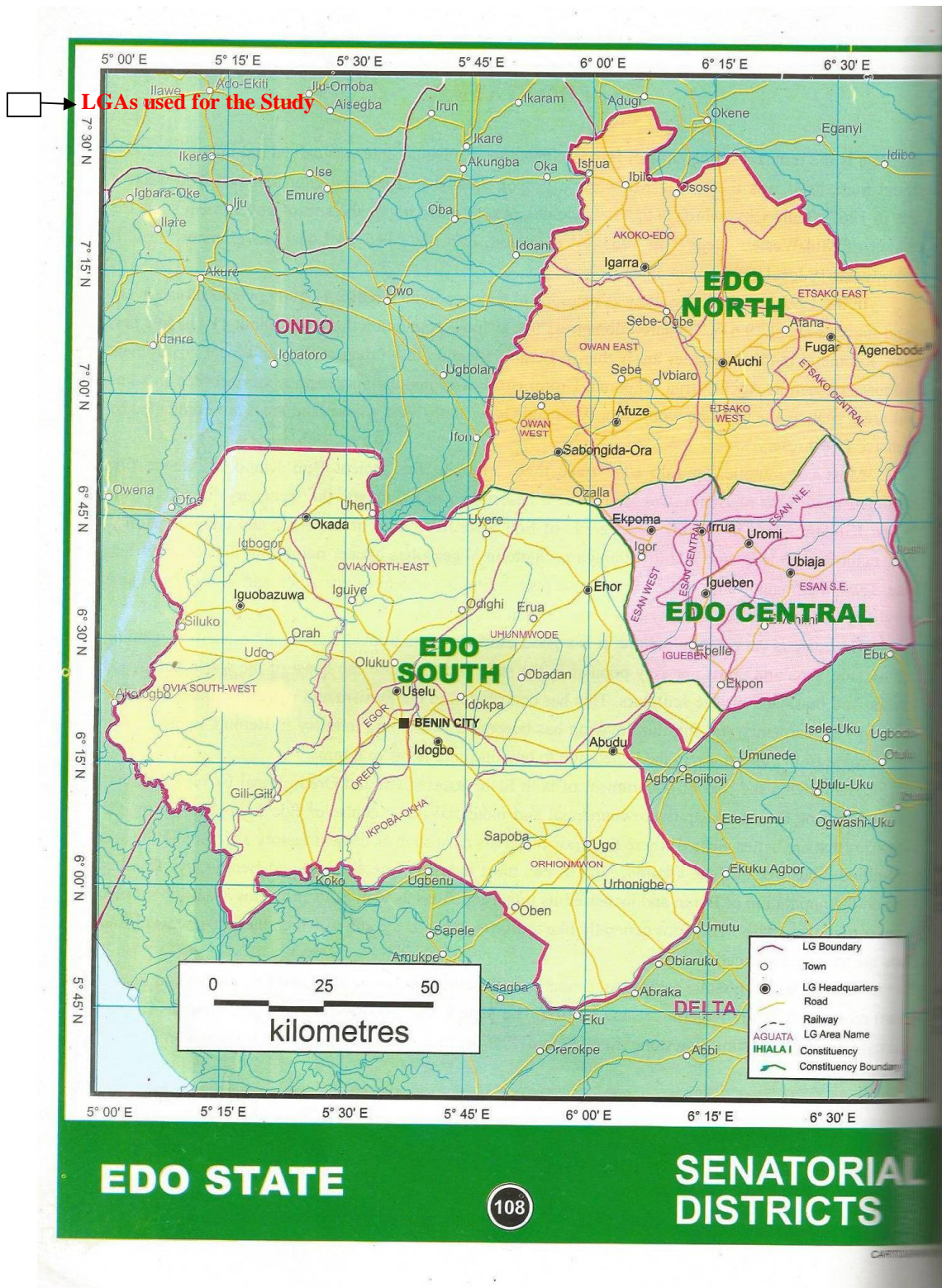
The hypotheses were stated in their null forms.

H<sub>01</sub>: There is no significant difference in the level of decision making of male and female in poultry farming in the study area.

