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Performance of Poultry Farmers in Agriculture Sector: A Case of the Poultry Farmers in Odiongan, Romblon

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A B S T R A C T

The results of this research will be able to describe the perceptions of poultry farmers regarding their level of satisfaction with regard to the availability of transport, land, interest, feed supply, market, foundation stock, finance, water, and pricing bodies by presenting the relationship between each of the selected societal characteristics of the poultry farmers and their perceptions of the performance of the poultry industry. The analysis revealed that market conditions and financing decisions satisfied poultry growers. Furthermore, the findings pointed out that poultry producers certainly lacked the required production capabilities. These abilities include the competence to establish and maintain an appropriate temperature, timely disease detection, timely stress detection, timely stress reduction, timely disease eradication, and timely categorization of death caused by feed/nutrition.

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INTRODUCTION

Poultry farming significantly improves household food security, the province's economy, and the national economy in general (Falculan, 2021). A significant supply of animal protein for households in developing nations is provided by rural chicken rearing. The involvement of farmers in the socioeconomic growth of their nations has gained significant attention in recent years. Given that agriculture forms the backbone of the economies of the majority of developing nations, farmers' efforts to improve many facets of rural life, such as food production and animal husbandry, must be strengthened. However, urban and peri-urban settings, which are typified by high operating expenses, are where most modern intensive systems are found. Based on the data that is currently accessible, poultry is crucial to both human life and the agricultural industry. In general, poultry producers have limited access to technology innovation for their work in agricultural production. People of various backgrounds investing in the poultry sector is one of the knock-on impacts. According to Luke Mfanuzile Malindzisa's (2003) report, credit for agricultural inputs places restrictions on farmers in poor nations. Other than if they are members of a cooperative, poultry farmers often do not have access to financing services. The poultry farmer generally has no access to credit facilities unless he / she belongs to some cooperative. The issue that highlights the economic worth of poultry cannot be understated; they make a significant contribution to the GDP and are a fast-growing business that generates a significant amount of employment and animal food. The researcher has identified a disconnect between farmers, farms, and sustainable development as a result. Poultry farming's future is uncertain. The research that is now available indicates that a variety of factors influence poultry farmers and poultry farms in Odiongan, which has impacted the poultry industry's ability to thrive. However, despite the detrimental internal and external forces that have been harming the business, the poultry has been improving in several areas, including as production. Furthermore, as a result of this, the researcher has decided to look at the issues that are affecting both farms and poultry producers separately. The research was examined in order to comprehend the research question. Then, a list of elements impacting farms and poultry is provided. The best remedy to the issue will then be described, followed by a list of other options. The study's constraints and successes with regard to sustainability will be explored. Other researchers will benefit from the discoveries by expanding their body of knowledge. Researchers will utilize the findings to develop hypotheses and models that link the elements to the poultry sector. When the theories are developed, they will support the farmer who raises poultry and the farm, allowing them to survive for generations to come.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. According to Chilala, N. (2019), affirms that the poultry industry has recorded a sharp drop in egg production. The total volumes of chickens and eggs sold on the market dropped and also the selling prices for poultry

products dropped. This situation was mainly due to the eroded purchasing power of customers. Production costs like feed, feed, fuel, equipment and other inputs went up, mushrooming of unregulated fees and levies emerging in different district councils that are adding cost to the industry. Avian influenza is a disease that poultry farmers are under intense threat due to the rate at which the disease is spreading. He called for enforcement of high-level bio-security and hygiene practices as a precautionary measure (Sosala R., 2017).

Despite the fact that most layers and broilers are on commercial farms, the number of households that rely on poultry as their main source of income is significantly high amongst the small-scale producers. This is the reason we have seen increased traders of both eggs and broilers on our local markets that product their flock under the backyard system. (Harad C. L., 2013).

Commercial farmers are usually integrated as they produce for ready markets which are usually mega Supermarkets like Shoprite, spar and pick and pay under contracts. Commercial farmers go further in production as they process the birds by slaughtering them then packing them as assorted chickens as per requirement by the supermarkets. The same scenario applies for layers. The eggs cleaned and packed in branded trays then distributed to the supermarkets. Some factors faced by poultry farmers are as follows: Gender, Age, level of education, household size, farm gate price, marketing challenges, levels of management, production costs, market outlets and labors (Lungu C.H., 2011).

