THE IMPACT OF FADAMA III DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ON LIVELIHOODS IN KWARE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF SOKOTO STATE

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Abstract: The study was conducted to examine the Fadama-III intervention project and its effects on beneficiaries’ livelihood in Kware Local Government Area of Sokoto State. Purposive sampling technique was used in selecting the benefiting local government area and twenty participants were also chosen from the area. The study used both primary and secondary sources of data. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was used as source for primary data while the secondary data were derived from various secondary sources. The primary data were analyzed thematically, transcribed and presented verbatim in the report. The secondary data were analyzed through content analyses. The study found that, Fadama III intervention project in the study area has significant positive effect on the livelihoods of the beneficiaries such as moderate success in individual ability to own assets. On the contrary, the project has no significant effect on some areas of beneficiaries' livelihoods such as inability to own household assets and ability to participate in social delivery services. Based on these findings, it is recommended that the tentacles of the project be expanded and more strengthened so that more individuals can benefit. Strengthening the scope of the project would go a long way in making the project to empower the beneficiaries so that other aspects of their livelihoods that are yet to be influenced positively would be covered including their educational attainment. Technically, one of the means through which the project could be strengthened is to cancel counterpart funding which has always constitute serious challenge for many poor individuals that want to access the project among others.

Key word: Development, Fadama, Livelihood, Impact and Project

Introduction

One of the goals of every government is to provide services that would enhance the standard of living and social wellbeing of the people. Many of these services focus on livelihoods of the downtrodden masses or the poor in order to provide for their basic human needs. In Nigeria, about 70 percent of the population live in rural areas and are directly or indirectly involved in the use of land resources as pointed out by Onyenechere (2010) who states that about 70 percent of Africa’s poor are rural and Nigeria’s population is predominantly rural with rural community dwellers making up to 70 percent of the population. This is quite revealing and akin to the fact that right from the early 60s, when Nigeria attained independence from colonial rule, all efforts at reducing poverty were tailored towards an improvement of agricultural activities. The 1962-68 National Development plan was the first plan to be drawn by an indigenous government in the country where about 58% percent of the total expenditure for the plan period was allocated to rural development (Adeniyi, 1991).

Majority of these rural dwellers are facing several problems, which reduces their productivity. Some of these problems include environmental constraints, infrastructural deficiencies, marketing problems, technological constraints, institutional challenges, high cost of labour, inadequate agricultural incentives and lack of sustainable rural development programmes. According to Carney (1998), rural dwellers contribute significantly to the gross domestic product (GDP), especially in the developing nations of sub-Saharan Africa. But, over the years, their contributions have dropped which made it difficult to sustain. For instance, before the discovery of oil in Nigeria, rural dwellers, with farming as the main occupation, contribute significantly to the economy of the nation through
the export of cash crops like cocoa, groundnut, kola-nut and rubber. Thus, various policies had been formulated towards rural development in Nigeria. Such programs include Rural Development Projects (RDPs), Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFFRI), Local Empowerment and Environmental Management Program (LEEMP) to mention a few. However, majority of these programs have had limited success in many cases because of structural support, change of government and non-recognition of diversity in the livelihood activities of rural dwellers across ethnic and ecological zones of Nigeria (World Bank, 1994 and Ekong, 2003).

Realizing the plight of the subsistence farmers in Nigeria, the herders and the fishers, etc, the World Bank, in collaboration with the federal and states government of Nigeria, through the Fadama Project focused on increasing the income of the rural dwellers. The goal was to promote rural economy and thereby reduce rural poverty. The National Fadama Development Project (NFDP) was categorized into three phases. The first one came into limelight in 1992-1998, where only six states called the core states benefited, though the world bank assessment report revealed certain flaws such as downstream market activities and processing mechanisms that hampered the program, however, in spite of such challenges, the project was recorded as satisfactory and successful and it is as a result of these, the federal government confronted the world bank through the international development assistance for support in expansion of the project. The second phase came into the national fold in 2004-2009, comprising of only 12 states in the country and phase three came into existence in 2009-2013 comprising of all the 36 states including the Federal Capital Territory Abuja (NFDP, 2013). Consequently, this study was designed to examine the impact of Fadama III development project in Kware local government area of Sokoto State. Through examining the livelihoods of the rural farmers in Kware local government area before Fadama III intervention project, activities of Fadama III intervention project and analyze the impact of the development project on the livelihoods of the rural farmers in Kware local government area after Fadama III intervention project.

