

## **An Appraisal of the National Fadama 2 Development Project of the Gwagwalada Development Area FCT, Nigeria**

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**Abstract:** The goal of all economic and other public policies is the overall wellbeing of the people and that is why government at different time reiterated its resolve to eradicate or minimize poverty. In Nigeria some programmes and initiative includes: the Directorate for Foods, the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), and the recent National Fadama Development Project, all geared toward improving the wellbeing of the people. But project implementations has suffered a lot of setbacks in Nigeria, leading to a number of abandoned or poorly performed projects in the country. Therefore, to effectively track down the progress of the efforts put into the achievement of the project objectives, it is important to evaluate those projects. The aim of this paper is to appraise the implementation of the objectives and the design of the National Fadama 2 project of the Gwagwalada Fadama Development Area in order to determine whether the implementation of the project matches its design and the lesson learnt can be use to improve future projects. Data were basically collected through field observation, questionnaire survey and oral interviewed which are presented in a simple tabulation forms. The result revealed that the project objectives were significantly achieved through the provision of productive assets, rural infrastructures and enhances capacity building to the participants which subsequently improved their income and the general wellbeing of the participants.

**Keywords:** Fadama, Wellbeing, Gwagwalada, Appraisal and Project.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Agriculture contributes about 75 percent of Nigerian foreign exchange in 1960s and is still dominated by the small scale farmers constituting 70 percent of the country's labour force [1, 2]. The perception is that technological change is an effective source of growth in traditional agriculture and its forces is to increase food production for the developing countries and thereby increasing the income of the farmers [3].

By far the most difficult problem is how to provide a livelihood for a rural labour force which is expected to increase the agricultural productivity and income. One of the recent global initiatives on poverty is the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agenda, aiming at eradicating extreme poverty for the world by 2015. The Federal Government of Nigeria in collaboration with the World Bank initiated a number of country programmes and projects pilots using Community Driven Development (CDC) approach, a veritable tool for poverty reduction. And the National Fadama Development Project 2 was among those initiatives with the basic objective of poverty reduction through irrigation farming. Irrigation is the largest

recipient of public agricultural investment in the developing world [4].

Fadama 2 project was the largest agricultural project aimed to reduce poverty by supporting rural community to acquire infrastructures and productive assets, providing demand driven advisory service and increasing the capacity of the community to manage economic activities. The program target rural enterprises and it will work to strengthen Nigerian medium and small scale enterprises development policy by providing support in the rural micro enterprises sectors in order to boost, increase food security and improve livelihood of the poor households [5]. The main objective of the National Fadama Development Project (NFDP) was to promote agricultural growth through the exploitation of surface and shallow water resources for small holder owned and managed small-scale irrigation development [6]. Fadama is a Hausa word for a low-lying plain usually with easily accessible shallow ground water and waterlogged during raining season [7]. These areas are considered to have potentials for economic development through appropriate investment in infrastructures, household assets and technological assistance. The Fadama 2 project was a follow-up to Fadama 1 project operated in

twelve states (Bauchi, Kebbi, Niger, Benue, Taraba, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Ogun, Oyo and Lagos State.)

Project appraisal is the evaluation of the implementation of the project design (blue print) to assess the degree in which implementation matches the design and lessons learned are identified, so that next project can be enhanced. Project implementation has suffered a lot of setbacks in Nigeria which led to a number of abandoned or poorly performing projects in the country [8]. Hence, in order to effectively track down the progress of the implementation of the project objective, it is very important to appraise the National Fadama 2 project to identify the lesson so as to improve future projects accordingly.

### **Study Area**

Gwagwalada is one of the area council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), located on Latitude 8° 55<sup>1</sup> and 9° 00<sup>1</sup> North and Longitude 7° 00<sup>1</sup> and 7° 05<sup>1</sup> East, with a total population of 80,841 people. The study area comprises of the seven Fadama Community Associations (FCAs) within the Gwagwalada area council. However, ten percent of the participants from the Fadama User Groups (FUGs) in each of the Fadama Community Associations were selected as the study population.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The research employed different method of data collection which includes primary and secondary method of data collections. The secondary data are documents and records related to the project objectives, while the primary data comprises of reconnaissance survey, interview with project officials and questionnaire survey to collect information from the participants regarding implementation process. The total household participants is 1,264, and 10 percent of the households were randomly selected from four Fadama User Groups in each of the seven Fadama Development Associations within Gwagwalada Area Council. The information collected were analysed and presented using percentage and total.

