



VILLAGE CHICKEN (*Gallus gallus domesticus*) INTENSIFICATION AND PRODUCTION IN SOUTH-SOUTH NIGERIA FOR FOOD SECURITY: THE ROLE OF RESEARCH

BY

***¹Agom, D. I., ¹Idiong, N. B. and ²Enyenihi, E. A.**

1. Akwa Ibom State University, Obio Akpa Campus, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

2. University of Uyo, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

***Correspondence: agomd@yahoo.com, +2348023649664**

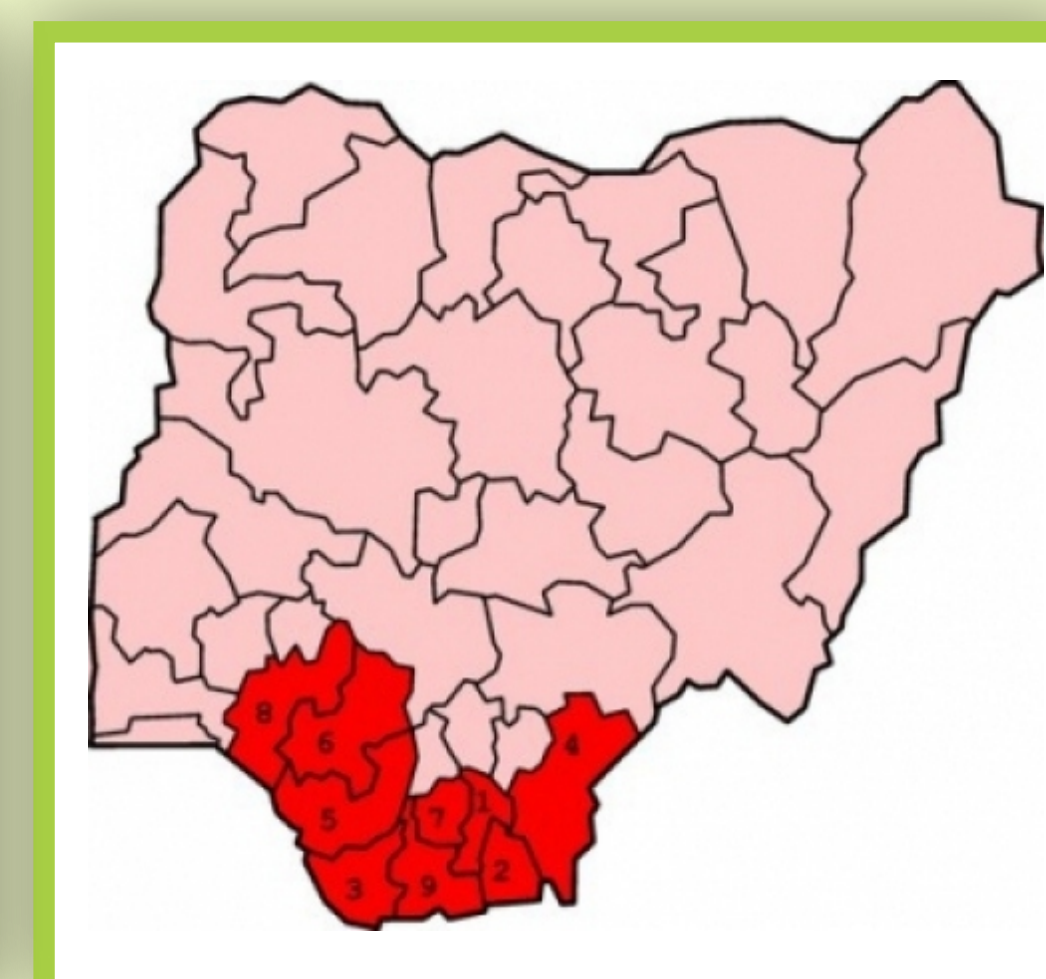
INTRODUCTION

The age long village chicken in Africa played a prominent role in the past in the tradition, culture, economy and ways of life of the people. However, the introduction of exotic breeds of chicken has shifted attention of the people to the fast growing, bigger sized, softer and less testy exotic breeds. This has resulted in neglect of the village chicken and the fear of extinction of the species in the South - South part of Nigeria.

This paper analyses the development and integration of the local village chicken into the production stream in Nigeria with a view to stem the tide of neglect and reduction in the population of the breed. It also analyses the possibility of investments in research for the local breeds to compete with the exotic breeds and improve the traits and profit.

METHODOLOGY

The paper collected data from 120 poultry farmers in South – South Nigeria that keep exotic breeds of chicken and 80 farmers that keep the village chicken. Information was obtained on the cost and returns of production as well as special characteristics of the two breeds. Special interview sessions were also held with researchers on poultry breeding in the area. Data collected were analysed using simple percentages, T tests analysis and Frequency rankings.



RESULTS

Results show that the village chicken has some areas that need improvement and has comparative advantage in many other areas



Areas of Village Chicken Improvement

1. Housing
2. Feeding
3. Gene of parents
4. Protection from predators
5. Joint hatching and brooding
6. Size of birds

Areas of Comparative advantage for Village Chicken

1. Incubation and hatching of chicks without assistance
2. Resistance to disease conditions
3. More tasty meat
4. Can source for food from surroundings
5. Initial investment cost is low
6. Returns on investment is high

RECOMMENDATIONS

- More cross breeding to select and improve traits on the local chicken.
- Increase production through investments to boost local chicken population
- Encouraging production through the inclusion of the village chicken in grants, empowerment and sustainability programmes to stem the extinction tide.
- Increased enlightenment campaign on the extinction tide and benefits of the village chicken.

Significant difference in the following areas

S/N	Significant area	Levels of significance
1	Cost	1%
2	Profit	5%
3	Output	5%
4	Size of birds/age	1%
5	Disease resistance	1%
6	Number of eggs per bird	5%