H<sub>02</sub>: There is no significant difference in size of poultry farms among males and females

### MATERIALS AND METHOD

The study was carried out in Edo South agricultural extension service zone of Edo State Nigeria. It has an area of about 19,794 Km<sup>2</sup>. The State lies roughly between Longitudes 05<sup>o</sup> 04'E and Latitudes 05<sup>o</sup> 44'E and 07<sup>o</sup> 34'N and it is bounded on the west by Ondo State, on the south by Delta State, on the east by Kogi and Anambra States and on the north by Kogi State (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2008), (Fig 1 shows map of Edo State displaying Edo South Senatorial zone) The zone is made up of seven Local Government Areas, which actually make up the Bini speaking parts of the state. they are; Ikpoba-Okha, Oredo, Orhionmwon, Ovia North East, Ovia South West, Ujunwode and Egor. The capitals of the above agricultural zones are Idogbo, Benin-City, Abudu, Okada, Iguobazuwa, Ehor and Uselu respectively (NAEC, 2008). The report also stated that the people's main spoken language is Edo and the lingua franca is pigeon English, while the official language is English Language. NAEC (2008) further expressed that the population census of 2006 puts the population of Edo South at 1,678,411. Okwukenye (2014) stated that Edo South has a tropical climate with two distinct seasons. They are the dry (November - March) and wet (April - October) seasons. The zone has an average temperature of between 25B °C – 28°C. Some of the extreme areas are swampy, having mangrove forest with numerous creeks and rivers. Okwukenye (2014) further acknowledged that Edo South (especially Oredo LGA) is very rich in culture, arts and craft and that Ovia and Orhionmwon are areas endowed with petroleum.



**Fig 1: Map of Edo State showing Edo South Senatorial zone and LGAs used for the Study**  
 Source: NAEC, 2008

**Sampling Technique**

The population of the study comprised of poultry farmers operating in Edo South agricultural zone of Edo State. A multi – stage sampling technique was used for selecting the respondents of the study. Stage 1: this stage involved the simple random selection of four (4) out of the seven (7) LGAs that make up the

agricultural zones/study area. Stage 2: from each of the selected LGAs, three (3) communities were randomly selected, thus making a total of twelve (12) communities that were used for the study. Stage 3: from each of the communities, fifteen (15) poultry farmers were contacted and administered with the question instruments and this brought the number of



respondents used for the study to one hundred and eighty (180). From the returned question instruments, one hundred and fifty-eight (158) comprising of seventy-six (76) males and eighty-two (82) females were found suitable for analysis and so used for the study.

### Sources of Data, Data Collection Instrument and Method of Data Collection

Primary and secondary data sources were used for the study. Primary data were sourced from the respondents of the study (through the use of question instrument). On the other hand, secondary data were sourced from documented sources like text books, published research theses, research materials and Journals.

The data collection instruments were structured questionnaire forms and interview schedules. They were administered to literate and non-literate farmers. The research instruments were administered and retrieved through the combined efforts of the extension agents and trained enumerators. The extension agents helped to make contacts with the farmers/respondents while the trained enumerators helped to follow-up and retrieved the question instruments.

### Evaluation of Research Instrument

Two approaches were used for evaluating the research instruments. They were validity and reliability. In the case of validity, the face or content validity was applied and this involved presenting the instruments to experts' in the field of agricultural extension for criticism, assessment and suggestions (Erie, 2009). The reliability was obtained through the Cronbach Alpha method. The technique produced a value of 0.78 which is a good indication of the reliability of the instrument (Okwuokenye and Onemolease, 2010).

### Measurement of Variables

Age: Measured in years

Education: primary = 1; secondary = 2; tertiary = 3

Marital status: single = 1; married = 2; divorced = 3; widow(er) = 4

Farming experience: measured in years

Farm size: measured according to number of birds in the farm

Household size: number of people living and feeding together

Membership of cooperative: yes = 1; no = 0

Source of labour: hired = 1; family = 2; self = 3

### Data Analysis Technique

Descriptive and inferential statistics were employed in analyzing the data obtained for this study. Descriptive statistics involved the use of frequency counts, frequency tables, percentages, mean and standard deviations. Inferential statistics on the other hand, involved t-test and the analysis of variance

