Evaluation of Women Participation in International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)/Community Based Agricultural and Rural Development Programme (CBARDP) Intervention in Katsina State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study examined the activities of farmers due to the intervention of IFAD/CBARDP in Katsina State Nigeria with the view to evaluate women participation in Agricultural activities. A total of 132 respondents who were beneficiaries of the programme were randomly selected from the 12 participating local government areas. Data were collected using structured questionnaires and analyzed using descriptive statistics, regression analysis and t-test. The results showed that majority of the respondents were males, married with an average age of 41years, household size of 13 and have attended one form of education or another. The study also indicated gender inequality among the respondents in all components of the programme, with a significant difference in women participation before and after the programme. The respondents now belong to one group or another and considered community problems as their individual and collective problems after the programme as opposed to their attitude before participation in the programme. It is recommended that more women-friendly intervention programmes that impact on women participation in Agriculture should be brought to the state and the country at large.

Key words: Women farmers, participation and activities, IFAD/CBARDP interventions

Introduction

Millions of women work as farmers, farm workers and natural resource managers. In doing so, they contribute to national agricultural output, maintenance of the environment and family food security (Odurukwe, Matthews-Njoku and Ejiogu-Okereke, 2006). In Nigeria the involvement of women in agriculture have attracted greater attention in recent years. The need to develop a suitable extension service that is gender specific and tailored to women farmers cannot be overemphasized. This is in recognition that women play very significant roles in Nigerian agricultural production, processing and utilization (Nnadozie and Ibe 2000), but are constrained under the unified Extension System by socio-cultural barriers, and by the current approach that rely almost exclusively on a network of contact farmers that are over 95% male farmers; little research on products - fruits, vegetables, small livestock- which are mainly the responsibility of women farmers. The integration of women in extension is, thus, essential for the achievement of some goals such as increased food production, food self-sufficiency and sustained reduction of poverty and malnutrition.

According to Oyeranti (2010) these problems forced the Nigerian government to give priority attention through the creation of various policies and agricultural related programmes with emphasis on poverty reduction, particularly in women and the revitalization of the non-oil sectors, especially agriculture. The policies and programmes include entering into partnership

with international organizations and agencies such as the World Bank, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), among others in order to develop the agriculture and to improve the standard of living of the rural people particularly women.

In Nigeria, IFAD Programme area is 286,500km^2 or 31% of Nigeria. States participating in the programme are: Katsina, Borno, Yobe, Sokoto, Zamfara, and Jigawa. These states have 208 local government councils and at least 1600 rural villages participating in the programme. The intervention introduced by IFAD in Nigeria is called Community Based Agricultural Rural Development Programme (CBARDP), and is jointly funded by IFAD, Federal, States and Local governments as well as by the benefiting communities within the programme area. It was initially a seven year programme as approved on September 13, 2001, which has been extended to last 10 years. The programme is for a loan of $29.9 million, it became loan effective on January 13, 2003 and loan disbursement to benefiting states started March, 2003. Field implementation of the programme commenced in January, 2004. The goal of CBARDP is to improve the livelihoods and living conditions of rural communities with emphasis on women and vulnerable groups. Both IFAD and other co-partners have spent huge sums of money over the years in the programme areas. Yet poverty persists in the rural families with clear evidence of gender marginalization. The significant proportion of the farming population depends on donor intervention agencies for new production technologies, inputs and credits which if not properly supplied and effectively managed will lower the general productivity. Poorly fed citizens of any nation cannot be expected to perform at any appreciable level of efficiency. Consequently, the intervention of IFAD in Katsina State is imperative in improving the productivity of the farm family and enhancing rural solidarity. A considerable amount of time has elapsed from the inception of the programme to date that will enable someone to ask the question are women folk adequately involved in the programme and do they have access to factors of production?

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study was to assess the women farmer's participation in the activities of IFAD's Community Based Agricultural and Rural Development Programme (CBARDP), in Katsina state, Nigeria. The specific objectives were to:

i. determine the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents generally and levels of their participation in groups/unions;
ii. determine women participation in IFAD/CBARDP Intervention programme, and how they view their community problems.

