



Poultry Farm Characteristics and Poultry Farmers' Perception of Farm Succession Planning in Southwest, Nigeria

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Abstract

Intergenerational succession aims at the renewal of family farm and addresses the problem of increasing aged population of principal farm owners. This study assessed poultry farm characteristics and poultry farmers' perception of farm succession planning in southwest Nigeria. A multistage sampling procedure was used in selecting poultry farmers in Oyo and Osun states. Data were analyzed using descriptive and differential statistics. Results revealed that the poultry farmers are predominantly small and medium scale farmers. They were mostly sole proprietors (72.5%), and family farm owners (11.9%). Most (73.4%) farmers operated on full time basis, while others were either part-time or occasional farmers. Majority (95.9%) of the farmers had favourable perception towards farm succession planning, 30.3% had complete succession plan and 22.9% had commenced successor participation. There were no significant associations between farm ownership structure, but significant associations existed with farming status, total farm debt, and succession planning among the poultry farmers ($p < 0.05$). The study concluded that succession planning is new in the study area and must be further investigated in order to provide a data base for policy decision with regards to livestock (especially poultry) farming, aging proprietorship and encourage its practice.

1. Introduction

Farm succession planning is the organized process of identification, preparation and grooming of potential successor(s) to take over the management, ownership and possession of the farm asset(s) (Beginning Farmers Org, 2015). It is a risk management strategy through which most of the present owners of poultry farms can proactively attend to the future positioning of the farm by ensuring that a competent person has been groomed to immediately queue into the management activities of the farm in case of emergency. Traditionally, older generations of Nigerian farmers hardly discuss issues of succession because they perceive that such thoughts are synonymous with wishing them early death and to some farmers their subsistence production (which is often at home, at the backyard, with strictly family labour etc) restricts them to small and / or medium scale production which does not give room for entertaining the ideas of who takes

over the farm business at their point of earthly exit. Barclay, Foskey and Reeve (2007) posited that some farmers (especially polygamous ones) do not entertain the thought in the sense that it brings them face to face with the reality of the problem of equality treatment of their children. For these and many other reasons, older farmers would rather leave the issue of succession unattended to, and allow any family member to take over their farm assets at their demise/death.

Poultry farming in Nigeria became highly popularized with effect from the late 70's to the extent that the poultry business now occupies a pivotal position in the livestock industry. Poultry farming suddenly became the cheapest and easiest sector of animal production that attracted the influx of many elites, civil servants, retirees etc into its practice at both part – time and full – time basis as a way of supplementing their inadequate income as well as its enormous potential for rapid growth,

production of a highly palatable and generally acceptable poultry meat and egg. One then expects that with such a paradigm shift as this (that is, the type of farmers involved in poultry production) there is likely to be a change in the dynamics of farm succession planning when they are compared to the older generations of farmers. It is against this background that the study purposively used poultry farming to assess the perception of poultry farmers on the issue of farm succession.

Succession planning is a comprehensive approach to strategic human resources management (Kesner and Sebora, 1994), leadership development (Bernthal and Wellins, 2006) and overall workforce planning (Kiyonaga, 2004). According to Schmalzried and Fallon, (2007), succession planning is a proactive attempt at ensuring that an organizations' leadership will be continuous even when planned and unplanned departure of the owner occurs. This is done by identifying how these positions will be filled. It therefore includes the transfer of ethics, values and traditions along with the actual business itself. Unfortunately, this succession planning which has gained international prominence in the world of business is often underrated and reluctantly discussed by the Nigerian farmers (a typical example of most developing countries), including poultry farmers because it is culturally perceived that talking about such issue is akin to wishing the farmer early death or mortality and that it is a sign of losing grip or control of the farm. Nevertheless, Becker, et al (2009) posited that succession planning is crucial for the successful future farm transfer within the farming population. The assessment of farm succession plans becomes absolutely important for the sustainability of farm assets (Gale, 2003) because failure to do so (i.e. failure to plan for succession) may lead to total degeneration or close – down of the farm, family conflicts, breakdown in family relations, loss of existing rights to assets as a result of injustice in inheritance decisions meted out as a result of gender bias, moral and other biases. This issue therefore needs to be seen as a means of influencing poultry farmers' behaviors on how they should prepare for 'this inevitable end' of becoming aged and handing over to competent hands or members of their family for continuity.