An Overview of National Fadama Development Project (NFDP) in Nigeria

The word “Fadama” is a Hausa name for irrigatable land which is flood plains and low lying areas underlined by shallow aquifers and found along Nigeria’s river systems. Fadama areas are typically waterlogged in the rainy season but retain moisture during the dry seasons. These areas are considered to have high potentials for economic development through appropriate investments in productive assets, rural infrastructure and technical assistance. The desire to harness the vast potentials of Fadama in Nigeria culminated in the design of National Fadama Development Project I, II and III. The Yoruba name for Fadama is “Akuro” whereas the Igbo people refer to it as “Ude” or “Ala-mmiri” (NFDP II, 2014).

The National Fadama Development Project (NFDP) was established to ensure all year-round production of crops in all the states of the federation through the exploitation of shallow aquifers and surface water potentials in each state using tube well, wash borehole and petrol driven pumps technology (World Bank, 1992). The project was an idea conceived by the World Bank and African Development Bank (AfDB). Meanwhile, the Nigerian Government, with the active involvements of the States and Local Governments initiated a quick and sustainable agriculture and rural development projects with a nationwide spectrum targeted at dry season farming activity and related to agro processing activities. An appraisal of Nigeria’s agricultural sector shows that it employed about seventy (70) percent of the country’s labour force, accounted for about thirty-seven (37) percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and was home to about seventy (70) percent of the population at or below the poverty line (NFDP II, Implementation Completion Report, 2010). Agricultural productivity and rural incomes were lower at appraisal than they were twenty (20) years before (NFDP II, ICR, 2010). The farming systems were and continued to be predominantly up land subsistence agriculture that are highly dependent on the vagaries of the weather, while the potential for irrigation, and remains underdeveloped. The average irrigated area per rural household of six (6) people was less than one (1) hectare. The use of key inputs; such as fertilizers and improved seeds, and mechanization were low and irrigation efficiency was also low.

Fadama phase one focused mainly on production activities but largely neglected downstream activities such as processing, preservation or conservation and rural infrastructure to ensure the efficient evacuation of farm output to markets (NFDP, Appraisal Report, 2004). In addition, the project did not take into consideration other resource users such as those for livestock and fisheries production. This resulted not only in increased conflicts between the users but also restricted benefits to only those derivable from crop production (NFDP, Appraisal Report, 2004).
The second phase of Fadama came up as a result of the success recorded in the first National Fadama Development Project (NFDP I) by some of the States that participated in the project. Out of the six States that participated in Fadama I, only Jigawa State was among the “Core States” i.e. States in which Fadama I was implemented in full (NFDP Appraisal Report, 2004, World Bank Report, 2009).

The Fadama II which covered between 2004-2009 was a follow-up to the first phase of the project (Fadama I). The NFDP II had as its main thrust the sustainability of increased incomes of the Fadama users through empowering communities to take charge of their own development agenda. Also funded by the World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB), Federal Government of Nigeria, State Governments, Local Government Councils and the various communities covered twelve (12) States, and the project development objective was to sustainably increase the incomes of the beneficiaries through empowering communities to take charge of their own development agenda through Community Drive Development (CDD) approach in project implementation in a socially inclusive manner. Fadama II also provided special preferences to groups of youths, women (especially widows), physically challenged, the elderly and people with HIV/AIDS (Africa Development Fund, 2003).

