

DETERMINANTS OF ADOPTION OF BIOSECURITY PRINCIPLES BY POULTRY FARMERS IN KWARA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study assessed the determinant factors influencing the adoption of biosecurity principles by poultry farmers in Kwara State, Nigeria. The major objective was to determine poultry farmer awareness and adoption of various biosecurity principles. A multistage sampling technique was used to select the respondents. Data for the study were collected from 92 respondents, through the use of structured questionnaire and interview schedule. Data were subjected to both descriptive and inferential statistic (Logit regression analysis). The results revealed that majority of the poultry farmers were still within their productive and active age (M=47years), majority were well educated (M=15years) and majority (60 %) reared both broilers and layers. The study also showed that there was 100% awareness and trial of all the biosecurity principles under consideration. The most adopted biosecurity principles with 100% adoption however, were provision of adequate ventilation, removal of dead birds, offering of good quality feed and water, vaccination and provision of proper medication. The result further revealed that respondents with larger number of birds (1.994), access to credit (1.715), frequent contact with extension agents (2.183) and access to training (2.083) had high propensity to adoption of biosecurity activities. The respondents perceived all the biosecurity principles under consideration as effective in preventing losses in their farms. They however, perceived the following constraints as severe constraints: inadequate capital (M=2.96), disease and parasites (M=2.97) and inadequate credit facility (M= 2.74). The study concludes that poultry farmers' awareness of biosecurity activities was high, with moderate rate of adoption of the activities; they however, perceived biosecurity principles as effective means of preventing diseases infection.

Key Words: Adoption, biosecurity principles, poultry, farmers

Introduction

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimated the global population of domestic chickens and

ducks at over 18 billion and 1 billion, respectively (FAO, 2008). Based on the number of animals, poultry represents the largest domestic animal stock in the

world. The industry is dominated by commercial farms while in developing countries, production consists of small commercial farms, village or “backyard” (traditional) poultry, which is soft extensive. Poultry industry is however, becoming increasingly important in Nigeria with a steady increase in the demand for chicken and egg products sourced from both traditional and super markets. (FAO, 2008; FAO, 2009; FAO, 2012; Susilowati *et al.*, 2013)

Biosecurity is the implementation of measures that reduce the risk of the introduction and spread of disease agents; it requires the adoption of a set of attitudes and behaviours by farmers to reduce risk in all activities involving domestic, captive, exotic and wild birds and their products (Fasina *et al.*, 2011; Patrick and Jubb 2010; FAO, 2008). In the opinion of Nyaga (2007), biosecurity principles include simple practices and procedures which when applied prevent entry of disease agents into a farm or the exit of the disease agent from infected premises. Biosecurity includes controlling movement of stock, persons, equipment and products into the clean farm and out of infected premises; also it involves methods that enable the farm to remain in a state of sustained cleanliness, referred to as sanitation.

Poultry closely interact with humans in the same household as well as with wild birds and other livestock where they are also exposed to vermin and predators. Poor or absent of disease control strategies and inadequate management practices result in high levels of baseline mortality due to predators (e.g. rodents, snakes, small carnivores) or infectious diseases e.g. Newcastle Disease (ND), Salmonellosis, Gumboro disease or fowl

typhoid (Badubi *et al.*, 2009). Full term poultry farmers, do not develop a positive or favourable attitude towards biosecurity principles to minimize losses that are usually caused by diseases, most of the poultry farmers do not adopt these principles, as such they usually incurred a lot of losses which directly affect their income generation from poultry husbandry.

The three major principles of biosecurity are segregation, cleaning and disinfection. Biosecurity activities ranges from simple, low cost measure such as putting locks on gates to the more costly measures such as high pressure water sprayer to clean cars and constructing shower blocks to secure visitors and workers as they enter the farm (Fasina, 2011; Henson and Jaffe, 2005). This study is important because it provide a better understanding of the present level of awareness, adoption and the economic drivers and constraints faced by poultry farmers, this is necessary if appropriate government policy and market incentives structures can be established that encourage the reduction in poultry disease prevalence, this will in no small measure reduce the colossal losses usually incur by broiler and layer farmers

