

Impact of World Bank Funding Withdrawal on Activities of Women in Agricultural Programme of Oyo State ADP

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ABSTRACT

The Agricultural Development Project (ADP) has been saddled with agricultural extension services since its inception in Oyo State in 1989. This has been through financial and technical assistance from the World Bank. However, with the withdrawal of funding assistance by the World Bank finally in 1999, the burden of financing agricultural extension services became the responsibility of the state government. This study analyzed the trend of extension activities of the Women-in-agriculture (WIA) programme of the ADP from 1989 to 1999. Areas focused were crop, livestock and fishery production. There was a downward trend of all the activities on crop right from inception of funding (excluding 1991) which was not helped by the funding withdrawal of the World Bank. The picture presented was a gloomy future for WIA in agricultural extension delivery. Also, significant differences existed in the activities (t-value of 2.504 and a p-value of 0.031) between when funding was active (1989-1995) and period of withdrawal and after (1995-2001). The study thus substantiated the importance of funding for agricultural extension activities especially as they are development oriented. It also suggested the need for governments to specifically pay attention to women farmers through intensifying funding for the WIA programmes.

INTRODUCTION

Women are known to play a very significant role in agricultural production in Nigeria, as they are deeply involved throughout the processes of crop production, processing, marketing and final utilization of agricultural products. According to a study financed by the United Nations Development Programme, women constitute 60-80% of the agricultural labour force in Nigeria, and they produce two-third of the food crops depending on the region (Olawoye, 2002; Yahaya, 2002).

Nigerian women combine their roles as wives, mothers, housekeepers and domestic workers with their invaluable tasks as farmers. These women put in long hours of hard work, both at home and on the farm with very few modern conveniences and they have little to show for their efforts. Worse still, they get little or no recognition from their communities or countries (Lopez-Claros and Zahidi, 2004; Nnoyelu, 1996). These contributions by the women had been silently observed until recent years when the Agricultural Development Programmes (ADPs) presented an avenue for a focused attention to women involved in agriculture (Onasoga, 1991). To reach rural women on relevant issues pertaining to their roles, the Women-in-agriculture (WIA) programme was started in 1989

by the ADPs. Initially, the programme was introduced with the aim of complementing the efforts of the village extension agents who were then introducing soybean production to farmers. So, the focus of the programme was reviewed to embrace all facets of agricultural production, processing, utilization, storage and marketing (Ojeniyi, 1991).

The Women in Agriculture (WIA) Programme

The Women in Agriculture (WIA) programme was created in 1989 within the existing state ADPs, in recognition of women's contribution to agriculture. This was as a result of a research study financed by the UNDP, which revealed that in spite of the indispensable roles played by women, in agriculture, agricultural extension services had not targeted them as important clientele, as they receive very little assistance and information from the extension agents who had the notion that their domestic roles was childcare and family nutrition and thus presented information on only these areas, whereas, this is just a part of their roles as Nigerian women and farmers (World Bank, 1989).

Women-in-Agriculture (WIA) has mandate to initiate and conduct programmes that would improve the socio-economic status of rural women and their overall living standards. This is to be achieved by training farmers on proven

technology in food production, processing, preservation and storage. The WIA programme was equally designed to assist women farmers to access credit from commercial banks and other credit sources as well as monitor their activities. WIA was also helpful in forming women groups and co-operatives. The programme complemented greatly the efforts of other women agencies like the Women Commission, Women in Health of all States Ministry of Agriculture and the Family Support Programme (FSP) of the Federal government of Nigeria.

