

ATTAINING FOOD SECURITY THROUGH WOMEN INVOLVEMENT IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN IBARAPA REGION OF OYO STATE

Adeosun, A.O

Animal Science Unit, Agricultural Education Department,
College of Education, Lanlate,
Oyo State, Nigeria.
ayoadeosun2020@gmail.com

Abstract

One of the tasks that needed to be pursued vigorously in developing Nations is attainment of food security. In achieving this, the role of women cannot be over-emphasized. Despite their considerable involvement and contribution, women's role in livestock production has often being underestimated or ignored. This paper therefore examines the involvement of women in livestock production in Ibarapa Region of Oyo State. Simple random sampling was used to select one hundred and forty women livestock producers. Simple descriptive statistics and mean computation were used to analyse the data. Result revealed that majority (58%) of the respondents was into chicken production compared with 21% who are goat keepers. The least managed livestock by the women in the study area was pig (3%). Chicken production been the most reared may be due to affordability of chicken and its small size which makes it easy cheap and easy to rear. On the other hand, rabbit (35.7%), top the list of micro-livestock reared by women of the area. Furthermore, most of the respondents (mean 3.41) embark on livestock production for meat purpose while source of income was ranked second with mean 3.32. However, seasonality of feeding materials was ranked most important problem of livestock production in the area with a mean of 3.52. Other problems were access to credit facility/Low capital to expand, problem of high mortality due to pests and diseases, problem of accidents and theft of livestock with means 3.36, 3.14 and 2.96 respectively. Recommendations were made as follows: access to finance institutions to increase women level of involvement in livestock production, training of women farmers on certain technical aspects of livestock production (such as ways of controlling high mortality through pests and disease management, training on methods of preserving feeding materials during the raining season for use during the dry season). Men can also come to the aid of women in helping them (women) build and repair housing materials for the livestock.

Keywords: Food security, involvement, livestock production, micro-livestock, Ibarapa.

Introduction

The role that women play and their position in meeting the challenges of agricultural production and development are quite dominant and prominent. Their relevance and significance, therefore, cannot be overemphasized (Nnadozie and Ibe, 1996; Rahman, 2008). Findings from a study financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) revealed that women make up some 60-80 percent of agricultural labour force in Nigeria (World Bank, 2003).

One of the major reasons believed to have perpetuated food insecurity is the discrimination against women who are the custodians of food production and food security. The extent to which gender discrimination has thwart attainment of food security goal is a key concern of the vital role women play as major players of community food producers. According to IFAD (1994) rural women constitute more than a quarter of the world's population and three quarters of the poor across Africa that inhabit rural areas. Actual assessment suggests that sub Saharan Africa has failed to take advantage of the numerical strength of woman in the attainment of food production, while the rest of the world has made significant progress in this regard.

Although two-thirds of the world's 600 million poor livestock keepers are rural women (Thornton *et al.* 2003), little research has been conducted in recent years on rural women's roles in livestock keeping and the opportunities livestock-related interventions could offer them. This is in contrast to considerable research on the roles of women in small-scale crop farming, where their importance is widely recognized and lessons are emerging about how best to reach and support women through interventions and policies (Quisumbing and Pandolfelli, 2010).

In Nigeria, report shows that women feed and manage vulnerable animals (calves, small ruminants and sick, injured and pregnant animals), clean barns, milk cows, and make butter and cheese, but are not involved in livestock marketing or managing livestock diseases (Ayoade *et al.* 2009). These trends are similar to what was found in the Ethiopian highlands, where women clean cowsheds; milk cows; look after calves and sick animals; cut the grass and supervise the feeding and grazing of cows; make dung cakes, butter and cheese; and sell these products once or twice a week. Men, on the other hand, feed the oxen and take the animals for veterinary treatment when the need arises (Yisehak 2008).

The critical role of women in agricultural and food production have been compromised due to the fact that there has been limited access to land and capital credit agricultural input, education and appropriate technology to this vulnerable group (Asian Dev Bank, 2013). FAO (1994) cites limited access to resources as one of the main reasons that women are unable to better contribute to food security, and recognize that the causes of this stem from a series of inter-related social, economic and cultural factors. Therefore, food security strategies which must be developed to improve women is access to productive resources, women support mechanisms, credit and agricultural services which include research and extension services given women is crucial role in food production.