Persistent sustenance or decay of a farm family (consisting of home for the farm family members, local tradition keepers, agricultural landscape basic holders of agricultural activities) and the rural way of life etc depends on many factors: one of which is intergenerational transfer of the family farm through a well stated succession planning process, wages from other sectors of the economy

(Bohak, 2011); farm size and farm owners educational status (Corsi, 2004). Intergenerational transfer as a multifaceted process encompasses succession, inheritance and retirement. It is a concept premised on the functionalist perspective of aging (Havighurst, Bernice and Sheldon, 1968) which is related to the activity theory that recognizes that equilibrium developed by an individual in the middle age must be maintained in the later years and must find substitutes from previous statuses, roles and activities. This theory therefore presumes that older people and middle – aged people have same social and psychological needs that make them not to easily want to withdraw from any activity they are engaged in, unless compelled or restricted by poor health, injury and / or disability. It is only this that can compel them to slow down and subsequently leave the bulk of the farm control to their successor(s). Hence, activity theory proposes that the aging process and the quality of life are delayed and enhanced respectively when older people remain sociologically active and maintain social interaction. Nevertheless, when the pioneer / principal farmer refuses to retire for younger ones (successors) to step in, the opportunity for intergenerational transfer is significantly reduced or completely terminated hence such farm operations will slowly collapse or fail.

Farm characteristic of the poultry farm refers to specific farm features or factors such as ownership structure (like partnership farming, sole proprietorship, rent, lease and family farm); farming status (like full – time farming, part – time farming and festive or occasional farming); farm size (small scale , medium scale and large scale); production level (like subsistence production and commercial production) and level of indebtedness of the farm in terms of total farm debt expressed as percentage of the total farm assets.

The general objective of the study was to assess poultry farmers' perception of farm succession planning in Southwest Nigeria by specifically looking at how the farm characteristics and farmers' perception of succession relate to succession planning status.

The two hypotheses proposed for this study are:

Ho₁: There is no significant association between the poultry farmers' farm characteristics and their perception of farm succession planning;

Ho₂: There is no significant relationship between the farmers' perception of succession planning and their succession planning status.

2. Materials and methods

Multi-stage sampling technique was used in drawing or selecting 50% of the registered poultry

farmers in the Poultry Association of Nigeria (PAN) in Oyo State (PANOY) and the Poultry Association of Nigeria in Osun state (PANOS) to yield 102 and 150 respectively, hence a total sample size of 252 poultry farmers was intended for the study. However, a response rate of 96.8% was got from this selected sample, thus giving a total of 244 respondents for final analysis. Osun and Oyo states were randomly selected from the six states in the southwest geopolitical zone of Nigeria, namely: Ekiti, Oyo, Lagos, Ogun, Osun and Ondo states. The geopolitical zone is bound by the Republic of Benin on the west, Edo and Delta states on the east, Gulf of Guinea in the south and in the North by Kwara & Kogi states. It harbours a population of 27,581,992 people (NPC, 2006) and occupies a land mass of 76,852 square kilometers. It has a tropical climate with two distinct seasons: the rainy season (April – October) and dry season (November – March). The major river in the zone is river Osun.

