

MAJOR CONSTRAINTS AFFECTING SHORT PERIOD SMALL-SCALE CATTLE FATTENING ENTERPRISE IN SOME SELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS, KANO STATE, NIGERIA

***Danguguwa, D. D₁., Ibrahim, U. S₂., Abdu, A₂.Abdullahi, B. D₃. Kurawa, M. K₂.**

₁Department of Animal Health and Husbandry, Audu Bako College of Agriculture, Dambatta, Kano State.

₂Department of Agricultural Extension and Management, Audu Bako College of Agriculture, Dambatta, Kano State, Nigeria.

₃Department of Agricultural Technology, Audu Bako College of Agriculture, Dambatta, Kano State, Nigeria.

EMAIL: danazumidanbabadanguguwa@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to assess the major constraints of cattle fattening among short period small scale cattle fatteners in some selected Local Government, Kano State, Nigeria. Structured questionnaires were used to collect information from 146 respondents using multistage sampling techniques. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistic. The result of the study revealed that majority of the respondents were male (97.30%) and married (93.20%) within the average age of (43.00) years, with the majority having the average fattening experience of 12.00 years. The study further revealed that majority of the respondents earned an average of ₦28, 928.08 monthly off-fattening incomes; possess one form of education or the other while most of them were crops and livestock farmers (39.70%) as their occupation. Insufficient capitals, high cost of feeds and inadequate access to institutional source of credits were identified as major constraints to cattle fattening; the study recommend that as the program is usually labour intensive, women should be encourage and supported by government and NGO to participate in the fattening program through women cooperative societies and women in Agriculture, this will help them to improve their standard of living.

Key words: Fattening, Constraints, Livestock, Employment, Enterprise.

INTRODUCTION

The livestock sub-sector is one of the fastest growing among the sub-sectors in the agricultural sector driven by income growth and supported by technological and structural change, the growth and transformation of the sector offer opportunities for agricultural development, poverty reduction and food security gains to be realized (FAO, 2009). The Nigerian livestock sector has been a source of well-being for many citizens, particularly for the rural dwellers (Umar and Ben, 2014). Cattle fattening which is the preparation of the animal for marketing through intensive care leading to increased weight gain play a vital role in the economic development of Nigeria. Among the major contributions of the cattle fattening enterprise include provision of employment, income and animal protein (Umar, 2007; Fanatic and Rinehart, 2006). Despite the contributions, the sector is confronted with certain challenges that are hampering smooth growth of the system and the profitability. Modern cattle fattening practice reduce the cost of production and increase income of the cattle fatteners through efficient use of resources, (USAID, 2014). It is on the basis of these, this study was undertaken to describe the socio-economic factors of cattle fatteners, to determine the cost and returns to cattle fattening enterprise in the study area.

METHODOLOGY

The study area covers some selected local government areas of Kano state, Nigeria. It has a population of 9,383,682 as at 2006 national census (NPC 2006). Different livestock species such as camel, cattle, goats, sheep, rabbit, horse, donkey and poultry thrive well in the study area (Muhammad *et al.*, 2008). The area lies between latitude 10°33'N to 12°23'N of the equator and longitude 7°34'E and 10°33'E with forest and grazing land of 11,898km² (KNSG 2013). The area is free from tsetse fly infestation with abundance grassland for grazing animals.

Multi-stage sampling technique was used in selecting cattle fatteners for this study. Two (2) Local Governments were selected from each agricultural zone, Gwarzo and Tudun wada local government from zone I, Makoda and Tofa local government from zone II, Ajingi and Garko local government from zone III were chosen through simple random sampling method using ballot box procedure. In the second stage, two (2) agricultural blocks were selected from each local government which makes the total of 12 blocks. In the third stage, purposive sampling was employed whereby three (3) villages were selected from each block based on the concentration of cattle fatteners giving a total of 36 villages. In the final stage, proportionate sampling was employed where 20% of the cattle fatteners from the villages were selected that gave a total of 146 samples used for the study. Descriptive statistics was used and achieved objectives of the study; the study was conducted based on the short period fattening category (1-3 month).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result of the study in Table 1 reveals that the mean age of cattle fatteners in the area was 43.00 years and this finding indicates that the fatteners in the study area were within their active and productive age and hence could participate in many income-yielding ventures to maintain their families. The average household size of the fatteners as indicated in Table 1 was 11.00 members. The implication of these findings in fattening production is that, it is simply used as a measure of labor availability and potential household consumption expenditure. Table 1 further revealed that the mean income earned by the fatteners from other source was ₦28, 928.08; this implies that majority of the fatteners earned relatively low monthly income. The table similarly disclosed the mean herd size fattened in the area at a time was 2.00; implying that majority of the fatteners in the area were small-scale fatteners. This could be as a result of the huge capital requirement of the business which most of the cattle fatteners cannot provide or sources easily as indicated by the result. From the result of fattening experience, as indicated in Table 1 it shows that the fatteners in the area had an average experience of 12 years. This shows that the fatteners in the area have average good years of experience which would help them to solve practical problems of fattening. The implication of these findings to fattening production is that the fatteners will have the opportunity to use their experience which solve practical problems of fattening as well as improves efficiency in resource-use. It shows hope that it may be sustainable.

