

**ACCELERATING AGRO- ALLIED INDUSTRIAL GROWTH FOR JOB
CREATION AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AMONG RURAL WOMEN BY
IJEBU ODE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE ON POVERTY REDUCTION
(IDIPR):**

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Abstract

Prospect and Challenges for Rapid Industrialization in South/ West, Nigeria. Poverty and hunger pose great challenges to human race particularly in Africa where a large percentage of the populace still lives in abject poverty particularly women. Efforts by successive governments in most African countries to address the challenges through one policy or the other have not yielded desired results. However, a veritable means of combating the challenge of poverty and hunger is through creativity and innovative skill acquisition which will spur industrial and technological growth. Similarly, there are positive correlational relationship between industrial/ technological growth and improved livelihood opportunities for people. The need to address the challenge of livelihood problems and boost rural agro-allied/ industrial growth was the force that led to the creation of the Ijebu Development Initiative for Poverty Reduction (IDIPR). How has IDIPR impacted on the livelihood opportunities of rural women in Ijebu land through the creation of jobs; what are the challenges impinging on agro-industrial growth in Ijebu land; what are the approaches that IDIPR has adopted to combat the above challenges, what are the policy framework of government aimed at enhancing the comparative advantage of the natural resources endowment of Nigeria to spur job creation and rapid industrialization? The paper addresses the above questions quantitatively and qualitatively in order to secure answers towards boosting sustainable industrialization for Nigeria and Africa in general. Findings show that the IDIPR has over the years significantly contributed to the growth of agro-allied industries in South/west Nigeria and more importantly the initiative has helped boost the livelihood potentials of rural women through the creation of jobs and hence reduced substantially poverty and hunger while at the same time improving health and wellbeing of both men and women.

Key Words: Women, Job Creation, Poverty Reduction, Industrialization, Agro- allied

Introduction and Background

Poverty and hunger pose great challenge and threat to human race particularly in Africa where a large percentage of the populace in most of its countries still live in abject poverty particularly women. This is probably why the eradication of both poverty and hunger are the first and second goals of the sustainable development paradigm shift. However, a veritable means of combating the challenge of poverty and hunger is through creativity and

innovative skill acquisition which are likely to spur industrial and technological growth. Meanwhile, evidence abound that there is positive correlational relationship between industrial/technological growth and the availability of improved livelihood opportunities for the generality of people especially rural dwellers that are the hardest hit in poverty and hunger. Unfortunately, industrial presence and technological breakthroughs are quite scarce in most rural settings of the African societies including Nigeria, where there has been clear indication of deindustrialization as a result of varied problems linked to lack of adequate power supply, lack of infrastructure, lack of raw materials etc. which account for why many industries and SMEs continue to fold up. Hence why a large number of rural dwellers continue to wallow in poverty and hunger as a result of lack of opportunities for gainful employment and sustainable livelihoods. However, the need to address the challenge of poverty and hunger as a result of livelihood problems by boosting rural agro-allied/ industrial growth was the force that led to the creation of the Ijebu Development Initiative for Poverty Reduction (IDIPR).

The Ijebu Development Initiative on Poverty Reduction is a Non- governmental Association that was established in 1999 to drive community development with the aim of reducing poverty and improving the livelihood of people particularly grassroots women using agriculture and micro credit schemes. IDIPR targeted vulnerable groups in the rural and semi-urban group within Ijebu ode communities particularly women through training on various skill acquisition vocation as well as providing them with start- up capital through micro credit schemes to take off their business. They are also equipped from time to time with basic entrepreneurial training and strategies that will enable them sustain their business. The focus of IDIPR is to promote and boost agro-allied industries in order to bring about skill development and local job creation in such areas as fisheries, cocoa cultivation, and palm and plantain plantation in large quantities. Over the years, IDIPR has also created a ready export market for the products from their teeming members particularly packed smoke fish which is required to meet international standard and that was why recently in 2017 the United Nations' Food and Agricultural (FAO) declared that the Ijebu Community had the highest number of fish clusters in the world. However, in spite of the successes that the IDIPR has recorded, the initiative has also had to contend with varied challenges which are likely to dampen the initiative drive for improved job creation, reduction in poverty and hunger as improved rapid industrial growth.

Theoretical framework

The theoretical applications adopted for this study are the Human capital theory, the theory of Poverty and the theory of industrialization.

