

EFFECT OF PARTICIPATION IN FADAMA – II PROGRAMME ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF FARMERS IN OYO STATE, NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the effect of Fadama – II project on socio-economic status of Fadama users in Ibarapa North Local Government Area of Oyo State. The study area consists of three (3) principal towns - Ayete, Tapa and Igangan. A total of one hundred and ten respondents were proportionately sampled. Data collected through a validated and reliable questionnaire were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Result reveal that 85.45% of the respondents were married and their ages ranged from below 20 to above 50 years with most having formal education. About 40% held leadership positions. Majority of the respondents in the study area participated actively in meetings and other activities involved in the project. Benefit was greatly derived in all the areas except research linkage and fish pond establishment. There was an increase in the number of materials possessed by Fadama-II beneficiaries after the introduction of Fadama-II project compared to the number available before Fadama-II project introduction. Socio-economic status of most respondents improved following participation in the project. Age was significantly related to farmers' socio-economic status before and after the project while participation correlated significantly with SES after the project.

Keywords: Fadama, Benefit-derived, Participation.

INTRODUCTION

Due to an ever increasing demand for food throughout the year, there has been a high pressure on land by various land users. With the annual 3.5% increase in population, food production has to increase. To do this however, will require intensification of land use and opening up of more land (Oluwatosin, 2001). Relying on the rain fed agriculture has become inadequate due to climate change and it can no longer cope with increase in food demand. Efforts are now being geared towards opening up more hydro-morphic land (valley) to complement the rain-fed farming. It was the desire to increase food production while harnessing the full potential of Fadama resources in Nigeria that led to the design of the National Fadama Development Project I (NFDPI) which was implemented in 25 states from 1993-1999 (Ephraim et al, 2008). It was funded by the Federal Government, the government of the benefiting state and the World Bank.

Fadama connotes the river valley areas which are seasonally flooded or have high water table throughout all large part of the year. Fadama is a Hausa word meaning low lying area

that is susceptible to seasonal flooding. Fadama is a product of seasonal or almost permanent flooding whose water source may be from direct run-off or capillarity from seepage water in the surrounding catchment. They are generally low lying hydro-morphic flood plains that with sufficient water available for crop survival. Such land is becoming popular for urban agriculture especially production of vegetable (both leafy and fruits). This has been acclaimed to provide income for practitioners and marketers while supporting food and nutrition security. In particular, Fadama serves to encourage all year round agricultural production (Umar, 1994).

Reasons for Fadama – II Project in Nigeria.

The issue of rain fed agriculture has been a challenge for all year round farming and food production. Successive efforts to harness water resources for agricultural use like the River Basin and Rural Development project have not fully utilized the water potentials as the irrigation equipment do not function well and the agricultural sector was still stuck with rainy season production. All efforts to develop those programmes and transform the rural communities

did not yield expected result (Fawole, 2001) for reasons which include lack of active participation by farmers in general decision making (Amao, 2004).

In the year 2004, Fadama – II project was established as a follow-up to the Fadama – I project that spanned five years between 1993 and 1999. NFDP-II aimed at alleviating poverty among beneficiaries in the participating states. The project adopted the Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach which is a way of empowering local communities to shape their future by empowering them with resources and authority to use the resources. The following components existed as objectives of the project:

Capacity Building: Which aim at strengthening the capacity of the beneficiaries through technical assistance and training provided through facilitators. Specific areas to be covered will vary depending on the needs of the individual beneficiaries which is to be identified through a participatory planning process (Project implementation manual, 2004).

Rural Infrastructure Investment: Whose output is to increase the supply of small-scale infrastructure, prioritized, planned, implemented operated and maintained by the beneficiaries. The infrastructure provided will contribute to the project development objectives of raising the income of the beneficiaries by reducing some of the constraints of production, storage, processing, transportation and marketing faced by Fadama – II beneficiaries (PIM, 2004).

Pilot Asset Acquisition: Support the finance of matching grants for the purchase of productive assets such as equipments, tools, installations etc. that support the local small-holder agriculture. It is based on the assumption that lack of productive assets for poor Fadama resources users is one of the principal constraints on economic development in Fadama communities.

Demand responsive advisory service: Whose goal is to enable Fadama user groups (FUGs) participating in the project to adopt productivity enhancing techniques and appropriate marketing practices in order to overcome major constraints on increased productivity of their Fadama enterprises and increased incomes. This will be achieved through demand-responsive advisory services provided by a wide range of private and public service providers (PIM, 2004).

The overall aim of the NFDP – II is to combat poverty through enhancement of productivity of participants and ultimately improve the socioeconomic status. This study therefore focused on the extent to which the NFDP has impacted on the participants by assessing the changes to participants' socio-economic status..

