



KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PARTICIPATION OF FADAMA USERS GROUP TOWARDS FADAMA III PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN EBONYI STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study assessed the knowledge, attitude and participation of Fadama users group members towards Fadama III Project activities in Ebonyi State. Multiple and purposive sampling techniques were used to select 180 (one hundred and eighty respondents). Primary Data collected directly through Fadama III project facilitators with questionnaire and interview schedule were used. Collected data analysed with both descriptive and inferential statistics. Result showed that Fadama III were groups towards Fadama project activities through formation of viable FUGs and apex FCAs ($X = 3.1$) formation group owned production assets such as cereal mill, rice mill, cassava processing plants, mini – tractors ($x = 2.7$), and managing of financial resources ($x = 2.8$). A coefficient of multiple determination show that above 64.2 percent change in the dependent variable was caused by changes in independent variables included in the regression model. Based on the findings, qualitative extension services should be provided for the farmers, massive enlightenment seminars, capital and involvement of farmers in the project planning and implementation will strengthen their participation in the programme.

Keywords: Fadama III, User groups, FUGs and FCAs

1. INTRODUCTION

Fadama is mainly low laying flood plains composed of alluvial deposits and containing extensive exploitable aquifers seasonally flooded for re-charge during the next season floods (Ramahan, 1993) Irrigation is one of the source of Fadama season Farming under the natural Fadama condition and it is the application of water by human agency to assist the growth of crops and grass (Ani, 2004). Water for irrigation may be, firstly, pumped from underground sources by means of wells, secondly, drawn from the natural flow of streams, and thirdly, obtained by damming or otherwise regulating the flow of streams (Afolayan, 2005). It may be applied to crop by fording, channels, spraying or drips from nozzles.

The Fadama development project is one of the Nigeria's agricultural policies designed to increase food production for the teeming and growing population (Adaeyemi *et al.*, 2007). The first phase of the project, Fadama I started in 1990, through the collaboration of the Federal Government of Nigeria and the World Bank. This is in realization of the fact that Fadama potentials had a high capacity of reducing the negative effect of rudimentary and small holder rain fed Agriculture on

the teeming population in rural Nigeria. The primary aim of Fadama establishment in Nigeria is for small scale and commercial farmers to partner with Federal Government of Nigeria to increase their income, enhance efficiency in productivity in order to satisfy the countries food need and have enough to export (Abiola and Omoabngan 2003).

The World Bank in partnership with Nigeria Government developed the programme to enhance productivity and market linkage of Fadama Farmers through a new project on information and knowledge services. The programme was also aimed to improve agricultural potentials of the rural poor farmers. Better access to information through improved information technology is expected to reduce marketing and transportation cost, encourage farmers to take informed risks and participate in markets. Marie-Nelly (2011) stated that this is in line with the drastic change in information and technology taking place across African Markets. Today, reverse is the case since the primary aim of Fadama Programme has been turned down and neglected by small scale farmers due to lack of basic knowledge and non-chalant attitude towards the programme. According to Agwu and Abah (2009), the Fadama project activities focuses on government farmers partnership in the funding of agricultural enterprises with the aim of achieving suitable and stable funding for agricultural enterprises which will lead to agricultural development.

The Fadama III project will be implemented using the Community Demand Driven (CDD) approach which strongly emphasizes stakeholder's participation at the community level to develop participatory and socially inclusive Local Development Plans (LDPs) which provides the basis for support and funding under the project (Adeolu and Taiwo, 2004) (PCU –NFDO, 2005). This paradigm shift from the traditional public sector dominated/ supply led development approaches of the past to a private sector led demand-driven strategy ensures full guidance of participating farmers through several institutional structures. The various Fadama resource users including crop farmer, pastoralists, fishermen and Women and on and off farm entrepreneurs, operating through their respective Fadama resources users group (FRUGs) and their apex bodies, the Fadama Community Associations (FCAs) agree on the consensus on how to use the common resources for the mutual advantage. Through the process, communities decide on the advisory and infrastructures they need to enable them attain development goals they set for themselves based on their efforts, the consensus so reached are articulated in community development plan (CDPs) drawn at the level of the Fadama Community Associations (FCAs).

According to World Bank (2003), success stories have been achieved in India, Pakistan, Argentina and Kenya. However, in Nigeria and Ebonyi State, even though the Fadama I, project recorded some measure of success, certain limitations and its restriction to crop production only brought about some problems of conflicts (Onoja, 2004). These conflicts which were mainly between the farmer and others Fadama users especially pastoralists and fisherman over stock routes, crop distruction and encroachment led to the initiative of Fadama II. The Fadama II programme fosters participation of all the other areas of farming. The project development document prepared by African Development Fund (ADF) of African Development Bank (ADB) in collaboration with the Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) in 2004 was adopted with moderation of the structural arrangement and implementation procedures planned and after the lesson from Fadama I (ADF, 2004) Fadama II project was implemented in seventeen states and the Federal Capital Territory since the first quarter of 2004 with overwhelming success. Ebonyi State, one of the remaining nineteen states that did not participate in the Fadama II due to their inability to meet up with the stringent eligibility criteria them.

In response to the interest shown by state not participating in the Fadama II projects, the Federal Government of Nigeria requested the World Bank to initiate preparation work for putting Fadama III projects in place for the remaining states not participating in Fadama II project. National Fadama Development Project (NFDP III) was World Bank assisted poverty reduction project and was implemented in the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria (Afolabi, 2010)

2. METHODOLOGY

The study area Ebonyi State is situated in the North Eastern part of South East of Nigeria. The State has a population of about 2.137,501 million people according to 2006 national census. It occupies between latitude 5.40E and 6.45E. Bounded on the North by Benue State, East by Cross River State, on the south by Abia State and on the West richly endowed with numerous solid minerals spread across all parts of the state. The vegetation is semi – savanna grass land with forest and swamp. Climate mixed with hot and mildly hot nature. The people of Ebonyi State are mainly farmers due to her favourable climate condition. The State is divided into three agricultural zones – Ebonyi North, Ebonyi Central and Ebonyi South.