Human Capital Theory

Human capital theory can be associated with the resource-based view of the firm as developed by Barney (1991). This proposes that sustainable competitive advantage is attained when the firms has a human resource pool that cannot be imitated or substituted by its rivals. Boxal (1996) refers to this situation as one that confers `human capital

advantage`. But he also notes that a distinction should be made between `human capital advantage` and human process advantage.

The added value that people can contribute to their potential is emphasised by human capital theory. It regards people as assets and stressed that investment in people through education and training will generate worthwhile returns. The theory therefore underpins the philosophy of human resource management which, as developed in the 1980`s stated that employees should be treated as assets rather than costs.

Generally, people`s effectiveness depends upon making good use of their knowledge, which needs to be developed, captured and exchanged (knowledge management) in order to bring about the best potentials in them. From a financial reward point of view, the implication of human capital theory is that the investment people make on themselves, or people/ organizations such as the IDIPR make on rural women will go a long way to improve their potentials. Human capital theory encourages the use of skill or competence-based pay as a method of reward. It also underpins the concept of individual market worth. This indicates that individuals have their own value in the marketplace which they acquire and increased through investments in themselves either in vocational training or formal educational development and experience. The market worth of individuals may be considerably higher than the market rate of their jobs or means of livelihoods.

The above theory explains the importance of human capital development, (a major area of focus and core activity of the IDIPR) as it provides a framework for self - development, training programs which can foster the acquisition of skills and improved potentials that are likely to improve opportunity for improved livelihoods that can eradicate poverty and bring about new enduring and sustainable wealth creations which will serve as a means of eradicating hunger as well as other related problems while at the same time fostering opportunity for the growth of agro –allied industries that can lead to rapid industrialization.

Statement of problem

The pace of the growth of agro-allied industries in most part of Nigeria and some other part of Africa remain painstakingly low. This is probably why industrial presence and technological breakthroughs are quite scarce in most rural settings of the African societies including Nigeria, where there has been clear indication of deindustrialization as a result varied problem linked to lack of adequate power supply, lack of infrastructure, lack of raw materials etc. However, without rapid industrialization and improved industrial growth, jobs can- not be created, while unemployment and livelihood problems continue to stare at majority of the populace. Livelihood problems increase the rate of poverty particularly among rural women. The challenge of poverty therefore continues to dominate most part of Nigeria, especially the rural areas. No fewer than 112 million Nigerians now live below poverty level as global poor hits one billion mark. (NBS, 2016) The National Bureau of statistics said that as 2010, 100 million representing 60.9% of Nigerians were living on less than a dollar a day and this has risen to 112 million by October of 2016 reflecting an increasing rate of poverty among Nigerians. Unfortunately, the problem of poverty and still continue to increase till date.

Although the challenge of poverty is not peculiar to Nigeria alone, poverty in Nigeria has reached an alarming level mostly as a result of non-clear government social policies. Across the world, government plays a key role in poverty alleviation. In the case of Nigeria, the inability of successive governments to streamline and harness the enormous potentials for improved service delivery in all the existing structures, was one of the reasons that led to the establishment of the Ijebu Development Initiative on poverty reduction in 1999. Given the enormity of poverty situation in Nigeria, it is obvious that Government alone cannot cope. IDIPR was therefore conceived to proffer solution to the problems of poverty by utilizing the resource endowments of Nigeria to foster wealth creation. This is because another reason for poverty is lack of means to create wealth, not by the super abundance of such means and the absence of demand. In Nigeria, a much larger proportion of workers comprise self-employed subsistence farmers who are mostly women in many parts of the rural communities who can hardly make ends meet. Similarly, the NGP had earlier (National Gender Policy) stressed and highlighted that although women are responsible for carrying out 70% of agricultural labor, 50% of animal husbandry related activities and 60% of food processing activities, their contributions are not valued or recognized, nor are they reflected in the National Accounting Systems or given prime considerations in agricultural processes. Consequently, the issues and concerns of women employed in the agricultural sector have been largely overlooked in programs dedicated to improving agricultural productivity. Women have access to less than 20% of available agricultural resources- a serious impediment to their maximizing agricultural production.

