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Prospects and Constraints of Cattle Farming Business in Kwara State, Nigeria

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***Abstract*— In Sub-Saharan Africa, unemployment has been cited as one of the key drivers of poverty. Governments and policymakers in developing nations such as Nigeria are struggling to address the issue of youth unemployment. This study, therefore, seeks to understand the prospects and constraints of the cattle farming business and its impact on employment opportunities in Kwara State, Nigeria. The theory of rational choice was used to explain the theoretical framework of the study. The study examined employees at various cattle rearing farms in Kwara state. The study made use of a descriptive survey research design combining both qualitative and quantitative techniques and respondents were selected purposively. Primary data was acquired utilizing a well-structured questionnaire as well as in-depth interviews with a sample size of 150 respondents. IDI chose twenty-two members of staff who work in the cattle rearing industry for the in-depth interview. It is established from the study that there exists a positive strong relationship between the cattle farming business and employment opportunities. One of the recommendations of the study is that government efforts to support cattle farming should be stepped up by providing contemporary Artificial Intelligence (AI) stations, as well as loan or credit incentives from commercial banks.**

Keywords-Cattle farming business; youth unemployment; Employment; Livestock; Farming

I. INTRODUCTION

Nigeria has a high rate of unemployment, with youth that have completed secondary education and even university graduates struggling to obtain employment. This scenario has compelled young Nigerians to engage in unorthodox livelihood sources that are not commensurate with their qualifications, skills and potentials. Nigeria's unemployment rate increased from 27.1% in the second quarter of 2020 to 33.3% in the fourth quarter, with rural residents recording a rate of 34.5%, from 28.2%, and city dwellers recording 31.3%, from 26.4%. Additionally, the unemployment rate of youth between the ages of 15 and 34 rose to 42.5% from 34.9% in the previous year 2020 [21]. In Sub-Saharan Africa, unemployment has been cited as one of the key drivers of poverty[24].

Nigeria's high poverty rate and unemployment represent major threat to the country's progress, security, and peaceful coexistence. The current study is relevant in terms of proposing answers to the challenges of poverty and unemployment. Agriculture is generally concentrated in rural areas, higher transformation, redistribution, poverty reduction, and economic growth are greatly needed.

Furthermore, youth unemployment is an unwelcome social trend with criminal consequences for those impacted [26]. To combat the threat of unemployment, it is recommended that youths be trained in skills that are in line with real market needs. Cattle rearing is a ready-to-use expertise for combatting youth unemployment in Nigeria. The current study to investigates the prospects and constraints of cattle farming business and its impact on employment opportunities in Kwara state, Nigeria.

The livestock subsector is a vital part of Nigerian agriculture and a substantial source of household wealth and food security. In terms of outputs and capital value, cattle are the most important livestock species. While sheep, goats, pigs, and poultry are raised across the country, cattle are primarily raised in the country's dry savannah regions, notably those with tsetse fly infestations. Large herds of cattle are mostly managed by semi-sedentary agro-pastoralists and transhumance pastoralists,

who account for around 95% of the national cattle population. Smallholder production methods handle a substantial amount of the national livestock resource, with nearly every rural household owning and raising chickens, lambs, and goats, this implied that there is a scarcity of livestock product demand across the country [32].

The main sources of domestic animal protein in Nigeria, beef and milk, have seen an increase in demand, resulting in a domestic supply imbalance due to low output and productivity levels in indigenous production systems. Crop production, on the other hand, dominates the agricultural sector, accounting for around 85% of all agricultural operations, with livestock and poultry accounting for 10% and fisheries and forests accounting for less than 1%. There are various studies done on livestock farming [27]; [28]; [29]. Yet there is a dearth in literature with regards to the prospects and constraints of the cattle farming business and its impact on employment opportunities in Kwara state, Nigeria. This is a knowledge gap that this study intends to fill.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Livestock Farming

