



IMPACT OF *FADAMA* III PROJECT ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN DARAZO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF BAUCHI STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study was specifically conducted to examine the impact of *Fadama* III project on women empowerment in Darazo Local Government, Bauchi State, Nigeria. A sample of 110 women were randomly selected from four *Fadama* Community Association's (FAC's) constituting of eight *Fadama* User Groups (FUGs) and other economic interest groups; drawn from the two districts of Darazo and Sade in Darazo Local Government. A structured questionnaire administered through interview was used to obtain relevant data. Findings revealed that the livelihood activities in which women farmers were mostly involved were related to (35%) small ruminant animals (sheep and goats) breeding with major animals being sheep, subsequently followed by (35%) groundnut processing machines being their major economic activities in the study area. Finally the research recommends various methods and strategies for empowering women in order to become productive members of the society.

Keywords: Empowerment, Income improvement, Livelihood support, Women farmers.

INTRODUCTION

The greatest constraints of developing countries, such as Nigeria is poverty, although the country may have favourable balance of trade and huge foreign exchange reserve, the per capita income remains very low with majority of people living below poverty line of one US\$ per day. Poverty had persistently increased in Nigeria particularly; among rural dwellers that are predominantly farmers bear of neglect, even though 70% of Nigerian populace are rural dwellers. Hence, they constitute the neglected majority.

Numerous governments' agricultural and rural development programmes and projects have been initiated to boost food production and incomes of rural populace as well as their standard of living but with little outcomes. The rural peasant farmers still live in abject poverty without access to basic infrastructural facilities, poor yield of crops, and when good yields are obtained, spoilage due to lack adequate storage facilities tends to maintain the vicious cycle of poverty.

Many countries within sub-saharan Africa region, including Nigeria have many millions of people living on less than \$370.00 a year (World Bank, 1990), over the years, several governments' programmes and projects aimed at increasing food production as well as alleviating rural poverty and fostering rural development. Some of these programmes and developmental projects are still on-going, while many have gone into extinction. These include; national accelerated food production programme; directorate of food, roads and rural infrastructure, (DFRRI), operation feed the nation (OFR), Green revolution (GR) school to land programme, National accelerated food production programme (NAFPP), Agricultural



development programme (ADP), which was sponsored by World Bank; river basin development authority (RBDA), rural banking scheme, better life for rural women, peoples Bank of Nigeria, community banking scheme, national agricultural land development authority (NALDA) and special programme for food security (SPFS). Poverty and underdevelopment have consistently persisted, apparently, because, it has been difficult for Nigeria to mitigate all structures which have tendered likely to deter rural peasant farmers from absolute achievement of their full potentials. The greatest obstacle to poverty alleviation and rural development to the masses appears to be poor or absence of infrastructure, poor access to productive resources, as well as lack of entrepreneurial and technical skills or knowledge. These programmes or institutions and centres, accordingly (Blench and Ingawa, 2004) were collectively and individually aimed at increasing resource use efficiency, income and productivity of the farmer. One of the most significant ways to curtail the aforementioned problems of agriculture in Nigeria is the *Fadama* Development project intervention.

Fadama project (World Bank Assisted) is a World Bank development programme in collaboration with the Nigerian government. However, the National *Fadama* development project was carried out in phases; *Fadama* I, II and III, respectively. The current *Fadama* III project was designed to improve the production efficiency of *Fadama* users (farmers, pastoralist, hunters, fishermen etc.) and their income generation activity. In addition the *Fadama* I project which was the first phase of the project mainly focused on supplementary water supply for irrigation and other uses. According to FACU (1995), the objectives of the *Fadama* I project were:

- (i) Simplifying drilling technology for shallow tube wells.
- (ii) Construction of *Fadama* infrastructure such as roads, culverts, storage sheds etc.
- (iii) Construction of about 50,000 shallow tube wells in *Fadama* land for small scale irrigation.
- (iv) Organization of *Fadama* farmers for irrigation management, cost recovery and easy management of credit, marketing products etc.
- (v) Extension of aquifer studies.
- (vi) Monitoring and upgrading irrigation technologies; and
- (vii) Completion of environmental assessment of future *Fadama* development activities.

