SURVEY OF SMALL RUMINANT FARMERS IN IBARAPA NORTH-EAST LOCAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AREA (LCDA) OF OYO STATE, NIGERIA

[1]*Okunlola, O. O., [2]Ajayi D. A., [1]Akindele, W. O., [1]Bamimore, A. I. and [1]Olawale, W. A.
[1]Department of Agricultural Education, School of Vocational and Technical Education, Oyo State College of Education, Lanlate
[2]Animal Genetic Resources Unit, National Centre for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology, Ibadan
Corresponding author: greenfields2012@gmail.com; +234 802 584 8773

ABSTRACT
The potentials of small ruminant farming in Ibarapa North-East LDCA of Oyo State, Nigeria were not optimized partly due to the non-availability of data on small ruminant farmers and farms. This study was a survey of small ruminant farmers and farm characteristics in Ibarapa North-East (LCDA) of Oyo State. Random sampling of 120 small ruminant farmers was conducted in the survey area using structured questionnaires and all the questionnaires were recovered and subjected to descriptive analysis using frequency counts and percentages. Results obtained show that 52.50% of the respondents were females while 40.0% of them were crop farmers who took to livestock farming as a secondary business. Majority of the respondents were within the age bracket of 40-49 years (32.50%). Concerning the farm characteristics, 45% of the respondents raised goat only while 30.00% of them raised sheep only. Semi intensive system of livestock production was embraced by the majority of the respondents (55.00%).
Keywords: Small ruminants, Ibarapa North LCDA, Farmers' profile, Farm characteristics, Farm management.

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is home to 42.1 million sheep and 73.8 million goats, mostly indigenous breeds and concentrated in the northern part of the country, which is the largest small ruminant population on the African continent (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, 2020). The same author estimated the value of mutton and chevon produced in Nigeria in 2016 as $73.4 and $373.1 respectively. In a study by Fakoya and Oloruntoba (2009), it was reported that the majority of small ruminant farmers in Osun State practiced the semi intensive system of farming. This is an indication that, small ruminants are often produced in low input-low yielding system (CSIRO, 2000). Oluwatayo, 2012 reported that rural women in Southwestern Nigeria, raised small ruminants on kitchen wastes around homes. This assertion was supported by the report of Wubie *et al*., 2018 who opined that raising small ruminants required low start-up capital and maintenance cost.

This may also be so because small ruminant farmers engage the use of household labour for the management of the animals. There is no known bias against the rearing and consumption of small ruminants and their products respectively in Nigeria (Yusuf *et al.*, 2018), as they are being raised in every agricultural zone in the country. Farmers generate income from the sale of meat, milk wool and hides. A study by Kassoh *et al.*, 2021 on the market performance of small ruminant in two cities of Ghana, it was reported that both sheep and goat were profitable with goat commanding higher profit than sheep. The objective of this study is to conduct a survey of small ruminant farmers in the study area and factors considered include, bio data of respondents, types and size of small ruminants kept, management and housing systems adopted.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ibarapa North-East LCDA, with headquarters in Lanlate town, is an agrarian community with majority of the inhabitants engaging in crop farming, either as primary or secondary source of income. Ibarapa region have a derived savanna vegetation type and is a hub for cassava farming, not only in Oyo State but in Nigeria, though the farmers here also engage in the production of other staple foods like yams and melon. Livestock farming is considered secondary to crop production in the study area. A total of 120 small ruminant farmers were purposively sampled for the study in Ibarapa North-East Local Council Development Area of Oyo State. A 2-level multi-stage sampling method was also adopted, with the study area being grouped into two, in the first stage (Lanlate and Maya towns), while Lanlate and Maya were grouped into 4 and 2 quarters respectively in stage 2, according to their populations. A total of 20 questionnaires were administered in each of the quarters, making 120 questionnaires in all. Data collected include bio data of the respondents, type of small ruminants kept, management system and housing types. All questionnaires were recovered, processed and subjected to descriptive statistics using frequency counts and percentages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Bio Data of the Respondents

S/N	Item	Criterion	No.	%
1.	Sex	Male	57	47.50
		Female	63	52.50
2.	Age (Years)	< 20	15	12.50
		20-39	30	25.00
		40-49	39	32.50
		50-59	27	22.50
		60 and above	9	7.50
3.	Occupation	Crop Farming	48	40.00
		Civil Servant	24	20.00
		Artisan	8	6.66
		Trader	14	11.67
		Job Seeker	26	21.67
4.	Household Size	1-5	25	20.83
		6-10	69	57.50
		11-15	26	21.66
5.	Educational status	Primary	27	22.50
		Secondary	45	37.50
		Tertiary	48	40.00
6.	Religion	Christianity	42	35.00
		Islam	48	40.00
		Traditional	30	25.00
7.	Marital status	Single	30	25.00
		Married	60	50.00
		Widowed/widower	24	20.00
		Separated	3	2.50
		Divorced	3	2.50

The bio data of the respondents is presented in Table 1. It was observed, from the Table, that majority of them were female (52.50%) and between 20-49 years of age (57.50%). this was in agreement with the report of Mohammed, 2017 who stated that majority of goat farmers in Ajaokuta Local Government Area were female and within the age range 20-50 years. The table also shows that majority of the respondents had tertiary education (40.00%) and were crop farmers (40.0%). From the table, majority had household size of 6-10 people (57.50%) with most of the respondents being Muslims (40.00%) and married (50.00%). the people of Ibarapa are traditionally crop farmers who do not consider livestock farming as a mainstay of their economy but complimentary to their crop farming activities. This may be responsible for the apathy towards small ruminant livestock farming from the men. Also, from the religious ground, small ruminant livestock farming is being embraced by all religious adherents, as evident in Table 1. the age and educational background of the majority of the respondents revealed that they will be most likely open to improved technologies in small ruminant production, as education and age has been confirmed as determinant factors to information from extension workers.

