

# Assessment of Youth Involvement in Livestock Farming as a Career in Oluyole Local Government, Ibadan

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**Abstract**— This study investigated the involvement of youths in livestock farming as a career in Oluyole Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria. We specifically determined the Socio-economic characteristics of the youth in the study area and ascertained their level of involvement in livestock farming as we analyzed the constraints to livestock farming as affecting the youth involvement in livestock farming. We also tested if there is significant relationship between selected Socio-economic characteristics and as well as constraints facing youth involvement in livestock farming as career in the study area. There are 10 wards in the local government out of which four were randomly selected with two villages selected from each of the four wards. Fifteen young farmers were randomly selected from each village to make a total of 120 respondents for the study. While 120 questionnaires were administered only 86 were retrieved. The data collected were subjected to descriptive statistics, chi-square and Pearson product moment correlation (PPMC). The result revealed that majority (58.1%) of the respondent were between 18-29 years, 65.1% were single with minimum of tertiary education (64%). A good number of them (27.9%) were managers with about 51.2% engaging in poultry farming. Chi-square analysis revealed that there is a significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) relationship between the sources of income and some selected socioeconomic characteristics with  $P$ -value of 0.011 and  $\chi^2 = 1.987$ . sources of income also significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) affect the involvement of respondents in livestock farming in the study area. The study therefore concluded that inadequate capital and infrastructures constitute the major constraints to youths' involvement in livestock farming as career. Government should therefore ensure availability of loan facilities as well as enable environment to encourage youths to venture more into livestock farming in the study area.

**Keywords**— Livestock, farming, youth, involvement, career.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The World Bank (2001) noted that majority of the world population consists of young people with three quarters of them living in the rural areas. Silva *et al*, 2009 recommended that youth can be referred to as those whose age range from 15-40 years old based on a number of factors deemed fit in terms of their materiality, ability to think positively, or a risk taker. According to the National Population Census (NPC, 2006), youth constitute over 62 percent of the total population of Nigeria, out of which over 50 percent resides in the rural areas. Adesope in Matthews-Njoku and Ajaero (2007) noted that youths represent the most active segment of the population and the engine that

would do most productive work of the society. Youths play vital role in producing various agricultural products such as palm oil, garri, yam, and so on.

Youth involvement in livestock production implies the participation of the young people (13–30 years) of age in a community, organization or given society in a given activity (such as agriculture). Such people live in the rural communities where the nation's agricultural products are generated from. The agricultural economy of the nation is dependent upon the vast majority of such agrarian groups. Nigerian rural communities are endowed with youths between the ages of 13 and 30 who are highly energetic, strong, and mentally alert and who constitute more than

32% of the rural population which is nearly 45% of the country's population (Torimiro, 1999). Most of these youths are unemployed, and even those employed are not motivated because of low remuneration, insecurity and low prospects for advancement.

Livestock production such as rearing of cattle, pigs, rabbit and poultry is now on increasing trends. Chicken, pigs and rabbit is common to the southern part of Nigeria while cattle production is vast in the northern part of Nigeria according to Nori *et al.*, (2005). The asset base of this tribe of Nigerians is basically on number of cattle own by each household on a relatively lower scale of production and as major source of livelihood. To the few who keep them, the livestock is taken as a source of security and independence through which each household member is able to meet their cultural obligations and assignment within the household (Sodiya, 2005).

The concern about youth involvement in agriculture especially cattle rearing borders on their abundant physical energies as well as greater knowledge acquisition propensity they possess (Torimiro, 2008; Jibowo, 1989) and that they are the future of the nation. These youths could form a formidable human resource - base or work force for agricultural production.

With specific reference to livestock production, Nigerian youths have shown negative attitudes towards livestock production among other segments of agriculture because they see it as labor intensive, long time investment, providing slow and low income opportunities and unattractive (Erebor, 2003). Other factors often given for the non - participation of youths in livestock agriculture include mass illiteracy, unstable government policies, lack of incentives, negative peer pressure effect and poor infrastructural state of the farming communities (Siyabola, 2005). The mass unemployment among the youths in Nigeria has linked to their negligence of agriculture in search for a white collar job.

The role of government in encouraging and motivating the youth in participating in agricultural production is inconsistent which has affects their trust in government policies. The irregular supply of farm implements and land acquisition for modern livestock production are major problem affecting youth participation in livestock production in Nigeria (Adebayo *et al.*, 2006).

General objectives of this study was to assess the involvement of youths in livestock farming as career and to see what factors are responsible for their involvements in

livestock farming in the study area. However, we specifically determined the Socio-economic characteristics of the youth in the study area, ascertained the level of their involvement in livestock farming and analyzed the constraints to livestock farming as affecting the youth involvement in livestock farming.

