

SOURCES OF INFORMATION AMONG PIG FARMERS IN DELTA NORTH AGRICULTURAL ZONE OF DELTA STATE, NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the sources of information among pig farmers in Delta North Agricultural zone of Delta State, Nigeria. A purposeful sampling technique was used to select from Delta North Agricultural Zone. Ika North East, Aniocha South, Ika South were selected because of the high level of pig farming and agricultural activities in the areas compared to other Local Government Areas in the state. Sixty respondents were reached by random selection of twenty respondents from the three Local Government Areas in the state. Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics which include mean scores, percentages and frequencies.

The result showed that the respondents had mean age of 38.5 years, 46.67% of the respondent had tertiary education. Also, 66.67% had piggery production as their primary occupation. The respondents had a mean household size of 7.58 with a mean farming experience of 6.92. Furthermore, 58.33% of the respondents had a flock size of 1-50 pigs with a mean flock size of 48.

The study also showed that the respondents are involved in non-piggery production such as trading 13.33%, crop production 11.67%. The study also revealed that 50% of the respondents obtained their capital from savings. Majority 41.67% of the respondents obtained information from friends/neighbours. It was recommended that extension service should be enhanced by government and non-governmental organizations so that timely, useful and reliable agricultural information could get to the farmers.

Keyword: Pig farming, information Sources.

INTRODUCTION

Pigs are one of the most important farm animals in Nigeria (Ugbomioko, Ariza and Heukelbach 2008). Pigs are major important monogastric animals reared in the derived savannah and rain forest zones of Nigeria (Rahmah, Barthakur and Kalita 2008). Rahmah, Barthakur and Kalita (2008) also asserted that pigs have the ability of transforming different kinds of feed including kitchen waste to meat. The high litter size is another major advantage of pigs. Pig production provides raw materials such as pigskin and bristle for agro based industries (Okoli 2006).

Furthermore, pig droppings is an important source of plant fertilizer, which can also improve the growth of microorganisms and plants for consumption by aquatic animals. (Osunduetal 2014). Umehetal 2018

posited that pig farming is capable of providing income and employment to teeming population of Nigeria.

A study by Agada (1991) revealed that pig farming is faced with numerous challenges. These challenges are inadequate supply of quality feeds, lack of capital, marketing of products, diseases and pest, improve breeds and housing.

According to Onwumere (2008), lack of credit facilities to pig farmers at low interest rate, total cost of production and access to research and extension services, education level of the pig farmers are factors contributing towards under development of pig farming industry in the country.

In light of the aforementioned, this study was carried out with the aim of examining the socioeconomic characteristics of the pig farmers in the study area; identify the sources of information in the study area and identify constraints affecting pig farmers in the study area. Hypothesis tested was: there is no significant relationship between the institutional characteristics of pig farmers and their constraints.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was carried out in Delta State, Southern Nigeria. The state is divided into three agricultural zones as follows: Delta Central, Delta North and Delta South. This research covered three local government areas (LGA's) in Delta North Agricultural zones because of their preponderance in pig production. These are Ika North East, Owa-Alero and Owa-Oyibo, towns, Aniocha South in Ogwashi-Uku and Nsukwa towns and Ika South in Ewuru and Agbor Obi towns.

Stratified sampling technique was used in selecting respondents. From the records of pig farmers in Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) zonal office, 20, 20 and 20 pig farmers were randomly selected from Ika North East, Aniocha South and Ika South Local Government Areas.

Therefore the total sample size for the study was sixty (60) respondents.

The data used were obtained using interview schedule. The data collected covered socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents, sources of information, constraints affecting pig farmers. The data were analysed using descriptive statistics which include mean scores, percentages and frequencies.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Socio-economic characteristics of pig farmers in the study area

Data in Table 1 shows that 91.6% of the respondents were males while 8.4% were females. This is because of the ability of men to withstand the pressure involved in pig farming. This result is in consonance with the report of Osondu et al (2014) who observed that males have always been highly involved in pig production. Data in table 1 also revealed that 81.6% of the respondents were married; this means that married people were more in pig farming in the study area. This point out that married people dominates pig production in the area. Married farmer could have more persons in the household to cater for and helping hands in taking care of pigs in their farms. This research corroborated with Egbule (2010) and Okoro (2012). Also majority of the pig farmers had tertiary education (46.6%), followed by those that had secondary education (41.6%) while 3.3% had no formal education. The educational qualification of the farmers improves his/her ability to adopt innovation, managerial ability and ability to comprehend and approve new production technologies in order to improve the profitability of the business through improved farm productivity (Ironkwe and Amaefule, 2008).

Table I also shows that 71.6% of the respondents had farming experience of below 10 years. While 28.4 had above 10 years. This implies that farmers in the study area were experienced in pig production. Ume et al (2018) asserted that years of pig rearing experience helps farmers to set a realistic goal and manage their resources prudently to improve their output which may lead to high profit.

Table I further shows that 41.6% of the respondents were within the age range of less than 40 years and 31.6% within the age of 50 years. This is in agreement with (Duniya et al, 2013) who observed

that aged farmers dominated pig production and this age class is always demonstrating knowledge and good manager to handle the business for profitability.

Table I shows that among the pig farmers, 20% of the respondents were visited by extension personnel within one year. The result is in tandem with the findings of Uneze and Onugu (2012) and Ibitoye et al (2016) who revealed that inadequate extension service is a major setback to pig production in Anambra and Kogi states respectively.

Table I shows that majority of the respondents had a household size of 8 and above persons. While the least (25%) 1-4 persons. This shows the possible use of family labour for farm activities, therefore, reducing high cost of hired labour in pig farming (Ezeibe, 2010).

Result in table I indicates that 100% of the respondents were of the Christians faith.

