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POULTRY PRODUCTION RISKS, COPING STRATEGIES AND INSURANCE IN SOUTHWESTERN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out in southwestern Nigeria (using Osun, Ogun and Oyo states), thirty (30) poultry farmers were randomly selected from each state to have a total of ninety (90) respondents.

Majority of the respondents are male, educated, youths, married with a reasonably medium average household, owners of small scaled poultry farms rearing layers birds in cages with a reasonably sufficiently good year of experience. Most of the respondents are not aware of the existence of poultry insurance, and the few that are aware do not purchase the poultry insurance cover. High The high cost of Day-old chick had the highest RPN value among production risk factors with a value of 102, the respondents indicated thorough check before purchasing DOC at the hatchery, protest against the hike in the price of DOC, compound/formulate feed, get other light and heat source as their coping strategies. Fluctuating prices of poultry products had the highest RPN value of 94 among marketing risk factors and respondents indicated Maintenance of their current marketing chain, doing door to door advert, use association to control prices, controlling damages and spoilage with the poor weak transportation system as their coping strategies. Stampede in the poultry house had the highest RPN value (i.e. 49) among Casualty/insecurity risk factors and the respondents indicated Debeaking, getting more space and getting both day and night guards as coping strategies adopted. Inadequate institutional support had an RPN value of 72 was being managed by association support. Lack of credit facility with an RPN value of 106 was being managed with the usage of farmers own money and another informal source of credit. Disease outbreak had the highest RPN value of 98 among the health risk factors and farmers adopt Deworming, Quarantine, Use Disinfectant, vaccinating, constant changing of feed and water, culling, regular removal of poultry waste/wood shavings as their coping strategies. The respondent indicated their choice of poultry insurance policy that will cover the life and health of the farmers, event of the death of birds which may be caused by diseases, fire, flood, windstorm, lightning and accident. The policy must also include covers for poultry farm property and equipment (hatchery, brooding house, poultry building, cages, feeding and drinking troughs, crates, car/van etc.), poultry produce (egg and meat) and price fluctuation and post-harvest covers. The respondents rank constraints to purchasing insurance cover the order of lack of awareness, high price, small scale

production, low income, lack of products that meet farmers' expectation, complex procurement procedures, lack of believe belief in insurance and religious and cultural restraints. This research recommends that stakeholders in Nigeria insurance market i.e. insurance provider, issuing agencies, reinsurers, insurance underwriters/loss adjusters, insurance agents and brokers should work towards providing and making available poultry insurance covers that will not be too expensive for poultry farmers to procure. There is need for creating more awareness for the available agric insurance covers and also have desk offices close to the poultry farm settlements in the southwestern zone to make it easier for farmers to access the insurance covers.



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