INTRODUCTION:
The high demand for chicken meat and eggs has really proven that Poultry farming in Nigeria is indeed a very lucrative business. The business of rearing of chicken and producing eggs for sale has created an opportunity for some young graduates, retired civil servant and the less privileges etc in the country.
Poultry farming has become one of the most important aspects of farming for many reasons. It creates great business opportunity for Entrepreneurs, and provides employment for the job seeking citizens. This feasibility study will help us make a decision as regards starting our own poultry farm.
The Chicken and its products are very rich source of protein of which we all agreed to that, you and I need the proteins derived from chicken to maintain healthy living. It is generally believed that every child needs not less than an egg a day for their normal growth. While every adult needs like ten in a week; Poultry also provides meat for delicacies - no tribe or religion that forbids chicken meat. Everyone likes it, that’s why poultry products sales very fast and in high demand.

The Benefits of Poultry Farming are so numerous that pages may not contain it all. Apart from the chicken being used as food, Poultry Farming is equally profitable. A good poultry farmer earns above N20 million per annul depending on how big the farm is. All these benefits are open to us if we start our own poultry farm today!

In this feasibility study, we shall explore ideas of what is involved so we can build upon it; and through commenting, people can as well add their own ideas and findings to compliment the write up. So, I hope to make these studies as explicit as I can for the benefit of Nigerian farmers.

TYPES OF BREEDS:
There are basically three different breeds of bird for poultry business. We have the Broilers, Cockerels, and Layers.

1. The Broilers
This bird grows very fast and are ready for sale at 12 weeks from hatch.

2. Cockerels:
This species grow slower and can take up to 24 weeks before they are matured for marketing.

3. Cockerels.
This species are reliable in terms of survival and withstanding bad weathers. They are more resilient, and can absorb shocks far better than Layers and Broilers.
1. Capital:
Poultry Farming is a bit capital intensive - it's all like trading money to make more money. You need to prepare for this especially if you want to start on a higher scale. But be assured of making back whatever amount of money you invested in the business in multiple folds within a short period of time. Before you venture into poultry farming business, you need to seat back and do proper calculation and planning; make sure you have idea of all the costs involved.

Currently they seem to be no high level, hi-tech poultry farms in this country like the ones we used to see in USA, Europe and Asia possibly because of capital constraint. Any investor who have enough nerve as per capital and needed capital to venture into it will have reasons to smile within a short period of investment. Up till now, Nigeria still import chicken from other countries because the ones the local farmers produces are not enough to meet the demand of the over 150 Million citizens. There is certainly huge market for poultry rearing but the question is: Who will take advantage of the opportunity in the industry to create wealth? Now - if you're ready to get started and hit the goldmine in poultry farming, here are the basic requirements you need to set up your farm.

2. Acquire Land in Good Location
One plot of land of 120 x 60 square meter is perfect for setting up medium scale poultry farm, at least for a start. Once you have a land that is big enough for your farm set up, half of your need has been taken care of. Land is about the hardest and probably the most expensive part of poultry business in places like Port Harcourt, Lagos, Abuja, and other major cities.

Since you may not be allowed to carry out Poultry farming amongst residents or other populated environment due to the smell that is associated with poultry rearing and the subsequent health impact, I'll advice that you look for land in a rural area or in farms. There you will get lands cheaper, stays out of trouble and do your production there, while your products will be transported to the urban area for sale.

You can get a large chunk of land in a developing area for small amount compared to how much you will get the same size of land in a city like Port Harcourt. I know a farmer who has his poultry farm on eight plots of land in the village of Ikono which he acquired for less than five Hundred Thousand Naira when ikono was still very ruler. in Akwa Ibom State.

It is recommended that you get your own poultry farm land and build a permanent farm rather than to lease to avoid disruption. If you lease a property, the owner may decide to issue you quit notice at the point you should be settling down and making progress in the business. And relocating always comes with huge cost.

Except you have much money to invest in poultry farming business in a large scale and operate with the best of technology, city may not be ideal for you due to the smelly nature of poultry farm. If you are in Rivers State, look for lands in places Ogoni, Andoni, igkruta, airport road etc not in Port Harcourt. A plot of land in these area goes for within N500,000!
3. Build Chicken House For Your Birds

Chicken Coop, pen or Hen house is the building where your chicken will be kept. This is the second most important part of your poultry farm set up. The sizes and construction varies based on your need but ensure the building is spacious enough for the chicken to run around.

The house should be constructed in a way that you will be able to control the ventilation and air movement. Get a qualified engineer to do designing and building for you if you are going for large scale construction. Else, you can just visit any good poultry farm to see how the house is constructed.

