

HIGH PRICE OF ANIMAL CONCENTRATE FEEDS IN NIGERIAN MARKETS: IMPLICATION ON MEAT PRODUCTIVITY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

In recent years, it has been observed that the prices of concentrate feeds has been on the increase. These type of feeds are those feeds that are used in feeding animals such as cattle, poultry, rabbits and so on. It is a type of feed used to balance the nutrients contents in the body of animal. Concentrate feeds are good sources of protein, minerals and energy to animals. As at the year 2018 and 2019, the prices of concentrate feeds in the market was ₦3,000 per 50kg bag, but within the year 2020 to present, a bag is now ₦6,000. Several factors have been identified to be the cause of this. Such factors includes: increase in price of fuel used by manufacturers for production of feed, incidence of covid 19, lack of raw materials, lack of government support to local manufacturers and so on. It has been observed that if these issues are not properly addressed by the Nigerian government, the case however would later affect the level of meat productivity and health status of most Nigerians. It is believed that if adequate preventive measures are taken earlier by the Nigerian government in alleviation of the above challenges, the situation may be redeemed.

Keywords: High Price, Animal, Concentrate Feeds, Nigerian Market, Meat Productivity.

Introduction

Concentrates feeds are those feeds like livestock mash or components of mash which are low in fibre. Components of livestock mash includes: cakes (like groundnut cakes, coconut and palm kernel cakes), meals (bone meals, fish meal, oyster shell meal and blood meal), Grains (such as maize, sorghum and millet) (Akinsanmi, 1989). Concentrates are generally feed to animals which have simple stomach (monogastrics) which includes poultry and pig. They can also be given as supplement to some herbivores for specific purposes. Concentrate feeds are by-products of plant and animal origin. They are very rich in

carbohydrates, protein, fats vitamins and mineral and additives. Concentrate feed are very rich food that are used in feeding all livestock for adequate growth and performance in production of products such as meat, egg, milk and so on.

For the past years until present concentrate feeds used in feeding various grades of animals has been purchased by farmers at a cheaper price. But since the year 2019 to the present, the cost of the main agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, grains and similarly fuel price, have risen strongly. This findings agrees with the report of Akinbobola (2021), that high cost of materials e.g. maize and other feed finishers contributes to high prices of feeds in the market.

This is one of the major reasons, Factsheets (2008), reported that low stocks of world grain are the lowest recently compared relatively to usage ever recorded. Factsheets (2008), goes on to, state that pressure in demand of grains by the growing population contributes to high price of maize and so on in the market. Other factors that have been found out to contribute to high price of concentrate feeds in Nigerian markets includes: lack of government support to local manufacturers, incidence of Covid-19 in Nigeria, recent barn on essential goods used in production e.g. grains and other feed items, multiple taxation of small and medium enterprises in Nigeria, insecurity in Nigeria, poor infrastructures and so on. Irrespective of all these, current market signals this days suggest, that livestock producers may continued to face relatively high prices on animal feeds (concentrate feeds) for the next three years. These factors have already affecting the growth and meat productivity of some animals like birds and pigs, in one way or another. However, it is believed that if the Nigerian government will help the feed manufacturing industries to address this issues properly and establish feed manufacturing factories at the rural areas, there will be an even production of concentrate feeds and reduction of its prices in the Nigerian markets. This will aid in provision of different types of meat to a level that even the poor people can purchase them.

Methodology

This study relied on literature to discuss the implication of high price of animal concentrate feed on meat productivity in Nigeria.

Discussion

An overview of concentrate feed and its importance.

Concentrate feed are those feeds that are prepared from cereals and other materials used in feeding farm animals. It is also defined as incomplete feed which contains high percentage energy, protein, premix and other feed additives. This definition depends much on the type of concentrate to be made. This shows that concentrate is expected to be mixed with other feed ingredients such as maize, soya meal, groundnut cake, maize and wheat offals-bran and so on. This is the reason, AAFCO (2000) defined it as feed used with another to improve the nutritive balance of total feed mixed to produce a supplement or a complete feed, for animal use. Concentrate feeds contain less crude fibre than roughages and reltively large but varying quantities of carbohydrates, crude protein and fat together with relatively little water (Ogieva, 1998).

Concentrates consists of the following feed items:

Carbohydrates: This include processed wheat, oats, maize, guinea corn, millet and so on.

Vegetable Proteins: Vegetable proteins are groundnut cake, cotton seed cake, soyabean cake.

