

Evaluation of Fadama III World Bank Assisted Poverty Alleviation Programme Effectiveness in Terms Of Rural Infrastructural Development and Creation of Employment in Cross River State, Nigeria

By

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Abstract

The study was aimed at evaluation Fadama III programme effectiveness in terms of rural infrastructural development and creation of employment in Cross River State. To achieve this objectives two research questions were raised to guide the study. Literature were reviewed empirically and theoretically according to the sub variables of the study. The study adopted a descriptive survey design with a stratified and purposive sampling technique to select a total of 552 respondents which constitute 10% of the population. A questionnaire tagged 'Evaluation of the impact of Fadama III Project Questionnaire (EFPQ)' was used for data collection. The questionnaire was validated by experts in measurement and Evaluation and the reliability was established using Cronbach alpha and the coefficient of the sub scales ranged from .79-.88 which is an indication that the instrument measures consistently what it was purported to measure. Data collection was done by the researchers with three research assistant trained for the study. Data collected were analysed using simple percentages and bar graphs and the result showed that Fadama III in Cross River State have not been effective in developing rural infrastructures and creation of employment. Based on the findings and conclusion, it was recommended that the project managers should utilize fund meant for every purpose to provide basic infrastructures in rural areas and also help beneficiary to create employment opportunities for others using what they have benefited from the programme.

Key word: *Fadama III, Rural infrastructure, creation of employment*

Introduction

Fadama is an Hausa name for flood plains and shallow aquifers found along Nigerian major river systems. The National Fadama Development Project (NFDP) is a Community Driven Development (CDD) project of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Danjuma, Oruonye, Ahmed, 2016). It is jointly funded by the Federal Government of Nigeria and the World Bank with counterpart funding by states and local governments. The project is agricultural based that aim at increasing the income of fadama lands and water resource users to reduce rural poverty, increase food security and empower rural communities through Fadama Community Associations (FCAs) and Fadama User Groups (FUGs). The first phase of the project is popularly known as the National Fadama Development Project I (NFDP I). It was executed between the years 1993 and 1999, and focused mainly on the promotion of simple low-cost irrigation technologies in the bid to increase food production but largely neglected the down-stream activities such as; processing, preservation, conservation, and rural infrastructure meant to ensure efficient evacuation of farm produce to the markets.

Also, the project did not take into consideration the farmers involved in other areas of agriculture like; livestock and fisheries. This resulted in not only perpetual conflict between users, but restricted benefits to only those who were involved in crops production (NFDP, 2007). At the completion of the project phase in 2001, the Nigerian Government adopted new rural development strategies, which was in line with African Development Bank's strategic

plan that had as its focus a number of approaches to development. The new plan saw the need for reliable, sustainable and more equality in the access to benefits of the land resources in fadama areas of the country. Consequently, the Bank deemed it necessary to agree to Nigerian Government's request for funding phase II of the project not only as a follow-up of the phase I, but also to expand its scope (NFDP Appraisal Report, 2003). This was what necessitated the launch of Fadama phase II which was more community driven because it incorporated the Fadama users such as the crop farmers, hunters, pastoralists, women, youths, vulnerable groups and so on) operating through their respective Fadama community associations, oversees the design and implementation of the project and are empowered through skills and capacity buildings to improve their livelihoods by increasing income generation activities. However, this programme did not achieve the envisaged objective. It was on this note that National Fadama Development Project III (NFDP III which was a five years action program that begun from 2008 was sought to increase income of 70% of her participants by at least 40% before completion in the year 2013.