The second phase of the project was known as *Fadama* II which was initiated to curve out some of the pitfalls or shortcomings of *Fadama* I project which indeed hinders the full realization of the potential benefits of agricultural production activities. The constraints includes poor development of rural infrastructures, poor organization of *Fadama* farmers, inadequate storage processing and marketing activities, low investment in irrigation technology, poor or lack of adequate techniques for greater productivity in essence, *Fadama* I and II basically focused on provision of irrigation facilities for crop production, although farmers were among the beneficiaries of *Fadama* resources, such as pastoralist, hunters, gatherers, women, youth and other vulnerable groups (widow, aged, physically impaired and ill health people). The project however, commence disbursement of funds effective on 27th May, 2004 is funded by World Bank and African development Bank and it worth US \$100 million and US \$30 million respectively. Although, the funding was shared among the 3 tiers of government and the donors (World Bank) as thus World Bank contributed 55.6%, federal government of Nigeria 5.1% state governments 17.1% and local governments 8.9%. Out of the 18 states that participated in *Fadama* II project, 12 of them were assisted by the World Bank, the States includes Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, FCT, Kebbi, Kaduna, Lagos, Niger, Ogun, Oyo



and Taraba (NFDO, 2007). The project was designed to operate for six years (2004-2010) with a goal of assisting in poverty reduction in Nigeria. Although, actual implementation did not commence until September, 2005; moreover, the project targeted 50% of male and female *Fadama* resource users who will benefit from the project supported activities.

The *Fadama* III is also a follow-up of *Fadama* II or rather a continuation of *Fadama* II project. *Fadama* III is more like an agricultural diversification programme, which is paradigm shift under the *Fadama* project. Its targeted beneficiaries are the private economic units as well as small holders, who earn their living directly or indirectly from exploration of natural resources in a given area. It also empowers *Fadama* communities with resources and the desired technical training and support to properly manage and control their resources for their own benefit and indeed community development holistically. *Fadama* III adopted the concept of community development approach/community demand-driven approach (CDA) which is bottom-top approach thus, signifying the communities are at the driver's seat. The participating community associations are empowered to develop participatory and socially inclusive local development plans (LPDs) that involve the women and constituting 30% of the constituents of the LDP in a particular *Fadama* community association.

Moreover, women empowerment particularly in *Fadama* III project is one of their major concerns, because, emphasis was given on the social inclusion of women in all the local development plans (LPDs). The various economic interest groups (EIGs) which includes crop farmers, fisher folks, pastoralist, hunters gatherers, women, youth and other vulnerable groups (widow, elderly (aged), physically challenged and ill health people), other non-farm businesses (Tailoring, Hides and skin tanning etc.) are participating actively in the development of LPDs as well as their implementations to ensure sustainable improvement in the various groups income (Ingawa *et al.*, 2004).

In addition, empowerment according to Collins Dictionary is granting of political, social or economic power to an individual or group. In other words is the process of supporting another person or persons to discover and claim personal power. Similarly in *Fadama* III project so many components were initiated to ensure that project beneficiaries benefit from them; these component are: asset acquisition, Small scale community infrastructure, input support, capacity building, advisory services, and environmental mitigation which is under sustainable land management and *Fadama* users equity funds (FUEF) all these components assisted in ensuring that *Fadama* resources users including women are empowered politically, socially and economically to achieve its goal (NFDP, 2007).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Study Area

Darazo Local Government Area (LGA) was created in 1976 when the then Bauchi State was created in the northern Sudan Savanna of North Nigeria. It's about 100km from the state headquarters and form part of Bauchi central senatorial district Darazo has two districts, namely; Darazo and Sade with seventeen village areas (wards). The people are mostly Fulani, Hausa, Kanuri and Kare-Kare by tribe. Moreover, most of the livelihood activities are carried out by men while women undertake domestic activities, other inhabitants of the area are Igbos, Yoruba's and over 99% of the people of the study area are Muslims by religion and farmers by occupation. The LGA is situated between latitude 10.32 and longitude 11.0032. Similarly the Local Government is bordered with Ganjuwa Local Government to the south, Dukku Local Government in Gombe state to the east, Gwaram LGA in Jigawa state to the west, Misau LGA



and Potiskum LGA to the north and north eastern part of the State. The temperature ranges from 10⁰C-15⁰C in December and January to a maximum of 35⁰C-40⁰C between April and May.

