**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a steep and uncontrolled influx of cheap poultry meat from subsidized poultry producers from advanced countries (Osei, unpublished) including USA and EU, not to mention countries such as Brazil and Canada.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.

 **Table of Contents Page**

Abstract I

Contents III

List of Tables VII

List of Appendices X

List of Figures XV

Abbreviation and Acronyms XVII

Acknowledgement XX

Declaration of Statement of Copyright XXI

 Chapter One

1.1 Introduction......................................................................................................................................1

1.1 Thesis Structure................................................................................................................................2

1.3 Vital Statistics of Ghana....................................................................................................................6

 Chapter Two

2.1 Background.......................................................................................................................................8

2.2 Role of Village Chickens in Rural Livelihoods..................................................................................10

 2.3 Structure of the Poultry Subsector in Ghana ................................................................................13

2.4 Poultry Production Consumption and Trade..................................................................................18

2.5 Challenges of Poultry Industry in Ghana........................................................................................20

 Chapter Three

3.0 Literature Review...........................................................................................................................22

3.1 Competition....................................................................................................................................22

3.2 Lack of Favourable Government Policies and Supports.................................................................44

3.3 High Input Costs.............................................................................................................................50

3.4 Inefficient Production Method.......................................................................................................53

3.5 Lack of Funds .................................................................................................................................54

3.6 Inadequate Knowledge in Poultry Management Practices............................................................54

3.7 Marketing Problems.......................................................................................................................56

3.8 Socio-cultural factors......................................................................................................................58

3.9 Lack of information needs on the part of Small-Scale Poultry Farmers..........................................58

3.10 The nature of competition facing the small-scale poultry industry in Ghana...............................60

3.11 Future Prospects for the small-scale poultry industry..................................................................63

 Chapter Four

4.0 Factors that can influence the competitiveness of the poultry industry in Ghana........................66

4.1 Competitive advantage...................................................................................................................66

4.2 Government interventions.............................................................................................................77

4.3 Agricultural Co-operative as an Expression of Social Movement...................................................85

4.4 History of agricultural Co-operative/FBOs in Ghana and Sub-Saharan Africa..............................115

 Chapter Five

5.0 Research Methodology.................................................................................................................133

5.1 Introduction..................................................................................................................................133

5.2 Objectives of the study.................................................................................................................135

5.3 The rationale for the choice of the study.....................................................................................135

5.4 Problem Statement.......................................................................................................................137

5.5 Theoretical Framework.................................................................................................................139

5.6 Operationalisation........................................................................................................................151

5.7 Choosing a Sample frame.............................................................................................................166

5.8 Research Design............................................................................................................................173

5.9 Coding and Categorising ..............................................................................................................190

5.10 Piloting and Screening................................................................................................................204

5.11 Administration of Interviews......................................................................................................205

5.12 Sampling Procedure....................................................................................................................209

 Chapter Six

6.0 Data Processing and Analysis........................................................................................................218

6.1 Editing, Coding and categorising the open-ended interviews......................................................218

6.2 Reliability and Validity..................................................................................................................222

6.3 Problems Encountered.................................................................................................................226

 Chapter Seven

7.0 Ethics.............................................................................................................................................227

 Chapter Eight

8.0 Data Analysis.................................................................................................................................229

8.1 Previous Research.........................................................................................................................230

8.2 Results of Cross-tabulation...........................................................................................................233

8.3 Demography Characteristics of respondents................................................................................233

 Chapter Nine

9.0 Assessment of factors that can increase competitiveness of the small-scale poultry industry in rank order...........................................................................................................................................251

 Chapter Ten

10.0 Proposing Measures for addressing the most important factors...............................................359

10.1 A focus on the provision of Government subsidies....................................................................359

10.2 A focus on an increase tariffs/ban imports of poultry into Ghana.............................................372

10.3 A focus on Social Movement......................................................................................................376

10.3.1 Impact of Co-operatives in Developed Countries....................................................................380

10.4 Co-operative Experience in Africa...............................................................................................390

10.4 Result of Cross-Tabulation..........................................................................................................419

 Chapter eleven

11.0 Recommendations and Conclusions...........................................................................................435

11.1 Social Movement for Service......................................................................................................437

11.2 Social Movement with Facilities.................................................................................................439

11.3 Summary of Research Findings...................................................................................................461

 Chapter twelve

12.0 Research Contributions..............................................................................................................463

12.1 Empirical Evidence....................................................................................................................464

