

INSECURITY, A THREAT TO POULTRY PRODUCTION: A STUDY OF WUKARI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF TARABA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study investigates the impact of insecurity on poultry production in Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State, Nigeria. Using a random sample of 180 poultry farmers across six wards, 166 valid responses were analyzed. Descriptive and inferential statistic showed significant relationships between insecurity and factors such as flock size, breed, income, and level of damage. The findings revealed that ethno-religious conflict, herders-farmers clashes, and weak security systems threaten livelihoods. The study recommends strengthening local peace efforts and improving insecurity interventions to safeguard poultry farming.

Keywords: Insecurity, poultry production, farmers Wukari, Taraba.

Description of Problem

Poultry is vital to Nigerians agricultural sector, providing meat, eggs, income, and employment. Nigeria's poultry production is estimated at 180 million birds, with a significant contribution to GDP. However, growing insecurity-ethnic conflicts, herder-farmers clashes, and weak security infrastructure-threatens this sector. Wukari LGA, a conflict-prone region in Taraba State, is experiencing disruptions in poultry production due to such issues.

Ethnic and Religious intolerance of the other's ethnic group and religious belief has been considered as one of the main causes of insecurity. Ethnic bigotry and religious fanaticism have felicitated insecurity in the adherent of two major religions Islam and Christianity have never accepted each other cordially as being created by the same God and should live in harmony. Violence at the least provocation is a common occurrence there Aliyu [1] defined poverty as a situation in which peoples live below a predetermined standard value in terms of income conditions of living.

Joblessness creates an avenue for the youth to employ themselves in criminal activities that lead to insecurity according to Nwagboso [2]. The stark reality of poverty and consequent lack of food makes the poor to indulge in violence and anti-social activities which threaten the security of poultry production which posed a threat to poultry production.

More so, destruction of lives and farmlands, has become a major threat to the poultry production in Wukari LGA as communities' experiences heavy loss of lives and properties including poultry farms. Farms, houses, schools are overtaken with weeds [3].

Methodology

Wukari LGA, is located in southern part of Taraba State, comprising of 16 wards and covers 4,391.81Km². A total of 180 poultry farmers were randomly selected across six wards, structured questionnaires were used to collect data while descriptive statistics and regression analysis were employed using (SPSS)

Table 1: Variables Entered/Removed

Model	Variables Entered	Variables Removed	Method
1	Level of income, Poultry Flocks Size, Knowledge about insecurity, Level of Damage, Management System, Numbers of Employees, Farming System, Effect of insecurity on poultry, Breeds of birds, Types of Poultry, Risk of insecurity	None	Enter

Note:

a. All requested variables were entered.

b. Dependent Variable: *Setback on poultry production*

Table 1: ANOVA (Analysis of Variance)

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	0.154	11	0.014	0.456	0.927a
Residual	3.725	121	0.031		
Total	3.880	132			

Note:

a. Predictors: (*Constant*), Level of income, Poultry Flocks Size, Knowledge about insecurity, Level of Damage, Management System, Numbers of Employees, Farming System, Effect of insecurity on poultry, Breeds of birds, Types of Poultry, Risk of insecurity

b. Dependent Variable: *Setback on poultry production*

Results and Discussion

Significantly related to security-related setbacks ($P < 0.01$). larger farms were more likely to be targeted. The poultry flocks' size is highly significant at 1%, this implies that the larger your flock size, the more chances of being attacked by insecurity. The breeds of birds is significant at 1%, this implies that, local breeds has the highest attacked by insecurity due to loss of homes, villages displaced as opined by [4] "that violence has reached alarming level and scores of people have been killed with much more wounded or displaced from their homes and business due to the crisis". [5] opined that "despite the importance of housing for human existence and the seeming inadequacy of housing for man are the primary object of attack in ethno-religious crisis. Types of poultry is highly significant at 5%, this implies that those who rear Chicken, Turkey and Duck are more vulnerable to insecurity due to different types of poultry reared. The number of employees is significant at 1%, this implies that most farms are being managed by the family members. Knowledge about insecurity is highly significant at 5%, this implies

that the more knowledge you have about insecurity the better the chances of being prevented from insecurity. The risk of insecurity is significant at 1%, this implies that, insecurity has risk on poultry production, poultry farmers are at high risk of insecurity in Wukari L G A.

Level of damage is highly significant at 5%, this implies that poultry farmers have established levels of damage suffered as a result of insecurity as reported by [6] (who observed that violent crisis in Nigeria have not resulted in material losses, but also human losses. Also, [7] who is the Chairman Poultry Association of Nigeria (PAN), Ogun state Chapter, reported in Daily independent that the impact of various kidnap incidents in the country is taking a toll on their business. [7] reported the implications of damage by insecurity, are either the chicks come out of Nigerians daily food or start importing chicken again which will be a very sad and disastrous situation. [8] opined that the spate of insecurity, the state (Kaduna) had forced farmers to abandon their farms for the safety of their lives.

Table 3: Coefficients

Dependent Variable: *Setback on poultry production*

Predictor Variables	Unstandardized Coefficients (B)	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients (Beta)	T	Sig.
(Constant)	1.039	0.123		8.436	***
Poultry Flocks Size	0.016	0.017	0.087	0.931	*
Breeds of birds	-0.022	0.027	-0.080	-0.811	**
Types of Poultry	-0.018	0.021	-0.087	-0.876	**
Farming System	0.000	0.030	-0.003	-0.027	N/S
Management System	0.022	0.024	0.086	0.879	N/S
Numbers of Employees	0.021	0.021	0.096	0.998	*
Knowledge about insecurity	0.016	0.021	0.079	0.736	**
Risk of insecurity	0.013	0.024	0.061	0.544	*
Effect of insecurity on poultry	-0.019	0.022	-0.090	-0.856	*
Level of Damage	-0.000	0.020	-0.002	-0.022	**
Level of income	0.001	0.015	0.009	0.093	*

Model Summary: $R^2 = 0.41$, F-Value = 0.456, Sig. = 0.927

Significance Key: = Significant at 0.1 level (1-tailed), ** = Significant at 0.05 level (1-tailed), *** = Significant at 0.001 level, N/S = Not Significant.

Conclusion and Application

Insecurity has severely affected poultry farming in wukari, causing loss of lives, displacement and farm destruction. These issues have reduced productivity, income, and food security. There is an urgent need for peacebuilding and targeted security measures to restore agricultural activities. Hence, the study recommends:

- i. Improve local security: equip and deploy security forces to rural communities
- ii. Foster peace dialogues: promote reconciliation between conflicting groups (Tiv, Jukun and Fulani).
- iii. Public sensitization: Educate citizens on peaceful conflict resolution and tolerance.
- iv. Enforce Anti-Discrimination laws: Uphold religious and ethnic neutrality in governance

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