The increase in chicken feed is likely to push some poultry farmers out of business if there are no measures to reduce the impact (Mupeseni K., 2015). Furthermore, Mupeseni continues to say that according to the poultry raisers. Says the rising costs of feed have left a lot of small and medium poultry farmers considering suspending their operations cost on feed now. The rising cost of feed has resulted in most small and micro farmers who represent a significant number of the industry unable to meet their overhead costs of sustaining the operations. (Mbale Tryness, 2018). Due to the open market system in the country the price some farmers are considering suspending their farm operations with feed pegged for broiler starter feed. It has been predicted by industry players that if the present crisis is not addressed and the market forces do not control the situation, a lot more farmers may be forced out of the market, which may result in reduced supply of eggs and chickens.

A production function expresses the relationship between an organization's inputs and its outputs. It indicates, in either mathematical or graphical form, what outputs can be obtained from various amounts and combinations of factor inputs. In particular it shows the maximum possible amount of output that can be produced per unit of time with all combinations of factor inputs, given the current factor endowments and the state of available technology. Unique production functions can be constructed for every production technology. Alternatively, a production function can be defined as the specification of the minimum input requirements needed to produce designated quantities of output, given available technology. This is just a reformulation of the definition above (James, 2002).

METHODOLOGY

A descriptive survey type of research using the questionnaire technique was used in this study. The survey strategy has the advantage of providing information about the frequency of a phenomenon and about the perceptions of key individuals. The target population of the study were poultry farmers in the municipality of Odiongan (N=76). The population were selected because the respondents were in a better position to provide the information required to achieve the objectives of the study. This is mainly because they are actively involved in poultry production. Since the survey included a representative sample of all the poultry farmers in the community, the respondents were an important source of data about the present status of the poultry production enterprise in the municipality of Odiongan, province of Romblon. An up-to-date list of poultry farmers in the locality will be obtained from the Provincial Agriculturists in the Department of Agriculture (DA). This procedure will be followed to control frame error. The Provincial Agriculturists is the only person who has up-to-date information about poultry farmers in the Province.

RESULTS

Gender

The respondents were asked to indicate their gender on the questionnaire. Figure 1 showed the number of male and female respondents. A higher percentage (53.95%) of the respondents were males as compared to (46.05%), which were female.

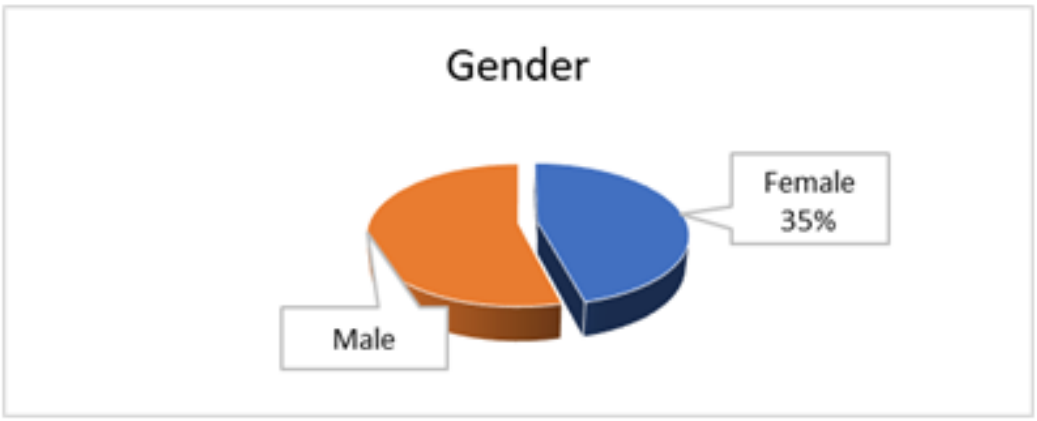

Figure 1. Description of Respondents by Gender

Age

Figure 2 presented the age of the poultry farmers in the Municipality of Odiongan. The age ranged from 50 years to 60 years. The mean age was 25 years. From these results, it was concluded that poultry farmers were relatively at middle old age.

