

BENEFITS OF FADAMA III PROJECT TO ARABLE CROP FARMERS IN SURULERE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF OYO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study assessed the benefits derived from Fadama III project by arable crop farmers in Surulere local government area of Oyo State, Nigeria. Multistage sampling procedure was used to select 154 respondents. Descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, percentages and mean were used to analyze the demographic characteristics of the respondents. However, Chi-square and Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) were used to test the relationships that exist between socio economics and benefits derived. Result showed that 73.4% of the respondents were male. The mean age was 47.8 years. About 94.2% of the respondents benefitted from improved seeds/seedlings while 85.7% benefitted from fertilizer subsidy. About 94.0% experienced delay in receiving fund from the project office. Pearson Product Moment Correlation revealed that a significant but negative relationship exists between constraints faced ($r = -0.0199$, $p < 0.05$) and benefit derived by Fadama III arable crop farmers in the study area. The Constraints deprived the beneficiaries of some benefits inherent in the project. This study therefore recommended that project officers, including some groups' officers must be adequately monitored to enable them deliver their assigned services and responsibilities efficiently and effectively.

Keywords: Benefits, Fadama III, Arable crops, Farmers, Participation

Introduction

Fadama project formerly known as National Fadama Development Project (NFDPP) was established in 1993 by Federal Government of Nigeria. Fadama III was specifically inaugurated to fill the gap noticed after the implementation of Fadama II. According to Nlerum and Wobuoma (2011), the components of Fadama III that were lacking in Fadama II are public agricultural development programme and adaptive research, mainstreaming of sustainable land management, rural finance support for asset's acquisition, advisory services and inputs supply to beneficiaries. This presupposed that Fadama III, in all its entirety, is a community development programme because it was

designed to identify overall needs of the group/participants in order to improve their well-being. Madukwe, Igbokwe, Garforth and Dube (2015) described community development programme as a process whereby members of a community are encouraged through efforts of government and or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to identify their overall needs as a group, and to acquire the necessary skills to think and embark upon action plans or programmes that will improve both the physical and human structures in addition to the wellbeing of individuals in a community.

Further, they mentioned that community development emphasizes the need for participation of the members of the community

that form the majority of those residing in rural areas. This means that members of the community where Fadama III project was situated must be adequately involved in the project to effectively benefit from such project. According to Nlerum and Wobuoma (2011) for Fadama III project to realize the development objectives on beneficiaries, it carries out activities such as micro-credit assistance, supply of planting materials, advisory services on marketing technologies, livestock improvement, fisheries empowerment and agro-processing services. In the light of this, therefore, the general objective of this study is to assess the benefits derived by the arable crop farmers in Fadama III project in Surulere Local Government Area of Oyo State, The specific objectives are to:

- (i) Describe the socioeconomic characteristics of arable crop farmers of Fadama III project in the study area
- (ii) identify the benefits derived by Fadama III project arable crop farmers, and
- (iii) identify constraints faced by Fadama III project arable crop Farmers.

Hypotheses of this study

Ho₁: There is no significant relationship between selected socio-economic characteristics of arable crop farmers and benefits derived from Fadama III project.

Ho₂: There is no significant relationship between constraints faced by arable crop farmers and benefits derived from Fadama III project.

Methodology

The study was carried out in Surulere Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. A multi-stage sampling technique was used to select respondents from the study area. The first stage involved the random selection of three Fadama Community Associations (FCAs) out of (FCAs) in the LGA. This was followed by random selection of 11 Fadama User Groups (FUGs) out of the 22 FUGs in the selected FCAs. Finally, 14 arable crop farmers were

purposively selected from each FUG giving a total number of 154 arable crop farmers as the respondents for the study. Each of the respondents was interviewed with the aid of a structured interview schedule. Information was collected on the socio-economic characteristics, benefits derived and constraints faced by the respondents.

