



AWARENESS AND PERCEPTION OF POULTRY FARMERS ON AGRICULTURAL POLICIES IN NIGERIA

(POLICY BRIEF)

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PREPARED BY THE
INNOVATION LAB FOR POLICY LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE AND
FOOD SECURITY (PiLAF), UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, NIGERIA.

**AUTHORS: Adeola F. Adenikinju, Adegbenga E. Adekoya, Iredele E. Ogunbayo,
Olusegun B. Oyelami, Damilola F. Olajubutu and Oluwaseun A. Oyeranti**

BACKGROUND

Food insecurity has remained topical in Nigeria and this got exacerbated by the incidence of COVID-19. More than 60% households are threatened by food insecurity {Ibukun & Adebayo, 2020}. The poultry sector is crucial; it plays a dual role of reducing food insecurity and employment generation along with its high acceptance across many religious, cultural and ethnic lines in Nigeria.

Despite these potentials, the poultry sector is yet to receive sufficient policy attention, while available agricultural policies are not well articulated towards stimulating its growth. Hence, this study examined the awareness and perception of poultry farmers on government policies affecting the sector.

Our policy trajectory is typified with failures, somersaults and ineffectiveness which have strained the poultry sector; Further stress was introduced through:

1. Ban on poultry products importation {2012, 2017}
2. Maize importation ban {2019}
3. COVID-19 pandemic {2020}

These led to

1
**serious price hike
in poultry inputs
and products**

2
**a negative impact
on food security**

3
**collapse of many
poultry firms &
enterprises**

STUDY APPROACH

This policy research effort started with a stakeholders' engagement with actors along the poultry value chain and then followed up with a phone interview survey to capture a larger audience.



The leading states in poultry production are Oyo and Kaduna states in Southern and Northern Nigeria respectively {Liverpool-Tasie et al., 2017}, and this informed their purposive selection in this study.

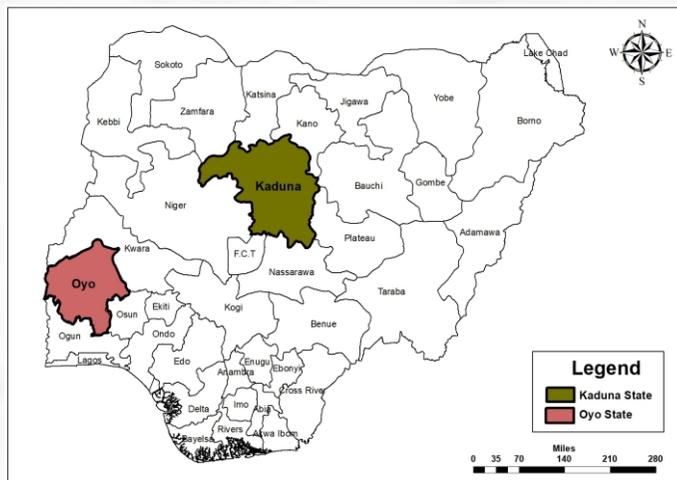


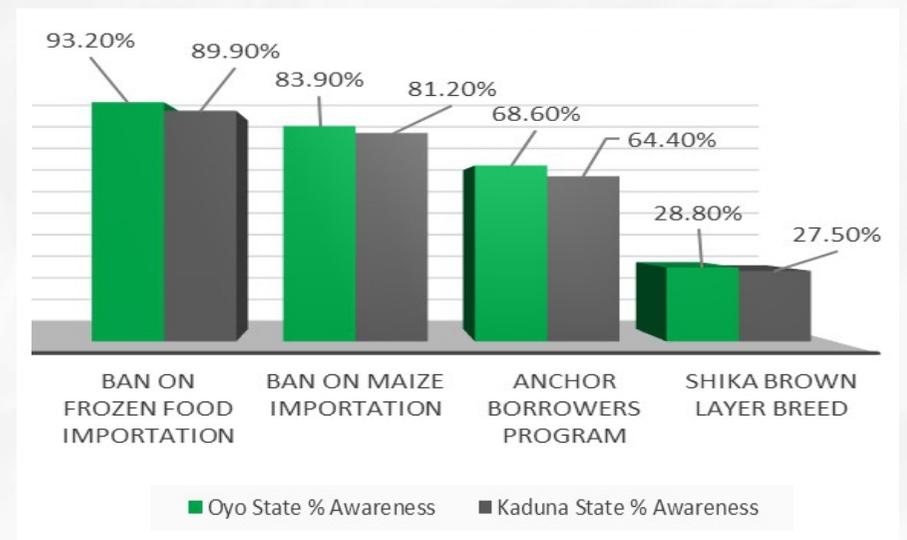
Figure 1: Study Area Map

Then lists of poultry farmers were obtained from Poultry Association of Nigeria and Agricultural Development Programme on which a systematic random sampling was used to sample respondents for phone interview. In all, 118 and 138 farmers were interviewed in Oyo & Kaduna states respectively. Policies considered in the study were importation ban on poultry products and maize, Anchor Borrowers' Programme (ABP) and Shika brown breed promotion.

KEY POLICY FINDINGS

- Awareness**

Oyo poultry farmers were better aware of poultry-related policies than their Kaduna counterparts.