Data collection procedure involved the use of questionnaire as instrument. It contains seven (7) items on farm characteristics and seventeen (17) items on poultry farmers' perception of farm succession planning which are the independent variables. The farm characteristics section embraces (i) ownership structure or pattern measured at nominal level and allocated scores of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 etc for sole ownership, inherited, rent/lease, family farm, & partnership respectively; (ii) farming status measured at nominal level covering full-time, part-time and seasonal farming assigned score of 1, 2, 3 and (iii) farm size categorised as small scale (S/S), medium scale (M/S), and large scale (L/S) farms measured at interval level with scores 1, 2, 3 respectively. The section on the poultry farmers' perception of farm succession planning (which is the second independent variable) is measured on a 5 point Likert scale of SA = 5, Agree = 4, Undecided = 3, D = 2 and SD = 1. The scores and results from these variables are reported and also used to categorize the respondents into having favourable or unfavourable perception about farm succession planning. The inferential statistics used in relating the two independent variables to the dependent variable and testing the two emanating hypotheses are Chi-square and Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC). These were in addition to the background information on the socio-economic characteristics of the poultry farmers.

3. Results and discussion:

The results showed that sole ownership is the most common form of farm structure at 72.5%. It is followed by family farm ownership structure (11.9%) and ownership via rent / lease (11.1%) of the

sampled poultry farmers (Table 1). Most of these farmers were male (79.9%), the rest were female and were all registered members of the Poultry Association of Nigeria (PAN).

The study also revealed that majority of the poultry farmers (72.5 %) in the study area have farm/flock size of 1,000 – 10, 000 birds while, few (20.1 %) have less than 1, 000 birds. Their mean flock size is 3,610 birds. It was also found that a greater number of the poultry farmers (73.4 %) were of full-time farming status as against 20.9 % that were part-time, with the remaining few (5.70%) being seasonal poultry farmers who only reared birds for quick income generation during festivities like Christmas, Id-el – Fitir, Easter etc.

When the total farm debt of the farm/farmer was expressed as proportion of the farm asset (in %), the result revealed that few of the farmers (38.5%) had no debt, while about half (50.8%) had less than 20% debt. This shows that most of the poultry farmers in the study area (89.3 %) are with minimal indebtedness (of none to less than 20 %). Other degrees of indebtedness made up the remaining 10.7 % as indicated on Table 1.

Table 2, represents results on the respondents' perception of farm succession planning in the poultry farm business in Oyo and Ogun states (the case study). Majority of them were positively disposed to farm succession, succession planning in poultry business, as indicated by their reactions and responses to the statements like:

- succession is a fundamental aspect of farm continuation and rural development with (mean = 4.7),
 - succession is important for farm survival and sustainability (mean = 4.7),
 - planned succession guarantees future viability of the farm (mean = 4.4),
 - succession planning helps in making good retirement (mean = 4.3) and
 - planned succession helps in facing future challenges (mean = 4.3).
- The table (table 2) also showed their (respondents') negative disposition to such statements as:
- the disadvantages of farm succession outweighs its benefits (mean = 2.8),
 - only male heirs should be considered as poultry farm successors (mean = 2.8),
 - it is dangerous to consider female heirs as farm successors (mean = 2.8),
 - no serious thoughts should be given to farm succession (mean = 2.8) and
 - succession planning is a waste of time and resources (mean = 2.7).

Table 1: Poultry Farm business characteristics (n = 244)

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Mean/Mode
Ownership structure			
Sole proprietorship	177	72.5	Sole proprietorship
Inherited	6	2.5	
Rent / Lease	27	11.1	
Family farm	29	11.9	
Partnership	5	2.0	
Farming status			
Full – time	179	73.4	Full -time
Part – time	51	20.9	
Seasonal farming	14	5.7	
Farm size			
Less than 1,000 birds	49	20.1	3,610
1,000 – 5, 000 birds	142	58.2	
5, 001 – 10,000 birds	35	14.3	
10,001 – 15, 000 birds	6	2.5	
15, 001 – 20,000 birds	9	3.7	
Above 20,000 birds	3	1.3	
Farming experience (in years)			
1– 9 years	113	46.3	11.6
10 – 19 years	80	32.8	
20 – 29 years	44	18.0	
>30 years	7	2.9	
Monthly poultry farm income (in Naira)			
Less than ₦ 20,000	29	11.9	89, 926.2
20,000 – 39,000	35	14.3	
40,000 – 59,000	44	18.0	
60,000 – 79,000	35	14.3	
80,000 – 99,000	14	5.7	
Greater than 100,000	87	35.7	
Total farm debt			
81 – 100% of the total farm assets	0	0	38.5
61 - 80 %	5	2.0	
41 - 60 %	2	0.8	
21 – 40 %	19	7.8	
Less than 20 %	124	50.8	
None (No debt)	94	38.5	