Livestock refers to domesticated animals raised for labour and the production of goods such as meat, eggs, milk, fur, leather, and wool [27]. It has been shown that the livestock industry is becoming increasingly well-organized, employing at least 1.3 billion people worldwide and directly sustaining the livelihoods of 600 million impoverished smallholder farmers in emerging nations [33]. Livestock production makes for 33% of the GDP in developing nations and is the agricultural subsector with the fastest rate of growth. Livestock production contributes to 56% of GDP in Nigeria, while agriculture accounts for 20% [14]. GDP growth is driven by a considerable increase in demand for animal products, which is driven by population expansion, urbanization, and increased wealth [14]. Domesticated animals raised in an agricultural setting to offer goods like food, fiber, and income are referred to as livestock. Any breed or colony of animals that people maintain for domestic or commercial purposes is referred to as livestock [31].

The livestock sector is critical to rural households' socioeconomic development since it provides a steady stream of revenue and employment [2]. Livestock production also lowers seasonality in livelihood patterns, which benefits rural poor people in particular. Livestock provides draught power, organic agricultural manure for the crop sector, hide and skin, bones, blood, fibre for industries, and environmental protection. It adds to revenue from agriculture production and other sources, as well as absorbing income shocks from crop failure. Livestock production is an important part of the country's development [23].

B. Cattle Farming

Cattle are the most prevalent farm animal used to provide meat and milk for human consumption, accounting for around 18% of protein and 9% of energy. Cattle farming techniques are condemned by the public for providing health risks, failing to pay attention to animal care, and having bad environmental implications, despite their obvious usefulness in feeding the human population [29]. Cattle farming is the process of raising cattle from birth until they are ready to be used as food or milk. A cattle farmer usually has a barn for milking cows and a pasture for grazing cattle [27].

C. Employment Opportunities in the Cattle Farming Business

Cattle farming is the business of raising cattle for commercial purposes. It is a highly profitable business that anyone can enter and earn from. It can be quite profitable, but it can also be rather capital-intensive. Cattle is a collective word for all bovine species. Cow refers to female cattle, while bull refers to male cattle. Even though it is expensive to run, it is a lucrative business that anyone can start and profit from. As a result, it has been dubbed one of Nigeria's most profitable businesses. Cattle producers, often known as ranchers, supervise other agricultural workers and make financial decisions for their businesses [13]. They choose which feed to buy, are in charge of maintaining machinery and equipment, and keep extensive financial and employment records. Animal biologists research animal genetics and reproduction to increase cattle production efficiency by lowering costs and enhancing the quantity and quality of beef products; also, they look at ways to better shelter cattle and reduce death rates.

Agricultural labourers do the majority of the manual labour in the cattle industry. They feed, water, and vaccinate the animals regularly, check to see if they are sick and transfer cattle between the barn and pasture as needed. Cattle are bred for desirable features by some workers known as animal breeders. Slaughterers and meat packers are essential in the process of getting livestock from the pasture to the table. These employees slaughter animals, section their carcasses, and package the meat for sale. In doing these jobs, there are no official educational qualifications for this employment, and individuals are typically trained on the job. Since the colonial era, when the colonial ruler established a crucial source of beef supply for Great Britain, the economic significance of the cattle sector has been acknowledged. This was a result of growing concerns that the demand for meat was rising due to population pressure while the global supply was decreasing, particularly in the United Kingdom. By providing employment possibilities for millions of Nigerians, the beef industry made a huge post-colonial economic contribution to Nigeria.

For instance, rearing cattle to produce milk for sale to companies who produce canned milk, yoghurt, and the like or selling it fresh to those who would process the milk into cheese or butter used as pastries, cooking and baking. In addition, one could be involved in cattle rearing to produce meat to supply to supermarkets, shopping malls, homes, schools, and party organizers. On the other hand, you may be interested in producing hides and skins for the manufacturing of leather products such as shoes, bags, sandals, belts, etc. In that case, you would be producing raw materials for shoe and leather companies [10].

In short, everything about the cow is money even the dung it discharges is not a waste but can be sold as manure to farmers. The bones are a very useful raw material for industries producing chinaware. They could also be converted to livestock feeds because of their protein and calcium content. Other parts of the cow such as horns can be used as ornamental decoration while the hooves contain a type of protein used for making fire extinguishers. Therefore, you can see that a lot can be derived from cattle rearing by adding value along the value chain.