Objectives of the Study

It is against this background that the study investigated the effect of Fadama – II project on socio-economic status of participant farmers in Ibarapa North Local Government Area of Oyo State. The study specifically;

The specific objectives were to:

1. investigate the areas of respondents' involvement in Fadama-II project.
2. analyse benefits derived by respondents from their involvement in Fadama II project.
3. determine the impact of Fadama – II project on socio-economic status of Fadama users.

Area of Study

The study area was Ibarapa North Local Government of Oyo State and one of the benefiting Local Government Areas of Fadama – II project in Oyo State. Though a Yoruba settlement, it hosts people of diverse ethnic groups like Hausa, Fulani and Igbo. It is located in the tropical guinea savannah zone of western Nigeria, hence rich in the production of arable crops and livestock. The inhabitants are farmers, petty – traders and very few are civil servants all engaging in farming activities.

The population of the study included all Fadama users groups who are crop farmers, livestock farmers, pastoralists, agro-processor and fruit gatherers. Ten out of fifteen Fadama Community Associations (FCAs) were proportionately selected from the three main towns in the study area (Ayete, Tapa and Iangan). Thirty percent of the number of beneficiaries from each FCA were further randomly selected. Structured questionnaire was used to elicit information from a total of one hundred and ten respondents for the study.

Measurement of Variables

The independent variables of the study included the respondents' personal characteristics, participation of respondents in Fadama - II and benefits derived by the respondents from Fadama – II project. The dependent variable is socio-economic status of Fadama users before and after the project in Ibarapa North. This was inferred

from responses to number of items and attributes possessed by the respondents. This socio-economic scores was computed by summing the standardized values for item possession computed on a minimum of zero. The mean and standard deviation were found and used to categorize respondents into high and low socio-economic status.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Personal Characteristics of Respondents

Table 1 shows that 77.3% of the respondents were between 30 and 49 years old, and 11.8% were above this range. Most (72.7%) of the respondents were males contrary to the finding of Ayanwale and Alimi (2004) in a baseline study in Southwestern Nigeria, 85.45% were married while 3.63% and 3.63% were divorced and widowed respectively. Christianity accounted for 60.9% were Christians, 33.6% Muslims and others animists.

On residency, most (70.1%) have been residing in the area for more than 30 years and this implies they are familiar with the place. Similarly, 68.2% had formal education and could therefore read and write a situation that will predispose them to adoption of innovation (Idachaba, 1981).

The table further indicates that 28.2% of respondents were community leaders, 16.4% were religious leaders and 55.4% were not in any position of leadership. This shows that the community leaders and religious leaders partook in Fadama II in the study area. Their involvement would have enhanced leadership and control of the programme.

Participation of respondents in Fadama II project.

Fadama II was divided into several areas which served as sub-projects to which the beneficiaries were exposed for both knowledge and skill acquisition. Table 2 shows a multiple response from respondents indicating participation of respondents in Fadama II project. Generally, participation was high in all the areas but Needs Identification (98.2%), Selection of executives (94.5%), Prioritization of needs (98.2%), Contribution of Money (95.5%) and attendance of meetings (93.6%) formed the highest areas of participation. There may be a need to include other areas not as popular

especially Cost preparation and Evaluation into the capacity building aspect of the programme. The high participation in the areas imply significant interest and positive attitude towards the project as echoed by Mohammed (2007) while urging traditional rulers to encourage participation in the Fadama project.

Table 1 Distribution of respondents according to personal characteristics (N=110).

Farmer's age (years)	Freq	Percent
20-29	12	10.9
30-39	43	39.1
40-49	42	38.2
50 above	13	11.8
Sex		
Male	80	72.7
Female	30	27.3
Marital Status		
Single	8	7.3
Married	94	85.5
Divorced	4	3.6
Widowed	4	3.6
Level of Education		
Non-formal	15	13.6
Formal education	75	68.2
Adult education	16	14.5
Koranic education	3	2.7
Religion		
Christianity	67	60.9
Islam	37	33.6
Traditional	6	5.5
Position		
Community leader	31	28.2
Religious leader	18	16.4
None of the above	61	55.4
Years of Residence		
< 30years	32	29.1
30-40years	34	30.9
41-50years	28	25.5
51-60years	5	4.5
> 60years	2	1.8
N/R (No-Response)	9	8.2

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to involvement of in Fadama II project (n = 110)