The hypothesis that (i) there is no association between farm characteristics and the respondents' perception of farm succession planning (ii) there is no significant relationship between the poultry farmers' perception of succession planning and their succession planning status were tested. The results obtained are shown on Tables 3 and 4 respectively.

Results on Table 3 revealed the association between the poultry farm characteristics (which were tripartite, namely: farming status, total farm debt or indebtedness and farm ownership structure) and perception of succession planning. It showed significant association of $\chi^2 = 9.730$, $p < 0.05$ with farming status (such as full – time farming, part – time farming & festive or occasional farming) and

level of indebtedness ($\chi^2 = 19.216$, $p < 0.05$) using total farm debts. A non-significant (NS) association existed between farm ownership structure (such as sole proprietorship, partnership, rent/lease, family farm ownership, inherited ownership) at $\chi^2 = 7.437$, $p > 0.05$ and perception of farm succession planning.

The PPMC statistical tool used in testing the second hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between the farmers' perception of succession planning and their succession planning status on table 4 revealed that there is no significant relationship between poultry farmers' perception of farm succession planning and their succession planning status with a correlation value of obtained ($r = 0.184$, $p > 0.05$).

Table 2. Farmers' perception about farm succession in poultry farm business in Oyo and Ogun states (n=244).

N	Perception Statements	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean
		Freq(%)	Freq(%)	Freq(%)	Freq(%)	Freq(%)	
1	Succession is a fundamental aspect of continuation & rural development	160(68.0)	70(28.7)	-	8 (3.3)	-	4.7
2	Succession is important for farm business' survival & sustainability	176 (72.1)	57 (23.4)	-	8 (3.3)	3 (1.2)	4.7
3	It is necessary to make plans for succession	196 (80.3)	34 (13.9)	8(3.3)	4 (1.6)	2 (0.8)	4.7
4	Planned succession guarantee future viability of the farm	145 (59.4)	78 (32.0)	5 (2.0)	10(4.1)	6 (2.5)	4.4
5	Planned succession helps in making good retirement	104 (42.6)	119 (48.8)	3(1.2)	17 (7.0)	1 (0.4)	4.3
6	Planned succession helps in facing future challenges	104 (42.6)	116 (47.5)	4(1.6)	14 (5.7)	6 (2.5)	4.3
7	Planned succession ensures smooth transition following retirement, incapacitation or death	97(39.8)	116 (47.5)	8(3.3)	19(7.8)	4 (1.6)	4.2
8	Farm without succession plans are more likely to be converted to non-farm use	70 (28.7)	124 (50.8)	10(4.1)	30(12.3)	10(4.1)	4.0
9	Farms without a declared successor often end up in decay	83 (34.0)	99 (40.6)	14(5.7)	30(12.3)	18(7.4)	3.9
10	The conversion of farms to non-farming activities can be addressed through farm succession	67(27.5)	121 (49.6)	24(9.8)	24 (9.8)	8(3.3)	3.8
11	Communication problems between parental and younger generations can be solved through succession planning	66 (27.0)	126 (51.6)	28(11.5)	21(8.6)	3(1.2)	3.8
12	Succession is not essential for farm continuation	23 (9.4)	44 (18.0)	9 (3.7)	96(39.3)	72(29.5)	3.0
13	Only male heir(s) should be considered as farm successors	25(10.2)	20(8.2)	8(3.3)	83(34.0)	108(44.3)	2.8
14	It is dangerous to consider female heirs as farm successors	32 (13.1)	15 (6.1)	12 (4.9)	74(30.2)	111(45.3)	2.8
15	Serious thoughts should not be given to farm succession	13(5.3)	28 (11.5)	18(7.4)	107(43.9)	78 (32.0)	2.8
16	Disadvantages of farm succession outweigh its benefits	12 (4.9)	34 (13.9)	10 (4.1)	101(41.4)	87 (35.7)	2.8
17	Succession planning is a waste of time and resources	11(4.5)	32 (13.1)	13(5.3)	86(35.2)	102(41.8)	2.7