III. PROSPECTS OF CATTLE FARMING IN NIGERIA

Nigeria's cattle population is expected to grow rapidly. This can be attributed to a number of factors, such as the fact that the market favours producers because of higher demand brought on by consumers' increased preference for beef, good prices brought on by population growth, improved health and nutritional education, a high rate of economic growth, and higher per capita income, all of which contribute to consumers' increased demand for beef. Furthermore, our nation consumes far less animal protein per person than is necessary. As a result, the product beef has a chance of being marketable. Because Nigeria falls well short of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recommended daily animal protein intake (7g vs 35g), there is a ready market.

Forage trees including Gliricidia, Leucaena, Ficus spp., Gmelina, and others, as well as agro-industrial byproducts like wheat offal and rice bran, agricultural wastes like sorghum, maize, wheat, peanuts, and cowpea vines, are also available in forested areas. There is always an abundant quantity of water available from large water sources like rivers and lakes. Animals are employed for propulsion and transportation in the northern region of the nation, such as bullock plowing. The cattle sector has fewer construction requirements, resulting in a lower initial capital outlay. In times of need, beef cattle output provides financial security or collateral. Beef consumption and leather goods are not subject to any tribal, religious, or social restrictions or taboos. Nutritionists, breeders, reproductive physiologists, technologists, and cheap labour are all available as personnel to operate the animal.

IV. CONSTRAINTS TO CATTLE FARMING BUSINESS

There is the need to enhance the environment in which beef cattle are raised if we want to produce more beef. In the past, the introduction of alien blood was used to generate a high genetic potential for production. Biological efficiency, on the other hand, without concern for the environment in which it thrives, is undesirable and frequently fails. The following are some of the limitations of cow farming:

A. Nutrition

Apart from endemic disease control, this is the most significant single barrier to livestock output in Nigeria. Seasonal changes have a significant impact on feed output. Unpredictable precipitation and high evaporation rates provide two seasons: a 7-8-month wet season and a 4-5-month dry season, both of which are essential for maintaining reliable grazing feed sources. When feed sources are highly variable, grazing animals' weight gain rates fluctuate dramatically, resulting in poor meat quality.

As a result, the majority of feed supplies are solely utilized to meet maintenance requirements. The animals' digestion and food intake are impacted by the forage's high lignin content. Because pasture development requires a lot of resources and is therefore quite expensive, it is only offered occasionally and in poor condition. Even if automation may not be possible in particular terrain gradients, pasture establishment still necessitates stumping and the procurement of superior types, which can be hard to come by. Animals that are unable to achieve their protein and calorie needs lose a lot of weight, weaken their immune systems, and sometimes even die. Effects include seasonal anestrus, reduced fertility, and sluggish growth in calves and young cattle.

B. Breed Constraints

The native cow breeds are not as genetically endowed as their counterparts in temperate climates. Animals are unable to realize their full genetic potential because of the relationship between the environment and their genetic potential. There are few genetic enhancement programmes, which is a hindrance to profitable cattle production operations. Because there are few well-organized record-keeping systems, selective breeding through progeny tests receives little attention. Poor nutrition has been linked to poor calving performance in Zebu cows in terms of low conception rates, late age at first calving (40–60 months), and lengthy calving intervals (400–600 days).

C. Disease as a constraint

Mastitis, streptothricosis, endo and ectoparasites, as well as a number of reproductive illnesses, all contribute to the breeding inefficiency and sterility of the beef sector. Trypanosomiasis (which results in anaemia, emaciation, intermittent fever, and poor condition) also plays a role. Cattle worms, particularly in young animals, are a significant source of financial loss for farmers worldwide. Although a minor helminth infection saps a calf's energy, a severe infestation causes significant weight loss, impaired feed efficiency, and, ultimately, poor condition or death. In locations where there is sufficient rainfall to produce luxuriant grass growth, trypanosomes and their vectors, tsetse flies, prevent the use of large tracts of potential grazing pasture.

