**Abstract**

The once flourishing small-scale poultry industry in Ghana has over the past two decades undergone a severe deterioration as a result of fortunes that has diverted the industry from near self-sufficiency in the early 1990s to a net importer of poultry products. Since the later part of 1990s the Ghana market has followed a steep and uncontrolled influx of cheap poultry meat from subsidized poultry producers from advanced countries (Osei, unpublished) including USA and EU, not to mention countries such as Brazil and Canada.

A multiplicity of factors have accounted for the decline and mortalities of the domestic poultry industry. These include unfair competition from subsidized poultry producers from advanced countries, unfavourable and indifferent government policy direction, escalating costs of production, inefficient methods of production, lack of funds and credit, inadequate knowledge in poultry management, socio-cultural factors, lack of information needs on the part of small-scale poultry farmers, inadequate access to market, lack of processing facilities, and high rates of perishability.

Therefore, the present study examines the factors that affect the growth of the small agribusiness in Ghana, focusing mainly on the small-scale poultry industry. The purpose of the study is to provide guidelines and recommendations for improving poultry farming at the level of small-scale poultry farmers in Ghana through the organized social movement (new generation cooperative movement). The study further seeks to solicit government interventions through political arguments so as to sustain and strengthen the failing small-scale poultry industry in Ghana.

The purpose of the organized social movement is to bundle competencies and resources that are more valuable in joint effort than when kept separate by the small-scale poultry farmers in racing against competitors who are driving them out of business. This is due to an on-going severe competition as a result of unprotected market and political bias of trade liberalization, structural adjustment policies and deregulations on the part of the government.

A sample of 120 poultry farmers was selected by a stratified random sampling approach. This was followed by 75 stakeholders through a snowball approach and data was collected by using a semi-structured interviews.

The findings of the study shows that the organized social movement (SM) of small-scale poultry farmers, provision of government subsidies, placing a ban or increase tariffs on imports of poultry meat, access to cheap loans, provision of infrastructure, access to incentives and awards, training and education of poultry farmers, advertising campaign, and dissemination of information, had positive and significant impact on the competitiveness and growth of the small-scale poultry industry.

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**Abbreviation and Acronyms**

ACP………………………………………………………………………………………African Caribbean and Pacific

ADB…………………………………………………………………………………Agriculture Development Bank (Ghana)

AoA……………………………………………………………………………………………………..Agreement on Agriculture

CEPS……………………………………………………………………………….Customs and Excise Preventive Services

CEPIL………………………………………………………………..The Director of the Centre for Public Interest Law

COPAC………………………………………..Committee of the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives

DANIDA………………………………………………………………………..Danish International Development Agency

DFID……………………………………………………………………………Department for International Development

DOC…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………Day Old Chicks

EPA…………………………………………………………………………………………….Economic Partnership Agreement

ERP…………………………………………………………………………………………………Economic Recovery Programme

EU…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….European Union

FAD…………………………………………Food and Agriculture Development Organizations of United Nations

FASDEP………………………………….................................Food and Agriculture Sector Development Project

FUM………………………………………………………………………………………………………….Farmers Union of Malawi

GCG………………………………………………………………………………………………………..Ghana Cooperative Council

GDP……………………………………………………………………………………………………………..Gross Domestic Product

GSS………………………………………………………………………………………………………………Ghana Statistical Services

GDFS………………………………………………………………………………………….Githunguri Dairy Cooperative Society

GoG………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….Government of Ghana

GLSS4…………………………………………………………………………………The fourth Ghana Living Standards Survey

GNAPF………………………………………………………………………..Ghana National Association of Poultry Farmers

GPRS……………………………………………………………………………………………..Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy

HIPC………………………………………………………………………………………….Heavily Indebted Poor Country Group

HDI…………………………………………………………………………………………………………..Human Development Index

ICA…………………………………………………………………………………………………International Cooperative Alliance

ICAO……………………………………………………………………International Cooperative Agriculture Organization

IFAD………………………………………....................................International Fund for Agriculture Development

IFIs………………………………………………………............................................International Financial Institutions

IMF………………………………………………………………………………………………………..International Monetary Fund

INFPD……………………………………………………………..International Network on Family Poultry Development

IFPRI………………………………………………………………………………..International Food Policy Research Institute

ILRI……………………………………………………………………………………..International Livestock Research Institute

ISODEC……………………………………………………………………………………Integrated Social Development Centre

ISSER…………………………………………………………………….Institute of Statistical Social & Economic Research

LPIU………………………………………………………………………………………Livestock planning and Information Unit

MOFA……………………………………………………………………………………………….Ministry of Food and Agriculture

MUSCCO………………………………………………………………….Malawi Union of Saving and Credit Cooperatives

NASFAM………………………………………………………………National Small Scale Farmers Association of Malawi

NGCM………………………………………………………………………………….New Generation Cooperative Movement

NGO’s……………………………………………………………………………………………Non Governmental Organizations

OPPAZ…………………………………………………………Organic Producers and Processors Association of Zambia

PFM………………………………………………………………………………………………………….Poultry Farmers Movement

RDRC…………………………………………………………………………………Rural Development Research Consortium

RVC…………………………………………………………………………………………………………….Royal Veterinary College

SAP………………………………………………………………………………………………Structural Adjustment Programme

SRID………………………………….........................................Statistics Research and Information Directorate

SM……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………Social Movement

TUC……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………Trade Union Congress

TWN………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….Third World Networks

UNDP………………………………………………………………………………….United Nations Development Programme

VSD……………………………………………………………………………………………………Veterinary Services Department

WB…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….World Bank

WTO………………………………………………………………………………………………………….World Trade Organizations

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**Declaration**

I certify that the material contained in this thesis has previously not been submitted in Durham University or any other university.

....................................................

Francis Akosah-Darteh

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