

## Impact of Fadama III Programme on Poverty Reduction in Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State, Nigeria

<sup>1</sup>Gushibet Solomon Titus, **Abstract**

<sup>2</sup>Maji Iliya & <sup>3</sup>Idisi Park

<sup>1</sup>Department of Economics,  
University of Jos,

<sup>2</sup>Central Bank of Nigeria

<sup>3</sup>Department of Economics,  
University of Abuja

The study examines the impact of Fadama III programme on poverty reduction amongst fadama beneficiaries in Jos North LGA of Plateau State, Nigeria. The methodology adopted includes descriptive research design of the ex-post facto in which questionnaires, interviews and Focus Groups Discussion were employed. Primary data were used and analyzed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) and results were presented in tables, frequency, percentages, including the chi-square technique. The study purposively selected a sample size 250 farmers who befitted from the programme across the twenty two towns and villages in the LGA, focusing mainly on the effects/impact of the programme on productivity, output and income of its beneficiaries. It was found that Fadama III programme has impacted positively on output and income of the beneficiaries, and the gains of the project also provided support to the vulnerable groups within the community, implying a significant impact on poverty reduction. Based on the findings, it was recommended that funding for agricultural programmes like the Fadama III project should be a continuous exercise, and government should adopt and expand the scope of Fadama projects as a major agricultural policy that cuts across the entire agricultural value chains in the country, amongst other recommendations.

### Keywords:

Fadama III,  
Poverty Reduction,  
Beneficiaries,  
Productivity,  
Output, Income

*Corresponding Author:*

Gushibet Solomon Titus

### **Background to the Study**

Poverty is a perennial and persistent economic problem in Nigeria where successive governments have formulated and implemented various poverty alleviation programmes to address the peril. These programmes include the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund (1977), Green Revolution (1980), Directorate of Food Roads and Rural Infrastructure (1986), National Directorate of Employment (1986), Family Economic Advancement Programme (1993), National Poverty Eradication Programme (2001), National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (2004), Youth Enterprises with Innovation in Nigeria-You Win (2011), Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (2012), etc, etc. These programmes were designed and implemented with the aim of reducing the level of poverty in the country and improve the living condition of the people. However, poverty level has continued to increase with the majority people living below the United Nations defined poverty line of one dollar twenty-five cents (\$1.25) per day (World Bank, 2015).

Aside petroleum, agricultural sector has contributed significantly to economic growth and poverty reduction in Nigeria. For example, the sector contributed about 30.9 percent growth in the economy in 2015 (NBS 2015), yet not much attention has been given to the sector by the past administrations. The advent of democracy in 1999 made government to start making serious efforts toward improving agricultural production methods by importing modern farming technology and formulating and implementing financial policies in an attempt to reduce poverty level and increase incomes and productivity of the rural dwellers (Simonyan and Omolehin, 2012). With the increasing awareness to maximize welfare of the rural dwellers through economic development, there is need to reduce unemployment, poverty and the rapid population growth rate among rural populace in Nigeria. This led the government to adopt various agricultural programmes and policies, and one of such programmes is the National Fadama Development programme.

Fadama programme is a collaborative project between the Federal, State and Local Governments with the World Bank. The main objectives of the programme is to increase incomes of the Fadama users, increase agricultural output, raise food security, reduce poverty level and improve the standard of living of the rural people in line with MDGS and sustainable development goals. The National *Fadama* Development Programme was conceived to serve as a major instrument for achieving government's poverty reduction objectives in the rural areas of Nigeria. The National *Fadama* Development Project was established to ensure an all year round production of crops in the federation, through the exploitation of shallow aquifers and surface water potentials in each state using tube wells, wash bores and petrol-driven pumps technology (World Bank, 1992).

The significance of the study is that it would bridge the knowledge gap on productivity and income of benefitting farmers in the area of study. Policy recommendations made from the findings of the study would serve as a guide to policy makers on how best to eradicate poverty in the country. Again, to the best knowledge of the researchers, a study on the impact of Fadama III programme and poverty reduction in Jos North Local Government Area, Plateau State, has not been done and this study would fill the gap. The objective of the study is to

assess the impact of Fadama III project on poverty reduction amongst Fadama III beneficiaries in Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State, Nigeria.