The diagram above is the typical design of the standard chicken house. Like I said before, visit Poultry farms to see how it is done in your area.

When planning out your Hens house, always remember that space is very important. Don’t compromise on this to avoid frequent loss of your birds through suffocation and contamination.
4. Buy Healthy Day Old Chicks For Starting

You need to acquire your birds (normally day-old chicks) and will have to take very good care of them for the first seven to nine weeks of their life. You must buy your day-old-chicks from a healthy source -- the productivity of your chicks depends on how healthy they are!

Buy from chicken hatchery that mainly deals with the supplying of different species of day-old chickens. It’s better to buy from the hatchery (a place where eggs are hatched under artificial conditions), Chicken hatchery usually produce good quantity of day old chicks through the use of incubators. The estimated price for day old chicken in Nigeria is N100 - N250. Negotiate the prices with the sellers; you can get it cheaper if you’re buying from 500 chicks.

So if you are to start with 2,000 birds for instance, you will need about N2 million. N500,000 will buy you a piece of land which is not too expenses in some developing parts of port Harcourt And 200,000 should build a you a chicken house then 300,000 should be able to manage the breeds till they are ready for harvest. Ensure that you have enough space for the chickens to run around.

6. Get Feeds, Feeders and Water Troughs

Chicken feed is very important if you want good harvest. You can buy feeds at stores and make sure you buy the sack of feed that bears the label for the kind of chickens you have, such as Broiler starter, Chick starter, Layer feeds, etc. The store feeds are basically balanced feed which will help your chickens do fine if you don’t feed them other feeds.

Avoid cheap feeds that have low nutritional value -- your bird wouldn’t do well with that, don’t just buy because they are cheap, buy because the feed is quality and contains good nutritional value. You can also set out whole grains in a separate feeder if you like. I do. This can save you a lot of money if you have a source of cheap grain, especially if you use a high-protein chicken feed. For example, a high-protein layer ration with 20% protein will be formulated for use with supplemental grain, with the assumption that the hens will eat about 50% layer ration and 50% grain.

Chicks need lots of protein and will pretty much ignore supplemental grain until they’re older and aren’t growing as fast. There’s really little point in offering them grain until they’re 6-8 weeks old.

Apart from the feeding, you need to regularly vaccinate your chickens to protect them from bird flu and other diseases. Feeding is extensive; you have to feed them from day-old to maturity.

Important: Light must be available at all time in your poultry farm to keep the chickens warm, especially during raining season when the humidity is always very low. Look for reliable source of power to supply your hens house with heat and light.

Most layers will start laying eggs the moment they are 18 weeks old but some wait till they are about 22 weeks old. Whichever way, Layer farming is considered the most lucrative of all poultry farming. This is because Layers do two things, they lay eggs which fetch good money in the market, and are equally sold for the meat.

A full crate of pullet eggs sells for about N500, while a crate of semi-pullet sells for N650 wholesale price.
If your Layers are large enough to produce 10,000 crates of large eggs which sells for N700, you will be making at least N650 X 10,000 = N6,500,000 From eggs alone!

The chickens itself is another ball game! A fully grown chicken sells for between N2,000 and N2,500 (N1,500 to N2,000 at wholesale price) depending on the size and maturity level. Therefore, ten thousand chickens will give you N1,500 x 10,000 = N15,000,000!

What are you waiting for? Go ahead and give it a try - you'll have reason to smile very soon.

7 Things to consider before starting a fish farm

Posted on December 14, 2012 by Eru Kobe Godwin
Fish farming falls under the animal production sector of Agriculture, which can also be described as Aquaculture. Aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organism — fishes, crustaceans, mollusks etc., in fresh, salty or brackish water. Fishes are a known source for protein, and fish farming involves the planned growth and cultivation of fishes in tanks or proper enclosures for harvesting as food or commercial purpose.

According to Conservation International, “Aquaculture has a lower environmental impact than cattle, pig and poultry farming.” The demand for fishes grow on a daily basis given its – low in calories and cholesterol level – health benefits. The most common species cultivated amongst farmers within Nigeria are Catfish and Tilapia. In fish farming, fishes are raised in controlled tanks or ponds, and the kind of fishes cultivated by farmers depends on market demand.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER BEFORE STARTING A FISH FARM

1. TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW / PLANNING

Fish farming like any other successful business requires an enormous amount of planning, knowledge and skills before venturing into it. An extensive study of fish production techniques and cost of equipment are necessary. When researching for a prospective fish farm, you have to know the conditions surrounding the proposed location, the water source in the area, the amount of water flowing from it, the water’s rate and temperature. Also the level of conduciveness of the structures around the fish farm and other natural resources available within the area of jurisdiction has to be put into consideration.