We also tested if there is significant relationship between selected Socio-economic characteristics and as well as constraints facing livestock farming and youth involvement in livestock farming as career in the study area.

Apart from migration of youths from the rural to urban areas the farming population is becoming aging and needs replacement. Hence, it is important to access the level of involvement of youths in livestock generally and how prepared are the youth to take over from the retiring adults. Current changes in the development of any area is so demanding that only the participation of energetic, creative, innovative and committed people can bring effective development. However, there is visible and enough evidence as reflected in the increased rural - urban migration records, massive involvement of Nigerian youths in motor cycle riding (both in the villages and in the cities), social vices, even prostitution and so on among youths, which are indicators (Arowolo *et al.*,) that the vibrant energies and alacrity of these teaming youths are not adequately harnessed and tapped for agricultural production. Therefore there is a need to study involvement of youth in livestock farming such as cattle, goat, pigs, rabbit and poultry production as this will help in the policy making and adequate assessment of possible rate of growth in agriculture and more importantly livestock farming.

## II. METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Oluyole Local Government Area of Oyo State. It is one of the less city Local Government in Ibadan land and share boundary with Ibadan South East, Ibadan South West, Ido and OnaAra Local Government areas within Ibadan Metropolis. In the hinterland, it also boards Ogun state via Obafemi, Owode, Odeda, and Ijebu North Local Government respectively. Oluyole local government with an area of 629 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 202,725 (NPC, 2006), with its headquarter at Idi Ayunre.

The population considered for the study consists of young farmers involved in livestock farming in Oluyole local government of Oyo State. There are 10 wards in the local government out of which four were randomly selected with

two villages selected from each of the four wards. Fifteen young farmers were randomly selected from each village to make a total of 120 respondents for the study.

Data were collected with the aid of well structured questionnaire administered in the form of interview, especially to get information from the non-literate respondents. Data collected were analyzed using simple frequency distribution methods while chi square was used to estimate the significance of relationship between the dependent and independent variables. PPMC was used to ascertain the correlation between youth involvement in livestock farming and constraints facing livestock farming in the study area.

#### Chi-square model

$$\chi^2 = \sum(O - E)$$

E

$\chi^2$  = Chi-Square.

$\sum$  = Summation of the value

O = Observed value

E = Expected value

#### Pearson product moment correlation model

$$P = \frac{\sum(x)(y)}{\sqrt{\sum x^2 \sum y^2}}$$

$$\sqrt{\sum x^2 \sum y^2}$$

P = Pearson product moment correlation

$\sum$  = Summation of the frequency

$x = X - \bar{x}$

$y = Y - \bar{y}$

$\bar{x}$  = mean of the frequency

$\bar{y}$  = mean of the frequency

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Socioeconomic characteristics of the Respondents

Variable	Frequency (n=86)	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	50	58.1
Female	36	41.9
AGE		
18-29	61	70.9
30-39	12	14.0
40 and above	13	15.1
MARITAL STATUS		
Single	56	65.1
Married	26	30.2
Divorce	1	1.2
Widow	2	2.3
Separated	1	1.2
EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND		
No formal Education	11	12.8
Primary Education	13	15.1
Secondary Education	7	8.1
Tertiary Education	55	64.0
RESIDENCE		
Rural	27	31.4
Urban	59	68.6
LIVESTOCK TYPES		
Rabbit	8	9.3
Goat	22	25.6
Poultry	44	51.2
Cattle	1	1.2
Sheep	6	7.0
Pig	3	3.5

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Fish	2	2.3
SOURCE OF INCOME		
Primary	44	51.2
Secondary	42	48.8
POSITION OCCUPY		
Causal	11	12.8
Attendant	18	20.9
Foreman	6	7.0
Supervisor	4	4.7
Consultant	10	11.6
Manager	24	27.9
Owner	13	15.1

Source: Field Survey, 2016.

The socio economic characteristics of the respondents are presented in Table 1 above. The study shows that more male (58.1%) among the respondents engage in livestock probably because livestock farming demands physical energy application especially in areas of feeding, stocking, vaccinating, castrating, dipping, debeaking, delousing, culling, medicating and other management activities. This is in agreement with the previous finding by Arowolo *et al.*, (2013) who reported more male involvement in cattle rearing activities. However, the involvement of female (41.9%) in the study area is an indication that more females are now engaging in livestock activities than before.

Majority of the respondents are between ages 18-29 years (58.1%) followed by 30-39 years (14%) while respondents between ages of 40 years and above had just 15.1%. The result shows that above 80% of the respondents are within their productive ages, hence they have the advantages of strength and ability for farming activities. This is in agreement with the findings of Oyelami *et al.*, (2017) and Okeke *et al.*, (2018) who reported above 60% of livestock farmers to be in their productive age. This group of people is energetic and active. Meanwhile less than 16% of the respondents are above 40 years of age. This age group is also of great importance in the sector for their experience and skill in the business of livestock farming.