	Involvement	Yes (%)
1.	Needs Identification	108 (98.2)
2.	Selection of executives	102 (92.72)
3.	Prioritization of needs	108 (98.2)
4.	Contribution of Money	105 (95.5)
5.	Preparation of local development plan (LDP)	101 (83.6)
6.	Preparation of detail cost of document	90 (81.8)
7.	Attendance at meeting	103 (93.6)
8.	Engagement of service providers	97 (88.2)
9.	Monitoring of subproject	96 (87.3)
10.	Evaluation of subproject	91 (82.7)
11.	Maintenance of subproject	95 (86.4)
12.	Conflicts resolution	90 (81.8)

Benefits derived by the respondents

All the listed areas of benefits derived in the project were indicated by a high percentage of the respondents with trainings, production enhancement, family welfare, and counterpart funding (97.5, 98.2, 95.5 and 85.5%, respectively) which would have impacted on SES being among the most popular.

Nwachukwu *et al* (2008) made similar findings in a national appraisal of the Fadama II. Only areas like fish pond and research linkage were relatively low and this may be due to these areas not being familiar to the participants. The figures in Table 3 generally imply a favourable disposition to Fadama II project in the study area.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents benefit derived from Fadama II.

Items	Benefits	Frequency	Percentage
A	Increase in productivity pilot assets	105	95.5
B	Training attained	107	97.5
C	Increase level of production	108	98.2
E	Established poultry	82	74.5
F	Established fish pond	72	65.3
G	Farm expansion	102	92.7
H	Reduction in conflict	102	92.7
I	Family welfare improved	105	95.5
J	Reduction in time wasted on search of water	104	94.5
K	Increase in level of income	104	94.5
L	Sustainable market strategies	97	88.2
M	Use of improved technology	91	82.7
N	Capacity building	99	90.0
O	Increase in number of access roads	90	81.8
P	Assistance from advisory services	90	81.8
Q	Increase in disease control through provision of training attained	104	94.5
R	Provision of 70% of counterpart fund by Fadama II project individual ownership of pilot assets	94	85.5
S	Only 10% of infrastructure services rendered by Fadama II was paid	97	88.2
T	Research linkage	73	66.4
U	Provision of I million as counterpart fund by local government for running of local desk office	99	90.0

Socio-economic status

From Table 4, a slight improvement in SES was observed as 56.4% were in the high SES category after the project compared to 52.7% before. This implies that socio-economic status of the people in study area improved after the introduction of Fadama-II project. The standard deviation figures in particular indicate that SES gap increased

among the participants after the project than before. A marginal increase was also discovered by *Adegbite et al (2007)*. This could only have arisen from the accruing benefits as a result of level of participation as also discovered by *Nkonya et al (2008)*. Thus, if more people are encouraged to participate at high level, more benefits will accrue.

Table 4: Distribution of SES before and after.

Category	Before SD = 9.09			After SD = 12.83	
	Scores	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Low	0-25	52	47.3	48	43.6
High	> 25	58	52.7	62	56.4

Relationships between SES and selected variables

Table 5 shows that there was a positive correlation between age of the respondents and socio – economic status before and after ($r = 0.339$ and 0.374 , $P = 0.00$). Older farmers and obviously with more experience participated more in the project. This results in a combination of experience with all other provisions of the project including training and input. This may be an indictment for the youth who usually disdain agriculture and who could have shunned the project.

Also, participation significantly correlated with SES after. While this was expected *ab initio*, it goes further to emphasise the importance of recognizing SES in all community development programmes and to purposely design such programmes in a way that those of low SES can participate rather being alienated..

Benefit derived correlated significantly with SES before and after, although almost to the same extent. This may be because some of the beneficiaries possessed some of the items assessed even before the Fadama – II project and this could have resulted in a mix-up of the change in SES.

Table 5: Pearson Product Moment Correlation between farmers’ socio-economic status (before and after) and selected variables

Variable Name		r-value	P	Decision
Age of farmer	Before	0.339	0.00	S
	After	0.374	0.00	S
Participation	After	0.301	0.001	S
Benefit	Before	0.222	0.02	S
	After	0.217	0.023	S

Correlation is significant at 5%

CONCLUSION

The participants of the Fadama – II project were mostly young to middle age with most being formally educated and some as community leaders, the latter being significant in legitimization of the project.

Beneficiaries participated highly in all areas of the project especially needs identification and prioritisation as well as meeting attendance. This obviously facilitated their benefitting from

several fronts designed by the project like capacity building for production, family welfare and counterpart funding. The impact of the benefits derived is visible in the change in SES for some of the beneficiaries.

The significant relationship between age and SES implies that the youths in the programme may not be utilizing the full potential of the project compared to the older ones who seem to

have transformed the project into avenue for SES enhancement.

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