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A REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD) ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

The study reviewed the role of IFAD in Agricultural development in Nigeria. Socio-economic characteristics such as level of education, household size, farm size, membership of cooperative and extension contact were the factors influencing smallholder farmers' participation in IFAD projects. Various programmes executed by IFAD across the

Introduction

Agricultural development necessitates governmental aid in every country the world over. While wealthy countries such as the United States and Europe can, and, do help their farmers, most African countries are impoverished and lag significantly behind Western countries in terms of agricultural growth, making it unlikely that they will be able to give the necessary assistance on their own. An analysis of Nigeria's agricultural sector reveals that it is unable to fund its own development (Tasie, 2012). Thus, they are reaching out for developmental aid to help their people to feed themselves. Foreign agricultural aid, on the other hand, remains a contentious topic among donors and recipients alike. Rather than focusing on the effectiveness of assistance-funded projects to justify the need for future help, donors focus on the effectiveness of aid-funded projects to justify the need for future

six geopolitical zones of Nigeria covers areas such as poverty reduction through agricultural initiatives, challenges of youth employment and provision of basic rural infrastructures to some selected communities. Also, IFAD indulges in managerial/Human development projects such as leadership training/seminar, human capacity development, training farmers on how to develop an appropriate and usable business plan, financial management, record-keeping systems and risk management. IFAD was effective in monitoring of programmes, supervision, and field workshops. Respondents' level of satisfaction on the projects was perceptibly satisfactory. Effects of the projects on participating people and communities are: improvement in agricultural method, human capacity development, improvement of rural people's income and increased productivity. Constraints such as inadequate capital, agricultural credit facilities, storage facilities, funding, and lack of adequate support to the marketing components hindered the effective participation of farmers in IFAD projects. This review recommends that more partnerships should be established by both the Federal and State Governments to benefit the livelihood programs in Nigeria.

aid (New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), 2010).

According to The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (2013), IFAD was founded as an International Financial Institution in 1977 as a specialized agency of the United Nations as one of the primary outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference. The conference was held in reaction to the early 1970s food crises, which particularly affected Africa's Sahelian countries. The conference decided that an international fund for agricultural development should be formed immediately to fund agricultural development initiatives in underdeveloped countries, notably in the food production sector. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) supports programs and projects that work with communities, with smallholder farmers as major stakeholders The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is dedicated to ending rural poverty in developing countries. 75% of the world's poorest people - 1.4 billion women, children, and men - live in rural areas and rely on agriculture and related industries for a living. IFAD focuses on

country-specific solutions, which can include boosting poor rural people's access to financial services, markets, technology, land, and other natural resources. It works with poor rural people, governments, funders, non-governmental organizations, and a variety of other partners (IFAD, 2015).

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is supporting the Nigerian government's poverty reduction initiative in rural areas, which is mostly focused on smallholder farmers (IFAD, 2015). It has supported several programs and projects in Nigeria since 1985, with a total credit commitment of more than US$232.2 million. Currently, the country receives more than 40% of IFAD's financial resources for Western and Central Africa. Smallholders, women, small business entrepreneurs, poor fishing villages, young people, and landless people have all benefited from all of the programs and projects (Tenabe et al., 2018). IFAD funding has helped to increase agricultural employment. This highlights the fact that IFAD, as a United Nations Specialized agency, has maintained its integrity as Nigeria's trusted partner for agricultural development (Joseph and Ezekwe, 2021).

Since 1985, IFAD has identified the under-achievement of objectives or goals as one of the primary issues confronting most supported agricultural programs. This is due to inputs being diverted for other uses, inadequate implementation approaches, corruption, policy and political inconsistencies. Despite several agricultural programs, food insecurity remains a widespread issue. In the light of the foregoing, a review of IFAD's involvement in agricultural development in Nigeria is required, since the evaluation will aid the country's agricultural growth and productivity while also assisting IFAD in assessing its own performance.

Role of IFAD in Agricultural development in Nigeria

Smallholder farmers' engagement in the IFAD-Community Based Agricultural and Rural Development Project is influenced by a number of factors which include: Level of education, family size, farm size, cooperative membership, and extension contact, were shown to be factors influencing smallholder farmers' engagement in IFAD projects. Jamilu et al. (2015) observed that in Katsina State, Nigeria, inadequate money, agricultural financing, and storage facilities were also identified as important barriers to participation in the program. Thus, extension

staff should help farmers join successful cooperative societies, and where they already exist, efforts should be made to enhance them so that farmers can have easy access to loans, farm inputs, and markets for their agricultural products.