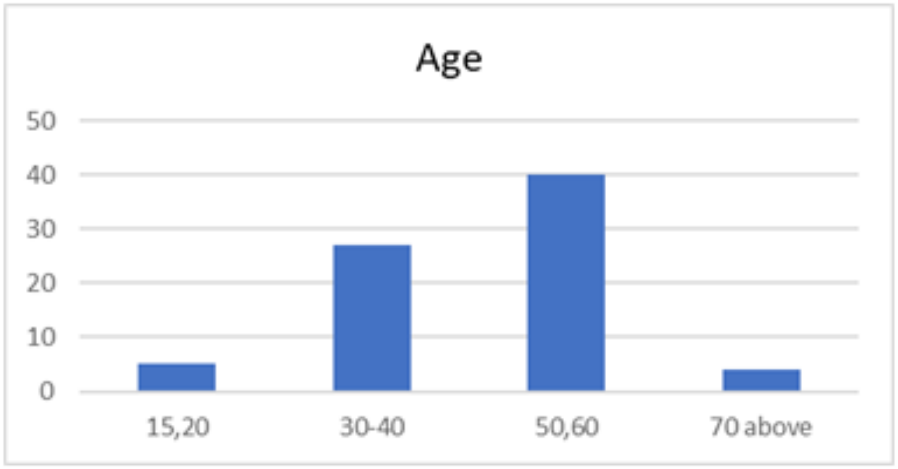

Figure 2. Description of Respondents by Age

Level of Education

Poultry farmers were asked to indicate their highest level of education. Information contained in Figure 3 indicated that 30 (39.47%) of the poultry farmers had a College level or College Graduate, 23 (30.26%) had a high school level or high school graduate, 16 (21.05%) had Elementary level or Graduated and only 7 (9.21%) had Vocational Course qualification. The conclusion was drawn that a higher proportion of poultry farmers had a college degree level of qualification.

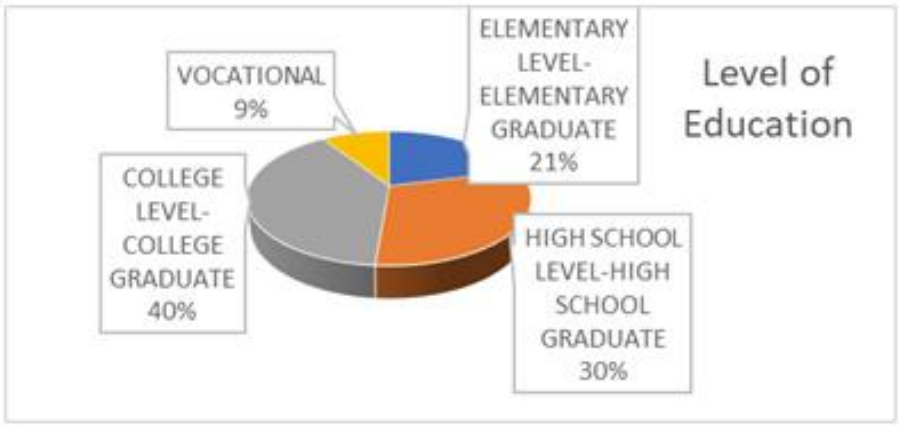

Figure 3. Level of Education of Respondents

Number of Years in the Poultry Industry

Poultry farmers were requested to indicate the number of years of work experience in poultry production. The information was compiled and presented in Figure 4. The years of work experience ranged from 7 years above. The majority of the respondents (51.32%) have been in poultry farming for 7 years and only 18.42% had been in poultry production for 1 to 2 years. The average number of years the respondents had worked in poultry production was 3 to 4 years.