Objective of the Study

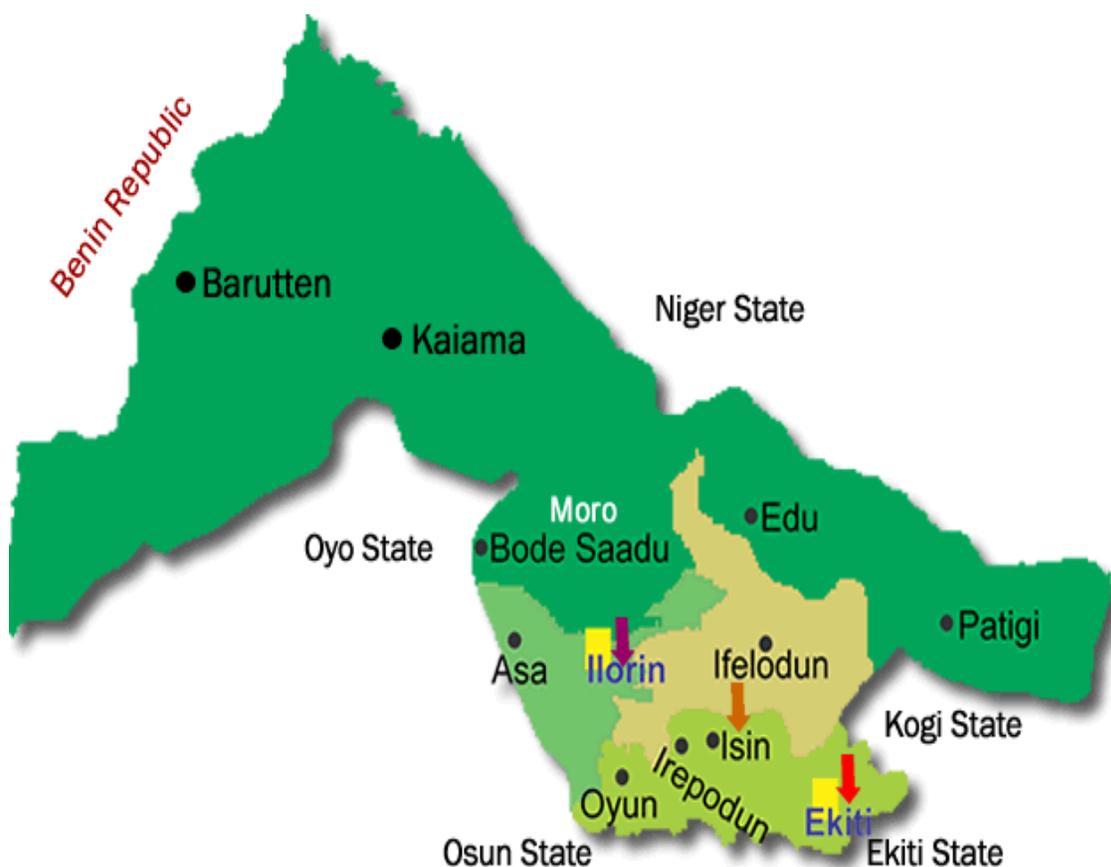
The objectives of the study include to:

Describe the socio economic characteristics of the poultry farmers, determines poultry farmer awareness and adoption of the various biosecurity principles, ascertain the factors affecting the adoption of biosecurity principle and to examine the constraints faced by the poultry farmers in adopting biosecurity principles.

Study Area

Kwara state lies approximately between Longitude 5°00'E and Latitude 8°30'N. Its State capital is Ilorin. Kwara State has a land mass of about 36,825 km² (14,218 sq. mi) and population of about 3,121,855 as estimated in 2015 (United Nation Population Fund, 2015). The climate of the state is characterized

by most spectacular landforms and the seasons include both the wet and dry seasons, each lasting for about six months. The rainy season begins towards the end of March and lasts till October. The major occupation of the people is farming, trading and rearing of animals like cattle, goat and sheep.



Scale map of Kwara State, Nigeria

Methodology

Sampling Technique and Sample Size

A multi-stage sampling technique was used in the selection of the respondents within the three agricultural Zones of Kwara state, namely; Kwara Central, Kwara North and Kwara South. In the first stage, two (2) Local

Government Areas were purposively selected from each agricultural Zone based on the predominance of poultry production in the Area. The selected Local Government Areas include; Ilorin West, Ilorin East, Edu, Patigi, Ifelodun and Irepodun. In the second stage, Six (6) villages were randomly selected from

each Local Government Areas. In the third stage, from the sample frame of the six villages from each Local Government Area, forty percent (40%) of the population were sampled. A total of thirty eight (38), twenty eight (28) and twenty six (26) respondents were sampled from Kwara central, Kwara north and Kwara south respectively, given a total sample size of Ninety two (92) respondents