The third phase tagged Fadama III project came fully into operation from 2009-2013 as a follow-up to the Fadama II project which was assessed to have impacted on the lives of rural farmers, raising their incomes by 63 percent. The project like Fadama II took the CDD approach, which places beneficiaries in driver’s seat where local community members under the umbrella of Fadama Community Associations (FCAs and Fadama Users Groups (FUGs), oversee the design and implementation of the project and are empowered through skills and capacity building to improve their livelihoods by increasing income generating activities.

Fadama III project established standardized procedures and steps to guide the local people on how to take part in the decision-making process. It established platforms for participation, such as local consultation meetings to identify and select the needed infrastructure to be funded by the project. Beneficiaries (participants) were trained to identify the needed infrastructure, execute and manage small-scale development projects in their communities. Community people, through the FUGs and FCAs were designated to be the executing agencies of local development projects. Capacity building activities were conducted to ensure that they have the ability to manage the different aspects of project implementation including financial management, procurement management and quality control at a level acceptable to the project.

According to International Development Agency (IDA, 2010), the project was designed to focus on increasing the incomes of rural poor, help reduce rural poverty, increase food security and contribute to the achievement of a key Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Financing of Fadama III project comprised of US$ 250million from the World Bank, through International Development Agency (IDA) credits and $200 million counterpart contribution from Nigeria’s federal, state and local governments and beneficiaries (World Bank, 2010).

The Concept of Livelihood

The term livelihood attempts to capture not just what people do in order to make a living, but the resources that provide them with capability to build a satisfactory living, the factors they must consider in managing their resources, the institutional and policy context that either helps or hinders them in their pursuit of an improved living. According to Kimble (1960), Prandit (1965) and Freeman (1975) livelihood comprised of ways through which people make a living; it mainly points to the economic resource base people have at their disposal to achieve objectives. Frank and McCaston (1998) view the concept of livelihood as the sustainable access to resources to meet basic needs including adequate access to food, portable water, health facilities, educational opportunities, housing, time for community participation and social integration. To Ellis (1998) livelihood entails activities, the assets, and access that jointly determine the living gained by an individual or household.

Empirical Evidences on the Impact of Fadama III on Rural Livelihoods in Nigeria

Iwala (2014) conducted a study to assess the economic impact, viability and sustainability of the Fadama III sponsored small-scale infrastructure in different communities of Ondo State, Nigeria. Nine Local Government Areas (LGAs) were randomly selected out of the 18 LGAs participating in the project on the basis of 3 LGAs per senatorial district. A total of 270 respondents made up of 180 project participants and 90 non-participants constituted the sample size for the study. Economic impact analysis of the projects showed that the average
annual gross margin of beneficiaries (participants) had increased by 28.57 percent in the fourth year of project implementation. The viability analysis revealed that, the net project values (NPVs) of all the projects were positive at 26 percent discount factor, also, their Benefit/Cost Ratios (BCRs) were greater than 1 and the Internal Rates of Return (IRR) were all above average.

Similarly, Ike (2012) conducted a study on the analysis of the impact of Fadama III project on poverty alleviation in Delta State of Nigeria. The study specifically sought to determine the average income of Fadama and non-Fadama user households based on their crop, livestock and off-farm activities as relating to project implementation and the proportion of the Fadama user households attaining the observed average income. The study indicated that average per capita income of the Fadama III user households before the project implementation was N62,480.00 while that of the non-Fadama III beneficiaries was N63,572.00. On the average, the real income of Fadama III beneficiaries increased by about 36.67 percent (From N62, 480.00 to N85,391.42) as a result of participation in the project. While, an average real income of Fadama III non-beneficiaries increased only by 11.6 percent (from N63, 572.00 to N73, 743.52). The study established a poverty line using mean household expenditure of before and after Fadama project to underscore changed in income which was a remarkable breakthrough when compared to the findings of other similar studies.

Osondu, Andetal, (2015) also carried out a study on the impact of Fadama III project in alleviating poverty status of households and participating food crops farmers in Abia State, Nigeria, with specific objectives of determining and comparing the poverty levels among Fadama III and non-Fadama III participating food crops farmers and determine effects of Fadama III programme on participant’s farm income, farm output, farm size, labour and fertilizer use levels. The paired t-test indices showed that the Fadama III programme impacted positively and significantly on farmer participant’s income and farm size at 5.0 percent level of significance.