The majority of the respondents were single (65.1%) while others are either married, divorced, widow or separated at

30.2%, 1.2%, 2.3%, and 1.2% respectively. This indicates that single people were more involved in livestock production in order to develop stable source of income and improve their standard of living. The higher percentage of single respondents agrees with earlier findings by Jibowo (1989) who reported that the higher percentage of farming populace is made up of either single or married people.

The result of study (table 1) shows that most of the respondents in the study area have tertiary education (64.0%), while Primary education, no formal education and secondary education constitute 15.1%, 12.8% and 8.1% respectively. The proportion of livestock farmers that had secondary to tertiary education is higher in the study area, this is an indication that majority of livestock farmers in the study area will find it easy to adopt new agricultural innovations and access high breeds of livestock animals this confirms the report of Aphunu and Akpobasa 2010.

On the livestock type, table 1 shows that livestock farmers in the study area involve more in poultry (51.2%) while other livestock such as rabbit, goat, cattle, sheep, pig, fish constitute a percentage of about 9.3%, 25.6%, 1.2%, 7.6%, 3.5%, 2.3% respectively. Table 1 also reveals that majority (51%) of the respondents depend on livestock production as primary source of income while the rest (48.8%) only use it as their secondary source of income.

Table 2: Youth involvement in livestock farming as a career in the study area

Variable	No	Yes
Primary source income	15(17.4)	71(82.6)
Secondary source income	32(37.2)	54(62.8)
Owners	34(39.5)	52(60.5)

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Attendants	32(37.2)	54(62.8)
Managerial level	34(39.5)	52(60.5)
Casual worker	46(53.5)	40(46.5)
Involved in decision making	38(44.2)	48(55.8)
involved in major decision making	43(50.0)	43(50.0)

**Source:** Field Survey, 2016. Percentages are in parentheses

Table 2 shows youth involvement in livestock farming as a career, it is noted that a good portion of the youth engage in livestock farming as their primary source of income (82.6%) while (60.5%) engage in livestock as the owner. Working on livestock farms at the attendant level (62.8%), managerial level (60.5%) and at casual level (46.5%) were also significant. While (55.8%) are those that were not

involve in decision making process in livestock farming. This shows that youth involve in livestock production as a career than any other career in the study area and they are involved at significant area. This agrees with the report of Ogbosuka *et al.*, (2003) who reported that youth and women are actively involved in livestock production.

*Table 3: Constraints that Affect Youth Involvement in Livestock Farming*

Variable	Severe	Mild	Not A Constraint
Lack of Capital	55(64.0)	25(29.1)	6(7.0)
Low return from business	25(29.1)	45(52.3)	16(18.6)
Return time in business	32(37.2)	40(46.5)	14(16.3)
Seasonality of business	37(43.0)	26(30.2)	23(26.7)
High risk in business	50(58.1)	27(31.4)	9(10.5)
Business nature	42(48.8)	31(36.0)	13(15.1)
Rural location of the business	24(27.9)	43(50.0)	19(22.1)
Inadequate infrastructure	47(54.7)	25(29.1)	14(16.3)
Poor Market structure in business	39(45.3)	39(45.3)	8(9.3)
Inadequate modern equipment	34(39.5)	43(50.0)	9(10.5)
Poor government policy	40(46.5)	32(37.2)	14(16.3)

**Source:** Field Survey, 2016. Percentages are in parentheses

The result in table 3 shows that perceived constraints to livestock farming which affects youth involvement in livestock farming as a career in the study are always noticeable ones such as inadequate capital to start a business (Finance) which has always been the major problem in Nigeria and 64% of the population (respondents) attested to this. Next to it is the seasonality of the business which receives majority nod of 43% population of the respondents which has also be a serious and major constraints faced by youths farmers in the study area from the early report (Arowolo *et al.*, 2013).

Poor government policy in the business is also one of the serious problems faced, as 46.5% believes in that, whereas

58.1%, 54.7% and 45.3% believes that High Risk, inadequate infrastructure and Market structure respectively are also serious constraints as well as nature of the business 48.8%. Low return, return time, rural location, lack of modern equipment are all seen as a mild constraints which has a percentage population of 52.3%, 46.5%, 50% and 50% respectively. This result is in agreement with the finding of Aphunu and Akpobasa who reported inadequate infrastructure in the rural area as one of constraint to youths' involvement in agricultural activities in Sapele local government.

