

**TRAINING NEEDS OF COMMERCIAL POULTRY FARMERS IN ORLU
AGRICULTURAL ZONE OF IMO STATE, NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the competency level and training needs of commercial poultry farmers in Orlu Agricultural zone, of Imo State, Nigeria. A multi-stage samplings procedure was used to select a sample size of 150 respondents. Data were collected with the use of a structured questionnaire and Focus Group Discussion and later analyzed with descriptive and inferential statistics like Probit regression. The result showed that the commercial poultry farmers were only competent in two operations (formation of poultry ration; $M= 2.03$ and preparation of farm records, ($M= 2.03$). Thus, commercial poultry farmers were incompetent generally. Probit regression result revealed that age, extension contact, level of education, farming experience and household size were significantly related to a competent level of the commercial poultry farmers in the study area. It was therefore strongly recommended that the training workshop on the other main tasks be organized to train the farmers in Imo State to bridge the gaps and improve their performance.