Animal Protein Concentrate: This includes: fish meal, meat meal or tankage, bone meal, blood meal and so on.

Additives: Common salt, drugs (such as anti-biotics, anti-fungi drugs, vitamins, mineral drugs) grits, pre-mix.

Miscellaneous by-products: Which includes, wheat bran, dried brewers grains, rice bran, maize bran brewers yeast, cod liver oil, sea weed meal and so on.

Only concentrate feed that is mixed with other ingredients as specified by the manufacturer is ideal for the animals. One of the disadvantages of the use of concentrate feed for animals is on the possibilities of making mistakes during the formation or mixing of feed ingredients. If the quantity of feed ingredients required are not mixed in appropriate proportion it normally affects the growth and meat quality of the animals concerned.

Other problem incurred by farmers during concentrate feed formulation are: scarcity of maize, unreliability or spoilage of machine such as hammer mill/crusher. When such problems occur, productivity of concentrates are prohibited or delayed, and such problems drastically affects production and feeding of animals such as poultry and pigs.

Based on the classes of nutrients supplied by the different feedstuff used in making concentrates, concentrates are classified into:

- Energy concentrate (concentrates formulated with higher percentage of energy giving foods such as maize, millet, guinea corn and so on).
- Protein concentrated (Concentrate that is made with higher proportion of protein foods such as, meat meal, fish meal and so on.
- Mineral, vitamin an additives (This includes concentrates that are made with high proportion of minerals, vitamins and additives).

Concentrates are available for different animals at different production stages. For instance in poultry, we have different concentrate feeds for the birds. For instance we have; chicks concentrate feed (for birds) birds between 1 – 6 weeks old; growers concentrate (for birds between 6 – 16 weeks olds. Layers concentrates (for chicks that are laying eggs) broilers starter and finisher concentrate (for broiler chicken) (Akinbobola, 2021).

Prospects of Concentrate Feeds

The importance of concentrate feeds in animal production cannot be overemphasized. The use of concentrate feeds includes:

- They are used in feeding all livestock to supply all the necessary requirements of the body of farm animals.
- Concentrates are used to feed all livestock for optimum growth and performance as in production of meat, milk, egg, wool, fur, hides and skin and for maintenance of pregnancy in female animals.
- Concentrates contains low fibre and are easily digestible by animals, thereby makes their feed conversion rate to be faster and useful.

- It provides animals with balanced ration since appropriate quantity of different feedstuff are included in its formulation (Ogieva, 2006).

Looking at all these, concentrate feed has been found to be vital feed needed in the production of monogastric animals especially without its production, such animals and their meat production will be limited within our society. Onemore, concentrate feeds saves a lot of time for farmers during feeding of their animals and reduces labour cost for them.

It is because of these factors that you see farmers rear these animals (Poultry and pigs) in every corner of the Nigerian community. Unfortunately, the process of concentrate feeds are now rising every day in Nigerian markets that farmers are unable to purchase them again. This issue therefore, calls for government intervention to enable Nigerian meat producers to produce quality and quantity meats for the populace.

High Price of Concentrate Feeds in Nigerian Markets and causes of it

In the past years, the prices of concentrate feed have been very low, to the extent that local farmers were able to buy them with the meagry money they have. As at the year 2018 and 2019, the prices of concentrate feed in the Nigerian market was ₦3,000 a bag, but within the year 2020 to present a bag of concentrate feed now is ₦6,000. Several factors have been identified to have contributed to this. Among the factors are:

High cost of Agricultural Inputs: Rises in inputs cost such as fertilizers (used in production of cereal grains), have contributed to high cost of materials used in making feed e.g maize and other feed ingredients (Akinbobola, 2021). In line to this finding, Sobrary (2020) stated that, in poultry farming, 70 – 80% of expenditure is incurred in poultry feeds and of recent the prices of concentrate feeds used in feeding poultry birds are on the increase in Nigeria markets, mainly due to high cost of maize and other feed components.

Increase in the Price of Fuels or oil: High cost of fuel in Nigeria have affected feed manufacturing industries seriously in the production of concentrate fees and this subsequently have affected the prices of concentrates feeds found in Nigerian markets. This findings agreed with the report made by factsheet (2008), that similarly rising fuel or oil prices also increases cost of production and transportation cost of animal feeds (concentrates includes).

Incidence of COVID-19 Disease: It has been found out that some related industries that should have helped feed manufacturers like insurance companies, banks and so on, closed down within the covid-19 period and most manufacturers were unable to obtain loans from banks within this period. Apart from this most workers and related companies stopped work due to the threat of the disease. The Nigerian economy as a whole was short down by government within this period too. All these affected production industries and most economy of the world as a whole.