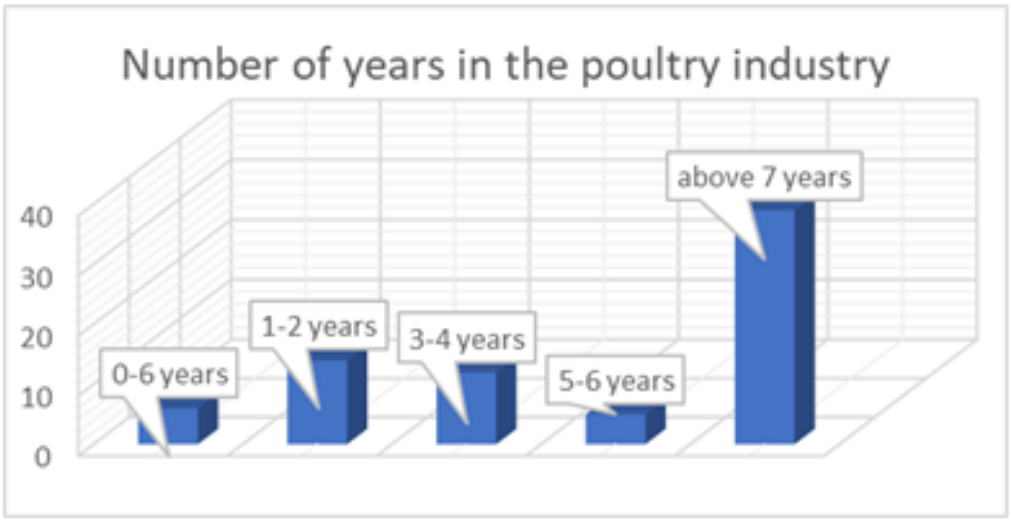

Figure 4. Description of Respondents by Number of Years in the Poultry Industry

Position in the Poultry Farm

Respondents to this study indicated that 64 or 84.21% were the owner and 6 or 7.89% and 6 or 7.89% were caretaker and worker respectively. The information relating to respondents of this study was contained in Figure 6.

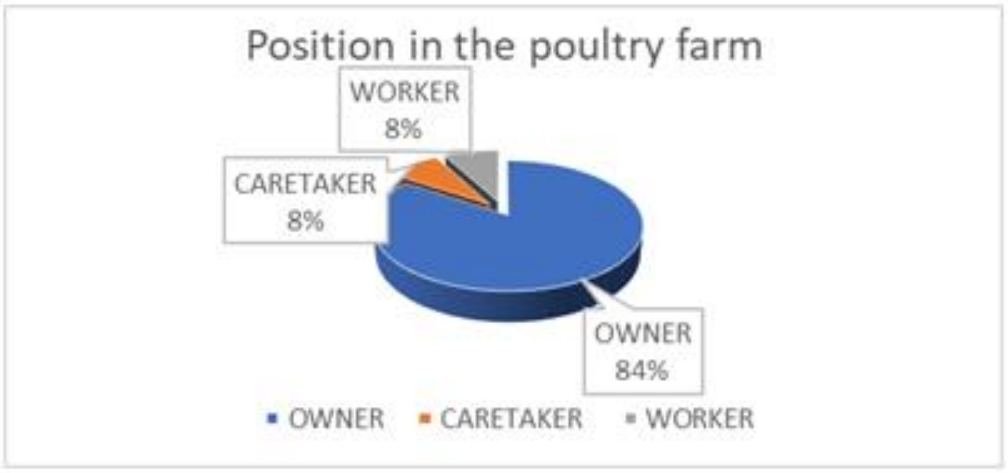

Figure 5. Description of Respondents by Position in the Poultry Farm

Location of the Poultry Farm

Respondents were asked to indicate the location of their poultry farm in Odiongan in terms of Titled, Tenanted and Rented. The information was compiled and presented in Figure 7. A higher percentage of the respondents were tenanted 36 (47.37%) as compared to poultry farms in Title Land (46.05%). The conclusion was drawn that a higher proportion of the respondents were from Municipality of Odiongan, Romblon.

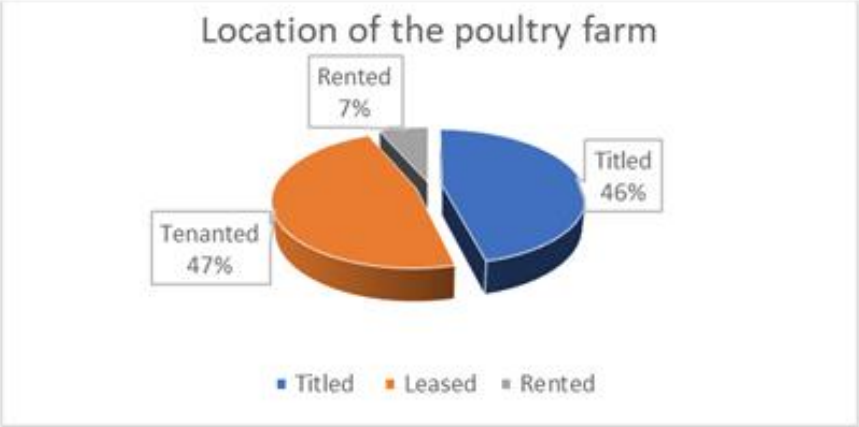

Figure 6. Description of Respondents by Location of the Poultry Farm

General Information about the Poultry Enterprise

Summary of the general information regarding poultry production in the Municipality of Odiongan, the type of poultry enterprise, the poultry farmer is involved in, whether or not he/she is a contract grower - the merits and demerits thereof, farmer's membership or affiliation in terms of being a full member of an association or cooperative, form of assistance if any that he or she gets in running the project, other sources of income the farmer gets. Most of the respondents were involved in meat production (87.21%) and only 12.79% of the respondents were involved in egg production. About 86.84% of the respondents were not contract growers and only 13.16% were contract growers. All the respondents (86.84%) farmers who are contract growers stated the advantages of being thus as follows: ready market, supply of inputs is orderly and well organized; there is continual appraisal on latest production techniques.