The population of the area stood at 265,000 Census (2006) and a land mass of 1,522km², it has available land suitable for all season farming activities in effect, both rainfed and dry season farming, it also has many resources like rivers, lakes, agriculturally potential land, able youths, economic trees, livestock products and so many minerals like kaolin, iron ore, petroleum resources, etc.

Sampling Procedure

The population of this research work consists of 250 beneficiaries. However, because of large size of the population only 100 women were considered for the study. The Farmers of the study area interviewed were the *Fadama* III Project support beneficiaries and other economic interest group.

Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

The tool or instrument used for the purpose of this research work was questionnaire to allow the beneficiaries respond diligently as well as suggest various ways of mitigating problem and its improvements. Relevant Primary Data was used for the study, which was collected from the *Fadama* III project beneficiaries through questionnaire administration. However, in Darazo District, Data was collected from Zaro, Yakuwaram, Tauya, Unguwar Jarmai, Kurna, Unguwar Baraya, Bolewa and Kari villages of the District. While in Sade Women from villages of Nahuta, Lanzai, Sade Fulataran, Yunbunga, Papa, and Garin Mai Reke were interviewed respectively. Data was collected on the Socio-economic Characteristics of the beneficiaries such as, age, education, and marital status, etc. The data collected were analyzed using simple percentages (%).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

A range of socio-economic and demographic factors determine the impact of National *Fadama* III project in an area. Some of these factors include, age, marital status, gender, occupation, level of education, type of assets acquired from the project, sources of finance, what improvement the respondents gained from the project intervention. These factors play a vital role in the beneficiaries' livelihood, it influences willingness to adopt an innovation which help in raising the productivity in their economic activities and thus raised their standard of living.

Table 1 gives details of age distribution of the beneficiaries. The result shows that 76.3% of the respondents were mostly between the ages of 31-50 years which are considered as the active age for production and other economic activities. While 6.2% falls within the age group of less than 20 years; 12.5% of age bracket within 21-30 years and 8.8% of the category consist of age bracket 51-60 years. Mohammed (2011) posited that age is an important determinant of socio-economic status of a population. The younger generations have a lot of zeal and are willing to adopt new techniques and innovations in all sorts of economic activities; however, old generation dwells on their old experiences.

The result further showed that 12.5% of the women farmers were in the age group 21-30 years; this indicates that youth that is the young women in the area are not actively involved in farming activities which could be as a result of persistent rural-urban migration. However, (Ogungbile *et al.*, 2002) and (Oloruntoba, 2000) asserted that farmers in this age



range are always active and this can lead to positive effect on agricultural activities if they are available to participate in the farm chores. Age has also been reported by (Amaza *et al.*, 2009) in their work on changes in household food security and poverty status in Southern part of Borno State to determine how active and productive the farmer would be. It has also been found to affect the rate of household adoption of innovations, which in turn, affects household productivity and livelihood improvement strategies (Dercon and Krishnan, 1996).

The Table 1 also, shows that married women respondents constitute 55.0% of the respondents with 6.2% of them who are single 23.8% divorced 15.0% widowed. The result shows that all the respondents captured during field survey were women *Fadama III* beneficiaries. The significance of the marital status on agricultural production towards household food security can be explained in terms of the supply of agricultural family labour. It is expected that family labour would be more available where the household heads are married (Amaza *et al.*, 2009). Farmers need a large family to reduce the cost of farm labour and maintain a relatively stable life style in the rural area.

The Table 1 also consist of sex of the respondents of the project beneficiaries that indicates 70 (87.5%) are females with some males (12.5%) who happen to be involved in the interview at the field because of the nature of their FUGS which is a mixed group of both male and female youths. The occupation of respondents signifies that housewife consist of (65.0%) of respondents with 15% of them civil servants; others occupation consist of 20% of the female beneficiaries. The results in the Table 1 signifies the educational qualification of the beneficiaries 32.5% of them attended Qur'anic school, 30% attended primary school, 28.8% secondary school certificate holders and the remaining 8.8% attended tertiary education level. This shows that majority of them are literate and education is one of indices of empowerment. Similarly, Njoku (1991) observed that formal education has a positive influence on adoption of innovation. (Omoregbee, 1996) had similar observation. More so, (Najafi, 2003) noted that educational attainment is very important because it could lead to awareness of the possible advantages of modern farming techniques and diversification of households' incomes which in turn would enhance household standard of living. The sources of funds for the women beneficiaries of *Fadama III* projects reveals that *Fadama III* grants with 81.2% became the major source of the beneficiaries initial capital to finance their economic interest in our rural areas and few of them which is 18.8% sourced their funds from their personal savings before the project intervention.