ADP is the most recent intervention programme with Women in Agriculture (WIA) as a major component. The funding of the ADP by design was to be borne by the World Bank (the major contributor), Federal Government and State Government. WIA came into existence in April, 1989 and became functional in September of that year. The main objectives of the WIA unit of the OYSADEP was to improve the living standard of rural women farmers in the areas of increased crop production, introduction of improved technology for food crops processing and utilization and also marketing of farm produce. Other objectives of the WIA unit of OYSADEP include:

- i. On-farm activities: crops, livestock, fisheries, and forestry production and environmental activities appropriate to women;
- ii. Off-farm activities: processing, storage, preservation, utilization and nutrition activities for the well being of the family.
- iii. Food security: access to adequate food, at all times by the majority of the people.
- iv. Others: marketing, credit procurement, drudgery reduction and income generating activities. Emphasis is placed on production and related activities in a 70:30 ratio (FACU, 1995).
- v. Other field activities embarked upon by the WIA agents include group formation, farm visit and establishment of Small Plot Adoption Techniques (SPAT). SPATs demonstrate the use of new technologies on inputs or farm practices.

A major policy change that affected the structure, services and sustainability of WIA was the withdrawal of the World Bank participation, which started gradually in 1995 and final withdrawal in 1999. This marked a major turning point for state agricultural extension service in Nigeria, with the state becoming the only financier since 1999. An appraisal of the WIA programme before and after the World Bank

funding would reflect the status of activities undertaken during different periods. This will show the pattern of WIA activities, before and after the change in funding status and the effect this has had on the programme.

The main objective of the study is to analyze the trend of WIA activities in Oyo State from 1990 to 2001. This was carried out by specifically examined the activities of WIA over the period of 1989 – 2001, identified the trend of the WIA activities over the years in the study area and forecast the future trend of WIA activities.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted through the use of secondary data from the WIA office of the ADP in Oyo State, Nigeria. Data utilized were those relating to activities involving contact with farmer groups and formation of Small Plot Adoption Technique (SPAT) demonstrations covering the study period. The linear progression method of analysis was used to predict future level of activities in the areas considered.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Crop activities

The trend of the yearly frequency of the small plot adoption techniques (SPAT) on crop from 1990 to 2001 showed a sharp increase from 1990 to 1991, then a sharp decrease from 1991 to 1992. The highest frequency for crop was, 3739 demonstrations in 1991, while the lowest frequency was 65 demonstrations in 1999 (Table 1).

TABLE 1
SPAT Numbers for WIA Activities between 1990 and 2001

Year	Crop SPAT	Livestock SPAT	Fisheries SPAT	Total SPAT
1990	1872	0	0	1872
1991	3739	0	0	3739
1992	982	18	0	1000
1993	900	252	7	1159
1994	225	380	0	635
1995	252	405	2	659
1996	403	262	0	665
1997	72	108	0	180
1998	214	238	0	452
1999	65	70	0	135
2000	91	10	0	101
2001	125	30	0	155

The trend analysis (figure 1) was carried out using the linear regression line fit model. This predicts that by the year 2010, the number of SPAT demonstrations on crop will be a negative