D. Financial Constraint

Despite the Federal Government's lending regulations aimed at assisting livestock farmers by pumping funds from banks, the beef cattle industry continues to suffer significant challenges. Beef production requires a significant upfront expenditure. The beef industry's low output rate delayed returns, and slow loan recovery rate, on the other hand, has been major barriers to banks granting loans to beef farmers. The sociocultural perspectives of those who rear beef cattle, their unwillingness to provide security guarantees, and their lack of technical proficiency in the implementation of loan schemes are all factors in the current underfunding of the cattle business.

E. Marketing Constraint

There is no established market structure, and there is no available market information to show supply, demand, or current pricing. The economic principle of supply and demand does not apply to Fulani and Shuwa cattle rearers since they lack financial incentives, and Nigerian consumers have not been known to specifically request a certain type of meat to alter the available marketable goods. Live animals and meat are not weighed in accordance with standards, and there is no formal auction. In the cattle market, intermediaries frequently play an exploitative role that makes sales and acquisitions more complicated. Other market activities, including as transportation, slaughtering, and processing, are not as effective as they ought to be and, in some regions of the nation, are completely nonexistent.

F. Lack of Commitment

There is typically a general lack of personal devotion on government farms. For instance, a lack of water on government farms should prompt tankers to bring water, but this rarely occurs because of unfounded justifications. The farm is run in a civil service way starting at 7.30 a.m. To 3.30 p.m., official procedures put an end to attempts. High-ranking commanders are not actively involved in the management of government

farms, and overstaffing is the norm. Government farms lack motivation and patriotism. These reasons lead to the unprofitability of government farms.

V. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK-RATIONAL CHOICE THEORY (RCT)

According to the rational choice theory, people employ logical thinking to make decisions and arrive at results that are consistent with their goals. These outcomes relate to furthering one's interests. Given the restricted options at hand, using rational choice theory is anticipated, to result in a situation that give people the maximum benefit and happiness. Adam Smith was one of the first economists to formulate the core concepts of the rational choice theory. An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations, written by Adam Smith in 1776 [9]. Preferences can be written as real-valued utility functions using the rational choice theory. The problem of subjecting this utility function to restrictions and maximizing it in economic decision-making then arises. There are lots of benefits to this. With merely a description of the agent's goals and restrictions, it offers a straightforward theory that generates empirical predictions.

Even though they have more complete information about the mean, distribution, and other statistics, cattle producers still have to make judgments in an uncertain world. Prices are very volatile, especially for livestock where there is little government stability, making it difficult to make the best decision [15]. In addition to these major causes of uncertainty, many cattle producers are also dealing with personal and group interactions that create uncertainty. The latter includes, if any, the duration and terms of tenure on rented farms. In this uncertain business environment, cattle farmers must make decisions regarding farm practices and resource mix, the size of operations and capital investment, and other factors that affect earnings and losses.

VI. METHODOLOGY

The research purposively and randomly selected 150 respondents involved in cattle farming business from a list of livestock farms in Kwara State through the Ministry of Agriculture as a sample size utilizing nonprobability and probability sampling procedures. Mixed method of quantitative and qualitative methodologies was used to analyze the data acquired from the field. Descriptive statistical techniques, including frequency counts, percentages, and chi-square tests, were used to assess the quantitative data. Content analysis software was used to transcribe and analyze the information acquired during the in-depth interview. To highlight the most critical concerns, some responses of the in-depth interviews were quoted verbatim.

VII. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

A. Socio-Economic and Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

According to the study's findings, which are presented in table 1 below, men made up 93.3 percent of respondents in the livestock industry while women made up only 6.7 percent. This demonstrates that the cattle farming industry in the state is controlled by men. Physical actions such as fighting continue to control the cattle with rods and robes are also part of the cattle farming production and marketing operation. Because some animals are wild and dangerous, the profession is fraught with dangers. Animals will occasionally fight to avoid being sold and transported away.