Multiple Taxation of SMES (Small ad Medium Enterprises): High taxation made by federal government of Nigeria, state and even local governments where SMES are located have affected these industries drastically with concentrate feed production industries being included.

Insecurity in Nigeria: The recent threatening of workers life by unknown gunmen, has made the government to raise curfews in most states of Nigeria, and this have affected workers flexible working period among industries that manufactures concentrate feeds in Nigeria.

Poor Infrastructure: Poor infrastructural facilities like poor road networks, inefficient transportation system, poor storage facilities e.g. near absence of silo have all continued to the high price of concentrate feeds found in Nigerian markets day.

Expected prices of birds by farmers: Another factor facing farmers this time is the expected market price of birds by customers. Sobrary (2020), in his work on best poultry feeds in Nigeria stated that no matter how costly the poultry feed is, farmers can hardly increase the prices of their birds, irrespective of the cost of purchase of feed.

Other factors that have contributed to high price of concentrate feed in the market includes: inconsistent government policies as seen in recent barn on importation of grains and other feeds items, diversion of corn from feed users into ethanol production recently in Nigeria (Geoffrey, 2012).

Consequences of High Price of Animal Concentrate Feeds in Nigeria Markets

The effects of high price of concentrate feeds in the Nigerian markets are:

- It has led to the use of substandard feed ingredients in production of concentrate feeds by manufacturers, in order to maintain prices and keep their customers (Sobrary, 2020). Apart from this, it has also led to the production of insufficient quality feeds needed by buyers from the Nigerian markets.
- It ha stimulated an increase in prices of meat or carcass of some animals like birds and pigs sold in Nigerian markets, to the extent that poor people can no longer purchase them.
- Recent barn on importation of grains and high cost of grains in Nigeria have led to pressure demands of gains by the growing population (Factsheet, 2020). This factors however, have even contributed to higher price of grains in the Nigerian markets.
- It has resulted to closure of some concentrate feed manufacturing industries and loss of job by most workers working in such industries.
- Sudden death of animal easily occurs in some farms recently due to production of poor quality feeds by manufacturers who now use poor quality materials in production of feeds, and the inability of feeding the animal concerned with the actual quantity of balanced feed they need.
- Reduces access to concentrate feeds by higher number of poor farmers

All these ills have affected quality and quantity as quality of meat produced by Nigerian farmers.

Conclusion

High cost of concentrate feeds in the Nigerian markets has been attribute to high cost of agricutlrual inputs like fertilizers, fuelled by competing use of feedstuffs used in making feed (e.g corn and soyabeans) and the rising prices of fuel are among the identified factors

that causes the rise in price of feeds. Apart from this, current policies including financial incentives that divert corn from its uses into ethanol production, have exacerbated, if not caused these higher prices of concentrate feeds in the Nigerian market. With all these factors, farmers need to look at ways to protect their margins (in cost of feed) particularly those with intensive enterprises that rely on purchased feeds. Remedies to these problems have been enumerated in this study. It is also believed that if the government can look into these problems, its ills will never be incurred by the Nigerian populace.

Recommendations

Based on the finding from this study, the following have been recommended for reduction of high price of animal feeds (concentrates) in the Nigerian markets:

- i. Teaching the farmers various ways of making their own feed by the extension officers from the government institution (research institutes). The government should encourage this in all the states of Nigeria.
- ii. By using more crystalline amino acids and less animal proteins e.g lysine, methionine, tryptophan, threonine, valine, isoleucine. The prices of these items are lower than that of soyabeans and other protein grains used in making concentrate feeds and still have a nutritionally balanced diet for animals like birds and poultry.
- iii. The concerned regulatory agencies must establish quality standard for the production of all brands of animal feed in Nigeria. This will eliminate wasteful competition, which will help to reduce cost of feed and thereby maintains price stability in the market.
- iv. The government should also subsidize the cost of feed production materials to encourage farmers to produce feed for their farms.
- v. Government should avoid incidence of multiple taxation on animal feed producers in Nigeria, because the bulk of these taxes are passed on to production cost, thereby raising cost of animal feeds unnecessarily.
- vi. Utilization of alternative feed sources is a priority that must be looked into in this case, for instance, use of cassava and yam peels in making concentrate feed is better than the use of maize and other grains that competes with human feeds. Yam peels contains high concentrate of protein than maize.

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