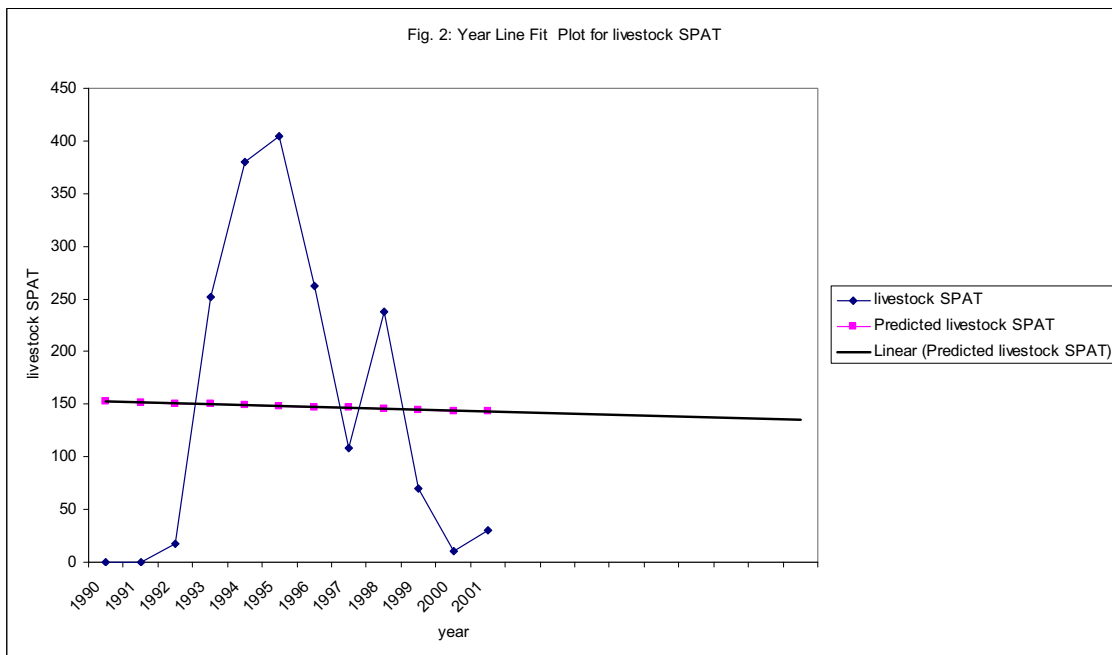
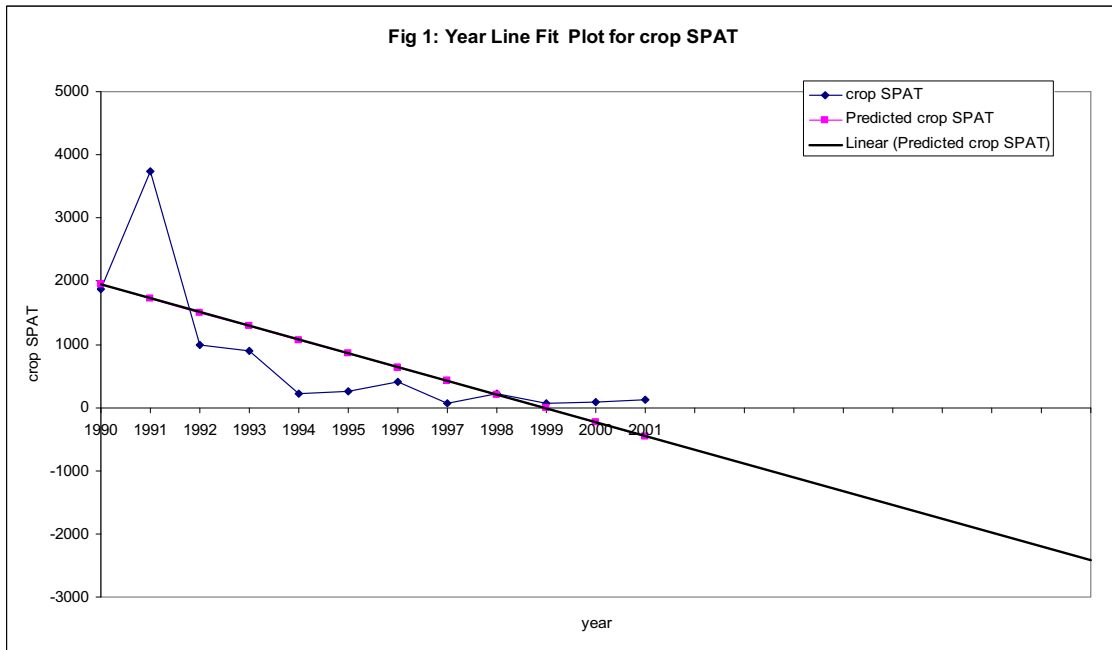
value, which implies that in reality, all SPAT demonstrations on crop would have gone into extinction based on the present trend of activities.

Livestock activities

The trend of the yearly frequency of the Small Plot Adoption Technique demonstration on livestock started from 1992 and increased gradually for about four years, reaching its peak in 1995, then fell from 1996 to 1997 then picked up again in 1998, but stated declining until 2000.