Furthermore, Northern Muslims, who account for the majority of cattle producers and traders, do not permit their wives to perform such tasking labour [12]. It was also noted that all cattle farmers and producers had to be wary of attack as they walked and meandered among the cows tethered to begging, while others roamed freely. It was also discovered that some sharp-pointed horned wild and irritable animals have killed people in the past. In addition to the risk of being hurt by the animals, there is also a risk of armed robbers breaking into the market at any time because there are no enough security personnel present to discourage cattle rustlers.

Also, 40 of the respondents were between the ages of 18 and 24, indicating that the younger participants were more involved in the state's cattle farming activities. The findings also backed up those of [18], who found similar effects among cattle producers and marketers who were part of the active working population. It is anticipated that this will affect their productivity and efficiency in the tasking and draining business of raising and selling cattle. When looking at the marital status of respondents, it is clear that there are more married respondents. This indicates that the vast majority of Nigerians who raise cattle for a living are law-abiding citizens trying to provide for their families. Additionally, it signifies that raising and marketing beef cattle is a profitable industry that, if properly governed by the state's pertinent agencies, might continue to provide employment for a sizable number of people and families.

In addition, the Hausa-Fulani ethnic group in the state was responsible for 86.7% of the total population engaged in cattle raising and marketing. This, according to the study, is due to the nature of the employment, as this ethnic group is known throughout the country for raising cattle. This is due to the fact that people from other tribes once thought that the cattle industry only related to people who herded and bred cattle, and that it was a lazily done enterprise.

Additionally, men from the Hausa-Fulani tribe have been seen seeking to stop members of other tribes from picking up the skills and starting their own business. Respondents with no formal education accounted for 50 percent of the total. This means that the vast majority of rearers and marketers are uneducated. Again, the cattle farmers in this study had a low degree of Western education, which could be linked to their family origins, beliefs, and attitudes toward western education. The state's farming and cattle sectors may suffer as a result of their lack of access to Western education, which is a severe setback for them. The results are equivalent to those reported in Mubi South L. G. A., Adamawa State, Nigeria by [20]. The results, however, go against those of [35], who discovered that there were more cattle traders in Gombe State, Nigeria, with a Western education than a Quranic education.

The study also found that the expertise levels of persons who worked in the livestock industry ranged widely. This reflects their ages as well as the fact that many of the cattle ranchers have a lengthy history in the industry. The cattle farming industry has been observed to be expanding quickly, as more people and cattle are flocking to the industry. The respondents' monthly income ranges from 10,000 to 170,000 Naira as well. Given that most cattle farmers earn more than the federal government's minimum pay or compensation; this shows that the cattle farming industry is profitable.

Table 1. Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

1	Gender	Male	140	93.3
		Female	10	6.7
		Total	150	100
2	Age	18-24 years	30	20
		25-31 years	60	40
		32-38 years	39	26
		39 years and Above	21	14
		Total	150	100
3	Marital Status	Single	21	14
		Married	105	70
		Divorced /Separated	15	10
		Widow/Widower	9	6
		Total	150	100
4	Ethnicity	Yoruba	15	10
		Igbo	5	3.3
		Hausa	130	86.7
		Others (please specify)	-	-
		Total	150	100
5	Religious Affiliation	African Traditional Religion	10	6.7
		Islam	120	80
		Christianity	20	13.3
		Total	150	100
6	Educational Qualification	Primary	35	23.3
		Secondary	25	16.7
		Tertiary	15	10.0
		No Formal Education	75	50.0
		Total	150	100
7	Cattle Farming Experience (years)	1-5	30	20
		6-10	40	26.7
		11-15	35	23.3
		16-20	25	16.7
		21 and above	20	13.3
		Total	150	100
8	Monthly Income (in Naira)	10,000-50,000	38	25.3
		51,000-90,000	62	41.3
		91,000-130,000	40	26.7
		131,000-170,000	10	6.7
		171,000 and above	-	-
		Total	150	100

Source: Researcher's Field survey, 2022

B. Kind of Beef and Dairy Cattle Breeds in Nigeria

According to the study's findings, as shown in table 2 below, 96.7 percent of respondents agreed that Zebu breed cattle are the most common breed available and reared on the farm, while just 3.3 percent agreed that Holstein breed cattle are bred. This is in keeping with [17] findings, that there are indigenous cattle breeds in Nigeria known as the Zebu-Bunaji, Rahaji, Sokoto Gudali, Adamawa Gudali, Azawak, and Wadara are among the zebus recognized by cattle farmers in Nigeria's northern states. Furthermore, the many breeds of cattle available can adapt to the local climate. The findings support [30] findings that various breeds are of varying numerical importance, with three breeds accounting for 90 percent of the zebu. In addition, 93.3 percent of respondents believed the Zebu breed of cattle is employed for dairy production.

