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CHALLENGES FACED SMALLSCALE COOPERATIVE POULTRY EGG FARMERS IN IWO ZONE OF OSUN STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This research analyzed challenges encountered by cooperative small scale poultry egg farmers in Iwo Zone of Osun State, Nigeria. Data were collected through the use of a well-structured questionnaire for interviews from One hundred and five (105) poultry egg farmers using two-stage sampling techniques. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were utilized to analyze the data obtained. The results of the descriptive statistics analysis revealed that 71.4% of poultry egg farmers had an average age of 46.5 years, indicating that they are within their economically productive age bracket. Moreover, 81.9% of poultry business operators were males, the majority of whom had received formal education, with an average household size of 5 members. The findings also revealed that majority of farmers' sourced funds through personal savings. The results of linear regression showed that coefficient associated with feed cost is negative and statistically significant at 1% level. This indicated inverse relationship between feed expenditure and profitability aligns, implying that as cost of feed per bird escalates, the prospective profit diminishes. The main challenges impeding farmers' profitability included inadequate funds, high feed costs, and marketing complexities, among others. Poultry farmers should strive to alleviate the exorbitant cost of feed, by exploring the use of locally compounded feeds for rearing poultry birds and reducing overall production costs. The government should provide support to farmers to alleviate the constraints faced by poultry farmers, thereby enhancing profitability and raising farmers' income and standards of living. Furthermore, government should establish a conducive environment to foster collaboration among poultry farmers, facilitating easier access to credit facilities to poultry farmers.

Keywords: Poultry, Small-scale farmers, Egg production, Challenges, Cooperative societies

INTRODUCTION

In Nigeria, the agricultural sector accounts for approximately 42% of the gross domestic product (GDP) and offers employment to over 70% of the populace, particularly those residing in rural areas (CBN, 2018). Agricultural sector been a pivotal driver of the country's economic expansion thus playing a crucial role in combating hunger and lessening the dependence on food imports (Peacock, 2019). Crops, livestock, fisheries, and forestry sub-sectors, the livestock segment stands as the second largest sector in Nigeria, encompassing 17% of the population who opt to pursue either crop or animal production, or engage in both enterprises (Umen, 2019; Taru, *et al.,* 2020). Poultry encompasses a diverse array of avian species that hold both nutritional and economic value for humans, including domestic fowl, Turkey, Guinea fowls, Duck and Geese, Quails, Pheasants, Ostriches, Pigeons and Doves (Adesiyan, 2018). Chicken, the domestic fowl is raised either as broiler for meat or Layers for eggs and meat upon culling. Poultry ranks fourth among sources of animal proteins for human consumption in Nigeria and contributes roughly 27% to the national meat production. Eggs, a primary product of poultry, stand out as one of the most nutritious and complete foods available to mankind, eggs serve as a cost-effective source of animal protein, more accessible to the general populace than alternative sources of animal protein (Olatunji & Abesogun, 2017). Rich in protein, lipids, vitamins, phosphorus, and other essential nutrients, eggs are easily digestible and serve as raw materials for agro-allied industries involved in food, beverage, baking, confectionery, and vaccine production. The pricing of eggs typically fluctuates based on market demand and supply dynamics over time. Being highly perishable, egg production necessitates efficient production and marketing processes. Hassan (2024) the production, handling, transportation, distribution, and marketing of eggs require a substantial workforce, thus holding significant potential for poverty alleviation. In additional, inadequate animal protein intake remains a prevalent nutritional challenge in Nigeria, particularly among low-income individuals and non-wage earners (Okpeke & Ellah, 2018). Recent reports indicated that a decline in the performance of the poultry industry in Nigeria, attributed to escalating feed costs resulting from feed supply fluctuations, ingredient price hikes, poor feed quality, and production inefficiencies (Olatunji & Ifeanyi-Obi, 2017). Ume *et,al.,* (2019) highlighted the persistent inadequacy of animal protein supply in the Nigerian diet, especially in rural area. Moreover, World Bank (2020) reported a downward trajectory in agricultural employment (% of total employment) in Nigeria, decreasing from 42.22% in 2008 to 36.81% in 2018. Nigeria is among the most vulnerable nations when it comes to inadequate food intake among its citizens. The issue of food scarcity is so severe that an average individual struggles to provide three square meals for their family. This dire situation has led some to resort to begging in order to put food on their tables, primarily due to the scarcity of stable job opportunities (Afolabi *et, al.,* 2018). Furthermore, those fortunate enough to secure employment often find themselves earning meager wages, with a significant portion living on less than one dollar per day, unable to afford nutritious meals (Oluwasanya *et, al.,* 2020). In Nigeria, the agricultural sector accounts for approximately 42% of the gross domestic product. However, this sector has