A majority (60%) of the respondents stated as disadvantages of being contract growers that: profit margins are narrow and predetermined by the abattoir while only 40% stated that there is no room to exploit market opportunities. The 13 or 100% of respondents testify the advantages of ready market, Supply of inputs orderly and well organized, and continual appraisal on latest production.

A majority (97.33%) of the respondents stated that they do not belong or members of a poultry association or cooperative, while only 2.67% of the respondents were members of a poultry cooperative. Of those respondents who were full members of poultry cooperative, 2 (100%) were members of Saint Vincent Cooperative. All (100%) of the respondents who were full members of an association / cooperative stated that as benefits: their loans and grants are issued to them, technical assistance when needed is arranged. Those who were not members of a poultry association or cooperative stated that they enjoy their independence and instant decision-making. Most of the respondents (94.74%) indicated that they were not getting some form of assistance when running their projects while 5.26% of the respondents used to get assistance. Of those who were getting assistance, 25% were getting technical assistance from

extension officers, 25% did not indicate if they receive or does not receive any assistance. Of these respondents who got assistance, 50% got technical assistance, 25% got financial assistance and only 25% did not state what form of assistance. About 38.96% of the respondents indicated that they were using pig production as another source of income, while 31.17% were having it from vegetable production, 32.35% got it from gardening, 26.47% got it from rice production and 8.82 % got it from fishing.

The information on resources and infrastructure that is needed and used by farmers in the poultry production enterprise in the Municipality of Odiongan. About finance, all the respondents indicated that they knew about the sources of credit available in their areas. Of these, 35.71% of the respondents knew about these sources of credit through the help of their neighbor, 28.57% knew through existing cooperative, 7.14 % knew through newspapers, 7.14 % knew through their poultry extension worker, 7.14 % knew through the television and 14.29 % did not specify. About 92.31 % of the respondents indicated these funds are readily available while only 7.69% indicated that these funds were not readily available. Of those respondents that stated that these funds are readily available, they stated (66.67%) long procedures, delay timely release of these funds, 33.33% stated that corrupt methods are used to determine who to get the funds, dubious means are used to award those not in dire need of financial help ahead of those that are in financial strain. All (100%) of the respondents who stated that funds are readily available for release. About 60% of the respondents stated that fund will be available after one week, 20% narrated that it will be released after one month used owner's funds to finance their projects and 20% did not state their reason. The sources of finance used came from owner's fund (92%) while 8% stated their source came from cooperative. Of the respondents who used loans, 75% got it from Micro Finance, 25% did not state the used of loan. About 60% were long-term loans, 20% were medium term loan and 20% were short term loans respectively. Repayment done by respondents (62.5%) and 37.5% do not repaid loans they stated that they have spare amount for their project. About land, 98.68% of the respondents indicated that land was readily available for their projects while 1.32% indicated that land was not readily available. Of the respondents who were raising poultry, a majority of them (53.84%) had 100 to 200 sq. meter of land for their project, 15.38% had 201 to 300 sq. meter of land, 7.69 % had 301 to 400 of land and 19.23% of the respondents indicated that they had less area for their project. About 100% of the respondents had their project within their locality. About feed, 67 the respondents (95.89%) indicated that feed supplies are readily available and 4.11% did not state their ideas. Respondents (72.04%) indicated that they use ready-made feed and 26 respondents 27.96% had mixing their own feeds for the poultry. A majority of the respondents (90.00%) bought the feed on cash bases, 5.71% of the respondents and only 15.6% bought on credit and about 2.86% feed on contract. All those respondents who indicated that they bought feed on credit and on contract indicated that they settled their accounts after one calendar month of production cycle. Most of the respondents (75.36%) indicated that they handled feed in bags. A majority of the