### **RESULT ON THE PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION**

Fadama 2 is a comprehensive six year action programme financed by the Federal Government of Nigeria, African Development Bank and World Bank to raise rural productivity and income of the fadama areas. The project take a Demand Driven Approach (DDA), where users of the fadama resources are encourage to develop participatory and Local Development Plans (LDPs) with the support of facilitators through organizing the FCAs and guide them through intensive process of group decision-making. At the local government level, the implementation is handled by the local government desk officer [3].

This section presents the design of the objective of the project as well as the implementation of the design and objectives based on the data collected and analysed.

### **The Design of the Project**

The design of the Fadama 2 are result of the lessons learnt from the first National Fadama Development Project across the country in order to take care of the short comings encountered while implementing Fadama 2 project, in terms of the objectives and mode of implementation.

The objectives of the project are stated as follows:

- 50 percent of the beneficiaries should increase their average income by at least 20 percent compare to base line.
- 60 percent of the Fadama Community Associations (FCAs) should successfully implement their Local Development Plans (LDPs) and other supporting projects.
- Conflict among Fadama users should be reduced by 50 percent compare to baseline.

### **Strategy for Implementation**

The strategy put in place towards the achievement of the above stated objectives among others are the following:

#### **Capacity Building**

This component will support measure to build the capacity of the FCAs and the FUGs to access project advisory services and financing to enhance skills to carry out participatory planning as well as to implement, operate and maintain projects

#### **Rural Infrastructure Investment**

Creation of economic infrastructures and local production method to improve productivity is the main thrust. Eligible sub-project include cattle trough, fish drying equipment, boreholes, water catchment, drainage system, agro-processing equipment, livestock watering points, water pumping machines, market infrastructures, storage facilities among others. Beneficiaries will contribute 10 percent in cash or kind of the total budget for the infrastructures under the Local Development Plans (LDPs).

#### **Pilot Productive Assets Acquisition Support**

The overall objective of this component is to enhance the improvement in Fadama user's productivity of the productive assets by individual or Fadama User Groups. The pilot will promote the acquisition of productive assets and reduce impact of market failure in the rural finance on the FUGs through matching grants. A matching grant of 40 percent will supplement the beneficiaries, financing share of 60 percent of the cost of the assets. The eligible items includes irrigation

pumps, cattle trough, simple vehicles to support goods to markets, livestock, fishing, agricultural, honey equipment and equipment to operate rural non-farms enterprises.

#### **Demand-Responsive Advisory Service**

This component support advisory service that will enable Fadama users to adopt output-enhancing techniques and more profitable market practice in their fadama enterprises. The project will finance advisory service that will accompany new investment activities in fadama areas on request by the FUGs, and advisory service that will support ongoing activities by the fadama users. The beneficiaries of the assets acquisition will receive training in technical and managerial aspect to equip them with the necessary skills to properly utilize the acquired assets. The advisory service which address know-how and market linkage constraint common to many FCAs will be supported. These include in addition to public Agricultural Development Programme (ADPs), Private Enterprises, Non-Government Organization, research and education institutes, as well as farmers and marketing agents and other actors in the input and output marketing chain with specialized skills.

#### **Conflict Resolution**

This component is to address the short coming of the National Fadama 1 by increasing the capacity of the FUGs to manage conflict that is particularly serious and more frequent between pastoralists and farmers.

#### **Level of Implementation to Date**

This section present the level of to which the designs have been actually implemented base on the field data collected. It brings out what had been done and what had not been done.

#### **Capacity Building**

About 100 percent of the households have received training on how to control, manage and operate their acquisition assets.

#### **Rural Infrastructure Investment**

Some economic infrastructures are being provided to the Fadama Users (households) after contributing the 10 percent of the total cost. These infrastructures comprises of boreholes, agro processing equipment, tanks, market infrastructures (market sheds), input shops and feeder roads rehabilitation. However,

some of the infrastructure items are not functioning well.