long been neglected by governments at all levels. Currently, the poultry industry in Nigeria encompasses only about 10% of the population and provides employment opportunities for less than 15 to 18% of the workforce, primarily due to its subsistent nature (Afolabi *et, al.*, 2018). In order to meet the basic dietary requirements of Nigerians, the country needs to achieve an annual production of 10 to 20 billion eggs and 0.3 to 0.6 million tonnes of poultry meat (Hamra, 2020). The Nigerian economy heavily relies on oil, which contributes to 81% of government revenue and over 97% of export earnings (Vanguard, 2017; Agbaese *et, al.*, 2. 019). Unfortunately, numerous policies implemented by past governments have severely impacted the traditional agrarian economy and hindered growth in non-oil sectors. The primary challenge facing the Nigerian economy is its failure to diversify. Instead of investing oil revenues in a diversified economic growth strategy or poverty alleviation, previous administrations have squandered national profits through unsustainable import practices, including agricultural commodities in which the nation holds a comparative advantage, inconsistent policies, and corruption (Ahungwa *et, al.,* 2019). Therefore, diversification emerges as the most competitive and strategic option for Nigeria to address its developmental challenges within the context of its historical background. Nigeria is currently grappling with the dual challenges of food security and poverty (Ahungwa *et, al.*, 2019). Efforts made over the years to meet the escalating demand for protein, essential for citizens' nutritional needs, have fallen short of the recommendation of a minimum protein intake of 54g per person, with 20g (37.04%) ideally sourced from animal proteins (Ahungwa *et, al.*, 2019). Presently, Nigeria's per capita daily protein consumption stands at an estimated 45.4g (Iyangbe and Orewa, 2019). Nevertheless, the production of eggs and poultry meat is gradually alleviating the protein deficiency in numerous African countries. Poultry farming is viewed as a crucial supplementary occupation that enhances the income of smallholder farm families and rural households (Taru *et, al.*, 2020). Moreover, the primary objective of many farming enterprises is profit generation (Afolabi *et, al.,* 2019). FAO (2020), small-scale commercial poultry farming often faces challenges in attaining efficiency due to constraints in sourcing quality inputs such as chicks and feed, as well as marketing the products. About 70% of the world's rural poor depends on livestock is viable and active component of their livelihoods. Majority of livestock farmers are also into poultry, among the rural poor, poultry is a crucial means of livelihood which sometimes serves for augmenting households' protein consumption and sources of income in times of financial distress. This is owing to the fact that earnings from poultry production, for instance through sale of eggs or birds, can be tapped into fairly quickly to meet household needs in the event of a shock (Taru *et, al., 2020*). In addition, poultry contributes to household nutrition, as many rural poor households rely on their own poultry production to supply the majority of their animal source of protein and essential micronutrients (Aji, 2019). These micronutrients are vital for child nourishment especially in rural areas of developing countries where chronic malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies are very high. Poultry meat and eggs are still considered luxury foods for many Nigerians. In rural areas, poultry consumption is reserved for special occasions, meat and eggs typically come from household flocks. Urban dwellers consume larger amounts of poultry due to their relatively higher income level and greater access to fresh or frozen products in markets and fast food outlets. Eggs are a daily part of the diet in urban areas, while poultry meat is consumed on an occasional basis (Adene & Oguntade, 2020). Eggs are also important in the preparation of confectionary and vaccines. The poultry industry also provides employment opportunities for the populace, thereby serving as a source of income to the people (Akanni, 2019). The embargo placed on the importation of poultry products in 2002 which has also been reviewed many times over by successive administrations to include outright ban, increased tariff and duties by the Federal Government is aimed at encouraging local production. Aranmolaran *et, al.,* (2020) assessed constraints to increased layers production among small-scale poultry farmers in Ibadan Area of Oyo State Nigeria. Data were collected using a multistage sampling technique to select 120 small-scale poultry farmers. Descriptive statistics (frequencies counts and percentages) was used to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. Correlation analysis was used to test the hypothesis. The Result shows that the mean age of the respondents was 48 years and majority (77.5%) of the farmers had higher education. The major constraint faced by the respondents was disease and pest attack (76.7%) followed by difficulty in credit and loan procurement processes (73.3%). Correlation analysis showed that there was significant relationship between income from sale of egg, number of birds raised and constraints to increased layers production among the small-scale poultry farmers ($r = 0.016, 0.014$ $P<0.05$). The poultry has become a population industry for the small holders with tremendous contribution to Nigeria GDP and employment opportunities creation (Adebayo & Adeola, 2019: WHO, FAO and UNU, 2019). It is therefore important that poultry farming can be carried out efficiently for high productivity sustainability of the industry in Nigeria. It has been established that feeding constitutes over 70% of the total cost of egg and broiler production which implies that efforts to increase poultry industry production should be directed towards improving feed formulation system (Afolayan & Afolayan, 2020). Poultry production is an important agricultural activity. It is carried out in all rural communities in Africa and most of them scavenge on available local resources though neglected them in the rural area for a long time, now a days many researchers and development agents are making a strong consensus that the smallholder chicken production plays a major role in poverty alleviation and food security at householder level. It provides off-farm employment and income generating opportunity as well as source of gifts and religious sacrifices. Therefore, one of the most effective methods of empowering farmers, especially small-scale ones who constitute the majority of the farming population, is by enhancing the efficiency of their input resource utilization. The broad objective is to examine the challenges faced small-scale poultry farmers in Iwo zone of Osun-State, Nigeria. The specific objectives were to describe socio-economic characteristics of small-scale cooperative poultry egg farmers, evaluate the determinant of profitability level of small-scale cooperative poultry farmers, identify various sources of finance to poultry egg production and identify the constraints militating factors against profitability of small-scale cooperative poultry egg producers in the study area.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Area of Study