In 2001, there was a little increase in this trend (fig. 2). The highest frequency for livestock was 405 demonstrations in 1995 and the lowest was 10 in year 2000.

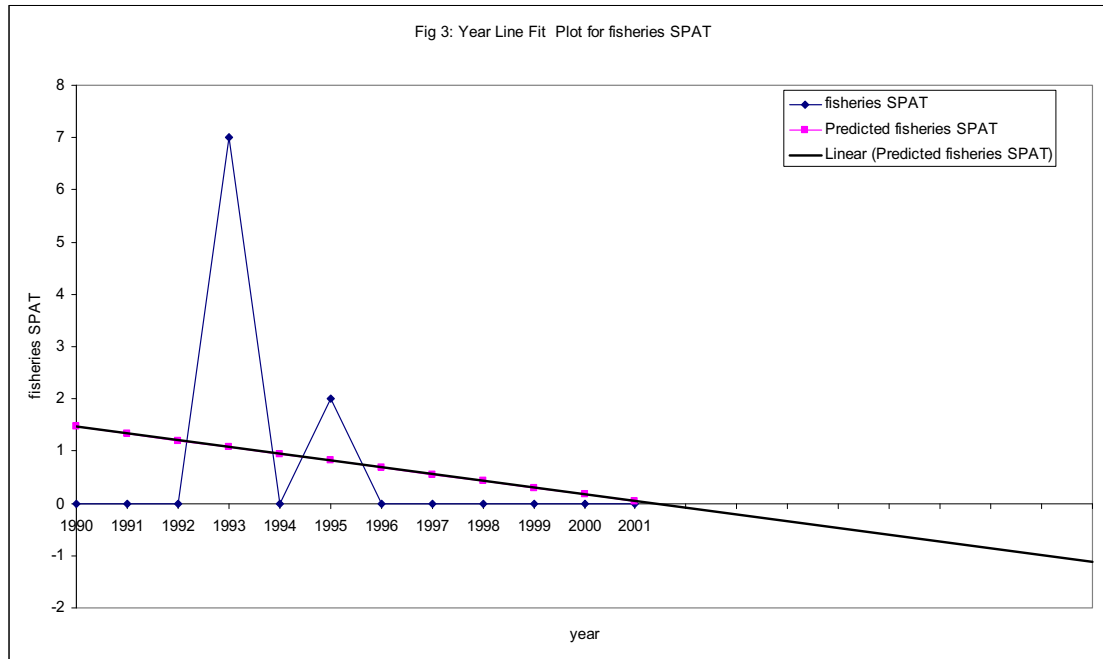
The linear regression line fit model on trend of activities forecasts that by the year 2010, a predicted figure of 140 SPAT demonstrations on livestock will be carried out. This is however based on the recent trend of SPAT demonstrations on livestock.



Fisheries activities

The SPAT on fisheries has a very low frequency. It was carried out only twice, the first time in 1993 with a frequency of seven (7) demonstrations and the second time in 1995 with a frequency of two (fig. 3). There was no data for the post-withdrawal period because no activity was carried out on fisheries after the World Bank loan withdrawal.

The linear regression line fit model which was used to carry out the trend analysis predicts a downward trend in the SPAT demonstration on fisheries and that by the year 2010, the number of SPAT demonstration on fisheries will be negative value. This implies that based on the prevailing situation all activities of SPAT on fisheries would have stopped.