Methodology

Katsina State is located between latitude 11^{O}08'N and 13^{O}22'N and longitude 6^{O}52'E and 9^{O}21'E. The area has an estimated population of 5.081 million people and a total land area of 23,938 square kilometers (NPC, 2006). The study area experiences two seasons, namely, rainy season and dry season. The rainy season starts in April/May and ends in October/November with an annual rainfall of 700mm to 900mm per annum. The dry season which starts in December, is characterized by cold condition and harmattan dust which end in March/April. The vegetation of the study area belongs to the Northern Guinea Savanna Zone to the South, while Northern part of the State belongs to the Sudan Savanna Zone. The topography of the state is made of undulating plains, which generally rise gently from 360m in the north-east to 600m above sea level in the south-west. The southern part of the state is largely covered by

clayed soil, about 5 meters deep and very fine in texture, while in the north, the drift deposits are coarser resulting in light sandy soils of buff or reddish colours of low medium fertility (Adamu, 1993). The major occupation of the people in the state is farming and they mostly cultivate crops such as millet, sorghum, groundnuts, cotton, and maize, and they also engage in the production of small ruminants. People in the study area are predominantly Hausa/Fulani and Muslims by religion.

Simple random sampling technique was used to select one participating village each from all the local government areas in Katsina State which gives a total of twelve villages out of 36 participating villages throughout the state. A structured questionnaire was administrated with the aid of planning officers of the LGAs to the leaders of rural enterprise groups of every selected village and ten randomly selected farmers from each selected village. A total of one hundred and thirty-two (132) questionnaires were distributed. The items in the questionnaires were interpreted orally by the enumerators to enhance understanding of the questions, purpose of the research, and cooperation of the respondents. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics, t-test and Regression.

Results and Discussion

Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Beneficiaries of IFAD/CBARDP

Table 1 shows that the age of the respondents range from 15 to 56 years and above. However, those within the ages of 36 – 45 years constituted 23.85%. This was followed by those in the age bracket of 26 – 35 years with 22.93% while respondents at the ages of 46 – 55 years and 56 and above years were 19.26% and 18.34% respectively. About 17% were in the ages of 5 – 25 years. The mean age of the respondents was 41 years with those between the ages of 26 – 45 years representing the highest proportion. It implies that they were within the active age of economic production. This is important because as youth, they may be willing to assume greater risk in anticipation of profit than the older or much younger ones. This finding conforms to that of Haruna (2002) who reported that a farmer's age may influence his/her resources allocation, reasoning and management ability. On the other hand Jabil (2009), opined that middle aged people are loaded with societal responsibilities and therefore with high expectation of life. The dependent population relies significantly on the working population. Therefore, they are forced to engage in economic activities to live up to expectation. Sex describes the gender status (femininenes or maleness) of a person. People are biologically classified as men and women (Jabil, 2009). In this study, 55.96% respondents were men while 44.04% were women (Table 1). This may be due to the fact that most families in the rural areas are headed by men and that agriculture is the main source of income in the study area. Therefore, more men were into agricultural production to sustain the family, but Osuji (1983) reported that women are the most potential clients of agricultural financing agencies.

The results in Table 1 showed that 66% of the respondents were married, this may be attributed to the fact that they were mostly young and mostly dependent. Majority of the young people were into schooling or learning one trade or the other. Therefore, often they were not settled or stable to participate in such agricultural programme or invest and manage resource economically. This result is in accord with the report of Adamu (2005), who said that 95% of irrigated tomato farmers surveyed in Hadeja-Jama'are River basin, Nigeria, were married while only 5% were unmarried. The need to meet with the demand for food, health, education of children, housing and clothing etc. forces people into different economic activities (occupation/trades) especially farming.