The research was conducted in two (2) Local Government Areas namely: Aiyedire and Ola-Oluwa Local Government Areas under Iwo zones in Osun State, Nigeria. Aiyedire Local Government Area (LGA) in Osun State is divided into four districts: Ile Ogbo, Kuta, Oke Osun (Alabata), and Oluponna. The headquarters of the LGA is located in Ile Ogbo. This

Local Government Area is located in the western axis of Osun state. It is bounded by Ejigbo, Ola Oluwa, Irewole, Ayedaade and Iwo Local Government Areas. It has an area of 262 km^2 and a population of 75,846 at the 2006 national census had grown to 105,100 (2016 projection). It features two distinct seasons, the dry and rainy seasons. The average temperature of Aiyedire is put at 28.5 °C while the humidity of the area is estimated at 60 percent. Wind speed across Aiyedire is put at 10 km/h. Aiyedire has ten political wards namely: Ileogbo i, Ileogbo ii, Ileogbo iii, Ileogbo iv, Kuta i, Kuta ii, Oke-osun, Oluponna 1, Oluponna 1i, and Oluponna 1ii. Farming is the predominant economic activity. Cocoa is a major cash crop cultivated in the area solely or in combination with other agricultural crops such as coffee, cassava, palm oil, kola nut, maize, pineapple and yam (OSSADEP, 2007). Ola Oluwa is one of the thirty (30) Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Osun State, Nigeria. Its headquarters are in the town of Bode Osi. It is located around 36 kilometres (22 mi) away from Osogbo, the capital of Osun State, and 370 kilometres (230 mi) from Abuja, the capital of Nigeria. It was formally called Iwo North Local Government on establishment, which was formally changed, it's now has another Local Government making two which is Ola Oluwa South East LCDA, Ilemowu. Ola Oluwa LGA has its administrative seat situated in Bode Osi which is one of the towns that made up the LGA, others includes Ajagba / Iwo Oke, Asa/ajagun-lase, Asamu, Isero/ Ikonifin, Obamoro/Ile-Ogo, Ogbaagba, Telemu.Iloba, Iwo Oke, Jagunode Ofa etc. Population Density was estimated at 99.9 million with space land area of 308.6/km² (NBS, 2022).