It has been observed that the purpose of Fadama III project is almost defeated. This is due to the fact that the objectives of the programme appear not have been met in Cross River State, compared to what is witnessed in other parts of the country especially in northern Nigeria. This programme that was designed to alleviate poverty, improve the living standard of the people, facilitate the creation of jobs appears not to have existed in Cross River State as people who probably may have participated in one activity or the other are not living differently from others who did not participate. This state of affairs has triggered a lot of concern on what would have been the causes of the increase in indices of poverty. A lot of factors have been identified which include high illiteracy rate, dependence on government jobs, laziness among most community members, lack of entrepreneurial skills acquisition among others. However, the Federal Government of Nigeria in collaboration with World Bank. Initiated the Fadama III programme in order to contribute primarily to alleviation of poverty in the area. In the northern part of the country, it is observed that beneficiaries of this programme are contributing meaningfully to the agricultural development of the country through the production of tomatoes, groundnut, beans and rice in tones but this seems to be different in Cross River State even as a sister beneficiary of the programmes of Fadama III. A lot of people are still clustering in the poverty line even when funds have been adequately provided by the federal government to facilitate this programme. People are only deceived and are nestled for the programme and the data used as a bait to the federal government for more funds that probably are not well utilized. The researchers thus sought to evaluate Fadama III programme effectiveness in terms of creation of employment and provision of rural infrastructures in Cross River State.

Over the years, there have been growing worries on the level of implementation of FADAMA III projects in Cross River State. This is because, given the lofty objectives which this programme seeks to achieve, many beneficiaries are supposed to be maximally benefiting from the programme. However, it appears that the situation is different in Cross River State which is a beneficiary of the same programme. For example, most of the beneficiaries are still found complaining of the inability of the managers of the programme to provide most of the facilities that are needed. The abject poverty by most members of this programme is still found to be high. A lot of trainees who would have established entrepreneur centres are still found on the street looking for gainful activities even after been enlisted as a beneficiary of the Fadama III programme. Many researchers such as Olier (2016) have asked a lot of questions as the rationale for the non-reflection of the benefit of this Fadama III programme on the people as found in the northern region of the country. This state of affairs leaves most people in doubt

as to the attainment of the laudable objectives of Fadama III project in Cross River State. It is on this basis that the researchers sought to evaluate the impact of Fadama III project in Cross River State in terms of rural infrastructure and creation of employment.

Research questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study

- i. To what extent does the provision of rural infrastructure impact on sales of agricultural produce in Cross River State?
- ii. To what extent has Fadama III created employment opportunity?

Review of literature

Rural infrastructures particularly roads are end product for any rural development program to succeed. The distribution, operation and maintenance are other fundamental prerequisites for successful rural development. Consequently, rural infrastructures constitute the necessary components or ingredients for motivating rural residents to be more productive and achieve relative self-reliance (Estache, 2006). They also aid and enhance the realization of improved rural life. It is quite noticeable that the distribution of rural infrastructures, over time, has not been equitable and spectacular. The gross disparities and total lack of infrastructures in rural Nigeria are not therefore uncommon features.

Many rural development policies and strategies have failed to achieve their stated objective largely due to the non-recognition and non-provision as well as non-maintenance of the necessary or appropriate infrastructural facilities that need to be put in place overtime and space. Without appropriate provisions, operation and maintenance of basic infrastructures therefore, no rural development policy or strategy can stand the test of time. Rural infrastructures are therefore the fundamental ingredients capable of preventing or at least reducing the phenomenal rural-urban drift, which is always accompanied by swelling socio-economic and political problems.

The importance of transportation for any society, for instance, need not be overemphasized as it is very crucial to the functioning of the economic, political and socio-cultural life of people, particularly in a society where agriculture is the main source of livelihood like in Cross River State. Transportation is pertinent for promotion of enhanced agricultural productivity, procurement and distribution of commodities for trade, and for enhancing labour and capital mobility (Galtima, 2005).

Umar and John (2015) carried out a study on Evaluation of Fadama III Road Infrastructure among Rural Communities in Adamawa State, Nigeria. The data were obtained from 300 respondents who were randomly selected from Fadama III beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries within Fadama III communities and non-beneficiaries outside Fadama III communities. Based on propensity score matching (PSM) and double-difference estimator (DD), the data were analyzed using frequencies, percentages and balancing test (t-test). The results showed that 30% of the roads were funded by Fadama III Project. Most of the roads were constructed and rehabilitated after the establishment of the project. Fadama III roads were found to be important for the beneficiaries' activities. The analysis established that beneficiaries' travel distance, travel time, waiting time and transport fares were reduced relative to non-beneficiaries. Road development has boosted marketing services for both farm and non-farm economic activities. The spill-over effect also manifests in the adjoining communities.