Adoption of new agricultural technologies is one method of positively altering agriculture and enhancing productivity. New improved varieties, management regimes, soil fertility management, weed/pest control, and water management are among the most prominent areas of agricultural technology generation and promotion for crop production (Loevinsohn et al., 2012). For instance, Challa (2013) reported that adopters of improved technologies increase their production resulting in constant socio-economic growth. Adediran et al. (2019) asserted that IFAD intervened In Niger state through the provision of infrastructures and modern rice processing equipment, thus increasing the quantity and quality of milled rice. They noted that it is a formidable step towards reducing poverty and hunger in Niger State, especially with rapid population growth rates. This is based on the fact that IFAD intervention in the study area has a positive and significant impact on poverty reduction. Also, the modern rice processing machines (solar dryers and biofuel milling machines) and tools (smart climate readers) provided by IFAD-VCDP has led to climate change mitigation.

Tasie (2013) on the effect of international fund for agricultural development credit supply on rural farmers in Rivers state, stated that the IFAD credit supply has produced a positive impact on the income of farmers in the study area. Some variables, namely, farm size, off-farm income, household labour, educational level of a farmer, gender, farm household size, and IFAD credit supply were all significant in influencing the farm income of farmers (Table 1). With the increase in income and output, there will be an increase in nutritional status and social development.

Table 1: Regression result of factors that determine gross farm income

Variable	Functional forms			
	Linear	**Exponential**	**Semi log**	**Double log**
Farm size	0.5317 2.4735*	0.000024 2.2184*	18052 3.1614	0.5700 1.9154**
Off-farm income	-1.03562 -0.9525	-0.000010 -0.4636	-0.565 -9.3240*	0.3171 0.7772
Hired labour	-0.4036 -0.9092	2.2736 1.1152	-27.249 -0.38	4.6821 1.0253
Total household labour	1354.08 0.5145	0.2490 1.380	120.911 3.701*	0.4161 2.4227*
Input purchased	556.917 0.8672	1.17964 0.3970	2227889 1.3412	1.486 2.2630
Educational level	1569.44 2.6013	4.5902 1.783**	1582779 1.8405**	9494.355 1.4825**
Gender	1184.71 -1.675**	-0.011545 -1.3643	4.9963 -1.9886**	-11536.99 -2.4363
Household size	270.017 0.9645	0.07073 2.2952	4.0268 2.8676	2715326.3 1.495
IFAD credit supply	2540731 1.788**	0.1898 1.687**	5.654 3.1420*	3272425 1.6160**
Constant term **R^2** **F-ration** **N**	2.2318 0.5423 10.5318 90	2.9234 0.5245 9.8048 90	4.6214 0.8758 62.6803 90	10.1135 0.8027 36.1630 90

***Significant at 1% **significant at 5%.**

Source: Tasie, 2013

Also, Illo et al. (2015) examined the role of IFAD/CBARDP in improving livelihood of rural women in Kebbi State (Table 2). The study noted that majority of the women were married, and at an active productive ages. Qur'anic education was the common educational status of the participants. The findings also revealed that all the IFAD participating women were provided with assistance, based on their needs and interests. The common assistance provided was the training on tailoring, knitting, soap and cream making and later, the participants were provided with such machines. In addition, the participants were provided cash loans. The programme led to the improvement of the living standards of the participants after programme participation.

Table 2: Personal Characteristics of the Participants in Aliero LGA, Kebbi state, Nigeria (n=80)

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Age of the respondents		
21-30 years	8	10.00
31-40 years	27	33.80
41-50 years	37	46.20
51 years and above	8	10.00
Marital status		
Single	2	2.50
Married	69	86.30
Divorced	5	6.30
Widowed	4	5.00
Educational attainment		
Primary school	12	15.00
Secondary school	2	2.50
Qur'anic school	64	80.00
Tertiary institutions	2	2.50
Occupation		
Agro-processing	49	61.25
Petty trading	10	12.50
Craft	11	13.75
Livestock rearing	8	10.00
Crop production	2	2.50

Source: Illo et al., (2013).