12.2 Methodological Approach.........................................................................................................468

12.3 Contribution to Practice............................................................................................................469

12.4 Limitations of the Study.............................................................................................................471

References..........................................................................................................................................473

Appendices.........................................................................................................................................505

 **List of Tables**

1. The population of Ghana and its ten Administrative regions.............................................................3

2. Role of village chicken in rural livelihoods..........................................................................................6

3. Number of the poultry species and their Regional Distribution (1996)............................................16

4. Backyard Poultry Production (1996).................................................................................................17

5. Distribution of Commercial Poultry Farms and system of operation in Ghana................................17

6. Potential sources of poultry meat (metric tons) in Ghana...............................................................19

7. EU exports of chicken parts to West Africa, the ACP globally (metric tonnes).................................23

8. US Percentage Share of Poultry Exports in Ghana............................................................................24

9. Trend in domestic poultry meat production in Ghana.....................................................................25

10. Hatchery Operations......................................................................................................................29

11. Hatchery Operations in Ghana.......................................................................................................30

12. Comparing average market prices of locally produced and imported poultry meat (Cedi (¢) x 100kg)...................................................................................................................................................32

13. Foreign Currency that Ghana spent on Poultry imports from USA.................................................35

14. Estimated Cost of Imported Poultry meat in Ghana.......................................................................35

15. Producer Price of maize in Ghana (1994-2005)..............................................................................51

16. Price changes of inputs of poultry production (Cedi (¢).................................................................52

17. Efficiency of Strategies for improving Poultry Production..............................................................83

18. Estimated local poultry meat production in tons (1995-2005).....................................................137

19. Poultry Meat and Egg Demand and supply in Ghana (x 1000 tonnes).........................................138

20. Definition of Competitive variables examined in the study.........................................................150

21. Summary of the key features of respondents..............................................................................204

22. Classification of open ended interviews......................................................................................206

23. Survey of Poultry farmers by regions...........................................................................................210

24. Survey of Stakeholders by region................................................................................................214

25. Gender of Respondents...............................................................................................................233

26. Age of respondents......................................................................................................................234

27. Marital Status..............................................................................................................................235

28. Regional distribution of Respondents....... ..................................................................................236

29. Working Experience of Respondents...........................................................................................237

30. Employment Status......................................................................................................................238

31. Educational Level of Respondents...............................................................................................238

32. Household size of Respondents...................................................................................................239

33. Income Level of Respondents......................................................................................................240

34. The Use of Electricity by Poultry Farmers in Relation to Pipe Borne Water Access....................241

35. Sources of funds of working capital in connection with how the poultry farms had started.....242

36. System of rearing of the poultry farmers in relation to their flock types ...................................243

37. System of rearing by the poultry farmers in relation to source of chicks....................................244

38. Access to telephones by farmers in relation to source of information.......................................245

39. Access to internet at the poultry farmers’ premises in relation to their sources of information........................................................................................................................................246

40. Example of Data Organisation and display...................................................................................248

41. Poultry Farmers recommended strategies to increase consumption..........................................266

42. Stakeholders recommended strategies to increase consumption of the local poultry...............267

43. Poultry farmers recommended visions for small-scale poultry industry......................................268

44. Stakeholders recommended visions for small-scale....................................................................269

45. Poultry farmers recommended strategies to increase market share..........................................270

46. Stakeholders recommended strategies to increase market share of the small-scale poultry industry..............................................................................................................................................271

47. Poultry farmers recommended strategies to increase competitiveness of the backyard/rural poultry industry.................................................................................................................................272

48. Stakeholders recommended strategies to increase the competitiveness of the backyard/rural poultry industry.................................................................................................................................273

49. Poultry farmers recommended strategies to promote the commercial poultry industry...........274

50. Stakeholders recommended strategies to promote the commercial poultry industry...............275

51. Stakeholders involvement strategies to increase the competitiveness of the small-scale poultry industry (recommended by poultry farmers)....................................................................................276

52. Stakeholders involvement strategies to increase the competitiveness of the small-scale poultry industry (recommended by stakeholders..........................................................................................277

53. Major Government protection for poultry industry recommended by poultry farmers ...........278

54. Major Government protection for the small-scale poultry industry (recommended by stakeholders).....................................................................................................................................279

55. Top 2 Competitive factors deduced from the poultry farmers and stakeholders recommendations..............................................................................................................................343