(ANOVA). Descriptive statistics was used to analyze the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. Four-point Likert scale was used to analyze the level of women involvement in decision making in poultry farming and to ascertain the difference in labour involvement between male and female in specific poultry activity. The scale ranges from "very frequently" (coded 4), "frequently" (coded 3), "sometimes" (coded 2) and "not at all" (coded 1). A weighted mean of 2.50 was used to determine if women were involved in decision making or not. A high involvement implies, mean  $\geq$  2.50 or low if mean  $<$  2.50. The weighted mean was determined as follows:  $\{4+3+2+1\}/4 = 2.50$ . Similar scale was used to analyze the factors limiting poultry farmers production level in the study area. The scale ranged from "strongly agree" (coded 4), "agree" (coded 3), "disagree" (2) and "strongly disagree" (coded 1). Factors with a weighted mean score of 2.50 and above were considered as limiting, while those values less than 2.50 were regarded as not limiting.

Hypothesis one was analyzed using analysis of variance (ANOVA). The statistical tool was used to compare means of two or more groups. When the means of the group are the same, we accept the null hypothesis. On the other hand, when the means of the groups are different, we accept the alternative and reject the null hypothesis (Madukwe, 2004).

T-test was used to analyze hypothesis two. T-test was used to compare the means between two groups. That is, it is used to determine if a significant difference exist between two variables or groups (male and female) the formular for t-test is given below:

$$T = \frac{\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2}{\sqrt{(s_1^2/n_1 + s_2^2/n_2)}}$$

$$df = n_1 + n_2 - 2$$

Madukwe (2004)

Where:

$\bar{X}_1$  = the mean of group 1

$\bar{X}_2$  = the mean of group 2

$S_1$  = standard deviation for group 1;  $S_2$  = standard deviation for group 2

$S_1^2$  = variance of the first group;  $S_2^2$  = variance of the second group

$n_1$  = size of the first group;  $n_2$  = size of the second group

$\sqrt{\quad}$  = square root

### Decision rule for t -statistics

i.e. if  $t_{cal} > t_{tab}$  = reject null and accept alternative hypothesis

$t_{cal} < t_{tab}$  = accept null and reject alternative hypothesis

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents

The socio-economic characteristics of the respondents is shown in Table 1. The result revealed

that most of the male(43.4%) and female respondents (30.5%) were within the age bracket of 40 – 49 years. The mean age of males and females were about 43 and 45 years respectively. The result suggests that poultry farming is dominated by young farmers. The result is in line with Ogunbameru (2001) who asserted that young and middle aged farmers are the most active in agricultural production activities. Education of the respondents revealed that all of them had formal education. Specifically, most (78.9%) of the males and females(59.8%) respectively had post secondary and secondary education. The result implies that the farmers are literate and so should have the potentials to handle agricultural innovations.

A larger proportion of the male poultry farmers (53.9%) and female poultry farmers (67.1%) were married. Being married simply implied that they have a sense of responsibility. The result conforms with that of Ojo and Jibowo (2008) who noted the dominance of married farmers in agricultural activities. The authors equally asserted that due to married people responsible nature, they are more likely to be respected within farming communities as they take decisions on the use of farm inputs. Most of the males (36.8%) and females (41.5%) had 10 – 14 years farming experience. The mean farming experience was respectively 11.7 years and 9.9 years for the male and female respondents. Their long experience in poultry farming puts them in good

position to have first-hand knowledge of the challenges associated with farming operations in the area. This finding is however supported by that of Adisa and Akinkunmi (2012) which stated that farmers of poultry industry have long years of experience.

The modal household size of male respondents (38.2%) and female respondents (39%) were 4 – 6 and 7 – 9 persons respectively. The mean household size was 6 persons for both groups of farmers. The result indicated that the respondents had people depending on them and which they need to cater for. These same dependants are the people most of the male (57.9%) and female (51.2%) farmers depend on as a source of family labour (Table 3). The result corroborates with that of Emaikwu *et al.*, (2011). It stated that large household size can serve as a work force that supply the most needed labour requirement for farm production. A larger proportion of both categories of poultry farmers belonged to cooperative societies. Precisely, majority (56.6%) of the males and that of the females (79.3%) belonged to one cooperative society or the other. The result however showed that the proportion of females into cooperative societies was more than that of the males. Through personal communication, the respondents noted that belonging to cooperative societies predisposes them to getting credit facilities from their groups.