### **Conceptual Clarifications**

Fadama is a Hausa name that simply means irrigable land, which was introduced in phases called Fadama I, Fadama II and Fadama III, but for the purpose of this study, the researcher focused on Fadama III project only. Fadama III was implemented in all the 36 states of the Federation and Federal Capital Territory, to cover a period of 9 years (2008-2017). Osondu, Ijioma, Udah and Emerole (2015) and Edo (2000) in Olumese (2014) noted that *Fadama* as a programme involved development of flood plains and low lying areas underlined by shallow aquifers found along Nigeria's rivers system. The emphasis was the ease at which water is available for agricultural production, in addition to providing water for livestock during dry seasons. *Fadama* also support large and diverse resident or transient wildlife including herbivores, carnivores and migratory birds. *Fadama* as an idea emanated from the need to engage greater land with higher intensity in order to supplement rain fed agriculture with irrigation in Nigeria. Akinbile, Ashimolomo, and Oladoja (2006) in Bature, Sanni and Adebayo (2013) posited that *Fadama* development was a typical form of small scale irrigation practice that was characterized by flexibility of farming operations, low inputs requirement, high economic values; minimal social and environmental impact and conformed with the general criteria for sustainable development. This means that *Fadama* as a programme cuts across the different spectra of people within a given community.

The project was initiated consequent to the failure of large scale irrigation scheme which the country pursued for two decades to yield the anticipated increase in food production despite the large sums of money spent on it (Baba and Singh, 1998). Furthermore, the *Fadama* project was also initiated to address some of the factors that militated against the full realization of the potential benefits of agricultural activities in the rural areas. Some of these factors included poor development of rural infrastructure, low investments in irrigation technology, poor organization of farmers and limited access to foreign exchange for the importation of irrigation equipment. Abdullahi and Ajoku (2001) viewed poverty reduction as a demand for the implementation of programmes that will make poverty less and address income inequality among the rural dwellers.

### **Theoretical Framework**

Proponents of poverty reduction such as the World Bank (1991, 2015), Chenery (1974), would theorize that every economy needs a stable macroeconomic policies, rapid growth in agricultural sector, sound fiscal and monetary policies to create a hospitable climate for private investment and thus promote productivity which in the long-run would lead to poverty reduction. The Mercantilists also laid emphasis on foreign trade which according to them is an important vehicle for the promotion of economic growth and poverty reduction. Chenery (1974) advocated re-distribution of income and that poverty can better be reduced if radical redistribution of income or land is allowed to take place in view of the interlocking power and self-interest of the rich and the bureaucracy in the handling of a nation's resources. The Fadama project serves this purpose.

Various schools of thought advocated a number of measures to reduce poverty. For instance, the Mercantilists laid emphasis on foreign trade which according to them is an important vehicle for the promotion of economic growth and poverty reduction. The Classical economists such as Adam Smith, David Ricardo, Thomas Malthus, and socialist like Karl Marx, would view poverty reduction from the standpoint of technological changes resulting from the industrial revolution that took place between 1750 and 1850, occasioned by growing inequality, exploitation, ability to utilize scarce resources and competitiveness. The early development economists of the 1940s and the 1950s advocated the theory of forced-drift industrialization via Big Push, Balanced Growth and Labour Transfer (Ijaiya 2002). Dollar and Kraay (2000), United Nations (2004), and the World Bank (1992) advocated a pro-poor growth approach to poverty reduction by introducing new strategies/approaches to poverty reduction such as the Fadama III project to address basic needs, capabilities, and community self-help approaches to poverty reduction.

### **The Study Area**

Plateau state comprises of 17 Local Government Councils. However, this study was undertaken in Jos North Local Government Area, Plateau State. The LGA constitutes of one district, Gwong, and has twenty-two towns and villages which include Babale, Dong, Fudawa, Furaka, Gwafan, Gwash, Jos Jarawa, Kabong, Laranto, Nabgar, Nabor, Nagohom, Naraguta, Nassarawa, Nupkis, Rigiza, Rusau, Tudun Wada, Targwong, Zakaliyo, Zangam, and Zangan (Nigeria Zip Code, 2017).