Study objectives

The general objective of the study was to examine the main influence of the IDIPR job creation and poverty alleviation schemes on the growth of agro-allied industries in Ijebu ode, South /West Nigeria. Specifically, the study:

1. Investigated how the IDIPR has impacted on the livelihood opportunities of the rural women in Ijebu land through its programs
2. Determined the main challenges impinging on the growth of agro-allied industries in Ijebu land
3. Find out the different approaches that IDIPR has adopted to tackle the above challenges
4. Determined the current policy framework and direction of government aimed at enhancing the comparative advantage of the natural resources endowment of Nigeria to spur rapid industrialization and job creation.

Research questions

The research questions that guided this study:

1. How has IDIPR impacted on the livelihood opportunities of rural women in Ijebu land?
2. What are the main the challenges impinging on agro-industrial growth in Ijebu land?
3. What are the approaches that IDIPR has adopted to combat the challenges impinging on agro-allied industrial growth in Ijebu land?

4. What are the current policy framework and direction of government aimed at enhancing the comparative advantage of the natural resources endowment of Nigeria to spur job creation and rapid industrialization.

Literature

The review of literature will center round how IDIPR is impacting on the livelihood opportunities of the rural communities of Ijebu land, challenges to the development of agro-industrial sector in the rural communities of Ijebu land and other parts of Nigeria, innovative and creative approach to combating the challenges by the IDIPR which can lead to sustained development in the Agro-industrial sector of the Ijebu communities; current policy framework and direction of government aimed at enhancing the natural resources endowments of Nigeria that will spur innovative capabilities for sustainable and inclusive industrialization for the country.

In the IDIPR chairman's opening remark at the 17th annual general meeting of the association (Mabogunje, 2017) disclosed that in spite of a very scourge economic recession in Nigeria between 2016/2017, the IDIPR initiative was able to expend a lot of money on developmental projects in order to reduce the extremely harsh consequences of the recession on the downtrodden/ the rural poor who are the main targets of the IDIPR initiative. Mabogunje (2017) disclosed further that the developmental projects are good platform through which the initiative hopes to make some gains in the nearest future through the development of entrepreneurial skills for mostly women and youth, direct and indirect job opportunities and human capital development through training workshops and capacity building in such area as IDIPR cooperative System, Credit Delivery Programs, Record Keeping, Marketing and sales strategies etc. targeted at improving livelihood opportunities for beneficiaries. Sithole et al (2017) identified challenges that continue to hinder the productivity of smallholder farmers in particular and African industrial growth in general as lack of access to critical agro-inputs to many smallholder farmers, lack of credit facilities etc. In addition to the above, with regard to Nigeria, unguided government policies, epileptic power supply, lack of infrastructure, high level of corruption and a lack of visionary leadership has continued to negatively affect the rate of industrialization. In the same vein, Alausa, (2017) disclosed that some challenges hindering the IDIPR Agricultural Initiative includes in adequate access to loans and lack of modern agricultural tools. In the same vein, Ahiuma-Young, (2016) had earlier stated that no fewer than 112 million Nigerians live below poverty level as global poor hits one billion mark. Ahiuma-Young, (2016) disclosed further that according to the latest report by the National Bureau of Statistics, NBS, about 112 million Nigerians (representing 67.1 percent) of the country's total population 167 million live below poverty level which is a major challenge that should be confronted by work and improved livelihood opportunities, reiterating Guy Ryder view that work should be the best route out of poverty. Ryder, (2016) however, noted with distaste that 327 million working men and women still live in extreme poverty while 967 million live in moderate and near poverty. Ryder, (2016) concluded that access to decent work and livelihood opportunities for all is the most effective way to increase participation, lift people out of poverty, reduce inequality and drive economic growth. Hence why