**Table 1: Socio-economic characteristics of respondents of the study**

Characteristics	Categories	Male farmers n = 76			Female farmers n= 82		
		Freq.	%	Mean	Freq.	%	Mean
Age (yrs)	< 30	12	15.8		8	9.8	
	30 – 39	15	19.7		21	25.6	
	40 – 49	33	43.4		25	30.5	
	50 – 59	11	14.5		17	20.7	
	≥ 60	5	6.5	42.6	11	13.4	45.2
Education	Prl. Educ.	4	5.3		13	15.9	
	Sec. Educ.	12	15.8		49	59.8	
	Post Sec. Educ.	60	78.9		20	24.4	
Marital status	Single	12	15.8		7	8.5	
	Married	41	53.9		55	67.1	
	Divorced	13	17.1		09	10.9	
	Widow(er)	10	13.2		11	13.4	
Farming Exp. (yrs)	< 5	9	11.8		15	18.3	
	5 – 9	17	22.4		22	26.8	
	10 – 14	28	36.8		34	41.5	
	15 – 19	16	21.1		8	9.8	
	≥ 20	6	7.9	11.7	3	3.7	9.9
Household size	1 – 3	22	28.9		19	23.2	
	4 – 6	29	38.2		26	31.7	
	7 – 9	12	15.8		32	39	
	10 – 12	9	11.8		5	6.1	
	≥ 13	4	5.3	6	-	-	6
Membership of Coop.	Yes	43	56.6		65	79.3	
	No	33	43.4		17	20.7	

Source: Field survey: 2017  
Farm size of respondents

A larger proportion of male poultry farmers (30.3%) and their female counterpart (41.5%) had a farm size of 400 – 599 and 200 – 399 birds' respectively. The average farm size was about 540 and 407 birds respectively. Going by the number of birds in their

respective farms, the farmers could be described as subsistent farmers. The result is in line with the findings of Okonkwo and Akubuo (2001) who reported that most Nigerian poultry farmers operate at subsistence level.

**Table 2: Farm size of respondents**

Characteristics	Categories	Male farmers n = 76			Female farmers n= 82		
		Freq.	%	Mean	Freq.	%	Mean
Farm size	< 200	8	10.5		11	13.4	
	200 – 399	18	23.7		34	41.5	
	400 – 599	23	30.3		23	28.1	
	600 – 799	11	14.5		10	12.2	
	800 – 999	10	13.2		4	4.9	
	≥ 1000	6	7.9	540	-	-	407

Source: Field survey: 2017

**Table 3: Source of farmers labour**

Characteristics	Categories	Male farmers n = 76		Female farmers n= 82	
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Source of labour	Hired	21	27.6	23	28.1
	Family	44	57.9	42	51.2
	Self	11	14.5	17	20.7

Source: Field survey: 2017

#### Distribution of respondents according to level of involvement in decision making in poultry activities

Table 4 shows the different activities carried out in poultry farming and the different level of involvement of male and female respondents in decision making. Result showed that the male respondents participated more or showed dominion in decision making activities in areas like procurement of chicks/birds (male mean = 3.68; female mean = 3.55), selection of chicks/birds (male mean = 3.66; female mean = 3.40), procurement of vaccines (mean of males and females = 3.08 and 2.91 respectively). Other areas/activities where males showed dominion over females were number of birds raised (male mean = 2.62; female mean = 2.51) and

spending of proceeds (male mean = 2.71; female mean = 2.40).

On the other hand, women showed dominion in decision making in activities like procurement of feeds (mean of female to male = 3.53 to 3.42), hiring of labourers (female mean = 3.41; male mean = 3.10), design of work for labourers (female mean = 3.01; male mean = 2.85) and marketing of products (female mean = 2.52; male mean = 2.10). From the result, it could be inferred that women competed with men favourably in decision making in the study area. This finding agrees with findings of Okoh *et al.*, (2010) whose study showed that on the average, women enjoy a high rate of involvement (about 54%) in decision making.