Table 1: Quantitative socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

Variables	Min.	Max.	Mean	Std dev.
Age	20	85	43.00	9.39
Household size	1	35	11.00	5.98
Income from other source	1, 000.00	250, 000	28, 928.08	31096.456
No. of cattle herd size	1	5	2	0.73
Cattle fattening experience	1	40	12	7.77

Source: (Field Survey 2017)

Table 2 of the study discloses that majority of fatteners were male (97.30%) and female (2.70%). This indicate that more men engage in cattle fattening production than women possibly due to its economic and commercial value as well as labor intensive nature of the enterprise. Table 2 depicts that all the sampled fatteners in the area were married (93.20%), singles (5.50%), divorced and widow/widower (0.70%) respectively. The implication of this finding to the study is that the state of being married may have serious implication of being responsible and rational in decision-making unit, (Adomi, 2010). The Table depicts further that most of the fatteners in the area were literate; (31.50%) acquired primary education, (28.10%) were up to secondary school and non-formal education respectively and only (1.40%) acquired adult education. The implication of this finding to the study is that the educated farmers are expected to be more receptive to improved farming techniques (Okoye *et al.*, 2007). The table similarly, shows that the fatteners in the area were crops and livestock farmers (39.70%), farmers and traders (33.60%), farmers and civil servants (14.40%), farmers and artisans (11.00%). The high proportions of respondents in the study area who engaged in farming and trading and crops and livestock production were not un-expected; because the study area is well known as a commercial and agricultural center.

Table 2: Qualitative Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	142	97.30
Female	4	2.70
Marital stat.		
Single	8	5.50
Married	136	93.20
Divorced/separated	1	0.70
Widow/widower	1	0.70
Education Level		
Primary	46	31.50
Secondary	41	28.10
Tertiary	16	11.00
Adult educ.	2	1.40
Non-formal education	41	28.10
Types of occupation		
Crop & livestock	58	39.70
Livestock only	2	1.40
Farming & trading	49	33.60
Farming & civil service	21	14.40
Farming & artisanship	16	11.00
Total	146	100.00

Source: (Field Survey 2017)

Table 3 shows the major constraints faced by the cattle fatteners in the study area; these were ranked based on the numbers of its report by the cattle fatteners. It revealed that the major constraints encountering by the cattle fatteners were insufficient capital, high cost of feeds and limited access to formal source of credit. This implies that the small-scale cattle enterprises in the study area have inadequate of capital and lack any access to formal credit facilities. This might be possible due to the fact that small farmers in Nigeria have nothing to offer as collateral security.

Table 3: Constraints Associated to Cattle Fattening in the Study Area

Constraints	Frequency	percent	Rank
Insufficient capital	125	19.96	2 nd
High cost of feeds	127	20.28	1 st
Inadequate of access to source of credit	109	17.41	3 rd
High cost of drugs/medicine	80	12.77	4 th
Insecurity	50	7.98	6 th
Lack of weighing bridge,	48	7.66	7 th
High cost of transportation	54	8.62	5 th
Pest and disease	21	3.35	8 th
Inadequate of livestock extension workers	12	1.92	9 th

Source (Field survey data, 2017)**Note** multiple responses were recorded ***CONCLUSION**

The study concluded that cattle fatteners 'earned an average income of ₦28, 928.08 with only few female participating in cattle fattening in the study area. The major problems encountering by the cattle fatteners were insufficient capitals, high cost of feeds and inadequate access to source of credit in the study area. To reduce food insecurity, unemployment and industrial under- development through improving better cattle prices and income, the following recommendations were made: Providing farmers with easy access to credit would require government support through legal and regulatory frame works, government support pilot program that reduces transaction cost of providing credit to farmers would have the potential to increase efficiency. Crop production generally should be encouraged and supported in the study area as the by-products are used as feeds by cattle

fatteners. Producers/fatteners must care about roughages amount and to act according to the ration formulation to overcome problems about roughages and to increase efficiency in fattening

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