

Economic Analysis of Small Ruminant Production in Bosso Local Government Area, Niger State, Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT

The paper examined the economic analysis of small ruminant production in Bosso local Government Area of Niger State. Data were collected from a total of 90 respondents using purposive random sampling technique in 2007. Inferential statistics, farm budgeting and regression analysis were used in the analysis of the data. Result of the allocative efficiency index showed that feed cost, labour, other inputs and fixed cost were underutilized. Thus, farmers should increase the use of these resources efficiently in order to enhance profit. This can be achieved by obtaining loans from agricultural banks and by encouraging farmers in the study area to form cooperative.

INTRODUCTION

Livestock production represent a major nutritional investment with important economic, nutritional and social implication for the country (Ademosun, 1996). Nigeria as a developing country is faced with a worsening situation of inadequate protein consumption (Eliagu, 1991). In a nutritional profile in Nigeria, Owolabi, (1998) reported that the protein supply per capita 44.0g out of which animal products was less than 2.0%. this has led to protein deficiency which is responsible for under-nutrition and malnutrition which are wide spread at all ages and in Nigeria in general.

It is therefore necessary to increase the production of domestic animal protein. One of such domestic animals that are relatively easy to manage in small household is the small ruminant. Small ruminants are known to be prolific, have short generation intervals and above all their management is less capital intensive, therefore can easily be managed in small household. The small ruminants under consideration are sheep and goat. the largest concentration of these small ruminants are found in the sudan savannah zones. A high percentage (between 75% to 90%) of traditional households keep sheep and /or goat for various purposes such as meat production, income from sales and security against crop failure among other reasons. From the foregoing, it is important to study the economic analysis of small ruminants production in Bosso Local

Government Area (LGA), Niger State in order to assess the type of management system, determine the costs and returns from sheep and goat product and the rource-use efficiency of the enterprises. The finding from this study will be useful in policy formulation towards achieving increased livestock production in the country.

METHODOLGY

The Study Area

The study was carried out in Bosso Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State. The state is located between latitude 8^o 21N and 11^o 30N and longitude 3^o 30E and 7^o 20E. Bosso LGA is geographically located in the central part of the State. Agriculture is the major occupation with about 80% of the population engaged in farming. The major crops produced in the area include; rice, guinea corn, yam and millet while groundnut, maize cowpea, cassava and sugarcane are produced as minor crops. Livestock farming is also practiced, with sheep, goats, cattle and poultry mostly on free range.

Sampling and Data Collection

The purposive sampling method was employed to select the respondents. 50 sheep farmers and 40 goat farmers were selected making a total of 90 respondent. The main instrument for data collection was structured questionnaire. Data were collected on socio-economic characteristics o the respondents, type of housing, system of management, input and output prices etc.