According to the responders, the Zebu breed is mostly employed for beef production not only in Kwara State but throughout Northern Nigeria. According to [28] and [3], the Zebu breed is the most popular variety of beef consumed in Nigeria. Furthermore, the study revealed that the cattle on their ranches are a mix of domestic and imported types.

During the IDI session, a respondent also backed up the study's conclusions, stating that:

> The commonest type of cattle breed in the Kwara community is the Zebu breed. This kind of breed adapts conveniently to the environmental climate, is good at producing dairy products for milk, and can survive during the harsh environmental climate. The Zebu type of cattle is economically viable in the community and so, cattle rearers prefer such a breed **(Union Member IDI 2022).**

This is in line with research reported in [22] and [5], which found that 96 percent of cattle in Nigeria were zebu type cattle, with Fulani pastoralists caring for the majority of them. Stating that Niger, Chad, and other nearby countries provide 30–40% of the beef consumed in Nigeria. Traditionally, the Fulani moved their herds to pasture in the moister Guinea savannah during the dry season, then returned northward when the rains came and the tsetse fly threat grew. The recent growth of agricultural regions and irrigation have severely hampered this movement by blocking access to common transit routes.

Table 2: Kind of Beef and Dairy Cattle Breeds in Kwara State

Questions	Option	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Which of the following breed of cattle are available and reared on the farm?	Afrikaner Breed	-	-
	Zebu Breed	145	96.7
	Nguni Breed	-	-
	Holstein Breed	5	3.3
	All of the above	-	-
	None of the above	-	-
	Others	-	-
	Total	150	100
These various breed of cattle that adapt to the local climate	Yes	146	97.3
	No	4	2.7
	Total	150	100
Which of the following breed of cattle is used for your dairy production?	Afrikaner Breed	-	-
	Zebu Breed	140	93.3
	Nguni Breed	-	-
	Holstein Breed	10	6.7
	All of the above	-	-
	None of the above	-	-
	Others	-	-
	Total	150	100
Which of the following breed of cattle is used for your beef production?	Afrikaner Breed	-	-
	Zebu Breed	135	90.0
	Nguni Breed	-	
	Holstein Breed	15	10.0
	All of the above	-	-
	None of the above	-	-
	Others	-	-
	Total	150	100
Generally, are these cattle on your farm local breed or imported?	Yes	108	72
	No	42	28
	Both	-	-
	Total	150	100

Source: Researcher's Field survey, 2022

C. Employment Opportunities in Cattle Farming Marketing Business

According to the findings in table 3 below, 90 percent of the respondents believe that cattle farming, if properly supported, can assist to alleviate unemployment in the state. As a result of the majority of respondents' responses, the conclusion is that the cattle business provides employment chances for a variety of employees. Cattle rearing has considerably increased food output in Kwara State. The findings of [1]; [6] support this assertion.

This finding was also corroborated during an in-depth interview when a respondent stated that:

> Without a doubt, the cattle rearing business if properly supported will create employment for the large army of Nigerian youth in the unemployment market (**Management Staff IDI 2022**).

This supports the findings of [25] that Kwara state is actively seeking the growth of an agribusiness-oriented economy in order to substantially eradicate youth unemployment. According to [11], from 2003 to 2011, agriculture formed the backbone of the Kwara State economy. The economy shifted its attention to

commercial agriculture and agribusiness in particular, which targets youth empowerment and poverty eradication.