Materials and Methods of Data Collection

Both primary and secondary data were adopted for the study. The primary data was collected through for a well-structured questionnaire design by the researcher in line with the objectives to the sampled small-scale cooperative poultry egg farmers in the study area. Secondary data was however, sourced from text books, internet sources, published journals/articles, thesis, dissertation and other relevant publications etc. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyzed the data for this study. Descriptive statistics like frequency distribution, percentages, standard and mean was used analysed socio-econmic characteristics of poultry egg farmers, sources of finance to the Small-scale poultry farmers and identify problems confronting small-scale cooperative poultry egg producers and constraints militating against profitability of Small-Scale poultry egg production. While inferential statistics like Linear regression was adopted to analysed determinants of profitability in poultry egg production. The study employed a multi-stage random sampling technique for the selection of the representative samples in the study area. The first stage involved random selection of one zone out of the three (3) OSSADEP zones. The selected zone is Iwo zone. From the selected zone, two Local Government Areas (LGAs) were randomly chosen on the basis of highest area under poultry egg production. i.e Ola-Oluwa and Ayedire local government areas (LGAs) from Iwo zone. The third stage involved a random selection of five villages from each LGA making a total of 10 villages or rural communities due to the large concentration of poultry egg farmers in the selected villages and towns in the study area.. In the final stage, 12 poultry egg small-scale farm holders were randomly selected to make a total of 120 smallholder poultry egg farmers. The sample size in each, Zone, LGAs and Villages were determined by probability proportional to size of farming households in each sampling unit respectively. Although a total of 120 questionnaires were administered on the respondents, 105 questionnaires (87.5%) were retrieved, analyzed and uesd as sample size for the study.

Linear regression analysis was used to analyzed the determinants of profitability in poultry egg production in the study area.

Model Specification

The relationship between the dependent and independent variable were measured by a linear regression expressed as:

$Y = a + bx$ (1)

a = constant term

Therefore,

This function is linearised in order to be able to use the least squares estimations, hence the following:

Linear Regression Specification

$$Yi = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_4X_4 + \beta_5X_5 + \beta_6X_6 + \beta_7X_7 + \beta_8X_8 + \varepsilon i \quad (2)$$

Where:

Y_i = Profit level (normalized by the feed cost)

X_1 = Total number of eggs sold by the farmer per year (₦)

X_2 = Total number of egg crate consumed by the farmers' household per year

X_3 = Market price per crate of egg;

X_4 = Total vaccination costs per year (₦)

X_5 = Total costs of feed per farm (₦)

X_6 = Farmer's age (years)

X_7 = Experience of farmers in poultry egg production (years)

X_8 = Farmer's education (years)

e_i = Random error term

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic Charactaristics of Small-scale Cooperative Poultry Egg Farmers

The gender of the respondents was analyzed and the results showed that vast majority (81.9%) of the respondents were male while only (18.1%) of the respondents were female. This implies that males still dominate farming activities in the study area. Results obtained on the respondents' age revealed that majority (71.4%) of them were at most 50 years old with an average of 46.5 years per farmer. The implication of this is that the poultry egg farmers are in their active age. At this age, productivity is usually optimized. This justified the finding of Hamra (2024) who opined that the age bracket (20-50) is economically active age and they are expected to be very active and desirous for productivity-oriented opportunities. The study findings showed that vast majority (80.0%) of the respondents were married while only 9.5% of them were single, 6.8% were divorced and 3.8% were widowed. This shows that the majority of the respondents were settled family people and have family responsibilities. This is also in line with the findings of Epeju & Okpara (2018) who stated that the marital status (married) of the farmers they surveyed ranged between 94 to 99.5% of the respondents. The majority of the respondents being married could influence their access to productive resources, productivity and profitability. The findings revealed that the majority (62.9%) of the respondents had between 4-6 persons as household size with an average of 5 persons per household. This suggests moderate household size for farming household. A household size that could maintains a balance between production and consumption providing a leverage for profitable farming investment. The results revealed that only 20.0% of respondents had between 1-5years of experience implying that 80% of the respondents had more than 5 years of experience in poultry egg production. With an average year of experience of 11.4, the poultry farmers could be said to be highly experienced. This

implied that they had enough experience that could make their farming operation profitable. Evidence on the Table 1 revealed that 13.3% had no formal education, 9.5% had primary education, and 24.8% had secondary education while 52.4% had tertiary education. This showed that majority 86.7% of the farmers had some formal education. The evident on the Table 1 also shown that majority of the respondents (85.30%) used battery cage management system while the minority (14.70%) of them used deep litter management system.