Moses (2013) carried out a study on the impact of Fadama III programme on poverty reduction and rural development amongst Fadama beneficiaries in Jos North LGA of Plateau State, Nigeria. The methodology adopted includes a descriptive research design of the ex-post-facto in which questionnaires, interviews and Focus Groups Discussion were employed. Primary data were used and analyzed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) and results were presented in tables, frequency, percentages, including the chi-square technique. The study purposively selected a sample size of 250 farmers who benefitted from the programme across the twenty-two towns and villages in the LGA, focusing mainly on the effects/impact of the programme on productivity, output and income of its beneficiaries. It was found that Fadama III programme has impacted positively on output and income of the beneficiaries, and the gains of the project also provided support to the vulnerable groups within the community, implying a significant impact on poverty reduction. It was also found that Fadama III project facilitated the construction of roads and electricity providers in the area.

Echeme and Nwachukwu (2014) carried out a study on an investigation on the impact of FADAMA III project implementation of rural infrastructures in Imo State. One hundred and five respondents assessed the influence of these independent variables in the success level of project implementation in rural development projects. Regression Analysis of collected data revealed that FADAMA III projects and similar projects obtained a correlation coefficient (R) of 45.5% between successful implementation of the development project and the 5 variables of project implementation. These variables explained a percentage of coefficients of determination (R²) of 20.7% of the total variation in project implementation in rural infrastructures in objectives among FADAMA III. The F-test of the hypotheses confirmed that the variables are significantly related to, and have a significant effect on the success level of project implementation of rural infrastructures.

In a study assessing the impact of Fadama III projects in respect of creation of employment, increased income, poverty reduction and agricultural growth in Cross River State, Effiong and Asikong (2012) adopted a descriptive survey research design with a stratified and accidental sampling in selecting a total of 1032 Fadama III beneficiaries in the state. The study utilized a questionnaire titled "Assessment of the Impact of Fadama III Project". Data were collected by the researcher with two research assistants. The data collected were analysed using simple percentages and bar graphs. The result showed that Fadama III projects helped in increasing the income of participants, boosted agricultural production as well as increased levels of employment in most communities in the state.

In a study, Ominikari, Kuforiji and Eshiet (2013), assessed the benefits of National Fadama III agricultural project through her activities, identified problems encountered by the participants and examined the level of employment created by beneficiaries of Fadama III projects. Agricultural projects among participants in Bayelsa State. The purposive sampling technique was used to select 150 farmers that participate and 150 staff from the delivery agency. Data were collected with a structured questionnaire. Both objectives were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency count, percentage, and mean (\bar{X}). The finding showed that Farmers did not benefit commendably from Fadama III Project. Employment was created but very low. No access to Fadama project personnel when the need arises, lack of fund, non-regular training, poor communication channel and delays in being attended to by the delivery agency were the top constraints faced by farmers in National Fadama III Project. The study, therefore, recommended that the National Fadama III Project should be properly funded and its activities should be reorganized to be of great benefit to the farmers,

Ishiaku (2012) carried out a study on the Impact of National Fadama Development Project III in Alleviating Poverty and creating employment among Small-Scale Rice Farmers in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The study relied on primary data to collect information using a structured questionnaire and personal interviews. The analytical tools used include descriptive statistics and Foster Greer Thorbecke poverty index. The result of the analysis revealed that the per capita expenditure for participants N750, 167.64 per annum. While that of non-participants was N605833.57 per annum. The poverty line for the participants and non-participants were N500, 111.36 and N403, 889.05 the poverty headcount was 18.20% and 41.30%, the gap index was 10.20% and 25.90%, poverty severity index was 3.30% and 6.90% respectively. All the poverty indices showed that non-participants were poorer than the participant's household in the study area. The poverty line and core poverty for participants were found to be higher than that of the non-participants, indicating that the participants had a better standard of living when compared with non-participants, meaning the programme had a positive impact on their consumption expenditure through increased in income accrued. Hence, more participants were non-poor than non-participants. The study showed employment generated was not significant given the level of unemployment in the area.