2. REGISTRATION / LICENSING

Registration makes your business legitimate. You will have to register with the Corporate Affairs Commission, and also obtain clearance from associations related to fish farming, required for you to operate.

3. THE CHOICE OF FISHES TO CULTIVATE
Selecting the species of fish is important, to determine the appropriate techniques – pond or tank. You can go for catfish or tilapia, but you should choose the right fish for your expertise. For beginners, catfish is easy to cultivate.

4. FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Construction design including construction drawings and specifications, detailed equipment lists and costs; operating costs, cost of fingerlings, fish feed, electricity and fuel, labour, maintenance, drugs, transportation; capital costs, land & buildings, building ponds/raceways, plumbing & pipes tanks & aerators, oxygen meters, nets & boots, etc.

5. ECONOMICS (Start Small)

This is getting started with less than 100 fingerlings. Having a regimented amount of fishes allows you – for a start – to manage the factors that come with fish cultivation, such as food, water and weather conditions.

6. AVAILABLE MARKETS

You should consider your market and those you intend to target before going into fish farming. Once a market is available for your products, then you will check if demand is high all year round for some or all of your products; and also have alternative marketing strategy and sales plan in the situation of glut.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS/HAZARDS

Environment matters a lot because your farm might be exposed to potential hazards and threats such as vandals, insects, birds, snakes and cats. Environmental condition could be affiliated to climatic conditions too, like amount of rainfall, sunshine, etc. Environmental conditions/hazards determine the kind of habitat to be built for fish farming.

- See more at: http://connectnigeria.com/articles/2012/12/14/7-things-to-consider-before-starting-a-fish-farm/#sthash.M5MOqKTC.dpuf

3. HOW TO PREPARE A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR FISH FARM IN NIGERIA

Fish farming or aquaculture is a growing industry full of opportunities due to the increased demand for fish as a source of important nutrients for healthy living. A small scale fish farm is relatively easy to establish since the requirements are minimal and the start-up costs are not overwhelming. A feasibility report analyzes an intended project in terms of its viability, start-up costs and profitability. An ideal small scale fish farming feasibility report should include the following steps. Step 1 Introduction. The introduction part of the feasibility report should
outline the importance and the advantages of small scale fish farming. Explain your project fully in this section. Outline briefly how the project will be rolled out, how you plan to benefit from the project and the processes that will be involved. Basically it is a summary of the small scale fish farming project. Step 2 Description of the project. In this section, clearly outline the project’s location, the environment surrounding it and the availability of the resources required to start a small scale fish farm. Highlight the project’s mission and vision. Business goals and the objectives should also be included. Also include a brief history of the project and what motivated you to start the fish farm. Step 3 Market description. Describe the type of industry you will be operating in, whether you will be selling your products as a wholesaler or a retailer. Identify your target market and how you plan to penetrate that market. Outline the marketing strategies you will employ to market your fish. Step 4 Description of your products. Highlight different species of fish that you will be rearing. Describe how you selected those species. Explain the pricing of your products and the competitive edge your fish products have over other products in the market. Step 5 Organization plan Outline the legal structure under which the small scale fish farm will operate, whether it will be a sole proprietorship, partnership or a limited liability company. Identify the type of permits and licenses that will be required for the project. Explain the number of staff and their qualifications that will be necessary to successfully run the fish farm. Outline how they will be organized in terms of duties and responsibilities. Step 6 Marketing plan. Illustrate how you plan to conduct your market research to identify how you will segment your market and how you plan to satisfy each market segment. Market segmentation entails identifying the different portions of the market that are different from one another in terms of lifestyle, income levels, location and spending habits. Explain the strategies that will be used in the sale and distribution of
your fish to each market segment to satisfy their unique needs. Also include the strategies you will employ to effectively compete with your competitors in the market. Step 7 Financial management. Identify the intended sources of capital for your fish farm and how you plan to use this capital in your venture. Outline how the profits will be used to enhance the fish farm and the measures that will be put in place to prevent or reduce losses. In this step you should also be able to show the projected cash flow statement, income statement and the balance sheet statement for the next 12 months. Step 8 Conclusion Give your recommendations and conclusion in this section on the viability of the small scale fish farm. Tips & Warnings Consult a professional accountant to prepare the projected financial statements to add credibility to your feasibility report.