Results and discussion

Socio - economic characteristics

Table 1 revealed that 73.4% of the respondents were male. This finding agreed with Osuntade and Adebayo (2015) that males engage in farming than their female counterparts. In addition, 31.8% of the respondents fell within the age bracket of 41-50 years. However, 20.8% were of age bracket 31-40 years and 60 years, respectively while 16.2% were between 51-60 years of age. The mean age of the respondents was 47.8 years. This implies that the beneficiary of fadama III project cut across all age group in the study area. This is line with findings of Muhammed, Umar, Abubakar, and Abdullahi (2011) in which they stated that the beneficiaries of Fadama III project cut across both youth and adult population. On religion, 50% of the respondents were Muslim, 46.8% and 3.2% of the respondents were Christian and African traditional worshippers, respectively. This implies that Fadama III projects participants spread across the various religions of the country. However, if well utilized, religion could be used as a forum for sharing information on new innovation. This is in line with submissions from Oyelere (2016) that religion could offer a great opportunity for information sharing in our societies where agricultural innovation can be strategically extended to people of same faith. Furthermore, 71.4% of the respondents were married, 11.1% were separated, 8.4% were widowed, 5.8% were single and 3.3% were divorced. This is in line with submissions of Nwachukwu (2007), and Afolabi, (2010) which revealed that 90% of food produced in the country comes from farmers who were married.

In addition, farmers with household size of 1-5 constituted 65.5% of the respondents, and those with 6-10 members constituted 32.6%, while respondents with household size of 11 members and above were 1.9%. The mean household size was 5 members. This implies that respondents had an average household size which could supply farm labour for the household. On education, 42.9% of the

respondents possessed secondary education, 24.7% had primary education, 16.2% had tertiary education, 9.1% had no formal education and 7.1% had adult education, respectively. This implies that the respondents possessed a relatively high level of education. This is advantageous as education hastens the process of adoption of innovation.

Table 1: Socioeconomic characteristics of Fadama III project farmers

Socioeconomic characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Sex		
Male	113	73.4
Female	41	26.6
Age (year)		
21-30	16	10.4
31-40	32	20.8
41-50	49	31.8
51-60	25	16.2
>60	32	20.8
Mean	47.8	
Religion		
Christianity	72	46.8
Islam	77	50.0
Traditional	5	3.2
Marital status		
Single	9	5.8
Married	110	71.4
Widowed	13	8.4
Divorced	5	3.3
Separated	17	11.1
Household size (Members)		
1-5	101	65.5
6-10	50	32.6
>11	3	1.9
Mean	5.0	
Educational level		
No formal education	14	9.1
Adult education	11	7.1
Primary education	38	24.7
Secondary education	66	42.9
Tertiary education	25	16.2

Source: Field survey, 2016

Benefits derived from Fadama III project by arable crop farmers

Result of data analysis in Table 2 revealed that 94.2% of the respondents benefitted from

improved seeds/seedlings and 85.7% from fertilizer subsidy. However, 71.4% claimed they benefitted from herbicides procurement/subsidy as well as rural feeder road rehabilitation while 70.8% benefitted from farm implement

assistance and 70.1% of the respondents benefitted from construction of rural feeder roads. This implies that beneficiaries of Fadama

III had access to diverse benefits from Fadama III project.

Table 2: Benefits derived from Fadama III project by arable crop farmers

Benefits derived	Yes	No
Farm implement assistance	109 (70.8)	45 (29.2)
Improved seeds/seedlings	145 (94.2)	9 (5.8)
Herbicides procurement/subsidy	110 (71.4)	44 (28.6)
Fertilizer subsidy	132 (85.7)	22 (14.3)
Bore hole	28 (18.2)	126 (81.8)
Rural feeder road rehabilitation	110 (71.4)	44 (28.6)
Construction of rural feeder roads	108 (70.1)	46 (29.9)
Pumping machine	26 (16.9)	128 (83.1)

Figures in parenthesis are in percentages

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Constraints faced by Fadama III arable crop farmers

Table 3 revealed that 94.2% of the respondents experienced of delay in fund release by the project office. This may jeopardize the timeliness of operations and delay farming activities; thereby reducing the productivity and efficiency of the farmers. Also, 91.6% complained of poor storage facility while 90.3% experienced poor price of farm produce. However, 87.7% reported that some Fadama III project officers were dishonest in the work committed to their hands while 86.4% complained of irregular visit by Fadama III project personnel and 67.5% complained that

the Fadama III project office was far from their vicinities. Table 3 further showed that 61.7% complained on the dishonesty of some group officers while 56.5% of the respondents encountered poor road network maintenance. Poor road network could hinder the farmers from promptly taking their easily perishable farm produce to the market. This is similar to a study conducted by Omotara (2012) where 78.3% of the respondents agreed that a lot of their produce were wasted on their farms as a result of poor road network. However, 40.3% complaint of absence of input support system that may help them to increase their productivities.