Source: Field survey (2015)

Table 3. Chi – square (χ^2) analysis of the association between the poultry farmers' farm characteristics and their perception of succession planning

Variables	Chi – square Value (χ^2)	df	p - value	Decision
Farming status	9.730	4	0.008	S
Total farm debt	19.216	8	0.001	S
Farm ownership structure	7.437	8	0.190	NS

Source: Field survey (2015)

Table 4. Relationship between poultry farmers' perception of farm succession and their farming plans

Correlation value (r)	P - value	Decision
0.184	0.085	NS

Source: Field survey (2015)

4. Discussion

The additional revelation produced through this study, to the fact that men were more involved in small- medium scale poultry farming in the study areas are that more men than women were registered in the Poultry Association of Nigeria (PAN). This corroborates the previously existing local and international researches which advance that gender is related to participation in farming, and that males dominate farming activities. Membership of the association (PAN) allows members the benefits of deriving easy access to poultry – related information, rebates and discounts on activities such as annual environmental auditing, veterinary services, and reduced prices for farm inputs etc from the government. This agrees with (Okpara, 2010 in Aderinto, Dada and Ibrahim,2014) who asserted that

membership of farming organizations is an indication of farmers eagerness to obtain needed assistance from government or affiliated bodies and to also improve their standard of living. This observed male dominance over female in PAN membership in this study areas debunked the a priori expectation that 'credit availability, input procurements etc are powerful instruments for the empowerment of the resource – poor people, thereby bringing them to a higher level of productivity and income increment (Lolita,2016)'. It also portends that the non-membership of most of the poultry women in the PAN as a result of their lack the financial capacity to do so has placed them in disadvantaged position in terms of empowerment and resources availability that could result in improved productivity and better income in their poultry business when compared to their male counterparts.

Sole ownership status is indicative that the poultry farm ownership is completely in the hands of the principal farm owners and its survival is dependent on their individual efforts. This is in agreement with Foskey (2005) who posited that sole proprietors are visionaries imbued with autonomy and power to make decisions that will lead them to the realization of their visions. This autonomy in decision- making is a form of individualism that could aid easy farm survival and future transfer of the poultry farm business. This indirectly agrees with Vogel (2007) and Bohak (2011) who posited that part – time farmers are less likely to hand – over their farms to anybody because they have lower farm survival rate. The explanation for this is that if a farmer does not work full – time on the farm, his potential successor will operate in the same manner by working off – the farm most of the time and this will hinder the interest in taking over the farm. Although, sole proprietorship or ownership style gives room for personalized service and attention to clients, it tends to eschew delegation of authority & responsibility (Kerbler, 2007), and the autocratic leadership style that goes along with it may hinder succession process or render it unpredictable.

The mean farm size/ population of 3,160 birds implies that the poultry farmers in the study area are small- medium scale poultry entrepreneurs (SMEs) with majority (i.e. the mode) being medium scale producers. They are thus likely to be commercial farmers. According to Corsi (2004) farm size is an indication of the economic strength of a farm, hence the respondents are likely to have sufficient proceeds and income from these medium size farms to be able to support the intending successor that will take over the farm. However, large scale farms hold out the best prospect of generating the best employment and income for a