Household size of the respondents

Household size represents the total number of individuals (wives, children, grandchildren and extended family members) that live and feed from the household. Household size is an important socio-economic indicator of labour. In this study, 33.94% of the respondents had family size of between 11 – 15 persons, 24.77% had 16 – 20 persons, 14.67% had 6 – 10, while another 14.67% also had 21-25 persons in their household. Only 10.09% had family members between 1-5 persons. The average family size, however was 13 persons (Table 1). Adamu (2005), had earlier reported that 74% of the surveyed farmers in Hadejia Jama'are River Basin had between 6 and 20 members in their household. It is therefore, logical to state that most of the beneficiaries IFAD/CBARDP in Katsina state had family size of 13 persons. The larger family size may be linked to the polygamous system of marriage practiced in the community. This is an indication of a readily available and cheap family labour for any economic activity in the study area.

Education refers to the formal or informal training acquired by an individual. This is represented by the number of years a person spent in formal or informal school. The result showed 33% of the respondents acquired Qur'anic education, this shows the influence of religion (being predominantly Muslims) on the societal way of life. And most of these respondents are among the aged. While about 30.3% had primary level of education, about 14% had tertiary education most of which showed appreciable change in the educational state of the study area. Only 9.17% of the respondents completed their secondary school, some of which may likely further their education. Another 1.17% had attended adult education classes, this indicated the out-dated nature of this form of education. About 5% of the respondents had not attended any form of education (Table 1).

The results of the study imply that education is very important in identifying economic opportunities, participation in meaningful societal or communal programmes and efforts in making better living conditions. The well-educated individuals are better exposed to economic opportunities as they can read, analyze and try many ideas. The higher the number of years in formal education, the greater the implication for participation in policy matters and general developmental responsibilities. Formal education has a positive influence on adoption and trial of various innovations. It is also important in management of risks associated with agricultural and economic activities in the study.

Experience represents the technical skills or knowledge acquired in participation or practicing a particular trade. Experience is measured in years an individual have had as a client to a particular programme. It enables beneficiaries adequately organize and manage their business in expectation of high profit. The results of the experience of the respondents as presented in Table 1 also indicate that 25.68% of the respondents had occupational experience of 11 – 20 years, and 24.77% had 21 – 30 years of experience. It also indicated that respondents with 41 – 50 years and above 51 years constituted 9.17% each, while 16.51% were in production for 1 – 10 years, and 14.67% in production for 31 to 40 years.

Women's Participation in the IFAD-CBARDP intervention programme

The results of the t-test analysis of the data collected shows a remarkable difference in the mean values of the sampled men and women participating farmers. At 95% confidence level there is a significant change in the level of women participation in agricultural practices due to the activities of Community Based Agricultural and Rural Development Programme of IFAD. This could be articulated from the fact that women have been given equal opportunities at all levels of the programme (Tables 2). According to Tasie and Offor (2013) the important effect

of participating in IFAD credit programme on the farmers is increase in farm income and output which is ranked first, followed by increase in farm holdings which ranked second. Other lower ranked items such as increase in nutritional status, procurement of more working capital (fertilizers, farm implements and improved seeds), ability to meet short-term expenditure (payment of children's school fees and medical expenses), purchase of means of evacuation of farm produce, building and repair of dilapidated buildings had also showed significant improvement after IFAD credit supply.

Respondents Participation in Groups/Unions

The feature of IFAD/CBARDP intervention is through group methodology. Beneficiaries are assisted or encouraged to organize into groups. A group could be formed along commonality of business activities, and location of residence or business. The result of the study explains that all the respondents belong to one form of group or another. Therefore, 36.7% belong to economic group association after IFAD intervention. This revelation is in line with the report of Ehigiamusoe (2000), that the common feature of micro-finance in making credit-input available to the public especially the farmers is the group methodology. According to FMARD (2001), emphasis in cooperative development is now on multipurpose agricultural cooperative for food production and marketing with 96% of cooperative societies in this country having been designed basically to serve the needs of agriculture.