Table 3: Mode and Assistance Provided to the Participants by the Programme (n=80)

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Provision of the Assistance		
Based on demand	76	95.00
Jus supplied	4	5.00
Cash Assistance		
Less than N5.000	20	25.00
N5,000-N10,000	16	20.00

N11,000-N15,000	6	7.50
N16,000-N20,000	16	20.00
N21.000 and above	22	27.50
Training and machineries provided.		
Tailoring	50	62.50
Knitting machines	10	12.50
Soap making	9	11.30
Cream making	11	13.80

Source: Illo et al. (2013).

According to study conducted by Sadiq (2020), on Rice yield differentials between IFAD participating and nonparticipating farmers in Nigeria's Niger State; the empirical findings showed that the participating farmers are efficient in managing their enterprise risk owing to low cost of production and high yield. In addition, the programme had an impact on the farmers' productivity both in the short-run and long-run, thus, the reason for the high yield in comparison to their counterparts. Furthermore, the decomposition analysis justified the impact of the programme as structural difference called programme participation accounts for more than 92% variation in the yield of the participating farmers been higher than that of the non-participating farmers, leaving less than 10% to be contributed by resource endowment difference. Therefore, the study advised the participating farmers to increase their insurance coverage and adjust their structural pattern of production as a risk management strategy so as to enhance their chances of breaking even in rice production.

IFAD-CBARDP has achieved its goal of increasing the farm incomes of participants and targeting the marginalized and vulnerable participants in its farm technical efficiency (Gambo et al., 2016). They assessed smallholder farmers' participation in IFAD-Community Based Agricultural and Rural Development Project in Katsina State. They opined that the combined influence of socio-economic variables (level of education, household size, farm size, sex, membership of cooperative, access to credit and extension contact) made positive and significant contributions to farmers participation in IFAD-CBARDP activities. The

study further revealed that inadequate capital, inadequate agricultural credit, inadequate storage facilities and limited market information among other factors constrained the effective participation of farmers in the project. It was discovered that age, gender and household size were the significant factors that influence farmer's participation in the IFAD-CBARDP.

Table 4: Logit regression of socio-economic factors influencing farmers participation in IFAD-CBARDP

Variables	Coefficient	Standard Error	Valid Statistic	P value
Constant	-1.535	0.173	-8.870	0.000
Age	-0.068	0.042	-1.608	0.085
Level of education	-0.309*	0.051	-6.110	0.000*
Household size	-0.041*	0.013	-3.223	0.000*
Farm size	0.801*	0.254	3.151	0.000*
Sex	-0.283*	0.120	-2.371	0.001*
Membership of coop.	0.545*	0.130	4.197	0.000*
Access to credit	1.213*	0.397	3.059	0.000*
Extension contacts	0.583*	0.252	2.309	0.001*

Source: Gambo et al., (2016).

Table 5: Major constraints to effective participation in IFAD-CABARDP by the farmers

Variables	Percentage %	Rank
Inadequate capital	16.2	1st
Inadequate agricultural credit	16.0	2nd
Inadequate storage facilities	15.7	3rd
Limited market information	15.5	4th
Poor Extension agents' outputs	11.3	5th
Inadequate agric. insurance	10.7	6th
Poor leadership	5.6	7th
Lack of awareness	5.5	8th

Socio-cultural barrier	3.5	9th
Total	**100**	

Source: Gambo et al. (2016)

IFAD programmes were effective in reducing poverty through agricultural initiatives among community members. Ukohol et al. (2019) evaluated International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) programme on poverty reduction among community members in Bayelsa State. The result showed that community members identified construction of radio house, establishment of cassava processing mill, establishment of cassava farm, establishment of poultry farm and establishment of plantain farm, as the various IFAD programmes provided to reduce poverty. Community members participated in construction of landing jetty, establishment of cassava processing mill and construction of cluster fish pond. IFAD was effective in the monitoring of the programmes, supervision and field workshop.

Fakayode et al. (2015) reported on the international fund for Agricultural Development and the Federal Government of Nigeria (IFAD/FGN) poverty reduction program among farm households in Ondo State, Nigeria. The study revealed that poverty incidence, depth and severity among respondents were lower among IFAD/FGN beneficiaries than among non-beneficiaries. The study recommended that IFAD/FGN project effort should be intensified at reducing poverty rates in the study area, using other measures such as, income diversification and establishment of small scale agro-industries. That, more funds should be made available for such programmes and, the programme, extended to other states and rural areas of the country.

