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**SUSTAINABILITY OF THE NIGERIAN  
LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY IN 2000AD**



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# EXTENSION NEEDS OF URBAN AND PERI URBAN HOUSEHOLDS INVOLVED IN LIVESTOCK KEEPING IN EGBEDA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF OYO STATE.

BY

O.R. SEKONI AND O.P. FAWOLE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES  
UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

## ABSTRACT.

Agriculture activities which were considered typically rural, now abound in Urban areas. Engulfment of rural settlements by rapidly expanding cities and the current ailing economy may be responsible for this situation. This trend suggests that extension activities should be expanded to cater for the needs of urban and periurban farmers. Livestock keeping is fast gaining grounds among individuals and families in urban areas. This study examined the extension needs of the individuals involved and their access to extension services. The study reveals that access to extension services is low. It also reveals that most of the individuals encounter constraints such as land accessibility, pest and diseases, proper housing, legal action against livestock holder and management practices involved. This hinder the individuals involved from expanding their numbers of livestock.

## INTRODUCTION

In Nigeria, effort to hasten agricultural development viz a viz increase in food production through improved agricultural activities has not achieved the desired result despite several attempts made by successive governments through various programmes such as farm settlements, RBDA, OFN, Green Revolution and the ADP in all the states of the federation.

The introduction of structural Adjustment programme SAP in 1986 resulted in the rising rate of unemployment and a decline in the economy of the nation. This resulted into the practicing of urban agriculture by the populace as a means of withstanding declining real wages, unemployment and as a contribution to food security. (Drakakis - Smith; 1992). Thus urban agriculture has become increasingly important as a Survival Strategy for many urban dwellers.

## METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The study was carried out in Egbeda local government area of Oyo state with an estimated population of 128,998 (NPC 1991). The area was chosen as the area of study because there is a process of transformation from rural - semi urban and urban settlement in the area (Adesina et al 1993).

Relevant information was collected from 52 persons using the snowball technique in the urban area. A multi stage sampling procedure was used in selecting the sample in the periurban area. A total of 110 respondents participated in the study. The study also tested if there is any significant relationship between socio environmental constraint and extension needs of respondents.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 reveals that 40% of the respondents are Business men/women, 20.9% are civil servants, 19.1% are traders 10% of the respondents are others such as trainee apprentice while 1.8% gave no response. This result is consistent with Gbadegesins' (1991) work which states that most of the urban farmers were self employed or engaged in such occupation such as tailoring and trading.

Table 2 reveals that majority of the respondents 62.7% do not have access to extension services and out of the lot that have access to this service 45.5% have contact with them once in 2 weeks, 35.4% gave no respond 10.9% have contact with them once in 2 months, 0.4% have contact once in 4 weeks and 1.8 have contact with them once in 4 months

Table 3 reveals that 35.5% the respondents see feeding as a problem if they have to expand their livestock, 29.1% see pest and diseases as a hindered, 23.6% see housing as hinderance and 11.8% gave no response. It also revealed that 56.4% of the respondent will like to expand their livestock.

The result from table 4 reveal that 45.5% of the respondent have pest and diseases as a major problem in livestock keeping, 31.8% have noise, pilfering 26.4%, smell or stench emanating from wastes of livestock 24.5%, legal action against producers 23.6%, others (housing and management) 17.3%, access to land 17.3%, water availability 6.4%. This finding confirms with the research findings of Maxwell (1995) carried out in Kenya. It states that land access water availability, insecure arrangements between land owners and users which results into legal action is a critical problem to urban and periurban agriculture.

**TABLE 1**  
**DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS OCCUPATION**

OCCUPATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Business man/woman	44	40
Civil servants	23	20.9
Traders	21	19.1
Others: Trainee apprentice	11	10
Retired civil servant	9	8.2
No response	2	1.8

**TABLE 2**  
**DISTRIBUTION OF ACCESS AND CONTACT TO EXTENSION SERVICES**

ACCESS TO EXTENTION SERVICES	FREQUENCY		PERCENTAGE	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
	41	69	37.3	62.7
FREQUENCY OF ACCESS CONTACT TO EXTENSION SERVICES				
One in 2 weeks	50		45.5	
One in 4 weeks	7		6.4	
One in 2 months	12		10.9	
One in 4 months	2		1.8	
No response	39		35.4	

**TABLE 3**  
**FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN LIVESTOCK EXPANSION**

ANY PLAN FOR EXPANSION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Yes	63	56.4
No	48	43.6
PROBLEMS IN EXPANDING		
Feeding	39	35.5
Disease	32	29.1
Housing	26	23.6
No response	13	11.8

**TABLE 4**  
**PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF SOCIOENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINT TO URBAN AND PERIURBAN LIVESTOCK KEEPERS (EXTENSION NEEDS)**

PROBLEMS	PERCENTAGE	
	Yes	No
Pest and Disease	45.5	54.5
Noise	31.8	68.2
Pilfering	26.4	73.6
Smell	24.5	75.5
Legal action against producers	23.6	76.4
Others (housing management)	17.3	82.7
Access to land	17.3	82.7
Water availability	6.4	93.6

#### SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

This study has shown that majority of the respondent keeps livestock as a means of withstanding declining real wages and as a contribution to food security. It also reveals that respondent encounter such constraints as access to land, pest and livestock. Based on these findings the following recommendations are made.

- 1) There should be a greater cooperation between the extension agency, Research stations and local governments so as to identify the problems of the urban and periurban livestock keepers with a view of finding solutions to the identified problems
- 2) The extension agency should direct the activities to the urban and periurban areas since an appreciable size of the urban population contribute towards food production in the nation.
- 3) The local government councils should be able to lease out unfused lands to person wishing to go into livestock rearing as a means of encouraging and increasing food production in the nation at the household level.

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