#### **Pilot Productive Assets Acquisition Support**

A matching grant of 50 percent was paid by some of the beneficiaries for the cost of the productive assets against the 40 percent as designed. However, other vulnerable groups like the widows and physically challenge received support from the Federal Capital Territory Administration in paying the acquired matching grants of the production assets.

#### **Demand-Responsive Advisory Service**

The beneficiaries have contributed 10 percent of the advisory service rendered. Hence, 97.3 percent of the households have received two to four different kinds of training ranging from training on credit mobilization, computer training, training on Community Driven Development, among others.

#### **Conflict Resolution**

Conflict among rural farming may arise within and between communities over access right. Typical conflict within a fadama community include farmer – farmer, fisher-fisher etc. Although cases of conflict was found among members of the same user group usually arises from contribution made by members in paying the counterpart funds of the acquired production assets. More than 66 percent of the conflict was resolved by the traditional leaders due to the importance attached to them by the respondents.

#### **Appraisal of the Implementation of the Fadama 2 against Its Design**

This section appraised the degree to which implementation satisfied the design in the aspect identified above.

#### **Level of Implementation of the Objectives of Fadama 2**

In terms of increasing personal income the project has caused beneficiaries to realize a significant increase on their income. More than 70 percent of the participants have increased their average income. Similarly, over 99 percent of the respondents have completed their Local Development Plans (LDPs). In addition, conflict was only common between same users but no longer across user groups.

The overall level of implementation of objectives and the design are presented in table 1.

**Table:4- Fadama 2 Project Design, Implementation and the Level of Implementation**

| Items                               | Design  | Implementation  | Level of Implementation |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| Objective                           | 50% of the beneficiaries should increase their average income by 20% compare to baseline and 60% of the LDPs should be completed          | More 70% of the beneficiaries increased their average income with 95.5% increase in income                          | Successfully achieved   |
| Capacity Building                   | To build the capacity of the participants to access project funding and advisory service  | 97.3 of the beneficiaries have received training on capacity building   | Successfully achieved   |
| Pilot Productive Assets Acquisition | To promote acquisition of the productive assets through matching grant of 40% of the cost   | 93.8% of the beneficiaries successfully acquired productive assets but paid 50% of the cost                         | Successfully achieved   |
| Rural Infrastructure Investment     | Provide economic infrastructures  | The project have successfully provided boreholes, overhead tanks, access roads rehabilitation, input shops for FCAs | Successfully achieved   |
| Demand Advisory Service             | The advisory service is to guide the FUGs to adopt a productive enhancing techniques through training on technical and managerial aspects | Training was conducted to all the beneficiaries (100%)  | Successfully achieved   |

Source: Field Survey, 2015

### Conclusion

From the study of the design and implementation of the project and findings of the study certain conclusion can be drawn. Generally the project was well implemented and also achieved its design objective of sustainably increase the productivity and income of the rural poor, thereby improving the wellbeing of the fadama resources users in the study area. However, the project was effectively implemented but the following short comings were discovered during the implementation and these are outlined below:

The period of implementation which was designed to be carried out in six consecutive years was implemented just within only three years. In addition, the implementation also suffered setbacks in the area of raising the counterpart funding, especially among the fadama users. Moreover, there was delay in the commencement of the sub-projects due to the inability of the FCAs to raise their counterpart funds and execution of some service providers, even at the receipt of the mobilization fees. Based on the above lessons learnt the following recommendation can serve as a guide for future projects.

### Recommendation

To ensure sustainability of the FCAs and its FUGs the following recommendation are prepared: There should be increase in the frequency of the

capacity building training to FUGs and the FCAs and properly guided on choice of service provider; More attention should be given to user groups formation by ensuring group membership consist of people that actually engaged in a meaningful economic activities under the project; There is need for strengthening the facilitators, desk officers and local Fadama development committees on the process and procedures of advisory service to put in place, and the number of desk officer should be increase according to the proportion of FCAs; No funds should be released to any sub-project without accompanied advisory service activities; Initiate a new strategies and plans for collection of the mandatory counterpart funding; Main attention should be paid to the selection of service by ensuring that only those providers with good track records are subsequently considered; The quality and the number of rural infrastructures provide to the FCAs should be improve, so that beneficiaries productivity and income can be enhanced.

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