Types of Asset Acquisition by the Respondents from *Fadama III* Project

The *Fadama III* project is an agricultural community empowerment programme, as result most of its activities are agriculturally oriented. Due to this fact, all the participating women were engaged in one form of agricultural activity or the other with very few engaging in non-agricultural activities. The commonly observed agricultural activities in which the participating women were engaged include crop production, processing of agricultural product, and animal rearing. Table 2 and Figure 1 shows the distribution as well as typology of assets acquired from *Fadama III* project grants. Small ruminant animals, e.g., sheep and goats (35%) and groundnut oil processing machine (35%) were the major assets acquired by the women beneficiaries from the project intervention; it is also an indication that major economic activities of women beneficiaries are mostly animals breeding and groundnut oil processing.



Table 1: Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Age (years)		
Less than 20	5	6.2
21-30	10	12.5
31-40	27	33.8
41-50	30	37.5
51- 60	7	8.8
61-70	1	1.2
Marital status		
Married	44	55.0
Single	5	6.2
Divorced	19	23.8
Windowed	12	15.0
Sex		
Male	10	12.5
Female	70	87.5
Occupation		
Civil servant	12	15.0
Housewife	52	65.0
Others	16	20.0
Education		
Primary	24	30.0
Secondary	23	28.7
Tertiary	7	8.8
Quranic	26	32.5
Sources of funding		
Personal savings	15	18.8
NFDP III grants	65	81.2

Source: Field Survey Data, 2016

Table 2: Type of Assets Acquired from *Fadama III* Project

Asset Acquired from <i>Fadama III</i> Project	Frequency	Percentage
Work bulls	8	10.0
Groundnut Processing machine	28	35.0
Small Ruminant Animals	28	35.0
Irrigation	5	6.2
Others (e.g., extension services, training, etc.)	11	13.8
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey Data, 2016

It was also observed that rural women engaged in processing of agricultural produce due to lack of access to fertile land and other agricultural inputs. The finding is in line with (FAO, 2011) reported that women across the developing nations are consistently less likely to operate land; they are less likely to have access to rented land and the land they



do have access to are often of poorer quality and of smaller sizes. Other assets were 13.8%, work bulls 10% and lastly irrigation farming 6.2% which does not conform to women economic activities in our rural areas.

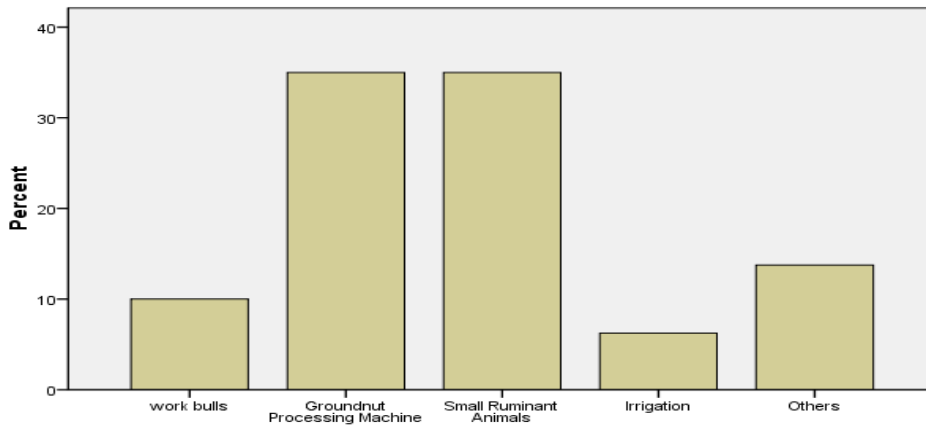


Figure 1: *Types of asset acquired by the respondents from fadama III project*

Analysis of Improvement indicators of *Fadama III* Project Intervention

Table 3 and the Figure 2 shows the improvements from *Fadama III* project intervention; additional household income was 48.8%, increase in groundnut oil extraction was 36.2%, irrigation was also 6.2% and lastly farm traction improvement was 5.0% and this signifies the findings in the field shows there was a significant increase in their income. which is in conformity with (CTA, 2004) where it reports that diversifying income sources helps to minimize risk among farmers and one single activity does not provide the income needed as such agricultural activities needs to be incorporated with non-farm income generating activities that require relatively little working capital. This finding is also in agreement with (Baba, 1993) that the obvious way of breaking the vicious cycle of poverty among rural farmers is by enabling the poor farmers to increase their agricultural output, so as not only to improve their income but lift them above their subsistence level.