Data Collection and Analysis

Primary data was used for the study. Structured questionnaire/interviews schedule was used to collect information from the respondents within the study area. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analysis, descriptive statistics that were used include: frequency distribution, mean obtained through administration of Likart type of scale. Poisson regression model was used to determine the factors affecting the adoption of bio security principles by the poultry farmers

Specification of Models

Poisson Regression Model

Poisson regression is a form of regression analysis used to model count data and contingency tables. Poisson regression assumes the response variable Y has a Poisson distribution and assumes the logarithm of its expected value which can be modelled by a linear combination of unknown parameters. Poisson regression model is sometimes known as log- linear model, especially when used to model contingency tables. Poisson regression models are generalized linear models with the logarithm as the link function and the Poisson distribution function.

The model is expressed in implicit form as:

$$Y = f (X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7,) \dots\dots\dots(1)$$

The functional form is expressed in the explicit form as:

$$Y=b_0 + b_1X_1+ b_2X_2+ b_3X_3 + b_4X_4 + b_5X_5 + b_6X_6 + b_7X_7 + U\dots\dots (2)$$

Where:

Y = Biosecurity principle adopted (count variable)

X₁ = Age (in years)

X₂ = Education (Years spent in school)

X₃ = Household size (numbers of people in the household)

X₄ = Number of birds

X₅= Experience (years spent in farm)

X₆= Extension contact (number of visits)

X₇= Access to training (number of time)

In = Logarithm

b₀= Constant

b₁ – b₇= Regression coefficient

X₁ – X₇= Independent variable

Results and Discussion

Personal Characteristics of the Respondents

The result of the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents in Table 1 revealed that, the age of the respondents ranges from 20 to 50 years, with mean age of 47 years, which implies that majority of the poultry farmers in the study area were still in there active and productive age. This is consistent with findings of Musa *et al.* (2009) and Patrick and Jubb (2010) who find that older farmers had fewer propensities to contribute in term of labour utilization. Majority (92.5%) of the poultry farmers were male, implying that male dominate the industry in the study area. Over 92% of the poultry farmers were married, 4.3% were single, while 2.2% and 1.1% were separated and widow/widower respectively. This is

implies that majority of the poultry farmers in the study area have additional responsibilities of catering for their families.

On the respondents' educational level, results revealed that majority (91.3%) had up to tertiary education, with mean of 15 years. This will directly influence their knowledge level and consequently their daily managerial operations. Also 64.1% of the respondent had household sizes of between 1-10 and 29.3% and 6.5% had household sizes of between 11-20 and 21-30, respectively. Implying that majority of them had moderate household sizes. This is in agreement with the findings of Onwubuya *et al.* (2009) who stated that in Tropical Africa majority of the farmers

now have small to moderate households and that large households are disappearing with increasing economic and financial hardship and raising demand for social and educational obligations. On the types of birds reared by the respondents, about 60% reared both broilers and layers while only 30.4% and 9.8% specialises in rearing broilers and layers, respectively. This is consistent with findings of Susilowati (2013), who stressed that in response to increasing population and improved standard of living, the demand has been increasing for both broilers and layers. In Batwana however, Badusi *et al.* (2004), reported that majority of the smallholder poultry farmers specialises in broilers production

Table 1: Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents

variables	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
Age			
<20	6	6.5	
21-30	18	19.6	
31-40	40	43.5	47
41-50	20	21.7	
>50	8	8.7	
Sex			
Female	7	7.6	
Male	85	92.5	
Marital status			
Single	4	4.3	
Married	85	92.4	
Widow/widower	1	1.1	
Separated	2	2.2	
Educational status			
No formal education	1	1.1	
Primary education	1	1.1	
Secondary education	6	6.5	15
Tertiary education	84	91.3	

Household size			
1-10	59	61.1	
11-20	27	29.3	10
21-30	6	6.5	
Types of birds reared			
Broilers	28	30.4	
Layers	9	9.8	
Both	55	59.8	

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents based on their overall adoption of various biosecurity principles