From the results in Table 3, peer group participation changed from 29.35% before the intervention to 6.42% this indicated that group formation and interest changed from intimate and informal to formal after the intervention. Women that participated in the programme were mostly (13.76%) introduced to formal economic groups largely due to the opportunities given to them to participate (44% of the respondents were women) in the programme and this also affected their level of participation in agricultural production.

Table 1: Socio-economic Parameters of the Respondents

Parameter	Frequency	Percentage
Ages (Years)		
15 – 25	18	16.51
26 – 35	25	22.93
36 – 45	26	23.85
46 – 55	21	19.26
56 – above	19	18.34
Sex		
Male	61	55.96
Female	48	44.04
Marital Status		
Single	72	19.24
Married	21	66.05
Divorce	5	4.58
Widow	11	10.09
Household Size (Persons)		
1 – 5	11	10.09
6 – 10	16	14.67
11 – 15	37	33.94
16 – 20	27	24.77

21 – 25	16	14.67
26 – above	2	1.83
Educational Status		
Primary	33	30.27
Secondary	10	9.17
Tertiary	15	13.76
Qur'anic	36	33.02
Adult Education	10	1.17
None	5	4.58
Farming Experience (Years)		
1 – 10	18	16.51
11 – 20	28	25.68
21 – 30	27	24.77
31 – 40	16	14.67
41 – 50	10	9.17
51 – above	10	9.17

But there is little change in the respondents' attitude toward community development associations because most of the respondent that participated in the programme (18.34%) belong to a community development association before the intervention.

Table 2: t-test of Women Participation Before and After IFAD/CBARDP Intervention

	Before Intervention	**After Intervention**	**t significance**	**Remark**
Mean	1.1560	1.8257		
Standard Deviation	0.4341	0.6062	- 14.799***	Significant at
Standard Error	0.004158	0.005806		p<0.001

The intervention caused an increase of 11.01%. It should be noted that group formation enhances social intervention and builds solidarity among beneficiaries. It also creates beneficial interaction between beneficiaries and financing institutions. The emerging needs and views of the benefiting communities are articulated at group meetings. Equally new policies and procedures are channeled to the farmers at group meetings.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents' Participation in Groups/Unions Before and After the Intervention.

	Before		**After**	
Group	**Frequency**	**%**	**Frequency**	**%**
Peer group	32	29.35	7	6.42
Trade union	7	6.42	40	36.70
Gender and vulnerable group	2	1.83	15	13.76
Community Dev. Associations	20	18.34	32	29.35
Others	12	11.00	10	9.18
None	36	33.02	5	4.58

How respondents view their community problems

In Table 4, before the IFAD/CBARDP programme about 47% of the respondents (46.8%) in the study area viewed community problems as those of the government and had less business or concern with them. But after the intervention 55.96% saw their community's problems as community collective problems. This may mean that farmers will be able to identify their problems and have a strong "we" feeling toward solving them. It is noteworthy that there is relative change in the level of social interaction between respondents as a result of this intervention because most respondents' relationships among colleagues were intimate and informal which later turned formal due to the effect of formal group formation and proceedings.

Table 4: Distribution of the Respondents Based on their Views of Community Problems Before and After the Intervention

	Before		After	
Views	**Frequency**	**%**	**Frequency**	**%**
Personal	17	15.59	18	16.51
Government's	51	46.78	18	16.51
Community Collective	25	22.93	61	55.96
Others	16	14.67	12	11.00

Conclusion and Recommendation

It can be concluded that the activities of IFAD/CBARDP have contributed immensely in improving the women farmer's participation in Agricultural activities thereby with the potentials of bringing about the transformation of community development into community driven action. The programme has helped in shaping the farmers' attitude to embrace the formation of union/association for improving their economic activities as well as in approaching a developmental project with the "we feeling". This will encourage the feeling of community/societal problems as individual or collective problems that need solved by the members of the community as a prerequisite for transforming rural areas into economically active areas. It is recommended that effort should be made to reduce bureaucratic procedures for effective step by step actualization of the action plan according to time specification, and for a higher quota in women participation to bring at par their numbers of participants in the programme with those of men.

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