Alademerin *et al* (2017) states that innovation which can bring about the creation of modern agricultural tools will help to drive economic growth and address socio-economic challenges such as education, poverty, hunger, health and other areas of human endeavors. Alademerin *et al* explained further that a lot still needs to be done to make school leavers become job creators through innovation/ creativity rather than just been job seekers as they grow into adulthood. Building on the above, a recent remark by the Minister of Agriculture in Nigeria, Lokpobiri, (2017) stressed government commitment to boost local production of fish by stopping the issuance of Fish importation quota to importers. Lokpobiri (2017) disclosed further that the practice is becoming burdensome and therefore no longer feasible. He emphasized that apart from the inherent loss of foreign exchange, stopping the trade would help boost local production of fish and other aspects of agriculture. He noted further that the current deficit in fish in Nigeria is over two million tons and therefore urge citizens to invest to boost fish production and create more jobs in the sector. Lokpobiri (2017) therefore charge members of the academia, industrialist etc. to create and design innovative equipment and machines that will help improve and promote agro-allied industries in Nigeria. In the same vein Olateju, (2018) disclosed that despite Nigeria's oil wealth the nation has nothing to show for it in terms of infrastructure whereas international trade can -not be done without infrastructure and there can- not be infrastructure without innovation, creativity, industrialization and investment. This is because innovation and infrastructural growth will go a long to fostering industrial growth that will spur job creation and improved livelihood opportunities not only for women but for the generality of Nigerians. Olateju (2018) highlighted further that infrastructure and investment are the essence of development. He therefore charged Nigerians academics to create and innovate infrastructure to meet global standard in order to boost our trade and commerce as a nation. Similarly, in his new year broadcast to Ogun state, Amosun, (2018) reiterated the commitment of his government to make a positive inclusive and sustainable impacts on the lives of the people of the state through increased investment in technical and vocational training, empowerment of disadvantaged women and the intensification of trade and commerce through the establishment of new industries in order to meet the achievement of sustainable goal 9. The governor disclosed further that the establishment of new industries will continue to create direct and indirect jobs that will improve livelihood opportunities for the people.

Historical review and achievements of IDIPR

The Ijebu Development Initiative on Poverty Reduction is a Non- governmental Association that was established in 1999 to drive community development with the aim of reducing poverty and improving the livelihood of people particularly grassroots women using agriculture and micro credit schemes. IDIPR targeted vulnerable groups in the rural and semi-urban group within Ijebu ode communities particularly women through training on various skill acquisition vocation as well as providing them with start- up capital through micro credit schemes to take off their business. This is because the initiators of the program were overwhelmed by the problem of Poverty in Nigeria which has assumed a frightening dimension even at that time. While the problem is a global phenomenon, its prevalence and

pervasiveness in resource rich Nigeria is contradictory to the concept of development. In view of the fact that the country is abundantly rich in human as well as natural resources yet the people are poor.

Finding an urgent solution to the problem of poverty as a result of the failure of previous programs by successive government policies to tackle the problem of poverty and hunger was the force that led to the creation of the IDIPR. Given the enormity of the poverty situation in Nigeria especially, it is obvious that government alone cannot cope. While agonizing on what could be done, the Development Policy Centre (DPC) Ibadan came up with a strategy of City Consultation for mobilizing entire communities for programs of poverty reduction and Ijebu-Ode was chosen as a pilot case

Methodology

The study employed survey design in order to capture the broad and specific objectives of the study. A combination of the quantitative and qualitative techniques was utilized for the study. The above was supplemented by journals, reviews and archival records from IDIPR.

Ijebu-Ode is the second largest city in Ogun state after the capital, Abeokuta. Since pre- colonial times, the ancient town has been the capital of the Ijebu kingdom as well as the commercial center of Ijebu land and also the capital of Ijebu Ode local government. The Ijebu Ode local government has an area of 192 Km and a population 174, 032 at the last Census. The city is located at 110 km by road north-east of Lagos. It is within 100km of the Atlantic Ocean in the eastern part of Ogun state and possesses a warm tropical climate. In terms of employment and occupational status, over 55 percent of the female population and 75 percent of the male population are either self-employed or gainfully employed (Oyesiku, 2007). The ancient city is the administrative headquarters of the IDIPR.

A total of Ten Management staff, Ten Junior staff and Five Board Members represented samples from members of the IDIPR while 75 members/ beneficiaries were also sampled. Hence, total sample size was 100 in addition to participants for the FGD, IDI and KIIs. All the above were sampled to evaluate their views and perception on the effect of the main influence of the IDIPR empowerment programs on opportunities for improved livelihood potentials for rural women and the eradication of poverty.

Simple Random, stratified and purposive sampling techniques were utilized to select samples for the study cutting across members of the management, junior, board members as well as beneficiaries and members of the IDIPR. In addition to the above, selected members of the local and state government staff/ functionaries were purposively chosen for the study. The respondents were stratified on the basis of male and females, management and junior staff, board members and non- board members, local government and state government staff, Fish Smoker members and non-fish smoker members as well as older members and younger members of the initiative.

