



(RESEARCH ARTICLE)



## Socioeconomic characteristics of organic poultry farmers in Afikpo north local government area

Uche-nwachi MN <sup>1,\*</sup>, Edet AI <sup>2</sup>, Uche Nkechi <sup>1</sup>, Ukpai OO<sup>1</sup> and Ajayi MA <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Agricultural Technology, Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Unwana.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Agricultural Extension, Federal University of Technology Owerri, Nigeria.

International Journal of Science and Research Archive, 2024, 13(01), 1195–1199

Publication history: Received on 30 August 2024; revised on 22 September 2024; accepted on 24 September 2024

Article DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30574/ijrsra.2024.13.1.1675>

### Abstract

The study was conducted to determine the socio-economic of organic poultry farmers in Afikpo North Local Government Area, Ebonyi State. Data collected using structured questionnaire from 80 randomly selected farmers were analyzed using descriptive statistical tools: mean, frequency, percentage and Standard deviation. The result showed that majority (55.00%) of the farmers were female, (56.25%) were married, tertiary education (47.50%). The mean household size was 5 persons, membership of social organization (68.75%). It further revealed that over seventy percent of the farmers (73.75%) had up to 1-10 years farming experience. The study concluded that despite the wide attention received by organic broiler production in Afikpo, it has been constrained by some factors like lack of proper awareness, technical knowhow and preference of old practice to new practice. It is recommended that research institutes should organize extensive and periodic trainings for the farmers within Afikpo North Local government area to teach them the use of the organic recipes on poultry meat and egg production. Also enlightenment campaign should be initiated to sensitize farmers on the benefits of the use of organic recipes on broiler production.

**Keywords:** Organic; Recipes; Poultry; Meat; Production

### 1. Introduction

Organic poultry production has increased rapidly in recent years due to consumer demands and political goals but since Year 2008, trends towards a decrease was observed Euromeat (2022). The poor production of organic broiler meat which is less than 0.1% of the total broiler production necessitated Afikpo North Local Government to set a goal for 2010 that organic broiler should be at least 1% of the total broiler production. Although, the goal has not been achieved but organic broiler production is increasing compared to yearly basis (Tribune online, 2017). Organic production is regulated and guided by general principles, recommendation and basic standard. iFOAM is an umbrella organization that designs international standards for organic production and sets the accreditation criteria for the certifying associations in different countries. (Tribune Online (2017). IFOAM has set down its own rules in etless of the Afikpo North.

#### 1.1. Statement of the problem

Decrease in the production of organic broiler meat in the developing countries has become a major concern despite enormous benefits of organic meat products. It was reported that organic poultry farmers are less than 0.1% of the total broiler producers. This necessitated a goal set by Afikpo North Local Government in year 2010 that organic broiler production should be encouraged to grow to at least 1% of the total broiler production.

\* Corresponding author: Uche-nwachi MN; Email: [himard4life@gmail.com](mailto:himard4life@gmail.com)

### Research questions

- The following are the research questions that the study aims at attending to;
- What are the socio-economic characteristics of the poultry farmer in Afikpo?
- What are the market opportunities of organic poultry meat and egg?
- What are the constraints to the use of organic recipes on broiler production?
- How can these constraints be resolved?

### Objectives of the study

The Objective of this study include:

- To find the market opportunities for organic poultry meat and egg production
- To identify the perceived effect of the use of organic recipes on broiler production.
- Iii. To identify the constraints on the use of organic recipes on broiler production

### 1.2. Sample and sampling techniques

The population of the study comprised of all the farmers in Afikpo North local government area. multi-stage sampling procedure was used for the study. The study covered the (8) districts communities in Afikpo North local government area. The first stage was the random selection of (8) communities from Afikpo North districts those include Mgbom, Ndibe, Unwana, and Ozizza to ensure adequate coverage and proper representation of the farmers in Afikpo North Local Government Area. The second stage was random selection of 2 farmers from each of the household,with total of (80) farmers as the respondents or sample size.

### 1.3. Method of data collection

Data was collected from four sources; primary source and secondary field surveys constitute the source of data. It was undertaken using well-structured questionnaires relevant to the objectives of the study. Questionnaires were present in the sections, such that each selection addressed one interview, this was however, complemented which addressed the peculiarities of illiterate respondents. Response to interview was given of 5 like its type scale where A = strongly agreed, B = agreed, C = Undecided, D = Strongly disagreed, E = Disagreed. The secondary information sources comprised research papers, old projects, textbooks, journal and newspaper measurement of variable.The variable that was investigated in the study were measured as follows; age, sex, marital status, educational level, household size and years of rearing experience, farm size and membership of social organization. All their responses were grouped and subjected to statistical analysis .

### 1.4. Method of data analysis

The data for this study was analysed using the descriptive statistical tools that includes; frequency, percentage distribution, standard deviation and means. For the socio- economic characteristics of organic poultry farmers in Afikpo frequency table, percentage and mean were in the computation on the other hand, mean score and standard deviation were used to analyse the data.