Table 3: Improvement from *Fadama III* Project Intervention

<i>Fadama III</i> project intervention	Frequency	Percentage
Farm Traction improvement	4	5.0
Increase in Groundnut oil extraction	29	36.2
Addition in Household income	39	48.8
Effective water supply for dry season farming	3	3.8
Other benefits (e.g., extension services, training, etc.)	5	6.2
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey Data, 2016

It is believed that expansion of credits programs will have beneficial effects on agricultural production of smallholders and rural incomes because credits could facilitate the purchase of costly inputs and the adoption of alternative crops (Oyebanji, 1998). It is also a key to poverty alleviation, livelihood diversification, and increasing the business skills of small farmers.

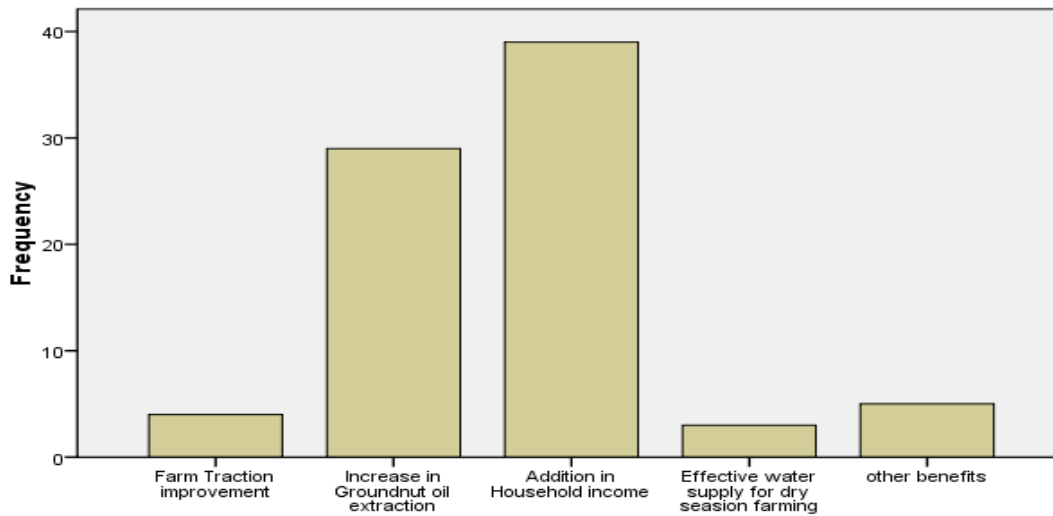


Figure 2: *Improvement indicators of fadama III project intervention*

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study on the impact of Fadama III project on women Empowerment could be describe as a good intervention for empowerment and livelihood improvement. The program had significantly improved beneficiaries household income, enhanced their skills and knowledge. It has also explored the positive impact of the project on our rural women since the rural populace are mostly living in abject poverty, whereas the project development objective was to reduce poverty through community empowerment as well uphold the social inclusion in the study area.

Based on the result of this study the following recommendations are made to provide adequate measures for the total success of the *Fadama* III project in Darazo LGA:

1. Project funding need to be improved to provide adequate funds for the beneficiaries.
2. Beneficiaries' counterpart contribution should be reducing to the minimal level to make it affordable for the women beneficiaries to access project grants.
3. Beneficiaries need to have regular supervision and monitoring of the sub-projects to check sustainability issues.
4. Timely disbursement of project funds for speedy project implementation by the groups.
5. The project coordination unit needs to give more emphasis on women farmers so as to boost their income and reduce poverty and gender parity.
6. The project and its beneficiaries must promote group cohesion unity and cooperation to improve significantly.
7. Regular sensitization on group formation and project implementation guidelines need to be upheld to educate the groups and deter them from disintegration.

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