Both primary and secondary data were collected for the study. The secondary sources include non-confidential materials and records sourced from IDIPR minutes of meetings, periodicals and other materials that were found useful. Primary were collected

through in - depth Interviews (IDI), Key Informant Interviews (KII), Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and the administration of questionnaires (Q).

1. **Key Informant Interview (KII):** Four key informants were purposely selected comprising of One Management Staff of IDIPR, One Board Member, One Government Functionary and One beneficiary of the Initiative. The key informants were those with experience on the activities and contribution of IDIPR. They were able to give account of development of the IDIPR, its impact on the growth of Agro allied industries and poverty reduction as well as the challenges IDIPR has been contending with.
2. **In – depth Interview (IDI):** In each location, one male parent and one husband whose wife or son/daughter are members of the IDIPR, two community leaders, and two adult female, two adult male members (with at least 10 years membership) who must have successfully owned and developed their fish ponds from the Initiative would be subjected to in - depth interview. A total of ten IDIs will be conducted.
3. **Focus Group Discussion (FGD):** Focus Group Discussions were also conducted with specially selected groups of women beneficiaries/ owners within the IDIPR Eriwe Farm Village Specifically, female FGDs were conducted with respondents who have received loans, benefitted in one way or the other from the Initiative to determine how they have been integrated into the IDIPR and how the Initiative has impacted on their livelihood potentials and how these translated to poverty reduction and opportunities for the growth of Agro allied industries. A total of six FGDs were conducted.

Data presentation and discussion of findings

The study was conducted among male and female management, junior, board members; customers as well as the beneficiaries of the IDIPR Initiative. In order to examine main influence of the IDIPR Initiative on poverty eradication, job creation among rural women as well as its impact on the growth of Agro-allied industries in South/West, Nigeria and the implication of the above on opportunities for the achievement of Rapid industrialization for Nigeria and by extension the whole of Africa.

Results and Discussion of Findings

A survey was conducted among 120 males and female management, junior, board members as well as the beneficiaries of the IDIPR Initiative in which 30 respondents were drawn from management and junior staff of IDIPR, 5 respondents from the board Members of IDIPR, 45 female beneficiaries in the Eriwe Fish Village, 20male beneficiaries and 20 customers of the beneficiaries. In addition to the above, 10 participants were purposively selected for in-depth interview while 6 focus group session were held among beneficiaries who are majorly females. The first section of the presentation is the demographic characteristics of the respondents that were studied, while the other sections focused on

providing answers to the main objectives of the study. In all, 45 males representing 33.3% and 75 females representing 66.7% of the respondents took part in the study. While the Age distribution cut across age range of 20-29 to 50 and above. As presented below.

Table 1: Age Distribution of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
20-29 years	21	16.7
30-39 years	21	16.7
40-49 years	57	49.9
50 and above	21	16.7
Total	120	100.0

Table 2: Respondents Relationship with IDIPR

	Frequency	Percentage
Staff	30	25.0
Board Member	5	4.17
Beneficiary	65	54.17
Customers	20	16.7
Total	120	100.0

With regard to questions on the core objectives of the study, Table 3 below presented respondents view on how the IDIPR Initiative has impacted on the livelihood potentials of rural women in Ijebu land. 25% of the respondents disclosed that the initiative has positively impacted on the livelihood of rural women through the provision of micro-finance to market men/ women, another 25% also attested to the fact that the initiative has positively impacted on the livelihood potential of rural women through the provision of enterprise development programs in agriculture, 20% revealed that it is through training seminar while the remaining 30% disclosed that the Initiative has positively impacted on the livelihood potentials of rural women through Job creation opportunities for rural women. It was also disclosed from Table 4 below that the various programs of the Initiative that were designed to improve the livelihood potentials of rural women ranged from skill acquisition on Record Keeping 20%, Vocational Skill Acquisition 25%, Provision of Medical Health Facilities 5%, Land Allocation for Agriculture 33.3% and Enterprise Development Project/training 16.7%. Similarly, views from Table 5, on how the Initiative has help to solve livelihood problems of women ranged from improved women livelihood potentials 23.3%, through the provision of loans 23.3%, opportunities for training on skill acquisition 19.1, provision of land for farming 23.3% and through all the above Programs, 11%. Respondents also revealed from Table 3, that cluster farming is another program that has helped women improve their livelihood potential which the Initiative has provided for women.