Methodology

The research area is Cross River State – Nigeria. Cross River State is one of the thirty-six (36) states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and it has 18 Local Government Areas. The state has one hundred and ninety-six (196) electoral wards and is situated in the south-south geopolitical region of Nigeria. The state lies between latitudes 5⁰32' and 4⁰27' North of the Equator and longitudes 7⁰50' and 9⁰28' East of the Greenwich meridian. It is bounded in the North by Benue State, in the south by Bight of Bonny and the Atlantic Ocean, in the East by Cameroon and in the West by Abia, Akwa Ibom, and Ebonyi States. The main occupation in the area is farming especially for those in the North and Central senatorial district with a handful in the civil service. The state is one of the beneficiaries of Fadama III projects as most persons have been engaged in it. The research design adopted for this study is a descriptive survey design. The study adopted a stratified and purposive sampling technique to select a total of 552 respondents which constitute 10% of the population. A validated questionnaire tagged 'Evaluation of the impact of Fadama III Project Questionnaire (EFPQ)' was used for data collection. Data collected were analysed using simple percentages and bar graphs and the result was presented below:

Results and interpretation

Research question one

To what extent has Fadama III activities helped in the provision of infrastructural facilities in Cross River State? The results of the data analyses from which the findings of the study were drawn and presented according to the research question using item-by-item analysis. Table 1 provides the result of the descriptive statistics of frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation of the respondents on the provision of agricultural services. The responses were on a two-point Likert scale of agree and disagreed and the result showed that for item 1, 161 respondents, representing 31.50 % agreed that Fadama III programmes have provided good roads while 350 respondents representing 68.5% disagreed to that item. On Item 2, 78 respondents agreed that Fadama III has provided portable water while 433 respondents representing 84.73 % disagreed with that item. For item 3, 90 respondents representing 17.61% agreed that Fadama III programmes have provided health centres while 421 respondents representing 82.39% disagreed to the item. For item 4, 53 respondent representing 10.37% agreed that Fadama III programmes have

provided electricity while 458 respondents representing 89.63% disagreed to the statement. Item 5, 109 respondents representing 21.33 % agreed that Fadama III programmes have provided schools while 402 respondents representing 78.67 % disagreed with the statement. The result on item 6, 107 respondents representing 20.54% agreed that Fadama III programmes have provided training centres for farmers while 404 respondents representing 79.46% disagree with the statement. The answer to the set research question 5 can be provided by taking the weighted average mean, $W = 1.32$ and compare to the expected mean of 2.5. It can be concluded that the Fadama III programmes activities have not actually helped the provision of infrastructural facilities in Cross River State. The column chart provides a better understanding as the modal heights of the bars show where the majority of the respondent fall in the evaluation.

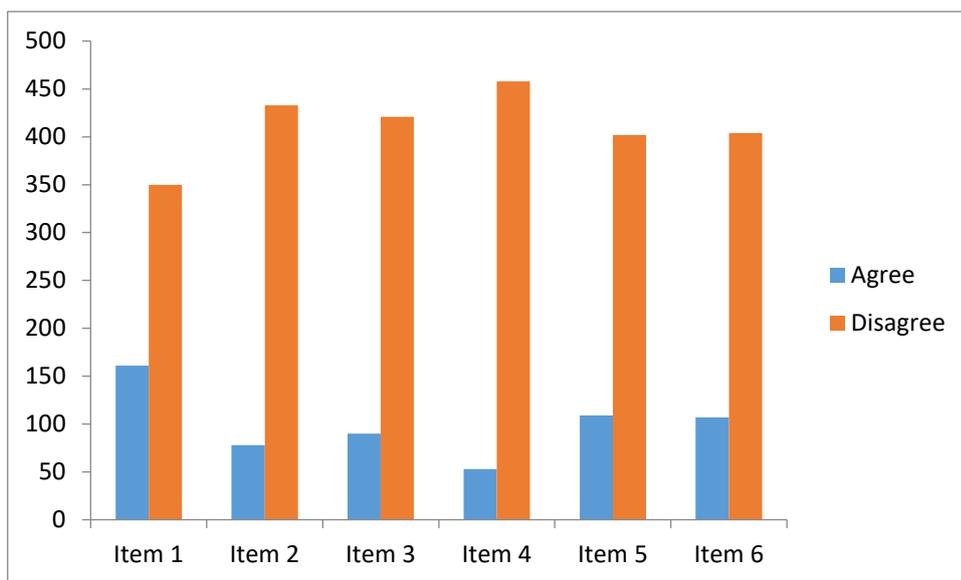
Table 1

Descriptive analysis of responses on Fadama III impact on the provision of infrastructural facilities

