

Impact of 'Fadama II Project' on Feed, Food and Poverty in Imo State, Nigeria

C. T. Ezeokeke, N. J. Anyanwu, V. M. O. Okoro*

Department of Animal Science & Technology, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Nigeria

Abstract 'Fadama Project' is a World Bank assisted program at the grassroots in Nigeria with the University as one of the collaborators. The bulk of the fund came from the World Bank while Federal government secured the loan and State paid counterpart fund and local government paid a token for their benefiting community. The community assessed the loan as cooperatives. Money invested is expected to bring return on investment after a gestation period. Disbursement was in stages tied to payment of counterpart fund, physical structures constructed and an audited account of the previous amount extended. Irrigation ensured pasture and farming all year round which provided food (man), feed (animals) and raw materials (industries). The program created employment and reduced poverty. Storage facilities (silos) and cold rooms were constructed by communities. The projects were owned and managed by the participating communities giving room for sustainability. New and modern farming techniques passed down were accepted. In the past this failed because the farmer was not involved from onset. The farmer due to lack of capital and reluctant to accept new ideas for enhanced production had remained on subsistence.

Keywords Fund, Food, Feed, Poverty Reduction and Employment

1. Introduction

The citizens of most underdeveloped countries of the world have been undernourished (FAO, 2008). An average adult in these countries lives on an income of less than a dollar per day (UNDP, 2007). Therefore, one of the millennium development goals in these areas has been centered on income generation among others like hunger and disease controls (UN, 2008).

Imo State, Nigeria is among the 12 World Bank assisted states implementing National Fadama Development Project. This is aimed at to sustainably increase the income of all users especially those residing in the rural areas through embarking on agriculture, industry and community development projects that add returns to investment. The Fadama Project was also initiated to address some of the factors that militated against the full realization of the potential benefits of agricultural production activities. Among these factors are poor development of rural infrastructure, lack of storage and processing facilities and market outlets. Others are low investment in irrigation technology, poor organization of farmers as well as lack of capital and adequate techniques for greater productivity.

The beneficiaries of the projects were not only crop and animal farmers but also pastoralist, fish folks, hunters'

gatherers, service providers as well as vulnerable and marginalized groups. But the focus is on livestock farmers. The appraisal is used to assess progress so far made in respect to livestock production with the Fadama program in Imo State, Nigeria. The objectives of the study included looking at increased income of the users as well as increased capacity of utilization and empowered community in the long run.

2. Materials and Methods

The implementation approach in the project was through community driven development. This is a bottom-up approach whereby communities and other lower government entities are empowered to develop participatory and social inclusive local development plans. Multi-stakeholders institutions were established at various levels. These were the State Fadama Development Committee (SFDC) at state level, Local Fadama Development Committee (LFDC) at the Local Government (LG) level and Fadama Management Committee (FMC) at Fadama User Group (FUG) and Fadama Community Association (FCA) at community level to see the efficient and effective implementation of the project. The program lasted from 2004 to 2007.

The areas involved in the projects are located between longitude 7° 18'E to 7° 21'E and latitude 50 37'N to 50 47'N (Source: Ministry of Lands and Survey, Owerri, Nigeria). Eleven Local Government Areas (LGAs) out of the 27 LGAs in Imo State benefited from the program. One hundred and forty FCAs were formed and 177 local development plans were prepared using a total of 1,132 FUGs with membership

* Corresponding author:

melavicong4real@yahoo.com (V.M.O. Okoro)

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strength of 26,068 people composed of 17,462 males (67%) and 8,606 females (33%). The Table below shows distribution of FCAs and FUGs in the State.

Table 1. Populations of FCAs and FUGs in the LGAs

S/N	LGA	FCAs	FUGs
1	Aboh Mbaise	7	54
2	Ahiazu Mbaise	19	128
3	Ehime Mbaise	15	150
4	Ihite Uboma	16	107
5	Ngor Okpala	16	119
6	Nkwere	9	43
7	Oguta	15	138
8	Ohaji Egbema	12	81
9	Onuimo	12	95
10	Orlu	12	136
11	Owerri North	7	81
	Total	140±3.79	1132±33.89

The total International Donor Agency (IDA) allocation of fund to the state was 7 million US dollars of which US\$5,644,729.30 have been drawn. The State Government had contributed 45.30 million naira. This is 65% of planned target. The participating LGAs had paid 11 million naira (33% achievement of the planned target). Leaving out an outstanding balance. The monies were paid in 2004-2006.