successor to join the farm and be gradually integrated into the management before the transfer is complete (Gasson et al, 2008). To Ochon et al (2007) & Uchiyama et al (2008), it is as if there is much to lose if a farmer fails to consider succession as an option because to them, the bigger the farm size, the higher the possibilities for future farm transfer. In fact Uchiyama et al (2008) further affirmed that farm size influences the route to succession because small farms are likely to provide less opportunity for two generations to work side by side. This may indicate that the farms were mostly operated commercially as small - medium scale enterprises (SMEs). The result on the farm indebtedness showed that most of the poultry farmers in the study area carry relatively light debt loads hence there will be no need for any future liquidation of farm assets for any reason. Majority of the respondents being under none or minimal debts of less than 20 % is an indication that they are not likely to be under pressure for family consumption. Rather, they are likely to target more of production for sales. This is in agreement with Okpara (2010) who said that married farmers are likely to be pressurized to produce more farm produce for both family consumption and commercialization (sales). Therefore, the process of farm succession planning and retirement would be easier. This agrees with Bohak (2011) who says that the harder the conditions under which farmers operate due to high debt, the less likely they would desire for their heirs or children to replace them and inherit their burden. The findings on the poultry farmers' perceptions imply that the patrilineal way of farm property inheritance is not being supported by these respondents and this is perhaps indicating that farm succession is beginning to shift from the era of male dominance through informal rules and culture code to the embrace of gender equality and sensitivity even among agricultural households. Nevertheless, the overall perception of farm succession by the respondents is thus illustrated with the pie – chart in Fig.1 indicating that majority (95.9 %) of the poultry farmers were favourably disposed to the issue of farm succession planning in poultry farming.

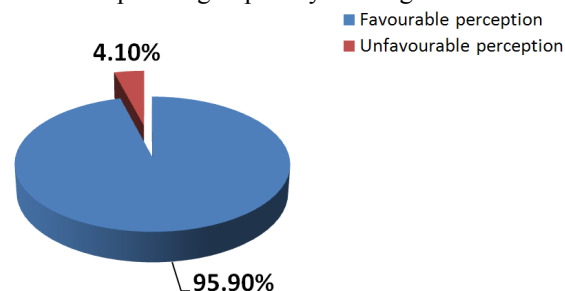


Figure 1. Pie - Chart illustration of farmers' overall perception of farm succession in poultry business.

These findings indicated that the farming status of the poultry farmer (whether part – time or full time) is a significant predictor of the farmers' perception about farm succession planning. This corroborates Kerbler (2007), Vogel (2007) who affirmed that part – time farmers are less likely to agree to handover their farm business within the family when compared to their full – time counterparts. This is because the later is likely to realize that he has a lot to lose if he ignores planning for who takes over from him after having spent virtually all his time on it, whereas the farmer on part –time has other areas of focus occupying and competing with his time apart from the farm business hence there is interest impairment. Secondly, the findings on the farm debt also showed that there is an association between debts: equity ratio (ie the total farm debts) and the poultry farmers' perception of succession planning processes. An incumbent farmers' debt may exert a considerable strain on the family resources by reducing the likelihood of engaging in succession planning as well as leading to the failure of any succession process put in place. This agrees with De Massis, Chua and Chrisman (2008). Kerbler (2007) also reported that there is the likelihood of hindering, reducing farm succession and transfer (intergenerational continuity) if farm debts resulting from loans and other financial encumbrances are too great a burden for the farms' further development. It seems therefore, that the harder the conditions under which farmers operate due to high debt, the less likely they will wish any of their heirs to replace them or embark on any planning for succession.

The respondents showed favourable perception of the concept and usefulness of farm succession planning. However, the implication the observed non- significance (NS) on table 4 is that the observed poultry farmers' favourable perception of succession planning has not been sufficient enough to influence their (the farmers) decision to embark on farm succession planning action. This when translated to practice, means that the sampled poultry farmers were yet to fully comprehend the importance of succession planning as a necessity for ensuring a successful outcome hence they have not fully committed themselves to practicing it. This corroborates Sharma et al (2001), Foskey (2005) who say that the chances of obtaining a satisfactory succession is practically impossible (nil) without the commitment on the part of the incumbent farmer while any incumbent who plans for succession because of its feasibility and not its desirability will more likely delay, abort or sabotage its final implementation. Hence, this study suggests that what is needed for the successful implementation of farm