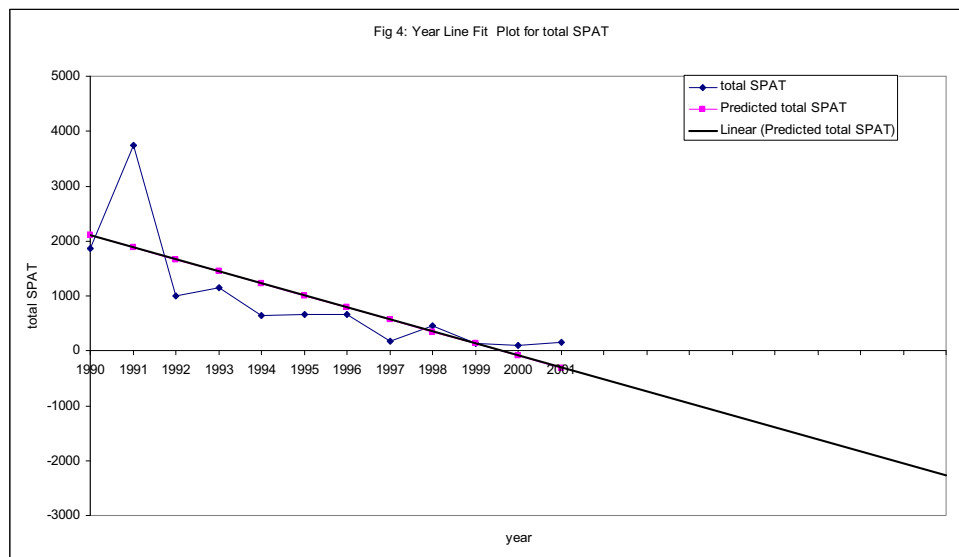


Sum of all SPAT activities

The trend of the yearly frequencies for the grand total of the small plot adoption techniques shows an increase at inception from 1990 to 1991. Then, there was a sharp decline from 1991 to 1992. It reveals a gradual decline in activities from 1992 to year 2000. Then in 2001, there was a very small increase in the trend of activities (fig. 4). The highest frequency for the SPAT activities was 3,739 demonstrations in 1991, while the lowest was 101 demonstrations in the year 2000. The standard errors for the pre and post withdrawal period are 482.01 and 92.46 respectively. The standard deviation which shows

the extent of scatter of the frequencies for the two periods (pre and post funding withdrawal) is 1180.90 and 226.49 respectively. This shows a high degree of variability in the frequencies of the SPAT activities.

The linear regression line fit model was used to carry out the predicted trend of activities and it shows a gradual downward trend in the total SPAT activities. It also forecasts that by the year 2010, the total number of SPAT activities will be negative. This implies that by the year 2010, all SPAT activities would have stopped, based on the prevailing trend of activities.



Comparing the Pre and Post World Bank Funding Withdrawal Eras

Comparison of pre and post funding withdrawal of SPAT activities on enterprise basis indicated that there was no significant difference in SPAT demonstrations before and after the loan withdrawal by World Bank. It should be noted that there was no data recorded for fisheries activities in the post-withdrawal periods, and thus, no comparison could be made from pre and post activities.

On the overall aggregate of SPAT activities for all the enterprises both at the pre and post funding withdrawal periods, the result showed a significance difference in the total SPAT activities before and after the World Bank loan withdrawal ($t=0.031$ $p<0.05$).

CONCLUSION

It is apparent that the attempt to bring women into the fore-front of extension has not met the enthusiasm with which it was initiated. For all the activities, the performance peaked very early only to diminish at a fast rate. This implies a loss of momentum in the interest to reach women farmers specifically. Thus the age long trickling down of information will still be employed to inform women farmers and this has been proved to be not only ineffective, it is also uncertain.

There was an increase in WIA activities at the inception of funding by World Bank though accompanied with a sharp decline. The decline was however worsens by the funding withdrawal. All the trend analysis using linear regression line model predicts that total number of SPAT activities would be negative by the year 2010.

The effect of the withdrawal of the World Bank support is only too glaring in the result of the t-tests. Again it points to the fact that the state government may not be capable of sufficiently funding extension work especially when this affects women farmers. In agreement with the trend analysis, the future for women focused extension is bleak and the major force in agricultural activities may still continue to be abandoned technologically.

Therefore, all the three tiers of government (local, state and federal) need to specifically pay attention to women farmers through intensifying funding for the WIA programmes.

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