The metropolitan nature of the area provided it with an added advantage while physical infrastructure like good roads, pipe born water and electricity supply are available throughout the entire Local Government Area. It is inhabited by many ethnic and linguistic groups. These groups include the indigenous tribes like the Berom's, the Anaguta and the Afizere (Jarawa). Other groups are the Yorubas, Hausas, Kanuris, Fulanis, Igbos as well as the various tribes of Nigeria who are residing in the state (Plateau State Today, 2008; In Asemah and Asogwa, 2013).

### **Sample Size**

In order to analyze the impact of Fadama III project on poverty reduction amongst the beneficiaries, a sample of respondents was selected from different categories of farmers (cultivators of farmlands, poultry and animal husbandry, agro-allied producers, sales and marketers of agricultural products, etc) that are located within the Local Government Area. A total of two hundred and fifty (250) respondents were purposively selected from within Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State. This number is a true representation of all categories of farmers who benefitted from *Fadama III* project in Jos North Local Government Area.

Purposeful sampling method was adopted in the selection of sample in the LGA which is a non-random sampling method that allowed the researcher to direct his/her attention to the specified areas of interest. The method has permitted the study to concentrate on the beneficiaries who can supply useful information. The selection was done by dividing the

twenty-two towns and villages into three cluster units based on proximity. The first cluster included Babale, Naraguta, Rusau, Zangan, Zangam, Zakaliya, and Dong; were administered eighty questionnaires. The second cluster included Kabong, Laranto, Tudun Wada, Rigiza, Nupkis, Gwafan, and Nagohom were given eighty questionnaires; while the remaining ninety questionnaires were administered to the third cluster involving Gwash, Nassarawa, Jos-Jarawa, Furaka, Fudawa, Nabor, Nabgar and Targwang. Each of the respondents within the clustered groups was purposively selected on the basis of being a farmer who benefitted from the project.

### **Hypothesis**

The study would test the understated hypothesis:

**Ho:** Fadama III programme has no significant impact on poverty reduction in Jos North LGA, Plateau State

**Hi:** Fadama III programme has a significant impact on poverty reduction in Jos North LGA, Plateau State

### **Technique of Data Analysis**

The technique of data analysis is based on Statistical Package for Social Science version 20 Computer software used to analyze the data, complemented by chi-square statistical tool of analysis. Content analysis was used to determine the relationship between the Fadama III users and poverty reduction, through the use of Independent Test Analysis. This technique allows interpretation of data made based on the stated hypothesis. The Chi-square tool of analysis is a non-parametric tool that relaxes the assumptions that are strictly observed in a parametric test such as (a) The population of study must be normally distributed, and (b) The population must have equal variance (Spiegel and Stephens, 1999).

### **Data Analysis and Discussion of Results**

This section presented the data collated from the field survey in percentages, frequencies figures and tables, as well as the use of chi-square statistics and the interpretation of the result.

**Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Age Category**

Age (years)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
20 to 29	5	2
30 to 39	76	30.4
40 to 49	152	60.8
50 and above	17	6.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2017

It is evident from table 1 that 5 respondents representing 2% were between the ages of 20 to 29. It was also observed that 76 respondents representing 30.4% were between the ages of 30-39 while 152 respondents representing 60.8% were between the ages of 40-49. Only 17

respondents representing 6.8% were 50 years and above. This implies that majority of the respondents representing 60.8% were between the ages of 40-49 which is the productive agricultural working age.

**Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Academic Qualification**

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Primary	22	8.8
Secondary	120	48
Tertiary	108	43.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2017

Table 2 showed that 22 respondents representing 8.8% had primary school leaving certificate while 120 respondents (48%) had secondary school leaving certificate. 108 respondents representing 43.2% had tertiary qualifications. This implies that majority of the respondents (48%) were intellectually and academically equipped to effectively and efficiently understand and answer questions administered.

**Table 3: Responses on whether *Fadama III* programme has Significantly improved the Productivity/output of Beneficiary farmers**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	120	48%
Agree	52	20.8%
Disagree	30	12%
Strongly Disagree	40	16%
Undecided	8	3.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2017

Table 3 revealed that 48% of the respondents strongly agreed that *Fadama III* programme has significantly improved farmer's productivity in Jos North LGA of Plateau State, 20.8% agreed with the statement; while 12% and 16% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. Only 3.2% of the respondents were indifferent. This implies that majority of the respondents representing 68.8% of the respondents agreed that *Fadama III* programme has significantly improved their productivity/output.