Table 3: Employment Opportunities in Cattle Farming Marketing Business

S/N	STATEMENT	No. of Respondents/ Percentage (%)				
		5	4	3	2	1
1.	Cattle farming creates job opportunities for animal scientists	84 56 %	45 30 %	21 14 %	-	-
2.	Cattle farming creates job opportunities for various workers at the abattoir	12 0 80 %	24 16 %	6 4%		-
3.	Cattle farming creates job opportunities for agricultural workers who carry out manual labour	11 4 76 %	27 18 %	9 6%	-	-
4.	Breeding of cattle for milk creates employment for those involved in dairy milk business	84 56 %	42 28 %	18 12 %	6 4%	-
5	Generally, cattle farming can help in alleviating unemployment in the state	60 40 %	75 50 %	15 10 %	-	-

Source: Researcher's Field survey, 2022

D. Constraints to Cattle Farming Business

Table 4 shows constraints to the cattle farming business by observing that 46.7 percent of total respondents reported that the inefficiency of the workers involved in the business affects their level of productivity; 74 percent opine that increasing instability in the market system is a challenge to cattle farming business while 66.7 percent of the respondents reported that maintenance of cattle farms is expensive and highly capital intensive.

Furthermore, the finding revealed that 40 percent reported that there are various reproductive diseases and infections found among cattle that lead to breeding inefficiency and infertility. It was also observed that 80 percent reported that Nutrition and some other environmental factors affect the general productivity of cattle on the farms. Also, 93.3 percent of the respondents generally asserted that the cattle rearing business is faced with a variety of problems and constraints.

Table 4: Constraints to Cattle Farming Business

S/N	Statement	No. of Respondents/ Percentage (%)	
		1	**2**
1.	Inefficiency of staff or workers on the farm affects the productivity on the farm	70 46.7%	80 53.3%
2.	The increasing instability in the market system is a constrain to cattle farming business	111 74%	39 26%
3.	Maintenance of cattle farm is expensive and highly capital intensive	100 66.7%	50 33.3%
4	There are various reproductive diseases and infections found among cattle that leads to breeding inefficiency and infertility	60 40%	90 60%
5.	Nutrition and some other environmental factors affects the general productivity of cattle on the farm	120 80%	30 20%
6	Generally, cattle rearing business is faced with a variety of problems and constraints	140 93.3%	10 6.7%

Source: Researcher's Field survey, 2022

This finding was supported by an in-depth interview conducted in the field, one of the respondents in his response asserted that:

> There are multiple constraints facing cattle-rearing farmers in the Kwara community **(Farm supervisor, IDI 2022).**

This supports the findings of [16] that factors affecting livestock productivity and production include climate, nutrition, and health. According to [7], who agreed with this remark, the cattle farming industry is hampered by issues including insufficient funding, the high cost of animal feed, animal diseases, a lack of infrastructure, a lack of government incentives, transportation, and other issues. Other challenges faced by cattle farmers in Kwara State include a lack of grazing land, illnesses and parasites, poor veterinary care, the crises of cattle herds' farmers, and the limited potential for milk production of indigenous cattle.

E. Test of Hypothesis Inferential Statistics

Simple linear regressions were performed on employment opportunities in the cattle farming business at a level of significance of 0.05 to test and analyze the hypothesis. The analysis's findings are displayed in table 5 below.

H_0: There is no relationship between employment opportunities and the cattle farming business.

H_1: There is a relationship between employment opportunities and the cattle farming business.

Table 5 below: Simple linear regression analysis of cattle farming business on employment opportunities

The regression test results for establishing a relationship between the cattle farming business and employment opportunities are shown in the table below. The following is a discussion of the findings of this study. The level at which the association between the cattle farming business and employment opportunities may be measured is R=0.955. As a result, the finding demonstrates that there is a substantial positive association between the cattle farming business and employment opportunities.

This means that when the cattle farming business improves, employment opportunities increase proportionately. R2, also known as the coefficient of determination, is 0.911 in this case. This indicates that the impact of the cattle farming business on employment opportunities is 91.1. As a result, the Adjusted R2 equals 0.882. The consequence is that the cattle farming business variable can explain 88.2 percent of the changes or variation in job chances, while the remaining 11.8 percent is due to other factors not captured in the model. The Durbin- Watson Statistic has a maximum value of 2 but allows for a range of 0.2. The Durbin-Watson Statistic is 1.884, which means the model is devoid of autocorrelation and dependable because it is within the allowed range.