Research methodology

Study area

This study was carried out in Ibarapa region; this is to collect detailed information that targets population of the study in 3 local government areas in Oyo state, Ibarapa region is made up of

Ibarapa East, Ibarapa Central and Ibarapa North Local Government Areas. This study considered the gender issues in livestock and micro livestock production in Ibarapa region. Ibarapa is made up of seven major towns. The towns include Lanlate, Eruwa, Igboora, Idere, Ayete, Tapa and Igangan. It is situated between latitude $71^{\circ} 5N_1$ and $7^{\circ} .50$ and longitude $300E$ and $3^{\circ} 25E$. The region is bounded in the North by Oke-Ogun region of Oyo state, to the East by Ido Local Government Area of Oyo State and to the West and South by Ogun state of Nigeria.

Research procedure

The instrument used for the study was questionnaire prepared by the researcher which was completed by the farmers within the seven towns (Lanlate, Eruwa, Igboora, Idere, Ayete, Tapa Igangan). The questionnaire was divided into two selections section A consists of the Demographic characteristics of the respondents as well as an item questions. While section B was designed to elicit information about livestock production in the region. The questionnaire was personally administered to the respondents within Ibarapa region on women involvement in livestock in the region. Twenty female respondents each were randomly selected from livestock producer making a total of one hundred and forty (140) respondents.

Result and discussion

Table1 shows the age and years of livestock rearing experience of respondents. From the table, majority (36.4%) of the respondents were of the age bracket of 41-50 years with majority (28.6%) of the respondents having between 11 and 15 years of livestock rearing experience. The implication for this is that most of the women in the area are familiar with livestock production. This work is also in line with Ayoade *et al.* (2009) who concluded an age range of 11-20 years of livestock rearing experience.

Table1: Distribution of age and years of livestock rearing experience of respondents

	Frequency	Percentage
Age of respondents		
21-30 years	25	17.9
31-40 years	34	24.3
41-50 years	51	36.4
Above 50 years	30	21.4
Years of livestock rearing experience		
Less than 5 years	15	10.7
6-10 years	34	24.3
11-15 years	40	28.6
16-20 years	27	19.3
Above 20 years	24	17.1

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 2 below shows the distribution of respondents based on most reared Livestock and micro-livestock in the study area. From the table, majority (58%) of the respondents were into chicken production compared with 21% who are goat keepers. This finding tallies with that of Beth (2001) that women claims smaller species such as poultry, goat, sheep rather than cattle, camel, or buffalo since the initial cost are lower, profit may be low but so are the risk, and men are likely to interfere. The least managed livestock by the women in the study

area was pig (3%). Chicken production been the most reared may be due to affordability of chicken and its small size which makes it easy cheap and easy to rear. This work is also in line with Ayoade *et al.* (2009) who observed poultry bird as the most reared livestock by women. Pig is not all that reared in the study area. This may be due to the dirtiness of the animal and partly due to extra management cares it requires in building houses, putting water in the wallow and cleaning of the pen. On the other hand, rabbit (35.7%), others (24.3%) and guinea fowl (20%) top the list of micro-livestock reared by women of the area.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents based on most reared Livestock and micro-livestock in the study area

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Livestock		
Goat	29	21
Pig	5	3
Cattle	8	6
Sheep	17	12
Chicken	81	58
Micro-Livestock		
Rabbit	50	35.7
Guinea pig	8	5.7
Guinea fowl	28	20.0
Snail	20	14.3
Others	34	24.3

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Table 3 shows the reasons women of the study area engaged in livestock production. From the table, most of the respondents (mean 3.41) embark on livestock production for meat purpose. Source of income was ranked second with mean 3.32, other reasons were source of food for the family and source of food security. Some of the respondents saw livestock rearing as a way out of low purchasing power and inadequate access to formal employment opportunities.