Table 3: How has IDIPR impacted on the livelihood opportunities of rural women in Ijebu-Ode land?

	Frequency	Percentage
Through micro-finance scheme to market men/women	30	25.0
Through Enterprises Development Program (Agriculture)	30	25.0
Training seminar	24	20.0
Job creation for rural women	36	30.0
Total	120	100.0

Table 4: What are the various programs that IDIPR has designed to improve the livelihood potentials of women in Ijebu-Ode

	Frequency	Percentage
Skill Acquisition on Record keeping	24	20.0
Vocational Skill Acquisition	30	25.0
Provision of medical health	6	5.0
Land allocation for agriculture	40	33.3
Enterprises Development Project	20	16.7
Total	120	100.0

Table 5: How has the above IDIPR programs help to solve the livelihood problems of women through the above listed programs?

	Frequency	Percentage
Improved women livelihood	28	23.3
Provision of loans	28	23.3
Provide opportunities for training on the skill acquisition	23	19.1
Provision of land for farming	28	23.3
All of the above	23	11.0
Total	120	100.0

Table 6: Apart from the above highlighted programs is there other program that IDIPR have also initiated that has helped women to improve their livelihood opportunity? If yes, please highlight

	Frequency	Percentage
Loan facilities	60	50.0
Cluster farming	60	50.0
Total	120	100.0

Table 7: Apart from the above highlighted programs, is there other program that IDIPR have also initiated that has helped women to improve their livelihood opportunity? If yes, please highlight

	Frequency	Percentage
Loan facilities	60	50.0
Cluster farming	60	50.0
Total	120	100.0

Table 8 Has the IDIPR program help the entrepreneurial profile of the rural women and other women within Ijebu-Ode land and other state in the South West Nigeria?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	120	100.0
Total	120	100.0

Yes, the initiative has tremendously help to boost the entrepreneurial profile of rural as well as other women in Ijebu land. More and more women are feeling more secured as a result of improve access to loan, training program availability of farm land to utilize for farming etc. (MANAGEMENT STAFF/ IDIPR/MALE/IDI/2018)

With regard to respondents’ views and perception on how the IDIPR Initiative has improve the growth of Agro allied industries in Ijebu land and environs, Table VII, below shows that the Initiative has improved the growth of Agro-allied industries through the provision of land for farming 48%, through the provision of loan to farmers 20%, through agricultural training for value chain participation 30% and through the marketing of farm produce 10%. Whereas accessing land for farming and problems of funding of loans have been observed to be major challenges of the Initiative as well as government attitudes and policies on land etc.

Table 11: How has the IDIPR programs boosted agro-allied growth in Ijebu-Ode-Land?

	Frequency	Percentage
Provision of land for farming	48	40.0
Provision of loan to farmers	24	20.0
Agricultural training for value chain participation	36	30.0
Marketing of farm produce	12	10.0
Total	120	100.0

Table 12: What are the main challenges that IDIPR has contented with in its effort to boost industrial and agro-allied growth in the area?

	Frequency	Percentage
Provision of land for farming	48	40.0
Provision of loan to framers	24	20.0
Agricultural training for value chain participation	36	30.0
Marketing of farm produce	12	10.0
Total	120	100.0

Opinions on policy frame work that are likely to enhance opportunities of annexing the natural resources endowments of Ijebu land and by extension the whole of Nigeria ranged from withdrawing levies on farm produce 12.5%, Increase funding of farming/industrial activities 25%, Granting of Loans by government 25% and provision of electricity 12,5%

Table 13: What are the policy frameworks of government that are likely to enhance the opportunities of annexing the natural resources endowments of Ijebu-land and Nigeria?

	Frequency	Percentage
Withdrawing levies on farm produce	15	12.5
Increase funding	30	25.0
Farm input price reduction	30	25.0
Grants loans	30	25.0
Provision of electricity	15	12.5
Total	120	100.0

In a similar vein a female beneficiary had this to say to buttress the view above. She explained that “there is the need for government to provide Grants for farmers, provide regular electricity supply, reduce farm input price, free access to land for farming and provide enabling policy to aid exportation of farm produce etc.