56. Age of respondents in relation to their intention to join the Social Movement ........................419

57. Age of respondents in relation to their intention to contribute funds to support the SM..........421

58. Age of respondents in relation to their intention to contribute funds to purchase equipment..422

59. Age of respondents in relation to their intention to campaign against unfair competition.......423

60. Age of respondents in relation to their intention to promote growth of poultry industry.........424

61. Marital Status of respondents in relation to their intention to join the Social Movement........425

62. Marital and Gender Status of respondents in relation to their intention to join the Social Movement ........................................................................................................................................426

63. Educational level of respondents in relation to their intention to join the social movement....429

64. Employment Status of respondents in relation to their intention to join the social movement..........................................................................................................................................425

65. Regional distribution of respondents in relation to their intention to join the social movement..........................................................................................................................................430

66. Poultry farm locations in relation to the farmers’ intention to join the social movement...........432

67. Income level of respondents in relation to their intention to join the social movement............432

68. Religious background of respondents in relation to their intention to join the SM.....................433

 **List of Appendices**

Appendix 1

Age of respondents in relation to their intention to contribute their maximum quote to promote the growth of the poultry industry...........................................................................................................505

Appendix 2

Age of stakeholders in relation to their intention to contribute to contribute their maximum quota to promote the growth of the poultry industry.....................................................................................505

Appendix 3

Age of farmers in relation to their intention to contribute funds to promote the growth of the poultry industry.................................................................................................................................506

Appendix 4

Age of stakeholders in relation to their intention to contribute funds to promote the growth of poultry industry................................................................................................................................506

Appendix 5

Age of farmers in relation to their intention to contribute to the purchasing of equipment to promote the growth f poultry industry..............................................................................................507

Appendix 6

Age of stakeholders in relation to their intention to contribute to the purchasing of equipment to promote the growth of poultry industry............................................................................................507

Appendix 7 Age of farmers in relation to their intention to campaign against unfair competition facing the poultry farmers..................................................................................................................508

Appendix 8

Age of stakeholders in relation to their intention to campaign against the unfair competition against poultry industry.............................................................................................................................................508

Appendix 9

Gender of respondents.....................................................................................................................509

Appendix 10

Age of respondents...........................................................................................................................509

Appendix 11

Age of poultry farmers in relation to their intention to join the social movement.........................510

Appendix 12

Age of stakeholders in relation to their intention to join the social movement…………………………510

Appendix 13

Household size of respondents......................................................................................................511

Appendix 14

Household size of poultry farmers in relation to their intention to join the social movement......511

Appendix 15

Regional distribution of respondents.............................................................................................512

Appendix 16

Marital Status of respondents........................................................................................................512

Appendix 17

Marital Status of poultry farmers in relation to their intention to join the social movement........513

Appendix 18

Marital status of stakeholders in relation to their intention to join the social movement..............513

Appendix 19

Income level of respondents............................................................................................................514

Appendix 20

Income level of farmers in relation to their intention to join the social movement..........................514

Appendix 21

Income level of stakeholders in relation to their intention to join the social movement.................515

Appendix 22

Educational level of respondents.......................................................................................................515

Appendix 23

Educational level of farmers in relation to their intention to join the social movement...................516

Appendix 24

Educational levels of stakeholders in relation to their intention to join the social movement.......516

Appendix 25

Employment status of respondents................................................................................................517

Appendix 26

Employment status of poultry farmers in relation to their intention to join the social movement........................................................................................................................................517

Appendix 27

Employment status of stakeholders in relation to their intention to join the social movement......518

Appendix 28

Working experience of respondents................................................................................................518

Appendix 29.1

Regional location of farmers in relation to their intention to join the social movement................519

Appendix 29.2

Regional location of stakeholders in relation to their intention to join the social movement..........519

Appendix 30

Location of farms in relation to farmers’ intention to join the social movement..............................520

Appendix 31

System of rearing of poultry farming in relation to farmers’ intention to join the social movement..........................................................................................................................................520

Appendix 32

System of rearing of poultry farmers in relation to their sources of day-old chicks..........................521

Appendix 33

System of rearing of poultry farmers in relation to their flock types.................................................521

Appendix 34

System of rearing of poultry farmers to their main source of chicks.................................................522

Appendix 35

The use of electricity by the farmers in relation to their access to pipe borne water.......................523

Appendix 36

Access to internet at poultry farmers home/premises in relation to their sources of information...523

Appendix 37

Access to telephone/mobile at the farmers’ home in relation to their sources of information........523