IFAD addresses the challenge of youth employment in the Niger Delta. It also supports the employment generation drive of the Federal Government to redirect women and youth towards agriculture as a viable and profitable occupational choice, in line with the Agricultural Transformation Agenda. Through the Community-Based Natural Resource Management Programme (CBNRMP), IFAD has introduced an innovative enterprise development approach that involves the fostering of a new category of entrepreneur-cum-mentors: the N-Agri-preneur. The N-Agri-preneurs are dynamic university graduates who own and run

small-scale enterprises. Their role is to act as intermediaries between small-scale, market-oriented farmers, mostly youths, and large-scale agro-industries and wholesalers. As part of their mandate, the N-Agri-preneurs make their businesses available as an engagement platform for business development services to producers, especially, young people who are interested in agro-based activities, as well as, a knowledge-sharing arena for farming communities (IFAD, 2015).

Nwaobiala (2017) emphasized on the factors influencing the International Fund for Agricultural Development Community-Based Natural Resource Management Programme on arable crop farmers' output in Abia and Cross River states, Nigeria. Results from the study showed that Abia farmers realized 26 tons/ha, 55 tons/ha and 2.3 tons/ha from cassava, yam minisett and, sole maize respectively, while Cross River farmers realised 23 tons/ha (cassava), 51 tons/ha (yam minisett) and 2.2 tons/ha (sole maize). Whereas, Abia farmers had an adoption index of 64% each for cassava and yam minisett and 63% for maize, Cross River had adoption index of 63% each for the three technologies. Factors such as wage rate, farm size, education, capital inputs and extension contact influenced output of arable crop framers in Abia and Cross River states.

According to Oruonye and Ahmed (2021) on IFAD intervention in Taraba State, on the cassava value chain and food security issues in Nigeria, using the case of IFAD Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) intervention. The findings revealed that IFAD-VCDP intervention only covers 8 LGAs in Taraba State (Takum, Gassol, Wukari, Ardo-kola, Karim-Lamido, Bali, Jalingo and Donga LGAs). The programme was able to carry out sensitization of stakeholders and training of about 30 leaders of farmer organizations (FOs) in each of the selected LGAs. The programme trained farmers on how to develop an appropriate and usable business plan, financial management and record-keeping systems. About 25 participating farmer groups were able to access credit from financial institutions, 24 groups received inputs in cassava production. Some of the challenges include inadequate funding, lack of adequate support to the marketing component, inadequate clean water and lack of improved mechanized cassava processing equipment. Based on the findings, the study recommended increased support for cassava marketers, financial linkages and establishment of more cassava processing centres.

IFAD has also worked on rural infrastructure as a strategy for poverty reduction. A study conducted by Galadima (2014) in Yobe State stated

that IFAD-CBARDP provided basic rural infrastructures to some selected communities such as, water, schools and health centres. Respondents also highlighted their benefits on Para-vet clinic, Culvert, Vocational centres, Latrines and staff quarters. Respondents' level of satisfaction on the infrastructure provided was perceptibly satisfactory.

In Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State, IFAD have impacted three communities namely: Ozuaha, Ubima and Apani. The types of projects implemented by IFAD include: construction of classrooms, training of women, men and youths, in skills acquisition. These are water borehole, renovation of schools, leadership training/seminar, among others. Effects of the projects on participating people and communities are: improvement in agricultural method, access to good drinking water, human capacity development, improvement of rural people's income and increased productivity (Albert and Deekor 2013).

Conclusion and recommendations

The study revealed that there is high impact of IFAD programmes in Agricultural development in Nigeria. IFAD has remained Nigeria's trusted partner for agricultural development. The combined influence of socio-economic variables (level of education, household size, farm size, sex, membership of cooperative, access to credit facilities and extension contact) have made positive and significant contributions to farmers participation in IFAD programmes. In the spirit of global partnership for agricultural development, IFAD should continue to provide technical knowhow and financial supports to stimulate farmers in Nigeria. IFAD's general investments in agriculture should be promoted. More partnerships should be established by both federal and state governments that can benefit the livelihood programs in Nigeria. Finally, the government of Nigeria should ensure that IFAD projects are effectively and efficiently utilized for sustainable Agricultural development in the country.

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