**Table 4: Respons of Respondents on whether their farm outputs significantly increased as a result of being Beneficiaries of the *fadama* III Programme**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	140	56%
Agree	30	12%
Disagree	50	20%
Strongly Disagree	20	8%
Undecided	10	4%

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 4 showed that 56% of the respondents Strongly Agreed that their farm outputs significantly increased as a result of being beneficiaries of the *Fadama* III programme, 12% agreed that their farm outputs significantly increased having benefitted from the programme. Those respondents that strongly disagreed with the position constituted 8% while 20% disagreed. Thus, majority of the respondents (68%) agreed that their farm outputs significantly increased as a result of being beneficiaries of the *Fadama* III programme.

**Table 5: Responses on whether Fadama III programme has reduced the level of Poverty amongst the Beneficiaries**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	125	50%
Agree	70	28%
Strongly Disagree	25	10%
Disagree	20	8%
Undecided	10	4%

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 5 showed that 50% of the respondents strongly agreed that *Fadama* III programme has reduced the level of poverty among *Fadama* III beneficiaries in Jos-North LGA, Plateau State. 28% agreed with the statement. 10% and 8% of the respondent strongly disagreed and disagreed with the statement respectively. Thus, majority of the respondents (78%) agreed that *Fadama* III programme has reduced their level of poverty.

**Table 6: Responses on whether *Fadama III* has reduced poverty and increased Productivity and income of Beneficiary Farmers**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	100	40%
Agree	75	30%
Strongly Disagree	50	20%
Disagree	20	8%
Undecided	5	2%

Source: Field work, 2017

Table 6 indicated that 40% of the respondents strongly agreed that *Fadama III* has reduced poverty and increased their farm productivity and income, 30% agreed with the statement but 20% and 8% of the respondent strongly disagreed and disagreed with the statement respectively. Thus, majority of the respondents (70%) agreed that *Fadama III* has reduced poverty and raised farm productivity and income of the beneficiaries.

**Table 7: Opinion of Respondents on whether the incomes of Beneficiaries of *Fadama III* Programme has Significantly Increased**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	145	58%
Agree	85	34%
Strongly Disagree	10	4%
Disagree	10	4%
Undecided	0	0%

Source: Field Survey 2017

Table 7 showed that 58% of the respondents strongly agreed that the incomes of *Fadama III* beneficiaries have significantly increased more than pre-*Fadama* period. 34% agreed with the statement, 4% and 4% of the respondent strongly disagreed and disagreed with the statement respectively. Thus, majority of the respondents (92%) agreed that the incomes of beneficiaries of *Fadama III* programme have significantly increased.

**Table 8: Distribution of Respondents by Opinions on whether *Fadama III* project has Positively affected the Socioeconomic status of the farmers and their Production efficiency**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly Agree	100	40%
Agree	90	36%
Strongly Disagree	40	16%
Disagree	20	8%
Undecided	0	0%

Source: Field Survey 2017

Table 8 indicated that 40% of the respondents strongly agreed that *Fadama III* project has positively affected their socioeconomic status and production efficiency, 36% agreed with the statement, 16% and 8% of the respondent strongly disagreed and disagreed with the statement respectively. Thus, majority of the respondents representing (76%) agreed that *Fadama III* project has positively affected the socioeconomic status and production efficiency of the farmers who benefitted from the project.

**Table 9: Responses on whether *Fadama III* project was successful in targeting the poor and vulnerable in its productive asset components**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>55.2%</b>
<b>Agree</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>30.8%</b>
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

Source: Field Survey 2017

Table 9 indicated that 55.2% of the respondents strongly agreed that the *Fadama III* project was successful in targeting the poor and vulnerable in its productive asset components. 30.8% agreed with the statement, 12% and 2% of the respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed with the statement respectively. Thus, majority of the respondents (86%) agreed that the *Fadama III* project was successful in targeting the poor and vulnerable in its productive asset components.

**Table 10: Responses on whether *Fadama III* project was Financially and Economically viable, Technically feasible, and socially Desirable and Environmentally sound in Achieving its objectives**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Agree</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7.2%</b>
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.8%</b>

Source: Field Survey 2017

Table 10 showed that 60% of the respondents strongly agreed that *Fadama III* project was financially and economically viable, technically feasible, and socially desirable and environmentally sound in achieving its objectives. 20% of the respondents agreed with the statement, 12% and 7.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed with the statement respectively. Thus, majority of the respondents (80%) agreed that *Fadama III* project has achieved its objectives financially, economically, technically, socially and environmentally.