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## 2. Results and discussion

Following the field survey, 80 copies of questionnaire administered were found useful. The socio-economic characteristics of organic poultry farmers was analysed and subsequently discussed under the following variables; sex,age, marital status, educational levels, house hold size, farming experience and membership of social organization

**Table 1** Distribution of the farmers according to sex

Sex	frequency	Percentage
Male	36	45.00
Female	44	55.00
Total	80	100.00

Source: field survey data, 2023

**Table 2** Distribution of the farmers according to age

Age	frequency	percentage %
20-30	23	28.75
31-40	28	35.00
41-50	13	16.25
51-60	10	12.50
61-70	06	7.50
Total	80	100.00

Source: field survey data, 2023

**Table 3** Distribution of the farmers according to their marital status

Marital status	frequency	Percentage
Married	45	56.25
Divorced	02	2.50
Single	30	37.50
Widow	03	3.75
Total	80	100.00

Sources: field survey data, 2023

**Table 4** Distribution of the farmers according to educational level.

Educational level	frequency	percentage
No formal education	04	5.00
Primary education	04	5.00
Secondary education	34	42.50
Tertiary education	38	47.50
Total	80	100.00

Sources: field survey data, 2023.

**Table 5** Distribution of the farmers according to household size

Household size	frequency	percentage
1-3	27	33.75
4-6	29	36.25
7-9	20	25.00
10 and above	04	5.00
Total	80	100.00

Sources: field survey data, 2023.

**Table 6** Distribution of the farmers according to farming experience

Farming experience	frequency	Percentage
1-5 years	33	41.25
6-10years	26	32.50
11-15	07	8.75
15 years and above	14	17.50
Total	80	100.00

Sources: field survey data, 2023.

**Table 7** Distribution of the farmers according to membership of social organization

Membership	frequency	Percentage
Member	55	68.75
Non-member	25	31.25
Total	80	100.00

Sources: field survey data, 2023

Tables 1,2,3,4,5,6 and 7 showed the results of the socio-economic characteristics of organic poultry farmers in Afikpo, Ebonyi state. The study revealed That 55.00 percent of the farmers were female while 45.00 percent were male. This implies that majority of the female farmers engaged in poultry farming show high level of responsiveness and financial support to the families. This is in line with Islam, et al., (2010), who argued in their work that the possibility and significance of increased broiler farming as an important means to utilize female farming labour in increasing family income and prosperity. The average age of the farmers was 41 years which is an indication of a moderate farming age. The farmers by implication are young and by extension vibrant, strong and innovative as well could be receptive to innovations. This support the assertion of FAO (2018), who postulated that young people have baling energy, vitality and innovative into the workforce and will have a transformative impact on economic growth and social development. The study further revealed that 56.25 percent of the farmers were married while 37.50 percent, 3.75 percent and 2.50 percent were single, widow and divorced respectively. The higher percentage observed for the married farmers is in line with the reports of Onweagba (2011), who concluded that Marriage confers responsibilities and the legal right to live with a man or woman and have children. He also remarked that many African countries household usually comprise of a man, his wife and other members of the household, and with the man being the head of the household. The farmer's educational levels varied. However, 47.50% of the farmers had tertiary education, followed by 52.50% that had secondary, primary and no formal education. This is an indication that 95 percent of the farmers had one form of literacy or the other. Education increases rationality and exposes farmers. Botlhoko and Olade (2013), reported that literate farmers are likely to accept innovations than illiterate farmers thereby enhancing their productivity and ensuring greater farms return.

The mean household size was 5 persons , 41.25% of the farmers had 1-5years farming experience, while 32.50% and 17.50% had 6-10 years and 15 years and above respectively. This implies that the farmers had appreciable years of experience in poultry farming .The result further shows that 68.75 percent of the farmers belong to social organization while 31.25 percent of the farmers do not belong to any social organization. The majority of the farmers were members of social organization existing in the communities as such improving the productivity, profitability and sustainability of the agricultural sector. This correspond with the research work of Musa and Mesfin (2017), on the impact of agricultural cooperatives membership on the wellbeing of smallholder farmers.

### 3. Conclusion

Organic broiler production, recently has received more attention worldwide, this was attributed to the various benefits of the use of organic recipes on broiler production. Despite the wide attention received organic broiler production has been constrained by some factors like lack of proper awareness, preference of old practice to new practice, requires technical knowhow, recipes production. Thus, this study determines the effectiveness of organic recipes on broiler production.

Results shows that people preferred organic produced poultry meat and egg because of its health benefits and the low cost of production of organic broilers among others.

### *Recommendations*

Enlightenment campaigns should be initiated to sensitize farmers on the benefits on the use of organic recipes on broiler production.

The government and non-governmental organizations of credit, extension and research should help to boost the rural agricultural economy through favourable, regular and compatible institutional provision.

The government and research institutes should organise extensive and periodic trainings for the farmers to teach them on the use/production of the organic recipes.

Provision of appropriate infrastructures such as power, good road network and sustainable water supply by government, donor agencies, non-governmental organization to facilitate processing of organic materials.

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## **Compliance with ethical standards**

### *Disclosure of conflict of interest*

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

### *Statement of informed consent*

Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study.

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