**Table 4: Respondents level of involvement in decision making in poultry activities**

Areas of decision making	Male = 76		Female = 82	
	Mean	Standard Dev.	Mean	Standard Dev.
Procurement of chicks/birds	3.68*	0.47	3.55*	0.50
Selection of chicks/birds	3.66*	0.56	3.40*	0.62
Procurement of feed	3.42*	0.65	3.53*	0.52
Procurement of vaccines	3.08*	0.69	2.91*	0.82
Hiring of labourers	3.10*	0.64	3.41*	0.61
Designing of work for labourers	2.85*	0.72	3.01*	0.64
Number of birds raised	2.62*	0.74	2.51*	0.81
Time to market birds	2.32	0.87	1.93	0.95
Spending of proceeds	2.71*	0.76	2.40	0.92
Marketing of products	2.10	0.89	2.52*	0.80

Mean ≥ 2.50 = High involvement

#### Distribution of respondents according to difference in gender involvement in poultry activity

The distribution of respondents according to the difference in gender involvement in specific poultry activity is shown in Table 5. From the result, male

showed more involvement in activities like feed procurement, routine medication and vaccination, record keeping and marketing of birds with means 3.11, 3.05, 2.81 and 2.61, respectively as against the female farmers' respective means of 3.04, 2.84, 2.31 and 2.55. On the other hand, females showed more involvement in poultry activities like sanitation (female mean = 3.55; male mean = 3.45), sourcing and collection of day old chicks (female mean = 3.54; male mean = 3.45) and feeding of birds (female mean = 3.01; male mean = 2.51).

From the results it could be deduced that both categories of respondents were highly involved in almost all the poultry activities. To this end in view, it could be concluded that there is no much difference in gender participation in poultry activities and that women competed favourably in the activities with their male counterparts. This study stands in line with reports of FAO (2007) which stated that women supply a larger proportion of agricultural labour/input.

**Table 5: Distribution of respondents according to difference in gender involvement in poultry activities**

Poultry activities	Male = 76		Female = 82	
	Mean	Standard Dev.	Mean	Standard Dev.
Sanitation	3.45*	0.52	3.55*	0.53
Sourcing and collection of day old chicks	3.45*	0.59	3.54*	0.61
Feed procurement	3.11*	0.75	3.04*	0.71
Routine medication and vaccination	3.05*	0.77	2.84*	0.80
Feeding of birds	2.51*	0.84	3.01*	0.72
Record keeping	2.81*	0.82	2.31	0.79
Debeaking of birds	2.32	0.91	2.41	0.89
Collection and sorting of eggs	2.41	0.87	2.24	0.81
Marketing of products	2.61*	0.77	2.55*	0.79
Placing prices on products	2.11	0.92	2.32	0.91

Mean  $\geq$  2.50 = High involvement

#### Distribution of respondents according to factors limiting poultry farmers' production

The factors plaguing the poultry business in Edo South agricultural zone of Edo State are known to be many and these factors greatly limit the business in where the farmers are. Table 6 shows the agreed limiting factors (mean  $\geq$  2.50) in the order of ranking of how they affect the poultry business. The

factors include; inadequate capital (mean = 3.21), cost of feed (mean = 3.11), cost of labour (3.01) and cost of other farm inputs (mean = 2.96). Other limiting factors are disease outbreak (mean = 2.84), theft (mean = 2.63), government interference from the LGA council (mean = 2.59) and levies and taxes (mean = 2.59)

**Table 6: Distribution of respondents according to factors limiting poultry farmers' production**

Constraints	Mean	Standard Dev.	Rank
Inadequate capital	3.21*	0.37	1
Cost of feeds	3.11*	0.41	2
Cost of labour	3.01*	0.45	3
Cost of other farm inputs	2.96*	0.54	4
Disease outbreak	2.84*	0.56	5
Theft	2.63*	0.79	6
LGA council interference	2.59*	0.79	7
Levies and taxes	2.51*	0.81	8
Price fluctuation	2.33	0.83	9
Inadequate technical knowhow	2.31	0.82	10
Inadequate access to extension services	2.22	0.86	11

Agreed (Mean  $\geq$  2.50)

Source: Field survey, 2017

#### Analysis of Hypotheses

Hypothesis one states that: there is no significant difference in the level of decision making of male and female in poultry farming. From analysis of the different level of decision making among male and female respondents, the result (Table 7) showed that

the F value was 6.24 and this gives a level of significance at 0.01. This indicates that there is significant difference in the level of decision making in the procurement of birds between male and female respondents. Although female poultry farmers are involved in decision making in the procurement of

birds, but according to the result, the male respondents are more involved and there is a significant difference between them. In where the number of birds raised was concerned, The F value was 7.44 at 0.01 level of significance, and this shows that there is significant difference between the level of decision making in the number of birds raised between male and female respondents.