Government has also been charged to do and reverse policies that are anti - development in order to spur job creation. In the same vein, government has been advised to reduce input price, increase funding of agricultural and industrial activities, monitor and provide market-enabling policies and create more jobs in order to spur rapid industrialization for Nigeria.

Table 15: How has the above government policy and action spur job creation and rapid industrial growth for Nigeria?

	Frequency	Percentage
Discouragement due to lack of security	20	16.7
Government need to do more	30	25.0
Increase in farm produce	30	25.0
Some of the policies are anti-development	40	33.3
Total	120	100.0

Table 16: How has government supported the IDIPR in its drive to improve the growth of agro-allied industries in Ijebu-land in order to eradicate poverty participation among rural women?

	Frequency	Percentage
Provision of land on household	60	50.0
Agricultural loan	60	50.0
Total	120	100.0

Table 17: In your own view, what should government do to spur rapid industrialization for Nigeria?

	Frequency	Percentage
Reduce input price	22	18.3
Increase funding	30	25.0
Monitor and provide market enabling policies	30	25.0
Job creation	15	12.5
Improve amenities	23	19.2
Total	120	100.0

Conclusion

The establishment of the IDIPR was a welcoming development that was meant to address the problem of poverty, lack of livelihood opportunities for rural women, problems of raw materials for Agro-allied industries and the problem of deindustrialization as a result of closure of many factories within around South/ West Nigeria in particular and the whole of Nigeria in general.

The Initiative has been seen to positively improve women livelihood potentials and has also improved opportunities for wealth creation for rural women and men. The initiative has been seen to reduce gender gaps in wealth creation and land acquisition for women. The initiative has given both men and women opportunities for loans to start as well as improve the growth of their businesses, provided opportunities for training on skill acquisition and varieties of farming practices such fishery, Plantain production/ processing cocoa production etc. of far reaching importance is the provision of land for farming which was hitherto almost impossible for women in the past with little or no asses to their own land for farming or cultivation. The Initiative has also been seen to improve the

entrepreneurial profile of the rural women and other women within Ijebu-Ode land and other states in South West Nigeria. Unfortunately, in spite of all the positive benefits of the initiative percentage of people that are poor particularly still remain large unless other states in the South/West also adopt similar initiative which will go a long way towards reduce poverty, create wealth and improve agro-allied and industrial growth. Awareness on the existence of the program//initiative still need to be improved particularly for some rural areas within Ijebu land who are not privy to the existence of the program and are therefore not benefitting from the initiative. Similarly, the initiative has been seen to be contending with varieties of challenges such as funding/ finance and problem for land acquisition for the beneficiaries / farmers as well as some anti- development policies of government

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following actions are recommended. Awareness on the existence of the IDIPR should be increased especially in some rural areas of Ijebu land that have not yet benefitted from the program while other states in South/West, Nigeria are advised to design such lofty initiative borrowing from positive experience of IDIPR in order to create an avenue that will go a long way to addressing problem of poverty, job creation and deindustrialization within their states.

It is also recommended that governments reverse policies that are anti - development in order to spur job creation. In the same vein, government should reduce input price, increase funding of agricultural and industrial activities, monitor and provide market enabling policies and create more jobs in order to spur rapid industrialization for Nigeria. More importantly, government should ensure regular electricity supply in order to promote industrial growth, most local indigenous industries are folding up because they can- not compete with the prices of similar products that are imported into the country as a result of cost of production that is way too high due to high cost of power through the use of generators or other source of power supply. Regular power supply at affordable price is also key to industrial growth.

Government policies must be amended to favor rapid industrialization because it is hard and inconceivable that Nigeria could ever hope to develop without Industrialization as earlier pointed in the literature. Government should do these through the articulation of policies aimed at stemming down the persistent tide of de-industrialization. Further- more, government need to take a closer look at the World Trade Organization's tariff with a view to devising strategies that will enhance Nigerian national interest and development needs. This is because it is doubtful, if development can take place on a sustainable basis in Nigeria without some measure of state protection, which will serve as a means of protecting indigenous growth and industrialization.

It is also recommended that the federal government embark on an urgent land reform. This is because the current land Use Act in the country is further impoverishing the people. Ownership of land should not be put in the hand of government. Finally, it is also recommended that management of IDIPR address the challenge of the problem of funding, problem of land acquisition and other similar problems that can negatively affect the rapid progress of the initiative.

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