Table 1: Distribution of Cooperative Poultry Farmers by their Socio-economic Characteristics

Variable	Value	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative frequency	Average
Sex	Male	86	81.9	81.9	
	Female	19	18.1	100.0	
Age (SD =11.2)	≤30	20	19.0	19.0	
	31-40	15	14.3	33.3	
	41-50	40	38.1	71.4	
	51-60	15	14.3	85.7	
	Above 60	15	14.3	100.0	46.5 years
Marital status	Single	10	9.5	9.5	
	Married	84	80.0	89.5	
	Divorced	7	6.7	96.2	
	Widower	4	3.8	100.0	
Household size (SD =2)	1-3	12	11.4	11.4	
	4-6	66	62.9	74.3	
	7-9	12	11.4	85.7	
	10-12	15	14.3	100.0	5 persons
Farming experience (years) (SD =7.5)	≤5	21	20.0	20.0	
	6-10	47	44.8	64.8	
	11-15	17	16.2	81.0	
	16-20	10	9.5	90.5	
	>20	10	9.5	100.0	
Educational level (years) (SD =5.2)	No formal education	14	13.3	13.3	
	Primary	10	9.5	22.8	
	Secondary	26	24.8	45.6	
	OND/NCE	29	27.6	73.2	
	HND/BSC	26	24.8	100.0	14 years
Management System	Battery cage	90	85.7	85.7	
	Deep litter	15	14.3	100.0	
Total		105	100		

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Source of Funds of Cooperative Poultry Egg Farmers in the Study Area

Various ways by which individuals' poultry eggs farmers financing their poultry business were identified and collected. Table 3 showed that (55.0%) of the respondents sourced their finance from personal savings, (34.0%) of the respondents aquired their capital from cooperative societies, (4.0%) of poultry eggs farmers source their finanance from banks, (3.0%) of the respondents sourced their capital from friends and relatives, while only (5.0%) of the respondents sourced their capital through combination of personal savings and cooperative societies. This findings revealed that majority of the farmers sourced capital through personal saving which implied that the poultry egg farmers have ability to utilize their finances well, efficient and effectively and likewise credit given to them by other sources of finance apart from their personal savings.

Table 2: Distribution of the Respondents Based on Sources of Funds of Cooperative Poultry Egg Farmers in the Study Area

Source of funds	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Cummulative frequency
Personal Savings	55	55	55.0
Cooperative Societies	34	34.04.0	89.0
Banks	4	2.0	93.0
Friends and Relatives	3	5.0	95.0
Personal savings and Cooperative societies	5	100.0	100.0
Total	100		

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Determinants of Profitability among Cooperative Poultry Egg Producers

The estimated parameters and the relevant statistical test results derived from the analysis were illustrated in Table 3. The analysis employed linear regression to expound upon the findings. The adjusted R^2 value stood at 0.701, signifying that roughly 70% of the variability in profitability is accounted for by the variables (X_1– X_8) integrated into the model, with the residual 30.0% elucidated by the independent variables encompassed within the model. The positive and statistically significant F-value at the 0.001 significance level indicates that the variables encapsulated in the model aptly capture the profitability dynamics of poultry egg production in the research area. Among the eight variables under scrutiny, only five exhibited positive and statistically significant correlations at the 1% level, while feed cost demonstrated a negative significance. Two variables displayed statistical significance at the 10% threshold; specifically, the number of egg crates consumed exhibited a negative significance, whereas the educational attainment of farmers and farmers' age manifested positive significance at the 10% and 5% levels, respectively. The coefficient pertaining to the number of egg crates sold was positive and statistically significant at the 1% level (3.417; $p<0.01$), implying that a marginal increase in the volume of crates sold has the potential to elevate the profitability of poultry farming in the study area. Conversely, the coefficient associated with feed cost is negative and statistically significant at the 1% level (-3.230; $p<0.01$). This inverse relationship between feed expenditure and profitability aligns with expectations, indicating that as the cost of feed per bird escalates, the prospective profit diminishes.