Table 3: Constraints faced by Fadama III project arable crop farmers

Constraints *	Frequency	Percentage
Delayed fund release	145	94.2
Absence of input support	62	40.3
Distance to Fadama office was too far	104	67.5
Dishonesty of some group officers	95	61.7
Irregular visit by Fadama personnel	133	86.4
Dishonesty of some Fadama officers	135	87.7
Poor price of farm produce	139	90.3
Poor road network	87	56.5
Poor storage facilities	141	91.6

* Multiple responses

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Relationship between selected socio-economic characteristics of arable crop farmers and benefits derived from Fadama III project

Result in Table 4 revealed that a significant relationship exists between selected socio-economic characteristics of arable crop farmers and benefits derived from Fadama III project. It was revealed that sex ($\chi^2 = 33.662$, $P < 0.05$), religion ($\chi^2 = 62.974$, $P < 0.05$), marital status ($\chi^2 = 257.169$, $P < 0.05$), educational attainment ($\chi^2 = 64.896$, $P < 0.05$) were significantly related to benefits derived from Fadama III project. This implies that age, religion, marital status and educational attainment have effect on the benefits derived from the project. Sex might be a very important factor on benefits derived since the project is male dominated in the study area and men were believed to have more vigour required for farm work than women. Religion may also have prominent role to play in benefits derived as positive information concerning Fadama III

project might have been shared among members of various religious faithfuls within their congregations. Marital status could indirectly influence benefits derived from Fadama III project because married beneficiaries have tendencies to cheaper household labour to work on their farm thereby increasing their productivity than farmers that have no family member. Education is very crucial as to how an individual interacts. This was corroborated by Jamilu, Atala, Akpoko and Sanni (2015) that farmers' literacy levels usually influence the decision-making and the adoption of innovation by farmers, which may bring about increase in productivity. Better educational attainment had afforded the participants in Fadama III project a better performance probably through market outlook. So, farmers with high education could search for a good market outside their immediate environment by embarking on e-commerce, e-marketing and e-transactions.

Table 4: Chi-square analysis showing relationship between selected socio-economic characteristics of arable crop farmers and benefits derived from Fadama III

Socio-economic characteristics	χ^2	Df	p - value	Decision
Sex	33.662	1	0.000*	S
Religion	62.974	2	0.000*	S
Marital status	257.169	4	0.000*	S
Educational attainment	64.896	4	0.000*	S

* Significant at 0.05, S = Significant

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Relationship between constraints faced and benefits derived from Fadama III project

Table 5 shows results of Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) which revealed a significant but negative relationship between constraints faced ($r = -0.199$, $P < 0.05$) and benefits derived by fadama III arable crop participants. This implies that the higher the intensity of the constraints experienced by the participants, the lower the benefits derived. This means constraints being faced by arable crop

farmers had gone a long way in depriving them of the benefits inherent in Fadama III project in the study area.

Table 5: Relationship between constraints faced and benefits derived during Fadama III project

Variable	R	P value	Decision
Constraints faced and benefits derived	-0.199	0.014*	S

* Significant at 0.05, S = Significant

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Summary, Conclusion and recommendations

Majority of the respondents were male, married and have experienced diverse benefits and constraints. It was concluded that the constraints experienced by respondents deprived them of some benefits inherent in Fadama III project. Based on the findings from the study, it was hereby recommended that project officers and group officers must be properly and adequately monitored to ensure delivery of assigned services and responsibilities promptly and efficiently. In addition, to combat the constraints of poor price of farm produce, farmers should pool themselves together as supply cooperatives and convey their wares to such areas where the prices were better. At the same time, government can buy the excess produce from the farmers to help them stay in business; thus, encouraging regular production by farmers and sustaining national food security.

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