succession planning is the whole - hearted commitment of the incumbent to the succession process (es). This is by complete transfer of its leadership or management to the next generation. It is better than selling the farm business because this kills intergenerational succession and farm family sustenance.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion from the findings of this study is that the current generation of poultry farmers in Oyo and Osun state value the survival of their farm operations beyond the immediate or present time, hence to them succession planning is important, highly valued with the highest mean value of 4.70 and that it is necessary to make plan for it, irrespective of whether they are small scale or medium scale poultry business. In agreement with Bohak (2007), they admit that the presence of a declared successor is important for future farm viability. It is therefore recommended that poultry farmers in Oyo & Osun states, Nigeria should endeavour to start planning for their succession by selecting and grooming selected individuals in their family. More research work in the area of succession planning should be replicated in more states in the country as well as other livestock and crop farming fields. However, serious thoughts should be given to those perception statements with low mean values of 2.80 and 2.70. For instance, more female should be encouraged and empowered to take over their parents' farm businesses while more parents should be willing to declare their female children as the farm successors. Government may need to provide intervention in terms of legislations or policies that will make more poultry farmers put succession planning in place as early as possible on their farms so as to avoid undue liquidation or forfeiture of their hard raised farm assets to undeserving inheritors within or outside the family. Those who have enough evidence to show that they have commenced the process and possibly groomed selected individuals should be motivated by government in very tangible forms (such as occasional and unexpected awards, tax rebates etc) for SMEs that can show evidence of succession planning on their farms. Extension agents should be more involved and empowered to assist farmers in taking advantage of the linkage support services that might be provided by government as intervention strategy.

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۲۵ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۴: دریافت نسخه اولیه
۳۱ مرداد ۱۳۹۴: ارسال پاسخ داوری
۷ شهریور ۱۳۹۴: دریافت نسخه اصلاحی
۲۴ شهریور ۱۳۹۴: پذیرش

ویژگی‌های مزارع مرغداری و دیدگاه مرغداران در زمینه برنامه‌ریزی جانشین در جنوب غربی نیجر

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هدف جانشین‌پروری بین نسلی در جهت بازآفرینی مزارع خانوادگی و تبیین مسائل افزایش سن صاحبان اصلی مزارع می‌باشد. این مطالعه به بررسی ویژگی‌های مزارع مرغداری و دیدگاه مرغداران در زمینه برنامه‌ریزی جانشین‌پروری در جنوب غربی نیجر پرداخته است. از روش نمونه‌گیری چندمرحله‌ای برای انتخاب مرغداران در ایالت‌های اویو و اسون استفاده شد. داده‌ها از طریق آمار توصیفی و تحلیلی مورد ارزیابی قرار گرفت. نتایج نشان داد که مرغداران عمدتاً در مقیاس کوچک و متوسط می‌باشند. اکثراً مالک منفرد (۰/۷۲/۵) و خانوادگی (۰/۱۱/۹) بودند. ۷۳/۴٪ افراد به صورت تمام وقت در مزارع فعالیت می‌کردند. ۹۵/۹٪ از افراد دیدگاه مناسبی نسبت به برنامه‌ریزی جانشین‌پروری داشتند. ۳۰/۳٪ افراد برنامه مورد نظر را انجام داده بودند و ۲۲/۹٪ از آنها آن را آغاز کرده بودند. بر اساس نتایج تحقیق بین موقعیت مزرعه و بدهی با برنامه‌ریزی جانشین‌پروری رابطه معنی داری به دست برنامه‌ریزی جانشین‌پروری در منطقه مورد مطالعه یک اقدام نوین می‌باشد و بررسی و مطالعات بیشتری باید به منظور فراهم نمودن داده‌های پایه برای تصمیم‌گیرندگان در زمینه دامپروری و خصوصاً مرغداری‌ها و تشویق افراد در این زمینه به اجرا درآید.

چکیده

کلمات کلیدی: مرغداران، برنامه‌ریزی جانشین‌پروری، دیدگاه مرغداران