Table 3: Ranked reasons for embarking on livestock production by women in the study area

	SA	A	D	SD	MEAN
I rear livestock for meat purpose	80	45	8	7	3.41
I am into livestock production because it serves as source of Income	80	40	5	15	3.32
Rearing livestock is a source of food to the family	35	50	50	5	2.82
Livestock production helps in food security	55	20	50	15	2.82
Low purchasing power and inadequate access to formal employment opportunities made me to engage myself in livestock production	35	45	40	20	2.68

Source: Field survey, 2015

Table 4 reveals the ranked problems of livestock production according to the respondents. From the table, seasonality of feeding materials was ranked most important problem of livestock production in the area with a mean of 3.52. Other problems were access to credit facility/Low capital to expand, problem of high mortality due to pests and diseases, problem of accidents and theft of livestock with means 3.36, 3.14 and 2.96 respectively. The finding agrees with that of Yisehak (2008) that access to credit and capital will increase the participation of women and their efficiency in livestock production. Low productivity of animals (2.46) was not seen as a problem facing livestock production in the area since the mean was not up to 2.5 as revealed by the table.

Table 4: Ranked problems of livestock production faced by respondents

	SA	A	D	SD	Mean
Seasonality of feeding materials	86	45	5	4	3.52
Access to credit to expand/ Low capital	92	22	10	16	3.36
Problem of high mortality due to pest and diseases	60	50	19	11	3.14
Problem of accident and theft of livestock	50	50	25	15	2.96
Low productivity of animals	29	31	55	25	2.46

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Conclusion

Improving household food production and distribution is to be overcome by increasing the number of women that undertake production agriculture for themselves for trade to improve house hold income. Such a strategy should be accompanied by empowering women and increasing their access to finance institutions to increase their level of involvement in livestock production, training of small scale women farmers on certain technical aspects of livestock production (such as ways of controlling high mortality through pests and disease management, methods of preserving feeding materials during the raining season for use during the dry season). Men can also come to the aid of women in helping them (women) build and repair housing material for the livestock.

References

- Asian Development Bank (2013) Gender equality and food security-women's empowerment as a tool against hunger. Mandaluyong City.
- Ayoade, J.A., Ibrahim, H.I. and Ibrahim, H.Y. (2009) Analysis of women involvement in livestock production in Lafia area of Nasarawa State, Nigeria. *Livestock Research for Rural Development* 21(12). Retrieved July 31, 2016 from <http://www.lrrd.org/21/12/ayoa21220.htm>
- Beth, A.M. (2001) Right to livestock production. *2020 Focus* 6 pp1-4
- FAO (1994) Women, Agriculture and Rural Development. *In: Corporate Documents Repository, Economic and Social Development Department: A synthesis report of the Near East Region Adapted from Human Development Report and Country Papers.*
- IFAD (1994) Women Livestock Managers in the Third World: A focus on Technical Issues Related to Gender Roles in Livestock Production, adapted from Niamir-Fuller, Staff Working Paper 18, Rome: IFAD 1994.
- Nnadozie, B. and I. Ibe (1996) Women in agriculture: Problems and prospects, *In: Agricultural Transformation in Nigeria*, Eds., A. C. Nwosu; C. U. Nwajuba and J. A. Mbanasor. Owerri, Nigeria: Novelty Industrial Enterprises.
- Quisumbing A. & Pandolfelli L. (2010) Promising approaches to address the needs of poor female farmers: Resources, constraints and interventions. *World Development* 38(4):581–592.
- Rahman, S.A. (2008) Women's involvement in agriculture in northern and southern Kaduna State. *Journal of Gender Studies*, 17: 17-26.
- Thornton, P.K., Kruska, R.L., Heninger, N., Kristjanson, P.M., Reid, R.S. & Robinson, T.P. (2003) Locating poor livestock keepers at the global level for research and development targeting. *Land Use Policy* 20(4):311–322.
- World Bank (2003) Nigeria: Women in agriculture, *In: Sharing Experiences—Examples of Participating Approaches*. The World Bank Group. The World Bank Participating Sourcebook, Washington, D.C. <http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/publications.html>
- Yisehak, K. (2008) Gender responsibility in smallholder mixed-crop livestock production system in Jimma Zone, South-West Ethiopia, *Livestock Research for Rural Development*. Vol. 20(1) Retrieved October 7, 2009 from <http://www.lrrd.org/lrrd20/1/yise20011.htm>