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**UNIVERSITY**

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# COLLEGE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

## 2022/2023 PhD Thesis Abstract

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**RT: Effect of Poverty and Food Insecurity on Small and Medium Scale Poultry Farmers' coping Strategies with Rising Feed Costs in South-West, Nigeria**

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**AB:** Poultry plays a crucial role in the global economy and food security, as it supports the livelihoods of a significant portion of the world's population and contributes to protein supply. The rising cost of feed is a major challenge in Nigeria's poultry industry. It impacts production costs, threatens the industry's sustainability as well as food security. There are inadequate research studies on implementing effective coping strategies to rising feed costs which is crucial for poultry enterprise. This study examined the effect of poverty and food insecurity on small and medium scale poultry farmers' coping strategies with rising feed costs in South-West, Nigeria.

The study employed a quantitative research approach using a survey research design. Two-stage sampling procedures were used in selecting three states (Lagos, Ogun, and Oyo) from South-West zone in Nigeria. In the second stage, 575 poultry farmers from all Poultry Association of Nigeria zones were selected using simple random sampling technique. Data on production activities of poultry farms were collected from the farmers using structured questionnaire. Secondary data on the price of layers' feed, price of eggs, energy consumption and exchange rate from 1990-2021 were collected from Central Bank of Nigeria Bulletin of Statistic, National Bureau of Statistics and National Bureau of Labour. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (mean per capita household expenditure, household food insecurity access scale and trend analysis) and inferential statistics at  $p < 0.05$ .

The descriptive analysis showed that the price of feed increased by 81.50% from 1990 to 2007 and increased by 87.20% from 2018 to 2021. Adopted strategies used by the farmers

were Use of Finished Feed (UFF), Mixed Farming (MF), Downsizing of Flock Size (DFS), No Change of Strategies (NCS), Verge of Exiting the Venture (VEV). Of the poultry farmers, 48.00% of the poultry farmers adopted MF to cope with the rising feed cost while 24.70%, 16.10%, 6.20%, 5.20% adopted UFF, DFS, VEV and NCS respectively. At a poverty line of ₦48,500/month, 70.70% of the poultry farmers were poor. Results also indicated that 25.80% of the poultry farmers were not food insecure while 1.60%, 27.20% and 45.40% were mildly, moderately and severely food insecure, respectively. Number of birds (0.20), quantity of feed (0.40) and quantity of water (0.70) increased technical efficiency of poultry farmers. Poultry farmers that adopted MF (31.60%), NCS (15.70%), UFF (18.30%) and DFS (9.30%) were technically efficient while 6.20% of the farmers that adopted VEV were technically inefficient. The multinomial logit analysis results showed that food insecurity status decreased UFF (0.30) and MF (0.10) but increased DFS (0.20) and VEV (0.02). Poverty level of the farmers increased the use of VEV (0.01) but decreased with the use of UFF (0.10) and MF (0.10).

The study concluded that food insecurity and poverty status reduced, while mixed farming enhanced the adoption of coping strategies with rising feed costs by small and medium scale poultry farmers in South-West, Nigeria. Therefore, it was recommended that the poultry farmers should engage in mixed farming as a coping strategy to rising feed costs.

**Keywords:** Adopted strategies, Food insecurity status, Household poverty level, Poultry farmers, Rising feed costs

**Word Count:** 500

*Abbreviations: RFN: Researcher's Full Name, RD: Researcher's Department, RS: Researcher's School, RE: Researcher's Email, RAE: Researcher's Alternate Email, RP: Researcher's Phone Contact, RT: Registered Title, MS: Main Supervisor, ME: Main Supervisor's E-mail Address, SP: Main Supervisor's Phone Contact, CS: Co-Supervisor, CE: Co-Supervisor's E-mail Address, CP: Co-Supervisor's Phone Contact, AB: Abstract*

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