In his study on the Impact of Fadama III Project on Rural Household Income in Ogun State, Nigeria: Using the Propensity Score Matching Approach. Oladunni (2014) revealed that more than 75 percent of the benefitting households had their real income increased by at least 40%. Low income earning (poor) farmers were shown to have been significantly impacted by the project than the middle rich and very rich classes. The study reported a significant improvement in the saving culture and on the value of productive asset of beneficiaries. Thus, concluded that the Fadama III project had significant impact on the income and livelihood of participating rural households in the study area.

Ogbonnai, and Nwaobiala, (2014) also conducted a study on the effects of Fadama III project on rural women production in Gombe State. The study analyzed socio economic characteristics of rural farm women, determined the effects of the project on the participating rural farm women (in terms of farm size, selected variable inputs, income and output) in Gombe State and described the problems militating against effective participation of rural farm women in the project. The study revealed that participating Fadama women farmers had mean farm size of 11.91 percent while the non Fadama farmers farmed on 9.52 hectares of land. Both farmer’s groups had a monthly income of N75, 59.28 (Fadama Rural Women Farmers) and N27, 505.56. The paired t-test showed that farm income, fertilizer and labour use of Fadama women farmers were higher than the non-participating farm-women at 1.00 percent, 5.00 percent and 10.00 percent levels of probability respectively.

Theoretical Framework

Several scholars have propagated theories that tackled issues of community development, among whom are Giles Mohan, Van der Molen, Karol Wojtyla, Cornwall A, and Chambers. R, Gunn, etc. These theories include the theory of social change, social intervention theory, and the participatory theory, to mention a few (Cornwall, 2002). However, most of these theories agitate for participatory development, decision and rules of the games more often flow from top-down but has denied the target beneficiaries the opportunity of active involvement and be totally excluded in making decisions of their developmental choice. It’s in view of this the study decided to adopt Community Drive Development (CDD) theory that demonstrates and builds on Bottom-Top-Approach in the development project implementation.

Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach recognizes that poor people are prime actors in the development process, not targets of externally designed poverty reduction efforts. In CDD, control of decisions and resources rests with community groups, who may often work in partnership with demand responsive support
organizations and service providers, including elected local governments officials, the private sector, non-
governmental organization (NGOs) and central government agencies. According to the voices of the poor study
(Narayan et al, 2000), based on interviews with 6,000 poor people in 60 countries, poor people demand for
development process driven by their communities. When the poor were asked to indicate, what might make the
greatest difference in their lives, they responded:

a. Organization of their own so that they can negotiate with government, traders, and NGOs.
b. Direct assistance through community-driven programmes so that they can shape their own destinies
c. Local ownership of funds, so that they can end corruption. The poor people want NGOs and government to be
accountable to them.

According to Gillespie (2001), individual studies have shown that CDD can increase the effectiveness, efficiency
and sustainability of projects or programmes, making them more pro-poor and responsive to local priorities.
Other objectives of the CDD include: Developing capacity; Building social and human capital; Facilitating
community and individual empowerment; Deepening democracy; Improving governance and; Strengthening
human rights.

This theory explains the Fadama III project’s main approach which was built on community participatory efforts,
through Fadama Community Association and Fadama User Group who develop their local development plan,
choose what area they need assistance, collaborate with the private donor agencies, federal, states and local
government authorities. Decisions were kind of bottom-top-approach rather than the usual traditional way of top-
down approach. This particular approach has contributed to the breakthrough achieved by Fadama project in
Nigeria. However, attracted certain shortcomings on the premise that it is promoted by governments,
multinational agencies, and NGOs alike and that some exceptions, initiatives are usually small-scale. The potential
for wide-reaching impact, through adoption by a large number of communities, has not been demonstrably
realized. The CDD theory is yet to fully infiltrate the mainstream when large-scale programs are at stake.