respondents (44.44%) indicated that they purchased feed weekly per batch, 39.68% indicated that they purchased the feed every month and 15.87% indicated that they purchased the feed monthly per batch. About water, majority of the respondents (97.22%) indicated that water is readily available for their project. A majority of the respondents (18.75%) indicated that sources of water used were from the stream, 25.7% indicated boreholes are used and 6.25% indicated that water from river is being used, other respondents 60% utilizes water from other form. Some respondents who used boreholes (11.11%) indicated that the water has not been tested except for quantitative yield and all of them indicated that RHU tested it and they are not much aware of doing test of the water, 44.44% indicated that the Water and Services Cooperation'? have tested the water for the last 2 to six months. About transport a majority of the respondents (98.75%) indicated that as a mode of transport, refrigerated trucks were not available in their area, 1.25% indicate that open trucks were available, respondents indicated that panel vans for hire were merely not available and they indicated that panel vans were also not available in their area. The conclusion was drawn that the respondents mostly use privately owned trucks. A majority of the respondents (88.24%) indicated that the available form of transport is privately owned while only 11.76% indicated that it is owned by individual farmer or self. About market, a majority of the respondents (56.96%) indicated that they sold their products directly to the market, 39.24% indicated that they sold their products to individual customers, 2.53% indicated that they sold their products within their barangay also through canvas. About 42.62% of the respondents indicated that the market behavior sets the price for their products, 40.98% of the respondents indicated that they set the price for their products themselves. About 33.33% of the respondents indicated that the mode of selling is by credit, while only 27.54 indicated that the mode of payment is on cash on delivery. Of those who indicated that the mode of payment depending on their agreement, they (37.68%) indicated that payment is made after 21 days depending on the stated order.

For purposes of data interpretation, mean values of 0.9706 and below were considered to mean that the respondent was rating that he/she was skilled and equipped when performing that particular poultry skills while mean values of 0.0722 and above were considered to mean that the respondent was rating that he /she was not skilled and equipped when performing that poultry skills. The mean values for each activity skill were determined by overall group responses.\

For purposes of data interpretation, mean values of 7.874 and below were considered to mean that the respondent was rating that he/she was skilled and equipped when performing that particular poultry skills while mean values of 0.386 and above were considered to mean that the respondent was rating that he /she was not skilled and equipped when performing that poultry (meat) skills. The mean values for each activity skill were determined by overall group responses. The results revealed that poultry farmers are skilled and equipped in performing poultry (meat) production skills.

DISCUSSION

The abilities and tools available to poultry farmers for executing the production process for poultry seemed to be congruent with those published by (Egbe, 2005; Yaaghubi, et al., 2009). Furthermore, the outcomes were found to be in line with those of a large number of previous research (Allahyari et al., 2011), and the majority of academics concur that, given the current rate of progress, production may likely exceed some of the predictions for the foreseeable future. Without a doubt, the increased accessibility of eggs and chicken meat will have a significant beneficial effect on the Municipality of Odiongan residents' nutritional situation. The local government should adopt a sensible strategy based on local strengths when it comes to improving the poultry production industry in order to solve the problem of the rural community producing chicken but not yet being self-sufficient. In order to serve a larger community and provide poultry extension officers and farmers with the skills necessary to manage a modern poultry system, the community should give considerable thought of getting involved in a program of expert exchanges. Furthermore, this program will assist farm managers, farm directors, and poultry farmers enhance their management and production skills.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Poultry farmers are skilled in performing poultry production skills but not technical poultry production capacities. The number of finances and market availability dissatisfies poultry growers. Several of the poultry farmers are full members of a cooperative or group for the industry. The majority of poultry farmers used cooperatives to obtain financing for their businesses. Finance was provided to poultry growers, but it was not easily accessible. Poultry producers have easy access to land, freshwater for their feed, and transportation. Most poultry farmers commuted on their personal motorcycles. The majority of poultry farmers had the opportunity to sell their products. For chicken farmers, the price is decided by market behavior. The respondents' assessments of their level of skill and equipment in performing poultry production skills were not significantly influenced by their gender, level of education, years of experience raising poultry, age, position held on the farm, citizenship, or location of the poultry farm. The demographic characteristics of respondents were thus eliminated from the study as potential confounding variables.

There is a need to coordinate the activities in the poultry industry so that recurring costs are decreased and efficiency is increased, especially in the meat and egg industry, which has been demonstrated by this study to be particularly important. 2.) In order to the municipality's Governance, in particular, the Office of Municipal Agriculture, poultry associations, and stakeholders must develop an approach for poultry products that will try to combine available local resources and technology with production systems in order to create a sustainable poultry production system that is fully compatible with the nation's socioeconomic conditions.

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