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## Poultry farmers perception of students industrial work experience in oyo zone of agricultural development programme, Oyo State, Nigeria

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**ABSTRACT:** Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) was established to match theoretical and practical scheme together. Agricultural students have been doing their industrial attachment with the poultry farmers for more than a decade. Hence, it becomes pertinent to examine poultry farmers' perception of Student Industrial Work Experience in order to ascertain the extent to which SIWES general objectives have been achieved. The sample for the study was drawn from a list of population of poultry farmers in Oyo Zone of Agricultural Development Programme. Poultry farms which accepted industrial attachment students were purposively selected out of which 10% of the poultry farmers that made up of 69 were randomly selected for the study. Findings revealed that 86.1% of them fell within age range of 30-40 years and majority (93.3%) of them were literate while the greater proportion (65.8%), kept 100-2000 birds. Students attitude to work pooled mean score was 3.42, and poultry feeding and management 3.22 while poultry health care, 1.14 and knowledge of poultry house construction 1.34, attracted lower perception scores. The findings further revealed that farmers perception scores varied across selected perception variables such as students attitude to work, feeding and management of birds, poultry health care and poultry house construction. The variation was significant at 5.0% level of significance. Hence, it is suggested that, the curriculum for Students Industrial Work Experience should be reviewed based on the identified perception of poultry farmers about SIWES students.

**Key Words:** Perception, farmers, poultry, students, experience, constituency.

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## INTRODUCTION

Livestock production is an important component of the agricultural economy in developing countries most especially Nigeria. It is an instrument of socio-economic change and also improved income and quality of rural life in Nigeria (Okunmadewa, 1999). In livestock production poultry occupies prominent position in providing animal protein. It accounts for 25% of local meat production in Nigeria (Okunlola and Olofinsawe, 2007).

Poultry production has become a fulltime job for many Nigerians and significantly contributes to Gross National Product (GNP) (Umeh and Odo, 2002). In Nigeria, the intake of annual protein is put at 4.82g caput/day as against 35g/caput/day recommended by Food and Agricultural Organization (Eruvbeting, 2009). A World Bank Assisted Natural Strategy Plan (1996-2010) projected an annual protein of 5.32g/caput/day for the estimated 159 million population in 2010

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(cited in Erubetine, 2009). However, this value falls short of the F.A.O. recommended value. It has been predicted that the increase in meat consumption over the year would be mainly poultry meat and that poultry consumption would be double that of pork and beef (Food Policy Research Institute (Erubetine, 2009). The projected production of both poultry meat and egg for the year 2006 and 2016 indicated that meat and egg would increase by 40 and 34% respectively in the developing countries as compared to 24% and 9.2% increase for the same period in the developed countries as shown in Table 1.

Table 2 indicates that both poultry meat and egg production are on the increase in the developing world. However, in Nigeria, there is a slight increase in poultry meat consumption per capita, over the last 5 years, egg consumption per capita over the same period was lower as shown in Table 2. Lower consumption rate of egg was attributed to increase in population.

The development of poultry industry in Nigeria has been described as fastest means of bridging the protein deficiency gap prevailing in the

country. It is the only aspect of livestock industry which has been fully commercialized, contributing both eggs and meat in addition to the immense potentials contribution towards alleviating the protein problem in the diet of most Nigerians (Erubetine, 1998).

Poultry products mainly eggs and meat represent important food for improving the nutrient stocks particularly of the most vulnerable population; children and pregnant women (Apantaku *et al*, 1998). Several attempts have been made to promote livestock production in Nigeria. Among these attempts are the promotion of poultry production, in secondary and higher institution, such as Colleges of Education, School of Agriculture and Universities and giving credit to poultry farmers that participated in food security program. The essence of promoting poultry production in secondary schools and higher institution are for the students to acquire industrial skills and practical experience in poultry production. However, it has been found that graduates of these institutions of higher learning lack adequate practical background required for employment (Industrial Training Fund, 2004).

**Table 1: Production (Million Metric Tons (MNT) of Poultry Meat and Eggs**

Product	Country	2006	2016	% Increase
Poultry Meat	Developing	46.9	65.7	40.0
	Developed	55.8	44.6	24.6
Eggs	Developing	42.6	57.1	34.0
	Developed	18.5	20.2	9.2

Source: PYM, 2009

**Table 2: Consumption of chicken meat and eggs(Kg/Capital/year)**

Product	Country	1995	2000	2005
Chicken meat	U.S.A.	35.5	39.0	44.3
	Chinas	5.1	6.8	8.0
	Nigeria	1.5	1.4	1.6
Eggs	U.S.A.	13.4	14.5	14.8
	China	11.0	13.6	17.5
	Nigeria	3.1	3.2	3.1

Source: PYM, 2009

Hence, the employers concluded that the theoretical education in higher institution was not responsive to the needs of employers of labour.

Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) was established to match theoretical and practical scheme together (Federal College of Education, 2004). Its objectives are to design a skill of training programme that will prepare and expose student of higher institution to industrial work situation they are likely to meet after graduations. Agricultural student have

been doing their industrial attachment with the poultry farmers for more than a decade. Hence, it becomes pertinent to examine poultry farmers' perception of student industrial work experience in order to ascertain the extent to which SIWES general objectives have been achieved. Thus specific objectives are to describe personal and social characteristics of poultry farmers, ascertain availability of poultry equipment on farmers farm, establish perception of poultry farmers about SIWES, suggest way forward based on poultry farmers' perception of SIWES.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The study was conducted in Oyo Zone of the ADP's (Oyo West, Atiba, Oyo East and Afijio) Local government areas of Oyo State. This area lies at the South Western Zone of the state, which is roughly enclosed by latitude 5° and 9° North of the equator, and it is bounded by longitude 3° and 5.5 East. This area of study is bounded in the east by Ogo Oluwa Local Government area and Osun State, to the West by Ifedapo and Iseyin Local Government areas, to the South by Akinyele Local Government and to the North by Orire Local Government area, of Oyo State. Ecologically, this area of study lies in guinea Savannah. The major occupation of the people is farming. The main crops grown are maize, cassava, yams, tree crops like palm tree, cocoa, kolanut, citrus etc. The people of this area of study were also involved in livestock production, especially poultry farming (domestic fowl, turkey, duck etc.).

The target population of the study were the poultry farmers in Oyo zone of the ADP's (Oyo West, Atiba, Oyo East, and Afijio) local government areas of Oyo state. Poultry farms which accepted industrial attachment students were purposively selected out of which a total of 69 poultry farmers, were sampled for the study. A simple random sampling method was

employed in selecting 10% of the poultry farmers from each of the local government. Afijio (26), Oyo West (17), Oyo East (14), and Atiba (12) poultry farms. The Zone was chosen because large numbers of poultry farms were established in the area. Structured interview schedule was developed and used in collecting relevant information from poultry farmers. The interview schedule contained items that were based on the objectives of the study.

Farmer's perception about SIWES was measured by dividing structured interview schedule into 4 sections: students' attitude toward works, construction of poultry buildings, feeding and management of birds and health care's. The farmers' perception toward SIWES' attitude toward poultry farming was measure using 5 items, feeding and management of birds, construction of poultry house and health care were measured using 5, 4 and 6 items respectively. The items indicated farmers' perception about SIWES knowledge and ability to perform in each section. The farmers were given the following choices to response to each item: SA= Strongly agree, A= agree, D = disagree, and SD = Strongly disagree. The mean response for each item varied from 1-4 with high agreement indicating high scores on farmers' perception of

SIWES attitude toward poultry farming, their knowledge and ability to perform in construction of poultry house, feeding and management of poultry house and health care. The level of agreement with each item in the section was determined by dividing the grand mean score

by the number of items in each section. Perception maximum score was 4 while minimum score was 1 for rating scale used. Data were analyzed using, frequency counts, percentages and analysis of variance ANOVA.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### **Poultry farmers' socio-economic characteristics**

As shown in Table 3, 76.6% of the poultry farmers were male; 86.1% of them fell within the age range of 30-40 years and their mean age was 37 years. Concerning educational background of the poultry farmers, majority (93.3%) of them were literate. Their scale of operation datum revealed that greater proportion (65.83%), kept 100-2000 birds. It can be deduced from the finding that higher proportion (86.1%) of the farmers were young and according to Bolarinwa (2007), these farmers belong to adventurous age. They were also elites and belong to small scale poultry farmers. Akeeb (1997) in his study classified farmers keeping 100-2000 birds as belonging to small scale farmers. The implication of this finding is that, majority of the farmers belong to small scale poultry group and were literate, this will enhance their access to poultry information from press and electronic media.

### **Availability of Poultry Equipment on the Farms**

The entries in Table 4 indicates that majority (70% ) of farmers made use of battery cages, 40% of them made use of automatic waterier and feeder. Fewer (35%) and 40% of the farmers have feed miller and hatchery buildings respectively. It can be inferred from the study

that, despite the fact that they belong to small scale category, some of them have sophisticated poultry equipment on their farms. Success in poultry production is influenced by the availability of poultry equipment which the farmers possessed. The relatively high percentage of battery cage users in the area of study could be trace to the fact that there were more farmers who kept layers.