Biosecurity Principles	Adoption Rate		
	Aware	Tried	Adopted
Sanitation	92(100%)	92(100%)	91(98.9%)
Vaccination	92(100%)	92(100%)	91(98.9%)
Heating	92(100%)	92(100%)	76(82.6%)
Cooling	92(100%)	92(100%)	67(72.8%)
Ventilation	92(100%)	92(100%)	92(100%)
Proper medication	92(100%)	92(100%)	80(87.0%)
Isolation	92(100%)	91(98.9%)	61(66.3%)
Traffic control	92(100%)	90(97.8%)	57(62.0%)
Control of rodents	92(100%)	91(98.9%)	69(75.0%)
Removal of dead birds	92(100%)	92(100%)	92(100%)
Offering good quality feeds	92(100%)	92(100%)	92(100%)
Offering good quality water	92(100%)	92(100%)	92(100%)

Table 2 revealed that majority of the respondents were fully (100 %) aware and adopted the following bio-security principles: Removal of dead birds, offering good quality feeds, ventilation and offering good quality water. This is closely followed by sanitation (98.9%) and removal of dead birds (98.9%). This implies that majority of the respondent had good knowledge of bio-security principles and this consequently affected their rate of adoption. This is consistent

with the four principles documented by Pierson (2001), these include: principle of isolation, good hygiene, flock health care and lastly principle of good management. Traffic control was however, less adopted by the poultry farmers because majority of them reared their birds under intensive care, which is in line with the findings of Nyaga (2009), who stressed that the type of biosecurity adopted by a farmer depend on his/her husbandry system.

Table 3: Factors influencing poultry farmer’s adoption of biosecurity principles

Variable	Coefficient	Standard Error	Z-value
Age	.00783198	.01026208	0.763
Education	-.00713599	.01932248	-0.369
Experience	.01690907	.01545296	1.094
Household size	.01506445	.02436631	0.618
Number of bird	.00019951	.00010006	1.994*
Credit	.30399168	.17725424	1.715*
Extension contact	.61078529	.27974981	2.183**
Cooperative member	.25369103	.29086863	0.872
Training	.63308414	.30399318	-2.083**
MC Fadden Pseudo R-square	0.385206	**= Significant at 5%	
Chi square	6.661641	*= Significant at 10%	
Log likelihood function	-83.13774		

The regression model result indicated that the poultry farmers’ characteristics that significantly influence adoption of biosecurity principle were extension contact, number of birds, credit and training.

Extension contact had a positive and significant influence on adoption of biosecurity principles. Extension is a mean of educating farmers, more educated farmers may be more able to understand the biosecurity concept and see the potential impotence of implementing this management changes. This is in agreement with the findings of Van (2011), who pointed out that frequent contact with extension agents makes farmers have more control over their decision making and make them more confidence to make improved managerial decisions.

Number of birds had a positive significant influence on the adoption of biosecurity principles, the more number of birds a farmer have, the more conscious he becomes to guide against any disease outbreak which could result into a total lost, implying that the more number of birds the more the likelihood of the farmer to adopt bioscurity

principles. This is in line with the findings of Onwubuya (2009), who stressed that the higher the number of bird, the higher the adoption of biosecurity principles

Access to credit has positive and significant influence on the adoption of biosecurity principles by the poultry farmers, this is because credit beneficiaries need to avoid the potential large losses caused by disease outbreak. They are prepared to invest more money and times to minimize risk of loss and to ensure higher profit to enable them meet up with their credit obligation.

Accessing to training was significant but had negative effect on adoption of biosecurity principles. The higher the training received by the poultry farmers, the lower the rate of adoption of biosecurity principles. This is because the more the farmers become more skilful through training the more effective and efficient they become in carrying out their managerial activities. This can be achieved by adhering strictly to bio-exclusion or external biosecurity, that is, policies developed to prevent the introduction of new pathogen to livestock premises.

The result indicates that R² value of regression model was 0.385206 which shows that the economic variables included in the model accounted for 39%

variation in the level of poultry farmer's adoption of biosecurity principles in the study area.

Table 4: Distribution of the respondents based on their perception about the effectiveness of various biosecurity principles

Perception			
Biosecurity Principles	Weighted score	Weighted Mean	Remark
Sanitation	341	3.71	**
Vaccination	342	3.72	**
Heating	303	3.29	**
Cooling	284	3.09	**
Ventilation	301	3.27	**
Proper medication	324	3.52	**
Isolation	283	3.08	**
Traffic control	271	2.95	**
Control of rodents	293	3.19	**
Removal of dead birds	323	3.51	**
Offering good quality feeds	353	3.84	**
Critical mean		37.17	**
	≥ 2.5 = **		
	< 2,5 = *		

Table 4 indicated that respondents perceived sanitation, vaccination, proper medication, removal of dead birds, offering of good quality feeds and offering of good quality water as effective biosecurity principles. . This is in agreement with the findings of Cargill, (1999) and Corbanie, (2007), that Accuracy of vaccine and drug administration and hygienic measures are

very important to reduce local reactions, spread of infections, and the iatrogenic induction of disease.