Furthermore, 50% sourced capital from personal savings while 6.6% revealed that they got capital from commercial bank. This is in collaboration with Ume et al; (2018) who asserted that poor access to credit has been a setback to agricultural development in Nigeria. This could be correlated to lack of collaterals, high interest rate, short term repayment period and not aware of source of loan by the farmers. Also, majority of the respondents (58.3%) had a flock size of 50 pigs.

The result in Table 1 shows most of the pig farmers had other occupation other than pig farming. 40% are engaged in pig farming, 8% are engaged in trading while 7% are engaged in crop production. This finding is in agreement with Ajala et al (2006) who observed that majority of pig farmers in Jamaia LGA in Kaduna State had other occupation such as crop farming, civil service and trading.

TABLE 1: SOCIO ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Sex	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
Male	55	91.67	
Female	5	8.33	
Marital Status			
Single	4	6.67	
Married	49	81.67	
Divorced	2	3.33	
Widowed	5	8.33	
Educational Qua			
No formal education	2	3.33	
primary school com.	5	8.33	
Secondary school com.	25	41.67	
Tertiary education	28	46.67	
Age (years)			38.5
21-30	11	18.33	
31-40	25	41.67	
41-50	19	31.67	
>50	5	8.33	
Household size			7.58

1-4	15	25.0	
5-8	20	33.3	
9+	25	41.60	
Religion			
Christianity	60	100.0	
Islam	-	0.0	
Others	-	0.0	
Primary Occupation			
Piggery Production	40	66.67	
Crop Production	7	11.67	
Trading	8	13.33	
Membership of Piggery Association			
Yes	15	25.0	
No	45	75.0	
Farming Experience			
1-5	35	58.33	
6-10	8	13.33	
11-15	12	20.00	
>16	5	8.33	
Management System			
Extension Mgt	15	25.0	
Semi-intensive Mgt	5	8.33	
Intensive	40	66.67	
Source of Capital			
Personal savings	30	50.00	
Commercial bank	4	6.67	
Microfinance bank	2	3.33	
Thrift society	10	16.67	
Agric bank	4	6.67	
money lenders	6	10.00	
NGO Govt. Org.	4	6.67	
Access to Credit			
Yes	20	33.33	
No	40	66.67	
Flock size			48
1-50	35	58.33	
51-100	23	38.33	
more than 100	2	3.33	
Breed			
Duroc	5	8.33	
Hampshire	3	5.00	
Landrace	4	6.66	
Large white/yolk shire	30	50.00	
Large black	10	16.67	
Local breed	-	-	
Visit by Ext. Personnel			
Yes	12	20.00	
No	4	80.00	
Sources of Labour			
Family labour	42	70.00	
Hired labour	15	25.00	
Exchange labour	3	5.00	

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON PIG PRODUCTION

The various sources of information used by pig farmers are found in table 2.

The table shows that majority of the pig farmers (41.67%) obtained their information from friends and neighbours. This finding is in agreement with that of TandaLwoga, Stilwell and Ngulube (2011) who stressed that friends, family members and neighbours

are the major providers of agricultural information because of their reliability, creditability and they are more trusted by the rural community.

The study further revealed 16.67% obtained information from Pig Farmers Association.

Veterinary officer (8.33%), workshop seminar (5%), television (8.3%), Research Institute (5%), radio (5%), Agric extension officer (3.33%), feed sellers (3.33%), journal and magazine (3.33%).

TABLE 2: SOURCES OF INFORMATION

	frequency	%
Vet officer	5	8.33
Television	5	8.33
Pig Farm Asso	10	16.67
Workshop/seminar	3	5.00
Agric Ext Officer	2	3.33
Journal/Magazines	2	3.33
Friends/neighbours	25	41.67
Radio	3	5.00
Feed sellers	2	3.33
Research institutes	3	5.00

Constraints affecting Pig Farmers

Table 3 shows that 98.33% of the respondents find it difficult to obtain institutional credit. This is in agreement with Bamiyi (2013) who asserted that one of the major constraints of the livestock industry in developing countries is inadequate capital.

Data in table 3 also shows that 96.67% of the respondents obtained their feed at a very high cost. This is in agreement with Chabo *et al* (2000) who

posited that feed cost is a major constraint encountered by pig farmers and accounted for approximately 80% of the total cost of production.

Table 3 shows high cost of piglets 93.33%. This agrees with the findings of Ajieh and Okwuolu (2015) that identified high cost of breeding stock as the significant constraint of pig farmers in Delta State.

TABLE 3: CONSTRAINTS AFFECTING PIG FARMERS

	Frequency	%
Lack of capital	50	32.33
Lack of water	35	58.33
High cost of feeds	58	96.67
Marketing problem	5	8.33
Disease and pests	25	41.67
Labour supply	7	11.67
Inadequate/timely information	40	66.67
Inadequate land	4	6.67
High cost of piglets	56	93.33
Theft	3	5.00
Scarcity of feeds	14	23.33
Difficulty in securing		
Institutional loans	59	98.33
Waste Management Problem	45	75.00
Environmental laws in urban centres	52	86.67

Multiple Response

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study analysed the sources of information among pig farmers in DeltaNorth Agricultural zone of Delta State, Nigeria. The study revealed that majority of the pig farmers received their information from friends and neighbour.

Extension services should be improved by governmental and non-governmental organizations so that timely, useful and reliable agricultural information could get to the farmers.

The government and other relevant agencies should provide loans and credit facilities targeting pig farmers.

Revival of the moribund Nigerian Agricultural Co-operative Rural Development Bank (NACRDB) to facilitate access to loans by pig famers.

Pig farmers should be organised into for formidable groups such as co-operative society to enjoy economic of large scale in the purchase of inputs such as feeds, drugs and vaccines.

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