Methods

This section presents methods used in data collection for the study, presentation and analysis of data that were
derived for the study.

Area of the Study

The study was conducted in Sokoto State. The state lies within two ecological zones; the Northern portion which
lies within the Sudan Savannah ecological zone, the Southern portion on the other hand lies in the Northern
Guinea Savannah of Nigeria. The state is made up of twenty-three local government area, located in the
Northwest geographical zone of Nigeria within longitude 11’3 to 13”50 E and latitude 4” to6” 40N. It covers a
land area of 2,648.48km (Singh and Yakubu, 2000). The area could be classifying as one of the semi-arid regions
of the world. There are two distinct seasons in the state, the rainy season which start around May and last till
September and dry season which start from October to April. The annual rainfall is frequently erratic, poorly
distributed and varies from 500 to 1300mm (SMANR, 1998).

There are two temperature extremes; the hot period (March to May) which is as high as 39 OC and the cold
harmattan months of December to January, and when cold, dust laden winds blow from across Sahara bringing
down the temperature to as low as 15 oC averaging about 27 oC (SMANR, 1998). In order to avoid idleness of
resources during the long dry season, farmers undertake irrigated farming. The topography of the state is
characterized by gentle undulating plans that rise from an elevation of about 300m above the sea level in the
Northwest to an average of 460m above the sea level. There are few low-lying valleys or Fadama which terminate
to form streams at their lowest levels. The soil consists of ferruginous soil of alluvial origin as well as drained
loamy sand soil. In the Fadama, the soil generally consists of finer sand, silt and clay (SMANR, 1998).
Research Design

The research design used for this study was survey research design. This design was used as a result of the objective of the study which is to empirically examine the effect of one variable over the other.

Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

Sokoto State is made up of 23 Local Government Areas, out of which 19 local governments benefitted from the Fadama III development project. A purposive technique was used to select 1 LGAs namely Kware out of 19 LGAs that benefitted from the project. This technique was chosen based on the fact that, the local government area was rated as highly satisfactory in meeting the Fadama III Intervention reduction poverty-based line of 20 percent by the State Beneficiaries Impact Assessment Report and National Fadama Appraisal Report.

A purposive sampling method was also used to select 20 respondents (beneficiaries) from Fadama III office in the sampled LGA. The sampling technique was chosen in order to select those respondents that are fundamental and relevant to the subject matter, Since the beneficiaries of the Fadama III projects include the old men, vibrant youths, the disadvantaged groups such as women, handicapped, and the sick (like people living with HIV-AIDS), and all these people constitute the beneficiaries, therefore, the needs for purposive or hand-picking sampling will help in recognizing these different groups and their composite characteristics as beneficiaries.

Method of Data Collection

The issue of reliable and appropriate methodological approach is central to any research undertaking because it determines to a large extent the degree of reliability, validity and acceptance of the research findings. The study made used of both primary and secondary sources of data collection. The primary data were collected through focus group discussion (FGD), while the secondary data were sourced from books and materials published by World Bank Appraisal Report (2015); Project Appraisal Document (PAD) of Fadama II; Project Appraisal Document (PAD) of Fadama III; Appraisal Report; Implementation Completion and Result Report (ICR); State Beneficiary Assessment/Impact Report of Sokoto States; journal; textbooks; and maximum utilization of internet. The respondents were made of 20 beneficiaries as stated earlier, therefore, a total of 2 FGD sessions were conducted involving minimum of 8 and maximum of 12 participants respectively. The reason why FGD was used in this research is to draw upon respondent’s attitudes, beliefs, experiences, and reaction in a way which will not be feasible using other methods such as observation and questionnaire surveys. The instrument of the FGD was the FGD guide which was designed into themes and sub-themes according to research objectives.

Method of Data Analyses

The primary data were analyzed through the use of thematic analyses, transcription and verbatim quotations. The response of the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was analyzed thematically according to the research objectives. Furthermore, the response of the respondents was transcribed in the language used in the discussions which was later translated into the language of the research. Finally, verbatim quotation was used in order to present respondents responses as accurate as possible.