S/N	Items	Agree	Disagree	\bar{X}	S.D	Remarks
	Infrastructural provision: Fadama III programme has been able to provide the following	N (%)	N (%)			
1.	Rural roads	161(31.50)	350(68.5)	1.32	0.33	Not provided
2.	Portable water	78(15.26)	433(84.73)	1.02	0.45	Not provided
3.	Health centres	90(17.61)	421(82.39)	1.03	0.76	Not provided
4.	Electricity	53(10.37)	458(89.63)	0.98	0.43	Not provided
5.	Schools	109(21.33)	402(78.67)	1.22	1.01	Not provided
6	Training centres	107(20.54)	404(79.46)	1.16	1.00	Not provided
				1.12	1.02	

Source: Fieldwork, 2019

FIG 1.



Bar graph showing the responses of respondents on the impact of Fadama III on the provision of infrastructural facilities.

Research question two

To what extent has Fadama III activities helped in employment generation among beneficiaries in Cross River State? The results of the data analyses from which the findings of the study were drawn and presented according to the research question using item-by-item analysis. Table 2 provides the result of the descriptive statistics of frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation of the respondents on employment generation by Fadama III. The responses were on a two-point Likert type scale of “agree” and “disagree” and the result showed that for item 1, 33 respondents representing 6.46 % agreed that they can now engage people that they pay monthly in their farms because of Fadama III programmes while 478 respondents representing 93.54% disagreed to that item. On item 2, no respondents agreed that they have a total number of 20 staff employed in their farms because of Fadama III activities while 498 respondents representing 97.46 % disagreed with that item. For item 3, 32 respondent respondents representing 6.26% agreed that they do not look for jobs because of Fadama III projects while 479 respondents representing 93.73% disagreed to the statement.

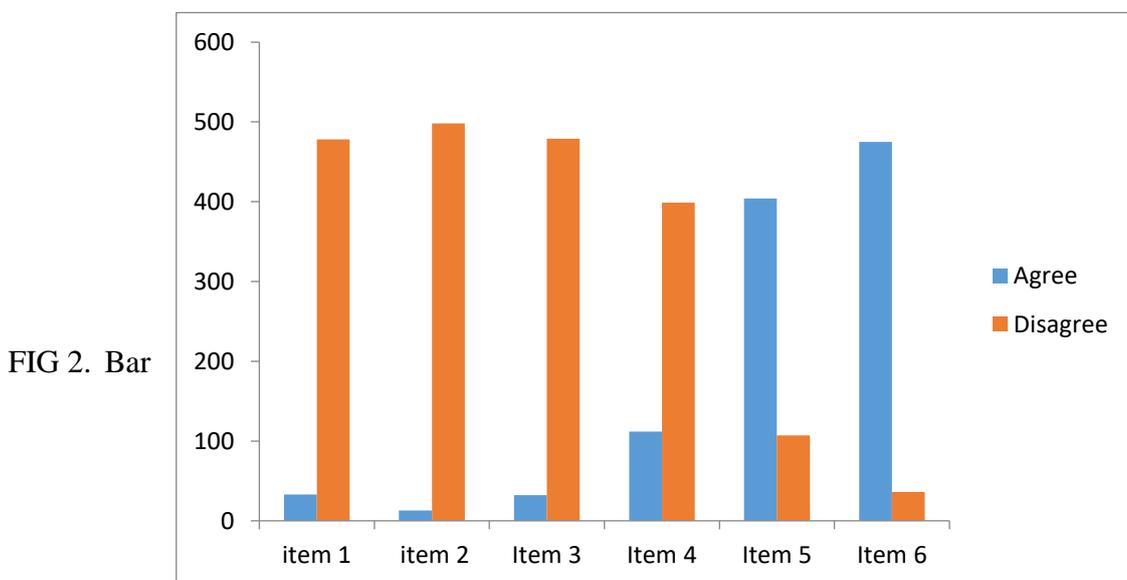
Item 4, 112 respondents representing 24.85% agreed that they now own shops from participating in Fadama III projects while 399 respondents representing 75.14 % disagreed with the statement. The result on item 5 show that, 404 respondents representing 79.62% agreed that they are still looking for a job even as Fadama III beneficiaries while 107 respondents representing 20.94% disagree to the statement. Finally, for item 6, 475 respondents representing 92.95% agreed that they do not have anything from Fadama III that can help them to start a meaningful venture while 36 respondents representing 7.05% strongly disagreed with the item. The summarized answer to research question 2 can be provided by taking the weighted average mean, $W = 1.54$ and compare to the expected mean of 2.5. It can be concluded that the Fadama III programmes activities have not actually helped in employment generation among beneficiaries. The column chart provides a better understanding as the modal heights of the bars show where the majority of the respondent fall in the evaluation.