### **Perception of Poultry Farmers about Student Industrial Work Scheme (SIWES)**

As shown in Table 5 farmer's perception about student's attitude to work pooled mean score was 3.42 and poultry feeding and management 3.22 were awarded high perception scores by poultry farmers while poultry health care 1.14 and knowledge of poultry house construction 1.34 attracted lower perception scores. The implication of this finding is that, SIWES students had positive attitude towards poultry production practices and competency in poultry feeding and management since their pooled mean for the section was greater than two. However, they were not competent in knowledge of poultry house construction and management of poultry disease and pest control because the pooled mean scores for the two sections were less than two.

**Table 3: Distribution of the poultry farmers based on socio-economic characteristics, n=69**

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	51	76.6
Female	15	23.4
<b>Age</b>		
21-30	27	40.5
31-40	30	45.6
41-50	7	10.2
51-60	2	3.7
61>	-	-
<b>Educational Status</b>		
No formal education	4	6.7
Adult education	6	9.3
Primary education	30	45.6
Secondary education	23	35.4
Post secondary education	3	3.0
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	56	85.3
Single	6	9.0
Widow	4	5.7
<b>Livestock Keeping</b>		
Poultry	42	65.1
Fish	7	11.0
Fish and poultry	13	20.0
Pig and poultry	4	3.9
<b>Scale of production</b>		
100-500	10	15.3
501-1000	7	10.2
1001-1500	6	8.7
1501-2001	43	65.8
2001>	-	-

Source: Field Survey, 2010

**Table 4: Distribution of poultry farmers according to availability of poultry equipment on their farms, n=69**

<b>Available of Poultry Equipment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
*Battery Cage	42	70.0
Deep Litters	25	16.5
Battery cage with automatic Waterier	26	40.0
Battery cages with automatic feeders	26	40.0
Feeder millers equipment	23	5.0
Hatchery Building	26	40.0

Source: Field Survey, 2010

**Hypothesis**

There was significant difference in poultry farmers' student perception scores of SIWES across the selected perception variables at 5.0% level of significance. The finding revealed that farmers perception scores varied across the

selected perception variables such as students attitude to work, feeding and management of birds, poultry health care, and poultry house construction. The implication of this is that farmers perception of SIWES varied along side with variables used to measure their perception.

**Table 5: Perception of Poultry Farmers about SIWES n=69**

<b>Farmers Perception</b>	<b>Mean Scores</b>	<b>Pooled Mean Scores</b>
<b>A. Student Attitude Toward Work</b>		
Student report to work very early	4.2	
Student were known for dereliction of duty	0.8	
Student were obedient to constituted authority	3.8	3.42
Student obeyed the poultry farms rules and regulation	4.5	
Student were interested in poultry work	3.8	
<b>B. Construction of Poultry Buildings</b>		
Cage construction	0.8	
Factors to be considered in construction of poultry buildings.	1.8	1.34
Materials require for Construction of Poultry buildings.	1.6	
Knowledge of low cost scientific cage construction	1.2	
Number of birds per poultry building size.	1.3	
<b>C. Feeding and Management</b>		
Sanitation of poultry environment	3.2	
Compounding poultry ration	4.6	3.22
Knowledge of balance feeding	3.5	
Knowledge of adequate feed and water required per birds weight and age	2.8	
Lack of technical guidance	2.0	
<b>D. Health Care</b>		
Diagnosis of losses due to diseases	0.8	
Adequate knowledge of vaccination schedule	0.6	1.14
Identification of ecto-parasites	1.2	
Identification of poultry diseases symptoms	0.9	
Knowledge of recommended drugs for birds diseases	1.5	
Application of drugs to bird	0.7	

Source: Field Survey, 2010

**Table 6: Poultry Farmers, Students Perception Scores of SIWES**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Df</b>	<b>Mean square</b>	<b>F-Value</b>	<b>P Value</b>
Farmers perception variables	Between group within group	3	2087.56 982.5	3.4	P<0.05

Source: Field Survey, 2010

## CONCLUSION

In this research work attempt has been made to examine the perception of poultry farmers to students industrial work experience in oyo zone of agricultural development programme. The findings revealed that farmers perception scores varied across the selected perception variables such as attitude to work, construction of poultry buildings, feeding and management of poultry disease and pest control. Also there was

significant difference in the poultry farmers' students' perception scores of SIWES across the selected perception variables. It is therefore suggested that student's industrial work experience scheme curriculum should be reviewed to reflect the identified inadequacies observed by the poultry farmers in the study area in the conduct of the research work.

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