Table 5 revealed that poultry farmers agreed that biosecurity principles are easy to practice (2.54), material affordable (2.85) and accessible (2.67). They however, disagreed that biosecurity materials are cheap (1.85) and does not require special training (1.98).

Table 5: Distribution of the respondents based on their overall perception on practice of various biosecurity principles

Perception	Sum	Mean	Remark
Easy to practice	234	2.54	**
Is it affordable	262	2.85	**
Materials accessible	246	2.67	**
Materials are cheap to obtain	170	1.85	*
Does not require special training	182	1.98	*
Critical mean		11.87	**
	$\geq 2.5 = **$		
	$< 2,5 = *$		

Critical mean = 2.5,

**Agree

*Disagree

Table 6: Perception of respondents about the severity of biosecurity constraints

Constraints	Very severe	Severe	Undecided	Not severe	Sum	Mean	Remark
Inadequate capital	34(37.0)	39(42.4)	—	19(20.7)	272	2.96	Severe
Poor water supply	5(5.4)	35(38.0)	—	52(56.5)	177	1.92	Not severe
High cost of feeds	13(14.1)	40(43.5)	—	39(42.4)	211	2.29	Severe
Marketing problem	4(4.3)	41(44.6)	—	47(51.1)	186	2.02	Severe
Diseases and parasites	32(34.78)	40(43.48)	5(5.44)	15(16.30)	273	2.97	Severe
Lour supply	4(4.3)	26(28.3)	2(2.2)	60(65.2)	158	1.72	No severe
Inadequate credit facilities	27(29.3)	39(42.4)	1(1.1)	25(27.2)	252	2.74	Severe
Poor weather condition	7(7.6)	31(33.7)	3(3.3)	51(55.4)	178	1.93	No severe
Poor veterinary knowledge	8(8.7)	46(50.0)	4(4.3)	34(37.0)	212	2.30	Severe
Pilfering and theft	5(5.4)	18(19.6)	6(6.5)	63(68.5)	149	1.62	No severe
Cultural belief	1(1.1)	15(16.3)	14(15.2)	62(67.4)	139	1.51	No severe

Table 6 indicated that inadequate capital, lack of credit facilities and problem of prevention and control of pathogenic diseases and parasites were more severe than other constraints faced by respondents in the study area, which directly or indirectly affect their adoption of biosecurity principles. This is collaborated by the findings of Siekkinen (2012), who posited that finance is major constraint facing small holder poultry farmers and that of Cristalli and Capua (2007), who pointed out that prevention and control of pathogenic diseases was

the major problem facing smallholder poultry farmers in Vietnam.

Conclusions

This study has shown that majority of the poultry farmers in the study area were still in their active and productive age and a good number of them had one form of education or the other.

Majority of the poultry farmers in the study area are small to medium scale farmers, were aware of the various biosecurity principles and had tried and Adopted a number of them.

Using the number of the biosecurity principles adopted as the dependent variable, this study identified the potential factors that influence the adoption of biosecurity principles. The regression analysis identified that farmers with larger number of birds, access to credit facilities, and contact with extension agents are more likely to adopt better biosecurity principles.

The farmers perceived biosecurity principles as effective means of preventing diseases, thereby avoiding colossal losses associated with poultry farming.

The study had indicated that poultry farmers in the study area faced serious constraints, but the major and severe constraints faced by them were inadequate capital and poor access to credit.

Recommendations

- i. If biosecurity on small to medium farms are to be encouraged, the unique socioeconomic characteristics of the farmers and the institutional variables of the farms should be considered during the process of encouraging the improvement of the farmer's adoption of biosecurity principles.
- ii. Government and NGOs need to understand the drivers of adoption for them to appropriately formulate policies and facilitate decisions that will encourage and motivate smallholder in adopting biosecurity principles in their farms.
- iii. Poultry farmers should be adequately train on how to identify the sources/reservoirs and vectors of potential disease agent, for this are the most important step when

implementing a biosecurity programme.

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