According to the findings, the model exhibits positive serial autocorrelation. As a result, -12.923 is the constant or intercept. This means that even if all of the model parameters are zero, the employment opportunities will still be affected by -12.923. Other factors not specified in the model account for this. The whole model is statistically significant since p0.05, as demonstrated by the F value of 30.853 and the p-value of 0.012.

As a result, the null hypothesis will be rejected, and the conclusion that there is a link between employment opportunities and the cattle farming business will be drawn.

The study's goal was to look into the potential and constraints of the cattle farming business, as well as its impact on employment opportunities in Kwara State, Nigeria. Objectives were set to assess the validity of the hypothesis given to attain the study's goal. Because the level of significance (p-value) of 0.012 is 0.05 statistically significant, the alternative hypothesis adopted in table 5 states that there is a relationship between employment opportunities and cattle farming business. [25] believe that Kwara State aggressively pursued the establishment of an agribusiness-oriented economy and was able to accomplish a high degree of youth unemployment reduction. This has served as a foundation for the economy's long-term viability.

According to [19], [34], and [8], Because of its multidimensional and multifunctional nature, the agricultural industry offers a varied range of career options, among other benefits. According to [2], stock capacity, and variable and fixed costs, such as labour, feed, and equipment, were all major factors affecting the cattle farming business in the study area. Beyond the fundamental role of agriculture, which is traditionally seen as the provision of food and fibre, the agricultural sector offers significant employment prospects, with a special focus on youth development, as evidenced by the success attained in Kwara State, Nigeria. The fact that agriculture has been the driving force behind Kwara State's efforts to eliminate youth unemployment is undeniable.

VII. CONCLUSION

To ensure that Cattle farming continues to live up to its expectation and potential to generate employment for the teeming population of Kwara State especially youths and the nation as a whole, all hands must be on deck. There are specialized roles for all stakeholders in this regard. It is established from the study that there exists a significant relationship between cattle farming and employment opportunities, the study, therefore, concludes that: there are various breed of cattle that adapt to the local climate and most of these breed of cattle are available and reared in Kwara State. The rearing of Zebu breed cattle creates job opportunities for various categories of workers at the various abattoir. The cattle rearing business is also faced with a variety of problems and constraints and raising cattle properly requires money, land, and skill.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, the paper makes the following recommendations:

1. By offering cutting-edge breeding facilities, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) stations, as well as business bank loans or credit incentives, also, the government should step up its efforts to promote cattle ranching.
2. To deter theft, security outfits should be built in both rural and market environments.
3. The development of a group tasked with informing cattle ranchers about market supply, demand, and prices should be aided by the local government council.
4. By creating grazing reserves or pasturelands, the government should encourage the ranchers to create permanent settlements.
5. To assist in converting the market from the existing conventional system, contemporary cattle marketing facilities including standard weighing scales, loading areas, and grades are required in the markets.
6. To reduce the prevalence of illnesses and parasites, the government should fund more veterinary institutions. Before purchasing or selling cattle, thorough inspections should be made.
7. Quarantine stations should be carefully positioned to prevent diseased animals from accessing farms. Quality control procedures should be followed before killing cattle for human food, for instance, taking the drug withdrawal period into account. It's crucial to process and handle beef in a hygienic manner.
8. Farms must develop a plan for increasing the quantity of fodder and feed utilized for maintenance and production in order to improve feed efficiency overall. Better range management, water accessibility, and disease control are essential for contemporary cattle farming and production.

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Model Summary[b]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics					Durbin-Watson
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change	
1	.955[a]	.911	.882	17.6217	.911	30.853	1	3	.012	1.884

a. Predictors: (Constant), Cattle farming business
b. Dependent Variable: Employment opportunities

Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	(Constant)	-12.923	11.037		-1.171	.326	-48.048	22.202
	Cattle farming business	1.431	.258	.955	5.555	.012	.611	2.251

a. Dependent Variable: Employment opportunities