**Table 13: SPSS Data Table**

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	30.277 <sup>a</sup>	5	.000
Likelihood Ratio	25.412	5	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	12.101	1	.000
Number of Valid Cases	250		

Chi-Square Test from SPSS output

a. 4 cells (20.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 4.00.

To reject  $H_0$ , the calculated  $X^2$  value must be greater than the table value of  $X^2$ . Comparing the calculated  $X^2$  value of 30.277<sup>a</sup> with the table  $X^2$  value of 12.101, it was observed that the calculated value is greater than the table value.

From our computed values:  $X^2_{\text{calculated}} = 30.277 > X^2_{\text{tabulated}} = 12.101$  therefore, we reject the null hypotheses  $H_0$  and accept the alternative hypotheses  $H_1$ , meaning that *Fadama III* programme has significantly increased farmers' productivity in Jos North LGA, Plateau State.

**Table 14: Chi-square Tests**

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
<b>Pearson Chi-square</b>	<b>138.170</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>.000</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The result of the Pearson Chi-square analysis gave a value of 138.170 with a degree of freedom of 4, while the Asymptote value was estimated to be 0.000. It was the Asymptote value that provided the basis of analysis juxtaposed with the probability value of 0.05.

**Summary of Major Findings**

This study emanated from the fact that poverty of famers in the Local Government Area has continued to rise in spite of dedicated effort towards solving the problem as many poverty reduction programmes have been implemented in the past by successive governments with little success to show for the enormous resources provided. The study investigated the extent to which *Fadama III* programme impacted on the lives of its beneficiaries in Jos North LGA, Plateau State.

It was established from the findings that *Fadama III* programme impacted positively on the income of farmers as many of them recorded huge financial gains under the programme. The productivity of farmers also indicated an improved output per tons for *Fadama III*

beneficiaries who enjoyed resource provision in the area of farm input; loans; training of farmers; support for the vulnerable groups within the community; and also the effectiveness of the bottom-top approach system of the programme. The *Fadama* III programme in Jos North Local Government Area was directed more to livestock production as 78% of the sub-project activities and resources were focused on livestock farming, while crops production had only 9.9%.

### **Conclusion**

The study revealed that the core intention of funding the *Fadama* III programme was achieved to a greater extent. In light of this, the programme ensured that the incomes of the beneficiaries were enhanced through their participation in the programme as the productivity (output or farm products) of beneficiaries has improved significantly. This does not imply that the programme recorded an absolute success but the feat achieved would mean that any serious government that is desirous of diversifying her economy with bias on agriculture must look critically into such programme like the *Fadama* III in order to fashion policies that would provide succour to the economy in general and reduce poverty amongst farmers in particular.

### **Recommendations**

Government policy on *Fadama* III programme which was expected to end by December, 2017, has been successful in raising productivity and incomes of farmers. In this regard, the policy direction of government was effective and the resources committed to the programme implementation was equally rewarding. In order to ensure that the benefits *Fadama* projects affects all categories of farmers in Nigeria, the following recommendations have become necessary:

1. Funding for agricultural programmes like the *Fadama* III Project should be a continuous exercise. It should not be allowed to cease in case of expiration of sponsorship agreement between the government and donor agencies. Government should find a way of ensuring that resources are provided for the continuation of this programme in rural areas. Government should adopt and expand the scope of *Fadama* projects as a major agricultural policy that cuts across the entire agricultural value chains in the country.
2. There is a need to link up the *Fadama* policy with other agricultural policies of Government. *Fadama* programme should be pursued along with other agricultural policies like agricultural bank loan scheme; fertilizer distribution; subsidized inputs for farmers amongst many programmes that would directly impact on the farmers.
3. Government should commit more land for agricultural purposes especially for the *Fadama* programme, and ensure that there is enhanced supervision by the fund providers. This would encourage commitment and dedication on the part of beneficiaries in order to ensure quality utilization of resources and inputs. This will in the long-run facilitate growth in domestic output, income and employment.

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