Ordinary Least Square (OLS) multiple regression analysis was used to determine the relationship existing between the so in economic / personal characteristics of Fadama farmers and their level of participation in Fadama III project activities.

Model: $Y = F(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8)$

Implicit function $Y = Q_0 + Q_1X_1 + Q_2X_2 + Q_3X_3 + Q_4X_4 + Q_5X_5 + Q_6X_6 + Q_7X_7 + Q_8X_8 + et.....$

Explicit function

Where:

- Q_0 = Constant
- $Q_1 - Q_8$ = Regression parameters
- Y = Dependent Variable (Level of participation)
- X_1 = Sex (Male = 1, Female = 0)
- X_2 = Age in years.
- X_3 = Marital Status
- X_4 = Education attainment
- X_5 = Household size
- X_6 = Farm size in Ha.
- X_7 = Animal income in Naira
- X_8 = Membership in cooperation society.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Mean score analysis of knowledge and attitude of Fadama users group members toward Fadama III projects activities

S/N	Knowledge and article	Mean value x	Remarks
i.	Formation of viable FUGs and their apex FCAs	3.1	Accepted
ii.	Formation of group owned productive assets such as cereals mills, rice mills, cassava processing plants, mini – tractors etc.	2.6	Accepted
iii.	Input support for production, processing and marketing through Fadama III project	2.7	Accepted
iv.	Empowering participant with best agricultural practice and advisory service with areas of demand.	2.8	Accepted
v.	Rural infrastructural reliabilitation and construction of Feeders and access road, convent, small bridges, rural markets.	3.3	Accepted
vi.	Sustainable land and water management practices and structures.	3.5	Accepted
vii.	Support to ADP (Agricultural Development Programme)	2.6	Accepted
viii.	Monitoring and evaluation of sponsored projects	3.1	Accepted
ix.	Funds disbursement to the FUGs	2.7	Accepted

x.	Create for conflict resolution among Fadama uses groups	2.7	Accepted
	Grand Mean	2.91	

Source: Field survey data, 2014

Table 1 result showed that members of Fadama III user groups had knowledge and showed positive attitude to Fadama III project activities. All the above factors were accepted because they served above decision point.

The level of participation of farmers in planning, implementation and monitoring of Fadama III project activities was examined and result obtained in table 2.

Multiple regression analysis was carried out to determine the influence of socio-economic characteristics of FUGs members on the level of participation in Fadama III project activities in Ebonyi State and the result of the analysis shown in table 2.

Table 2: Summary of multiple regression results

Variable	Variable name	Regression coefficient	Standard error	T-Value	Sig
	Constant	4.406	2.906	1.516	*
X ₁	Sex	-1.404	1.079	-1.301	Ns
X ₂	Age	0.183	0.057	2.440	**
X ₃	Marital Status	0.300	0.888	0.337	NS
X ₄	Educational attainment	0.333	0.143	2.328	**
X ₅	Household size	0.000	0.151	0.002	*
X ₆	Farm size	0.136	0.214	0.63	*
X ₇	Animal income	0.000	0.000	1.686	***
X ₈	Membership of cooperative society	1.755	1.381	1.270	*
R ²	0.642 or 64.2%	Std Error of the Estimate		2.92188	
Adj. R ²	0.616 or 61.6	DW		0.533	
F-ratio	24.895				

Service: Data analysis, 2014

Note: *, **, and *** indicate significant at 1%, 5% and 10% level respectively, while NS indicate not significant

The analysis shows a co-efficient of multiple determination of 0.642, which is equal to 64.2%. This implies that about 64.2% change in the dependent variable (level of participation in Fadama III project) was caused by change in dependent variables included in the regression model (X₁ – X₈). This is an indication that the socio-economic characteristics of the members of Fadama users groups studied exerted great influence on their level of participation in Fadama III project activities in Ebonyi State.

The overall significance of the regression model was depicted by the value of F- statistics (F-ratio = 24.895) which was significant at 1% level of significance. Most of the independent variables were positively related to the dependent Variable (level of participation) as shown by the positive signs of their coefficients and were also statistically significant while the coefficient of sex was negatively signed. Only sex and marital status were not statistically, significant.

4. SUMMARY

Based on the findings, it was concluded that members of Fadama user groups were highly knowledgeable and have positive attitude towards Fadama III project. This was evident in high participation of Fadama user groups in Fadama III activities in the area. Consequently, the Fadama

III beneficiary participated in preparation. Implementation and maintenance of sub-project, managing of financial resources; developing, monitoring and evaluation of Fadama III activities among others. Age, educational level, household size, annual income and membership of cooperatives of Fadama farmers were significant. This is an indication that these variable are important determinant of participation of Fadama farmers in Fadama III project activities and thus, assets significant influence on their level of participation in Fadama III project activities. However, the development of sustainable positive attitude ensure effective participation of members of Fadama user groups in Fadama III project activities in the study area, the financial / social, administrative / institutional political interference and non chalent constraints identified by the study should be addressed headlong.

Views and opinions expressed in this study are the views and opinions of the authors, Asian Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development shall not be responsible or answerable for any loss, damage or liability etc. caused in relation to/arising out of the use of the content.

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