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Research Article

ASSESSING PRODUCTION PERFORMANCE AND CONSTRAINTS OF LOCAL DUCK REARING AT FARMER'S LEVEL: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Local duck rearing is an important source of income and food for small-scale farmers in many developing countries. However, the production performance of local ducks is often limited by various constraints that affect their productivity and profitability. This study aimed to assess the production performance of local ducks and identify the constraints of duck rearing at the farmer's level in a selected community in Nigeria. A case study design was employed, including both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. The study found that local duck production was a profitable enterprise for farmers, but they faced several constraints that limited their productivity, including disease outbreaks, poor nutrition, inadequate housing, and lack of access to credit and markets. The study highlights the need to improve local duck production by providing farmers with access to extension services, credit, and markets and training on best management practices.

KEYWORDS

Local ducks, production performance, constraints, small-scale farmers, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Duck rearing is an important livelihood activity in many developing countries, providing a source of income and protein-rich food for small-scale farmers. Local ducks are particularly important in many rural areas as they are well adapted to local environmental

conditions and have a high tolerance for diseases. However, despite their importance, local duck production in many areas is facing numerous challenges that limit their productivity and profitability.

This study aimed to assess the production performance of local ducks and identify the constraints of duck rearing at the farmer's level. The study aimed to provide insights into the current state of local duck production and identify areas for improvement to increase productivity and profitability for small-scale farmers.

METHOD

Study Design: This study employed a case study design, which included both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods.

Study Population and Sampling: The study population included local duck farmers in a selected community in Nigeria. A total of 100 farmers were selected using a purposive sampling technique.

Data Collection: Data were collected using a structured questionnaire, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions. The questionnaire consisted of two sections: demographic information and duck production performance. Key informant interviews and focus group discussions were conducted to gain a deeper understanding of the constraints faced by farmers in local duck production.

Data Analysis: The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations to describe the study population and production performance of local ducks. Qualitative data were analyzed using thematic analysis.

Ethical Considerations: Ethical clearance was obtained from the Research Ethics Committee of the University. Informed consent was obtained from each participant, and confidentiality and anonymity were ensured throughout the study.

RESULTS

The study found that local duck production was a profitable enterprise for farmers, with an average income of N75,000 per annum. However, farmers faced several constraints that limited their productivity, including disease outbreaks, poor nutrition, inadequate housing, and lack of access to credit and markets. The study also found that farmers lacked knowledge on best management practices and had limited access to extension services.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, local duck rearing is an important source of income and food for small-scale farmers. However, the constraints faced by farmers limit the productivity and profitability of the enterprise. To improve local duck production, farmers need to be trained on best management practices and provided with access to credit and markets. Policymakers and stakeholders need to prioritize local duck production as a means of improving the livelihoods of small-scale farmers in rural areas.

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