Table 2

Descriptive analysis of responses on Fadama III impact on employment generation

S/N	Items	Agree N (%)	Disagree N (%)	\bar{X}	S.D	Remarks
1.	I can now engage people that I pay in my firm because of Fadama III project	33 6.46%	478 93.54%	0.89	0.11	Disagreed
2.	The total number of people I pay salaries are more than 10	13 2.54%	498 97.46%	0.97	0.23	Disagreed
3.	I don't look for a job again because of Fadama III project	32 6.26%	479 93.73%	0.64	0.19	Disagreed
4.	I now own a small business from participating in Fadama III project	112 24.85%	399 75.14%	1.34	0.66	Disagreed
5.	I am still looking for government-paid job	404 79.06%	107 20.94%	2.68	1.23	Agreed
6.	I don't have anything from Fadama III that can aid me to start a meaningful venture	475 92.95%	36 7.05%	2.76	1.53	Agreed
		Weighted mean = 1.54				

Source: Fieldwork, 2019



graph showing the responses of the respondent on the impact of Fadama III on employment generation.

Discussion of findings

Research question one that sought to find out the extent to which Fadama III project in Cross River State has helped in the provision of infrastructural facilities. These were found very insufficient. This could be because most of the finances that are used for the provision of those facilities like the garri processing plants have been used for other purposes. In most cases, the people who would have gone far to areas where there are large expanse of land are not accessible. The findings are in line with that of Echeme and Nwachukwu (2014) who investigated the impact of FADAMA III on project implementation of rural infrastructures in Imo State and found that the programme had a significant effect on the success level of project implementation of rural infrastructures.

Research question two that sought to find out the extent to which Fadama III projects in Cross River State has helped in the generation of employment. This was found to be insufficient. This could be because one may have felt that given the laudable objectives of the programmes, beneficiaries should be able to create employment opportunities by employing different labour that can be on salaries, it is, however, unfortunate that such capacity is lacking as some of the beneficiaries are still looking for paid jobs everywhere. This is a clear sign that the programmes have challenges that have not actually helped members of the various user groups to achieve maximally.

Similarly, the findings of the study were in line with that of Okwoche (2018) that carried out another study to assess the impact of Fadama III project on beneficiaries in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The findings showed that Participation in Fadama III project had a significant impact on the farm income (sig. = 0.000) and output (sig. = 0.000) of the respondents. The constraints encountered by the respondents were administrative and economic in nature. It was recommended that more farmers be encouraged to participate in the project, and financial support provided to the beneficiaries.

Conclusion and recommendation

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that the activities of Fadama III in Cross River State have not been effective to ensure that there is provision of rural infrastructural facilities and creation of employment opportunities. Based on the findings and conclusion, it is recommended that the project managers should utilize fund meant for every purpose to provide basic infrastructures in rural areas and also help beneficiary to create employment opportunities for others using what they have benefited from the programme.

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