Table 3: Distribution of Determinants of Profitability Of Cooperative Poultry Egg Producers

	Coefficient	**Standard error**	**T-value**
(Constant)	-82.449	1.287	-9.500
Number of egg crates sold (X_1)	4.81E-005	0.776	3.417***
Number of egg crate consumed (X_2)	-6.233	-1.358	-1.977*
Market price per crate of eggs (X_3)	0.102	1.427	4.285***
Total vaccination cost per year (X_4)	0.001	0.675	4.055***
Total cost of feed used (X_5)	-9.04E-006	1.651	- 3.230***
Age of farmers (X_6)	-0.111	0.383	2.47**
Experience in poultry farming (X_7)	0.814	1.197	8.185***
Level of farmer's education (X_8)	1.161	1.155	2.086*
F-value	0.771		32.294***
R-Square	0.703		0.520
Adjusted R^2	0.068		0.480

Source: Field Survey, 2023. * Significant at 10% level, ** Significant at 5% level, *** Significant at 1% level

Constraints Militating Against Profitability Of Cooperative Poultry Egg Producers

Results derived from the assessment of constraints impeding the profitability of small-scale poultry egg production in the study area are illustrated in Table 4 below. An analysis of these constraints uncovered that exorbitant feed costs (99%) and absence of governmental backing (99%) were ranked 1st ranked, insufficient funds (95.2%) was positioned 3rd, and elevated expenses associated with veterinary services and medications (85.7%) stood out as primary obstacles affecting the profitability of poultry egg farming in the research area. Other significant hurdles encompassed the dearth of dependable attendants and labourers (70.5%), marketing challenges (66.7%), theft of eggs and fowl (66.7%), and inadequate infrastructure such as roads (52.4%). The gravity of the high feed costs and financial inadequacies underscored the necessity for establishing a specialized credit scheme tailored to poultry farmers to mitigate these issues. Through adequate financial support, farmers can procure superior feeds, thereby enhancing the feed-to-egg conversion rate and overall business profitability. Producers of poultry products (eggs) in the study area encountered numerous challenges during the production phase. Table 4 illustrated the outcomes of the predicament analysis. The data indicates that the exorbitant costs of poultry feed emerged as the most pressing issue faced by producers, with a mean score of 2.99. This can be attributed to the escalated costs of requisite raw materials for feed production. These findings align with the research conducted by Ezeano and Ohaemesi (2019), highlighting the substantial impact of high poultry feed costs on producers. The formidable issue of costly poultry feed was closely followed by financial inadequacies, ranking second in the table, likely stemming from limited income generated by producers with modest farm holdings. This findinds corroborated the conclusions drawn by Mohammed, Ayanlere, and Afolabi (2019), emphasizing the detrimental effects of financial insufficiencies on poultry product outputs.

Table 4: Distribution of Constraints Militating Against Profitability of Cooperative Poultry Egg Producers

Constraints to poultry egg enterprise	Yes		No		Rank
	Frequency	(%)	Frequency	(%)	
High cost of feed	104	99.0	1	1.0	1st
Lack of government support	104	99.0	1	1.0	1st
High cost of veterinary services & drugs	90	85.7	15	14.3	4th
Inadequate fund	100	95.2	5	4.8	3rd
Marketing problem	70	66.7	35	33.3	6th
Pilferage and theft of eggs and birds	70	66.7	35	33.3	6th
Lack of good roads	55	52.4	50	47.6	8th
Lack of reliable attendants & workers	74	70.5	31	29.5	5th
Diseases and parasites	55	52.4	50	47.6	8th
Inadequate of water supply	30	28.6	75	71.4	10th

Source: Field Survey, 2023

CONCLUSION

Conclusively, the study revealed that 71.4% of poultry egg farmers had an average age of 46.5 years, indicating that they are within their economically productive age bracket. Moreover, 81.9% of poultry business operators were males, the majority of whom had received formal education, with an average household size of 5 members. In term of source of funds, the findings also revealed that majority of the farmers' sourced capital through personal savings. While, the results of linear regression showed the coefficient associated with feed cost is negative and statistically significant at the 1% level. The poultry egg farmers should endeavor to combat the challenges they face especially high cost of feed, with the possibility of producing locally-made feed to nourish the poultry birds could significantly boost profitability and optimize poultry egg production, thereby reducing the overall feed cost associated with poultry egg production in the study area. The study therefore recommended that; Government should provide assistance to farmers in alleviating the constraints faced by poultry breeders in order to enhance their profitability, thereby positively impacting their income, production, and overall standard of living. It is imperative for the government to establish a conducive environment that promotes the consumption of poultry table eggs the farmers. In additional, the government should actively engage in educating and encouraging farmers to establish cooperatives, which serve as a crucial platform for easy access to financial resources and long-term economic sustainability to overcome financial constraints

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