Table 2 shows the types of small ruminants kept in the study area. From the table, 45% of the respondents reared goat alone, which was relatively in the majority. This may be attributed to the fact that goat meat is in high demand in the study area as it is a delicacy in making pepper-soup and used for certain traditional rites like wedding ceremonies. This result also aligned with the report of Kassoh *et al.*, 2021, who noted that goat was relatively more profitable to sheep, in terms of sales. The table also shows the management system most commonly adopted in the study area was the semi intensive system of production (55%). Small ruminants are raised as secondary source of income in the study area, which may be reason for the adopted management system by the respondents. The table also shows that 90% of the respondents who were into both sheep and goat farming had above 20 livestock on their farms. This is reflective of the system of management commonly practiced in the study area, which was semi-intensive system. Also, from the table, the housing types adopted included Bamboo houses (15%), Shed with iron roofing sheets (20%), sandcrete block houses (25%) amongst others. However, 34.5% of the respondents raised their animals with no confined houses. This made the small ruminants to be vulnerable to harsh weather conditions, theft and road accidents. Also, 70% of the respondents raised their animals within the residential areas. This will be a limiting factor to the number of animals they can raise as indicated in the small herd size of the majority of the farmers, which was less than 20 animals per farm (88.34%).

Table 2: **Types of Ruminants Kept, Management System and Housing Types**

S/N	Item	Criterion		No.	%
1.	Types of animal kept	Goat only		54	45.00
		Sheep Only		36	30.00
		Both sheep and goat		30	25.00
2.	Number of animals kept	Sheep only:	< 10	10	8.33
			10-19	25	20.83
			>20	9	7.50
		Goat only:	<10	21	17.50
			10-19	26	21.66
			>20	5	4.16
		Both Sheep and Goat:	16-20	2	1.66
			>20	24	20.00
3.	Management System	Intensive		21	17.50
		Extensive		33	27.50
		Semi-Intensive		66	55.00
4.	Housing Type	Bamboo pen		18	15.00
		Sandcrete block pen		30	25.00
		Mud pen		3	2.50
		Wooden planks pen		6	5.00
		No confinement		39	32.50
		Shed with iron roofing sheets		24	20.00
5.	Where is your farm located?	Residential Area		84	70.00
		Non-Residential Area		36	30.00
6.	What breed do you have on your farm?	West African Dwarf		92	92.00
		Mixed Breed		8	8.00
7.	Source of foundation stock	Local Farm		79	65.83
		Gift		22	18.33
		Local Market		19	15.83

CONCLUSION

The study indicated that small ruminants were considered secondary source of income in the study area and the semi-intensive system of production was commonly adopted in which productivity could not be optimized. This was reflected in the small herd size owned by the majority of the farmers visited. It is recommended that more awareness campaigns on the economic benefits of raising small ruminants be employed by the concerned authorities, in the study area. Also, the adoption of improved breeds of small ruminants be advocated for, as many of the farmers in the study area raised the West African Dwarf breed.

REFERENCES

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (2020).Small ruminant production in Nigeria. Https://research.sciro.au/livegaps/findings/research/livestock-production/small-ruminant-production-in-nigeria. Assessed on 20/01/2025.

Fakoya, E. O. and Oloruntoba, A. (2009). Socio-Economic Determinants of Small Ruminants Production among Farmers in Osun State, Nigeria**.** *Journal of Humanities, Social Sciences and Creative Arts***,** 4(1): 90 – 100.

Kassoh, F. A.; Ohene-Yankara, K.; Nimoh, F.; Apaassongo, L. A. and Bangura, R. M. (2021). Market performance of small ruminant in Kumasi and Tamale of Ghana. *American Journal of Economics* , 11(3): 84 – 94.

Mohammed, A. B. (2017). Analysis of Goat Rearing Among Inhabitants of Ajaokuta Local Government Area, Kogi State, Nigeria. *Applied Tropical Agriculture,* 22 (1): 23 – 28.

Oluwatayo, I. B. and Oluwatayo, T. B. (2012). Small ruminants as a source of financial security: A cas study of women in rural Southwest Nigeria. *Journal of Agribusiness and Rural Development,* 49(3): 1 – 22.

Wubie, R. S.; Kassie, G. T.; Haile,A.; Wamata, J. and Rischkowsky, B. (2018). Business Models for Selected Interventions for the Development of Small Ruminant Value Chains in Ethiopia. International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas. *https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11766/9567*

Yusuf, A; Aruwayo, A and Muhammad, I. R. (2018). Characterisation of small ruminant production systems in semi-arid urban areas of Northern Nigeria. *Journal of Applied Science and Environmental Management,* 22 (5): 725 – 729.