Data Presentation and Discussion of Findings

Findings of the study were discussed based on the objectives of the study

i. Income Level of the Participants Before and After the Intervention

The annual gross income before the intervention was within the range of #50,000 to #250,000 while after the intervention it rises from #50,000-#250000 to #250000 to #500000 thousand. One of the beneficiaries confirmed that,
Our annual gross income before introduction of Fadama III used to be very small, for instance, some of us used to make annual income of N30,000 to N250,000 thousand while after Fadama III, our income have really increased. Some of us make N200,000 to N500,000 thousand per annum, while some even made above that. (Male, Fadama III beneficiary, Kware Local Government Area)

Similarly, it was discovered that, before Fadama III intervention project, the participants do not have adequate livestock, for instance, only Mai Gari (Village Head) has some significant proportion of animals while majority of the participants has only about 1-3 cows, a donkey, about 1-3 sheeps and maximum of 5 goats. However, after the intervention, it was discovered that the least number of livestock owned by a participant ranges from 10-15 donkeys, 4-7 sheeps, 2-20 cows, and 5-15 goats. It was also discovered that value of harvested crops before Fadama III intervention was not sufficient enough to enhance their livelihoods. For instance, one of the respondents revealed that:

On animal possession, before Fadama III, some of us have just a cow, while some have 2. Myself has just a donkey then, but now i can proud of 3 cows, 5 donkeys while i am still rearing some goats. Thanks to Almighty Allah and Fadama III people. (Male Fadama III beneficiary, Kware Local Government Area)

On land ownership, majority of the beneficiaries only have a hectare of land while after Fadama III intervention, the least hectare of land owned per a participant is 3 hectares while some of the participants owned up to 4 hectares of land and this also improved their harvesting capacity. For instance, a respondent had this to say:

On the issues of harvesting, land determine its outcome. Before now, i have just 1 hectare of land for farming. Hardly will i produced enough to consume and sell, but from the time i start benefitting from Fadama III to this moment, I can tell you boldly that i have 3 hectares of land which has rapidly increases the crops i harvested annually (Male, Fadama III beneficiary, Kware Local Government Area)

The findings also show that before Fadama III, hardly could a farmer from the study area saved money for other purposes while after Fadama III project participants were able to save reasonable amount of their proceeds, for instance, after the intervention, the participants claimed to have been saving about N300,000-N400,000 thousands while some said even above that in some circumstances. A respondent from the study area claimed that:

My son, we don’t save, that’s just the truth. We only start saving with the help of Fadama III project in place. Since the inception of Fadama III, there is no year I don’t save minimum of N300,000 to N400,000 thousand naira (Male, Fadama III beneficiary, Kware Local Government Area)

These was also in tandem with the findings of the World Bank Assessment Report, (2015) where it was stated that crop production was satisfactory high in Sokoto, Kebbi, and Yobe States of Northern Nigeria as a result of access to more hectares of land. The result also showed how Fadama intervention programmes increased the income of the project participants, especially, those who were once destitute but now have acquired assets, and it also indicated that over 1,000 jobs were created by the project.

ii. Individual Household Assets of the Participants (like Radio, Television, Refrigerator, Generator, Cars, Motorcycle, Bicycle, Pick Van, House etc) Before and After Fadama III Project

Based on the household assets, it was discovered that majority of the participants owned a set of radio before the intervention project and even after the intervention programmes. It was also discovered that none of the participants owned a television set before the project intervention and none did even after the intervention project. When scrutinized further for why none bother to own a T.V. set even after making some proceeds from the project, the reason given was that T.V. is an unnecessary luxury that corrupt the minds of the children.
respondent validates the above assertion by saying that:

"Household assets are things of interest and choices especially here in the village where we lived. As far as I am concerned, I can't bring television into my house because here in the village we believed that such things corrupt the minds of people, especially children" (Male, Fadama III beneficiary, Kware Local Government Area)