Table 4: Youths Involvement in Livestock farming Management

Variable	Never	Rarely	Always
Feeding of livestock	3(3.5)	24(27.9)	59(68.6)
Production of livestock	20(23.3)	33(38.4)	33(38.4)
Treatment of livestock	10(11.6)	40(46.5)	36(41.9)
Purchasing of livestock	9(10.5)	40(46.5)	37(43.0)
Hiring of labor	29(33.7)	39(45.3)	18(20.9)
Sales of produce	7(8.1)	35(40.7)	44(51.2)
Customer relation	10(11.6)	31(36.0)	45(52.3)

**Source:** Field Survey, 2016. Percentages ar in parentheses

Table 4 shows that the youth are mostly involved in the feeding (68.6%) of the animals, sales of produce (51.2%) as well as customer relations (52.3%) while they rarely involved in hiring of labor (45.3%), purchasing of stocks (46.5%) as well as treatment of animals. The result shows that youths are actually involved in most of the management

activities on the farm as many of the respondents are either owners or managers on their farms, they get themselves involved in most of the activities on the farm. This agree with Mwachoro and Druckar (2005) who reported over (55%) of their respondent to be youth involving in livestock management activities.

Table 5: Youths involvement in decision making activities of livestock farming

Variable	Never	Low	Moderate	High
Feeding of livestock	8(9.3)	12(14.0)	34(39.5)	32(37.2)
Production of feed	5(5.8)	16(18.6)	34(39.5)	31(36.0)
Treatment of livestock	2(2.3)	15(17.4)	40(46.5)	29(33.7)
Purchasing of livestock	5(5.8)	17(19.8)	35(40.7)	29(33.7)
Hiring of labor	11(12.8)	22(25.6)	25(29.1)	28(32.6)
Sales of produce	5(5.8)	18(20.9)	28(32.6)	35(40.7)
Customer relation	4(4.7)	15(17.4)	33(38.4)	34(39.5)

**Source:** Field Survey, 2016. Percentages ar in parentheses

Table 5 shows that the youth in the study area are moderately involved in all decision making activities in livestock business. However, decision on treatment of livestock (46.5%) and purchasing of livestock (40.7%) are prominent in their activities. This may be possible because

majority of them are well informed and are actuarially involved in the business as either owners or managers. This is contrary the views of Jeffery *et al.*, as cited by Abdullahi (2012) who stated that youth have negative attitude toward agriculture.

Table 6: Chi- square test on relationship between selected socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents and their involvement in livestock farming

Variable	X <sup>2</sup>	$\partial. F$	P	Decision
Gender	0.42	1	0.837	not significant
Age	7.326	4	0.012	significant
Marital status	3.549	4	0.47	not significant
Educational background	1.329	3	0.007	significant
Source of income	1.987	1	0.011	significant

**Source:** Field Survey, 2016.

Table 6 shows the relationship between selected socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents and their involvement in livestock farming. The result reveals that respondents' age ( $X^2=7.326$ ,  $p<0.05$ ), educational background ( $X^2=1.329$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) and source of income ( $X^2=1.987$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) significantly affect the involvement of the respondents in livestock farming in the study area.

In term of age and involvement, the younger the respondents the higher their involvement in livestock farming as a career. While education is knowledge, the

level of education influences respondents' involvement in livestock farming as reported by Arowolo *et al* (2013). The source of income of the respondent will give the respondents more options of source of funding which will improve the status as well as more resources to engage in more livestock farming activities at the same time inadequate fund will limit the respondents' ability to involve in livestock farming as reported by ILRI (2007), that the improvement of human income will enhance the production of livestock in Nigeria.

Table 7: Correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) of constraints and youths involvement in livestock farming.

Variable	$r$	$\sim p$	Decision
Involvement and control	18.424	0.001	Significant

Source: Field Survey, 2016.

Table 7 shows correlation between involvement of youth in livestock farming and constraints to livestock farming, this shows that constraint might affect the involvement of youths in livestock farming activities in the study area. This agrees with the submission of Umeln and Odom (2011).

#### IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The findings of this study show that youths are well involved in livestock farming in Oluyole local government. The study also reveals that of all livestock farming, poultry farming is well embraced in Oluyole local government area. Moreover, most of the respondents are involved in most of the activities in the livestock industry as a good number of them occupied position of manager or ownership. On the other hand it was discover that lack of capital; infrastructure as well as effective Government policy constitute the major constraint to youth involvement in livestock farming in Oluyole Local Government area of Oyo state.

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Youth should organize themselves into groups in order to share knowledge and experience for the improvement of livestock farming. This will also help them to secure loans from micro and macro credit institutions.
2. The government and other stake holders should organize sensitization programme on livestock for youths in Oluyole Local Government as this will increase their awareness on livestock farming.

3. The government should establish development policies which are in favor of rural youth participation in livestock farming activities in Oluyole local government
4. Government should ensure the availability of enough input and capital for rural youth involving in livestock farming in the area.

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