

Poultry Farming and Poverty Reduction in Tanzania

FRANK SAMWEL

Abstract

In Tanzania there is underinvestment in the poultry subsector despite its high potential for productivity, income increase, and projected rapidly increasing demand. Poultry subsector is dominated by smallholder farmers who comprise of the largest portion of the poor households, therefore poverty alleviation has to consider them. After Tanzania's commitment to fight poverty at the World Social Summit in Copenhagen in 1995, the government of Tanzania (GoT) has been formulating poverty oriented policies to eradicate poverty.

TASAF which was formulated as one of the poverty eradication strategy, started its implementation in 2000 with the aim of increasing the coverage of education and health services, investing in infrastructure and supporting agricultural development.

Under TASAF program, Tanzania has achieved high economic growth which has led to expansion of public expenditure. High economic growth has resulted to a decline in the percentage of population living below the poverty line but the actual number of the poor people has increased.

This study aims to analyze poultry farming and poverty reduction in Tanzania, so as to advise on how poultry farming can be included in poverty eradication strategies (specifically TASAF).

The study used National Panel Survey of 2019/20, where descriptive statistics and OLS econometric tools were used to analyze the factors affecting food sufficiency. Employment and age of the household head decreased the food sufficiency. Poultry Size, household income, education level, and rainfall contributed to the food sufficiency level. The results show that poultry farming helps in poverty reduction to poor households (by increasing food sufficiency). There is a need to include poultry farming in TASAF program as one of the project to combat poverty.