This was in congruency with World Bank Assessment Report which posited that Fadama III development programmes in the Northern Nigeria did not really improved the participant's ability to purchased valuable household assets (World Bank Report, 2015). During the study, it was also discovered that none of the participants owned a refrigerator, except one participant from Kware Local Government Area and at the time of the study, it was discovered that the refrigerator was faulty, and even after the intervention project, none owned a single refrigerator. They unanimously posited that Tukunyar Lakka (A traditionally clay molded pot) is more preferable, less expensive and harmless. A respondent said that:

"I have never thought of using refrigerator in my house before and even after Fadama III, because here in the village, we are used to Tukunyar Lakka (a traditionally clay molded pot). It is natural, less expensive and devoid of any health damage, and above all, it is not a necessity, rather to me, it is a luxury." (Male, Fadama III beneficiary, Kware Local Government Area)

On the electrical generator, it was discovered that none of the participants owned a generator before the project, but immediately after the intervention project, majority of them begin to value the use of generator. While some have 2, others have 4 generators and the reason was as a result of the project itself which has everything to do with dry season irrigation, so the generators are used for pumping water from ground to the surface. For instance, a respondent explained that:

"Before Fadama III, I do not even know how to engage in dry season farming, not to talk of having a generator. It is Fadama III that gave me my first generator for the purpose of pumping water during irrigation, later on I bought 2 extra generators which are all functioning as I speak to you now. The essence of these generators are to pump water." (Male, Fadama III beneficiary, Kware Local Government Area)

The findings also discovered that none of the participants owned a car, motor cycle, or a pick-up van before the Fadama III development projects, while few people have bicycle, and virtually none of the participants own a personal house, rented house, or even a pledge house, but rather majority of them lived in the family compound house, but after the intervention project, two participants were discovered to build a personal house which at the time of the study are used for storage of harvested farm products but majority of the participants lived in their extended family compound even after the intervention. Even though, virtually all the participants did something to keep the house upgraded such as renovation and expansion of the buildings. A respondent affirmed that:

"Before Fadama III, i was occupying a single room with my wife in a family house left for us with my brothers by our father. My two brothers also lived in a single room each but after Fadama III, i build 5 extra rooms, including rooms for our children in the house." (Male, Fadama III beneficiary, Kware Local Government Area)

Another respondent on the similar issue also said that:

"Though I build a new house after Fadama III project with 8 rooms in it, but it belongs to my grandchildren, for now i am using it for storing cultivated items." (Male, Fadama III beneficiary, Kware Local Government Area)
It was also discovered that even after the intervention, only two participants owned a car, one owned a pick-up van, many owned motor cycles and bicycles. It should be noted that the motor cycles and cars are all used for commercial purposes and this help them in generating more income and improve on their livelihoods. For instance, a respondent expressed that:

Many of us were formally using bicycles, while some of us have motor cycles, for instance, I have a bicycle before, but now, I have two motor cycles and I still maintain the bicycle. (Male, Fadama III beneficiary, Kware Local Government Area)

Another respondent also corroborated the above and said that:

I have two donkeys before now. I inherited one from my father and I bought one myself from the money I inherited from my father, but after Fadama III, I added 2 donkeys and I bought a motor cycle for my son which he uses for commercial purposes and it is from the proceeds he made from the Kabu Kabu (Okada Rider) that he got married and cater for the needs of his wife. That’s why I keep saying Fadama III is my second god, my father and mother, direct sent from Almighty Allah (Male, Fadama III beneficiary, Kware Local Government Area)

iii. Access to Social Services Delivery by the Participants Before and After the Fadama III

During the research process, it was found out that before Fadama III intervention programmes, majority of the children of the participants were either school dropped outs or have no any formal educational background and even after the intervention programmes, the result was not very much satisfactory. For instance, apart from two participants who allowed their female daughters to attend primary 1-6, before getting married, none of the participants gave their female children the opportunity of going to school. In virtually most circumstances, only the male children were allowed to enrolled in western school. This findings corroborated with the findings of the States Beneficiary Assessment/Impact Report (SBAR, 2015), the Project Appraisal Document Report (PAD) of Fadama III, and Implementation Completion Report (ICR), whose all argued that Fadama III intervention project did not really improve the education status of its beneficiaries in most Northern Nigeria, Sokoto inclusive. The assessment report classified the programmes as a failure and highly unsatisfactory in such areas, (BASIR,2015; PAD, 2015; ICR, 2016). A respondent also confirmed that:

All my children are in school, including the female one, but believe me, immediately after their primary school, I will give their hands in marriage because here in our culture, if a lady grows beyond 13-15 years old, she hardly secures a decent man to marry her (Male, Fadama III beneficiary, Kware Local Government Area)

Another respondent also said that:

It is late for me to go back to school, but for my children, I will make sure they all get what they deserve in term of education. I have 5 males and 2 females children, and all the 5 males are in school while the 2 females help their mother with domestic work. I am afraid to send them to school and lose their virginity. At least we used to see how educated girls used to play a promiscuity life which is against Allah wish. (Male, Fadama III beneficiary, Kware Local Government Area)

The findings also revealed that majority of the participants visit medical healthcare centers before Fadama III intervention programmes and even after the intervention. A respondent said that:
About health facilities, we always believed that health is wealth, and even before Fadama III, we go to hospital and our wives attend antenatal and post-natal but not as frequent as now (Male, Fadama III beneficiary, Kware Local Government Area).

This was in line with the World Bank Assessment Report which showed satisfactory results on the level of Fadama III participants’ accessibility to healthcare delivery in Nigeria (World Bank Report, 2015). The findings also showed that, before the project, none of the participants attended pilgrimage, and majority of them have 1-2 wives, while after the intervention, only one participant was able to go for pilgrimage while majority of the participants added more wives ranging from 1-3. A respondent said:

On issues concerning social participation, i think it is also a matter of choice and interest. As far as I am concern, I rather invest the money into my farming business activities than to go for pilgrimage, though before I don’t have such amount that can take me to hajj, but because of benefit one got from Fadama III project, one can be proud of such huge amount of money (Male, Fadama III beneficiary, Kware Local Government Area).

In a similar vein, another respondent said:

Before Fadama III, i have 2 wives, but my second wife left me because of the difficulties we were facing then, she said it boldly that she cannot bear the suffering any more. I just remarry not up to a year; I and my 2 wives are now doing great, thanks to Fadama III interventions project (Male, Fadama III beneficiary, Kware Local Government Area).

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study examined the Fadama III development project and its consequent effects on beneficiaries in Kware Local Government Areas of Sokoto State, and the findings revealed that Fadama III intervention project in the study areas recorded success in increasing income level and general livelihoods of the participants. The findings also showed that there was moderate success in individuals’ ability to own assets but there was moderate success in participants’ ability to access quality healthcare delivery as well as ability to add more wives. While, on the contrary, there was unsatisfactory success in individual ability to own household assets, children’s ability to go to school, and ability to participate in social delivery services such as attending pilgrimage and political activities.

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were offered:

1) That, the tentacles of the project be expanded and more strengthened so that more people can benefit from the project in the nearest future. Strengthening the scope of the project would also go a long way in making the project to empower the beneficiaries so that other aspects of their livelihoods that are yet to be influenced positively would also be covered including their educational attainment.

2) It is also recommended that government at all levels and even development partners should emulate or adopt the community drive development approach of Fadama III project for any future poverty reduction programmes, food security and sustainable rural development in Nigeria. This approach, no doubt contributed to the developmental strives and success recorded by the Fadama III implementers.

3) Finally, it is also recommended that counterpart funding which is compulsory for any participant to raise before benefitting from the Fadama III project should be cancel in order to pave way for the most rural vulnerable ones. And besides, for a poor man living in difficulties of having even one or two square meal a day, cannot afford even the cheapest education, no shelter, no healthcare to mention a few, how can such a person donate and contribute certain and reasonable amount requested for as a take-off grant.
Reference