Appendix 38

Sources of funds for working capital in relation to how the poultry farms had started....................524

Appendix 39

Religious background of farmers in relation to their intention to join the social movement............524

Appendix 40

Religious background of stakeholders in relation to their intention to join the social movement....525

Appendix 41

Marital and genders status of female farmers in relation to their intention to join the social movement..........................................................................................................................................525

Appendix 42

Marital and gender status of male farmers in relation to their intention to join the social movement.........................................................................................................................................526

Appendix 43

Marital and gender status of female stakeholders in relation to their intention to join the social movement.........................................................................................................................................526

Appendix 44

Example of labelling data from an end-of-session questionnaire (35 farmers)...............................528

Appendix 45

Example of labelling data from an end-of session questionnaire (25 stakeholders)........................531

Appendix 46

Agricultural Co-operatives in Ghana..................................................................................................536

Appendix 47

Activities of Co-operatives/Farmer Based Organisations in Ghana...................................................536

Appendix 48

Regional Distribution of farmer-based organisations and agricultural co-operatives in Ghana.......537

Appendix 49

Poultry farmers’ interviews/questionnaire.......................................................................................538

Appendix 50

Stakeholders’ interviews/questionnaire............................................................................................542

 **List of Figures**

1. Land area by region (0%)..................................................................................................................7

2. Structure of Poultry Industry in Ghana...........................................................................................15

3. Average Contribution of poultry to Domestic.................................................................................19

4. Imports of chicken parts, 1995-2004...............................................................................................27

5. The major countries that Export Poultry Meat into Ghana in 2004 (tonnes)..................................37

6. The five forces that shaped Industry Competition..........................................................................61

7. Framework of the factors that affect the Growth of Small-Scale Poultry Farmers.........................65

8. Sources of Competitive advantage...................................................................................................72

9. The map of Ghana showing the 10 administrative regions............................................................174

10. Interpretive Data.........................................................................................................................261

11. Poultry Farmers recommended strategies to increase consumption of local Poultry................266

12. Stakeholders recommended visions for the small-scale Poultry industry...................................267

13. Poultry farmers recommended visions for the small-scale poultry industry................................268

14. Stakeholders recommended visions for small-scale poultry farmers...........................................269

15. Poultry farmers recommended strategies to increase market share small-scale poultry industry...............................................................................................................................................270

16. Stakeholders recommended strategies increase market share of small-scale poultry industry...............................................................................................................................................271

17. Poultry farmers recommended strategies to increase competitiveness of the rural/backyard poultry industry..................................................................................................................................272

18. Stakeholders recommended strategies to increase competitiveness of the rural/backyard poultry industry..............................................................................................................................................273

 19. Poultry farmers recommended strategies to promote the small-scale commercial poultry farming in Ghana................................................................................................................................274

20. Stakeholders recommended strategies to promote the small-scale commercial poultry industry in Ghana..................................................................................................................................................275

21 Stakeholders’ involvement strategies to promote competitiveness of the small-scale poultry industry in Ghana (recommended by poultry farmers).....................................................................276

22. Stakeholders involvement strategies to promote the small-scale commercial Poultry industry (recommended by Stakeholders).......................................................................................................277

23. Major Government protection for the small-scale Poultry Industry (Recommended by Poultry Farmers)............................................................................................................................................278

24. Major Government protection for the small-scale poultry industry recommended by Stakeholders……………………………………….........,...................................................................................279

25. Degree of Agreements in Perceived Level of most important or Top Factors..............................348

26. Strategies to increase market share of the small-scale poultry industry.....................................350

27. Reasons for Social Movement......................................................................................................351

28. Triangular Relationship between Farmers, Stakeholders and government.................................352

29. Impacts of Social Movement.......................................................................................................353

30. Best Farming practices................................................................................................................354

30. Reasons for Stakeholders involvement in the Poultry industry..................................................355

31. Government strategies to increase competitiveness of the small-scale poultry industry..........356

33. Government strategies to influence consumption of Local Poultry Meat...................................357

34. The impacts of continuous advertising campaign to market Local Poultry produce...................358

35. Malawi Maize Production, 1980 – 2007.......................................................................................367

36. To produce Economy of scope and scale in Social Movement.....................................................435

37. Operations of Social Movement...................................................................................................439

38. The Structure of Proposed Poultry Farmer Movement................................................................452

 **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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The copyright of this dissertation rests with the author. Due acknowledgement must always be made of any material contained in, or derived from, this dissertation.