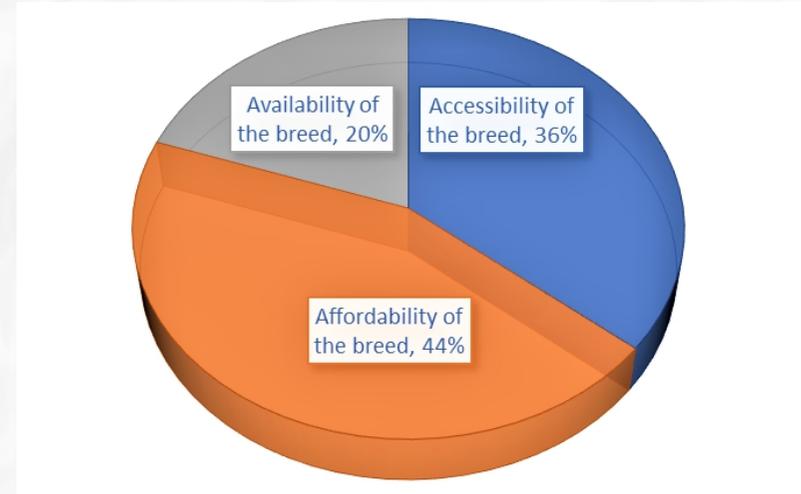


- Benefits derived from poultry-related policies**

Benefits derived by most respondents from both policies were low.

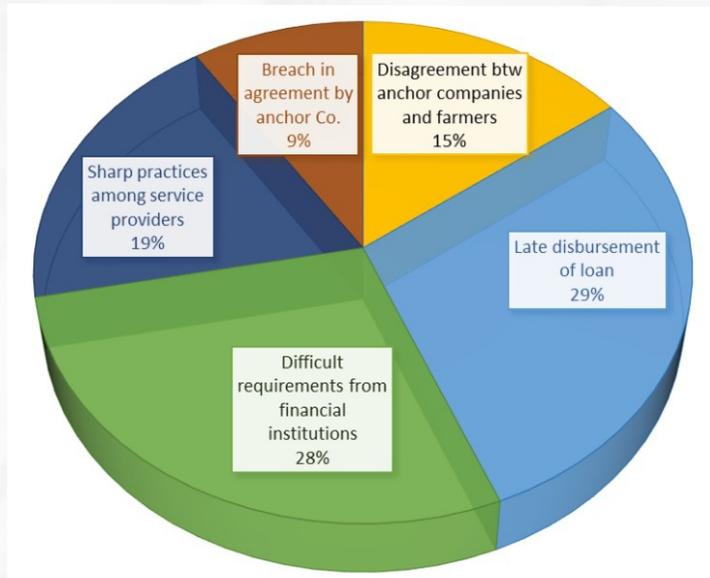


Similarly, on Shika Brown breed, major challenges faced are accessibility and affordability of the breed.



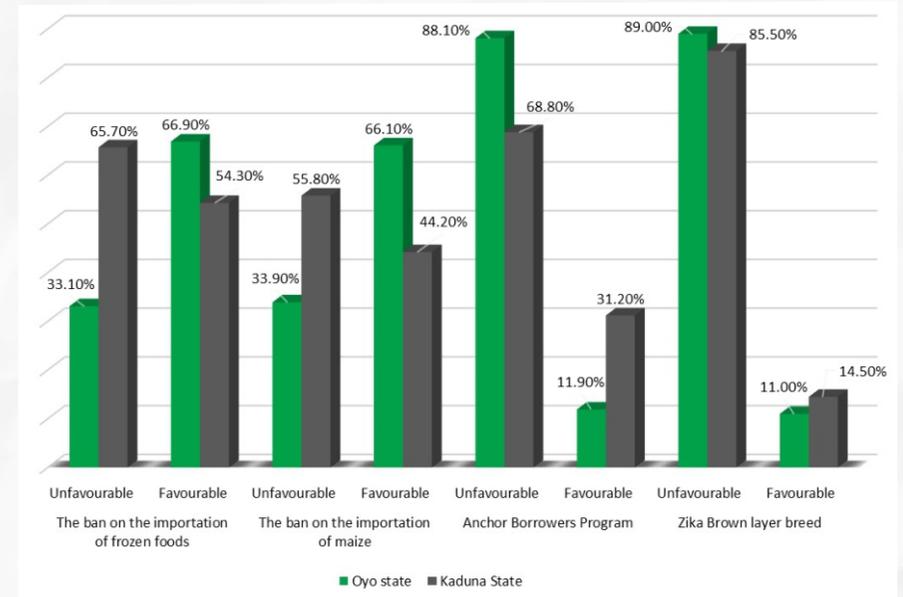
- Challenges faced with poultry-related policies**

Prominent challenges of ABP were late disbursement of fund and difficult requirements from banks.



- Perception towards different agricultural policies**

There was mixed perception about various poultry-related policies from respondents between the two states of study.



- **Perceived effect of covid-19 lockdown on poultry enterprises**

The COVID-19 lockdown affected almost all aspect of the poultry enterprise negatively.



SIDELINE FIELD FINDINGS

- Major threat to poultry sector in Northern Nigeria is insecurity {Banditry, kidnapping and insurgency} while in the South, it is lack of finance.
- Hike in input price is also informed by insecurity which decimated production and thwarted the supply chain.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- ABP should be more inclusive with timely disbursement of loan.
- There should be relaxation of stringent rules and removal of sharp practices in ABP processing.
- Shika Brown layers should be better promoted and made available to farmers.
- Maize importation ban should be relaxed while capacity for local production is being enhanced.
- Frozen foods importation ban should be better enforced to encourage domestic production.
- Insecurity should be tackled headlong while increased support is provided for the poultry sector to thrive better.

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

