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Adapting Poultry Production in Nigeria to Climate Change: Economics of Micronutrient Supplementation on Egg production of laying Birds

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Abstract

A total of two hundred and forty 24 weeks old Golden Nestlink point of lay birds were used in a 52weeks study to investigate the economics of supplementing layers ration with dietary levels of vitamins C and E as a means of adapting the birds to heat stress resulting from changing climatic variables. The birds were randomly assigned to any of the sixteen treatments emerging from a combination of four doses of vitamin C [0, 200, 400 and 600mg /kg] and four doses of vitamin E [0, 125, 200, and 375 mg /kg] in a 16% Crude Protein ration for layers. The experimental design was a 4 X 4 factorial with sixteen treatment combination in a completely randomized design. Results showed that there was a significant improvement in all the economic indices [total egg production, egg weight, feed cost per dozen eggs and egg revenue] in the supplemented groups. Economic indices of birds on 400mg vitamin C + 125mg vitamin E were significantly {P<0.05] higher. The unsupplemented group recorded the least value of all economic indices. It is concluded that a combination of 400mg vitamin C + 125 mg vitamin E per kg of layers ration will help heat stressed layers in Nigeria perform economically better in the face of emerging climatic changes.

Biography

Onyimonyi, Anselm Ego completed his PhD at the age of 32 years from University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He is the Chair of the Department of Animal Science, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He has published more than 30 papers in reputed journals and had presented papers in conferences in America, Africa and Europe.