But the counterpart fund contributions for 2005 and 2006 from the beneficiary LGAs had not been paid as at January, 2007. Counterpart contributions of the State and LGAs are as shown in Tables 2-3.

Table 2. Status of the State counterpart fund contribution

State	Year	Target (^000,000)	Actual (^000,000)	Percent (%)
Imo State Gov.	2004	21	19	90.40
	2005	21	6	28.57
	2006	21	20.30	96.60
Total		63	45.30	

Table 3. Status of the LG counterpart fund contribution

LGA	Year	Target (^000,000)	Actual (^000,000)	Percent (%)
11 participating LGAs	2004	11	11	100
	2005	11	Nil	Nil
	2006	11	Nil	Nil
Total		33	11	

3. Results and Discussions

The Table 4 (a-c) below shows the achievements recorded of the projects based on LGAs.

Table 4a. Completed Projects in the LGAs (Livestock)

LGAs	FCA/FUG	Subproject	Status of Project	
Ehime Mbano	Umuchioko/Umunumo Livestock Farmers	Poultry house construction	Completed	
		Feed mill in-stallation	Completed	
		Food processing mill installation	Completed	
Nkwere	Umudiele/Umunwa Chukwu Fisher Folks	Fish pond construction	Completed	
		Nnanano Phylis Lives-tock	Feed mill	Completed
Oguta	Oguta/Ogbuide Fisher Folks	Procurement of fishing gears	Completed	
Ohaji/Egbema	Umuapu/Umuoli Livestock Farmers	Piggery house expansion	Completed	
Owerri North	Chigozie Farmers	Piggery pen construction	Completed	
		Owerri North Farmers	Fish pond construction	Completed
		Obioma Emekukwu Farmers	Poultry house construction	Completed
	Ofuobi Azaraugbo Umuanyaso Farmers	Piggery pen construction	Completed	
	Umuoba Uratta	Cold room in-stallation	Completed	

Table 4b. Completed Projects in the LGAs (Crops)

LGAs	FCA/FUG	Subproject	Status of project
Ehime Mbano	Umuchioko/Umunumo Gartherers	Cassava processing mill	Completed
		Harvesters	Palm oil processing mill
Nkwere	Isiogwugwu Widows	Acquisition & installation of garri processing machine	Completed
		Umudi/Uzodinma	Cassava processing mill
	Okechukwu Youths	Palm oil processing mill	Completed
Oguta	Oguta I/Ibina Farmers	Palm oil processing mill	Completed
Ohaji/Egbema	Mmahu Widows	Farm tools supply	Supplied
Owerri North	Owerri North Divine Mercy Farmers	Palm oil processing mill	Completed

Table 4c. Completed Projects in the LGAs (Others)

LGA	FCA/FUG	Subprojects	Status of Projects
Owerri North	Umuoba Uratta	Cold room in-stallation	Completed
	Youth Development Association	Cold room installation	Completed

Total of 534 subprojects were implemented but 277 were completed. Out of these 63 poultry houses/pens, 2 cold rooms were constructed and 12 fishing equipments were acquired made up of 3 fishing tools, 4 canoes and 5 out board engines. Also realized was 1 honey collection equipment, 22 fishing ponds were constructed, 8 markets stalls were built and 2 cropped annual yield surveys were conducted. One farm budget proposal was prepared and executed. 150 service providers were registered and 36 bore holes were sunk to provide water for irrigation and other purposes.

The agro processing machines (209 in number) provided employment for individuals either as operators or security men. Market facilities like stalls/shops, cooling sheds, open market sheds were constructed to provide market linkages for farm produce for both raw and processed goods.

The benefiting communities had been capacitated to undertake participatory rural appraisal and community planning as to prepare local development plans undertake community based procurement as well as participatory monitoring and evaluation. These were achieved through regular training and retraining of benefiting communities which community driven development approach emphasized. Fund that was directly disbursed to communities for subprojects implementation also contributed to the success observed.

Now than ever before the communities have greater sense of project ownership, thus enhancing project sustainability. Project implementation bottlenecks like bureaucracy and red tapes were almost eliminated.

4. Conclusions

From the results of the Fadama projects executed success was recorded in having greater food production, employment generation and poverty reduction of beneficiaries. The pro-

jects had set back in that some local governments did not pay their counter part funds. This affected the completion of some of the proposed projects. For sustainability of the program the local governments should pay their counter part fund as when due.

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