There is no significant difference in the level of decision making between male and female respondents in the other poultry farm activities. In all, it can be concluded that decision making level between male and female respondents is fairly equal, as there is no much difference between the two genders. This later result is in line with a related study by Okoh *et al.* (2010) which showed that women participated in decision making at 54%.

**Table 7: Results of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing difference in level of decision making of males and females in poultry production activities.**

Decision making	Between and within groups	Sum of squares	df	MS	F	Sig
Selection of chicks	Between groups	0.25	1.00	0.25	1.06	0.31
	Within groups	24.00	103.00	0.23		
	Total	24.25	104.00			
Procurement of birds	Between groups	0.59	1.00	0.59	6.24**	0.01
	Within groups	10.07	106.00	0.10		
	Total	10.67	107.00			
No. of birds raised	Between groups	0.75	1.00	0.75	7.44**	0.01
	Within groups	10.69	106.00	0.10		
	Total	11.44	107.00			
Procurement of feeds	Between groups	0.08	1.00	0.08	0.53	0.47
	Within groups	16.83	106.00	0.16		
	Total	16.92	107.00			
Procurement of Vaccines	Between groups	0.04	1.00	0.04	0.17	0.68
	Within groups	23.26	106.00	0.22		
	Total	23.30	107.00			
Marketing products	Between groups	0.45	1.00	0.45	1.86	0.18
	Within groups	25.80	106.00	0.24		
	Total	26.25	107.00			
Spending of earnings	Between groups	35.59	1.00	35.59	2.11	0.15
	Within groups	1790.07	106.00	16.89		
	Total	1825.67	107.00			
Hiring of labourers	Between groups	0.42	1.00	0.42	0.58	0.45
	Within groups	75.35	106.00	0.73		
	Total	75.77	107.00			

Source: Computed from field survey, 2017

\*\*Sig at 0.01 level of significance.

Hypothesis two states that: there is no significant difference in the size of poultry farms among male and female farmers. From Table 8, results of a t-test below shows the difference in size of poultry farms among male and female poultry farmers. The hypothesis was tested at 5% (0.05) level of

significance. It can be concluded that there is no significant difference in the size of poultry farms between male and female farmers at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore gender does not influence the size of poultry farms.

**Table 8: Showing size of poultry farms among male and female farmers**

Interval									95% confidence
Upper	F	Sig.	T	Df	Sig	Md	Std.	Error	Lower
Male	2.040.16	-0.38	112.00	0.71	-0.08	0.21	-0.49	0.33	NS
Female		-0.38	106.53	0.71	-0.8	0.21	-0.49	0.34	

Source: Computed from field survey, 2017; NS= Non significant.

**Conclusion and Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that the poultry farmers were subsistent farmers who depend much on their families as source of farm

labour. In where farm decision making is concerned, it was found that the females competed favourably with their male counterparts and that there was no much difference in gender participation in poultry



activities in addition to the fact that there was no significant difference in the sizes of the farms operated by the males and females.

The study thus recommends that;

- i. To alleviate the people of the problem of inadequate finance, government should organize them into groups and provide them with micro finance that would enable them expand their poultry business so that the poultry products would be made available to consumers in the market.
- ii. Farm chemicals should be sold to the farmers at subsidized rate. This would help to reduce the cost which was identified as a major constraint.
- iii. The farmers still need to be trained on integrated disease management. This would help solve the problem of disease outbreak which results to lose in the farm.
- iv. On the issue of theft, farmers should organize security men that would help to guide their farms and thereby forestalling future occurrence.
- v. The government at state level should direct or instruct the LGA council workers to stay away from the farmers and their farms and also let them know that agricultural businesses are tax free businesses.

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