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# Assessment of Information and Communication Support of Fadama III in Ogun State

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## Abstract

The emergence of fadama III project in Nigeria was aimed at supporting government strategic objectives to enhance growth in rural section of its economy. The success or otherwise of the fadama project will partly depend on the information and communication support used. The study assesses the information and communication support of fadama III in five Local Government Areas of Ogun State. A multi-stage sampling procedure was used to randomly select one hundred and fifty fadama users. Results of the study indicate that majority of the respondents were male (76%) and between the age of 41 – 60 years of age (56%). In addition, majority of the respondents had one form of formal education or the other and they are mostly crop (24.67%) and fisheries (30%) based farmers and also a sizeable number of them are civil servants (32.67%). Furthermore, majority of the respondents (96.67%) agreed that information and communication support of fadama III can bring change from traditional to conventional farming and also most respondents strongly agree (45%) and agree (34.67%) respectively to the fact that information and communication support will increase the dissemination of important information of fadama III. Chi-Square analyses on the hypothesis indicated that sex, age, year of experience, marital status and qualification are significantly related to access to information and communication support of fadama III (p=< 0.05).

**Keywords**: *Fadama III, Awareness, Attitude, Information and Communication Support.*

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**Background to the Study**

In the early 1990s estimates indicated that eighty two (82) million hectare out of Nigeria's total land of about ninety one (91) million hectare were arable, much of these land were farmed under bush fallow (not used for planting crops with the aim of increasing the nutrients) and about twenty (20) million hectare of the land were covered with forest, Olomola (2007). This clearly shows that there is enough land in Nigeria in the early 1990s but the land begins to decrease since population increase. Most farming now take place in the rural settlements and 80% of the food crops consumed in Nigeria are produced by peasant farmers with small farm holding, (Ekpo 2010). These farmers employs system of intercropping of several food crops on a single plot and uses simple traditional farm tools. The implication is that their production could not meet the demands of the population. He (Ekpo 2010) therefore advocated improvement in agricultural technology while stressing that more effective information may be useful in letting the rural dwellers know more about farming since they are the primary food producer.

Information service in the rural community enhances development. According to Oladele (2004) information/communication is the raw material for development of both rural and urban dwellers. Prosperity, progress and development of any nation depend on their ability to produce, assess and use pertinent information. The aim of communication is to improve farmers' knowledge and skills in cultivation, processing, storage and marketing of crops, livestock and fisheries. (Amosu and Hussain, 2005).

Fadama came in as an intervention to achieve the above and many more in agricultural production. Fadama is a Hausa name for Irrigable land usually low-lying plain. The National Fadama Development Project (NFDP) is sponsored by the World Bank, Federal Government and the government of beneficiary states. (Fadama 2012). Ephraim, Dayo, Tewody, John, Yahaya, Gbenga, Tunji and Edward (2008) stated that the first fadama project (NFDP I) was implemented in 25 states from 1993 – 1997. In the year 2004, fadama II project was established as a follow-up to the fadama I that spanned five years. NFDP – II aimed at alleviating poverty of beneficiaries in the participating states. The project adopted the community – Driven Development (CDD) which is a way of empowering local communities to shape their future. Fadama has been acclaimed to provide income for practitioners and marketers while supporting nation security since it was able to provide all year round agricultural production (Umar 1994).

Fadama III project was established in the year 2008 as follow – up to the fadama II that elapsed. Significant achievement has been made in the area of improvement of rural infrastructure but a lot still need to be done. The project is implemented in all thirty-six (36) states of Nigeria. The components of objectives of the project include; Capacity building/communication and information support, Small scaled community owned infrastructure, advisory service and input support, agricultural development program, asset acquisition for individual FUGs and Project management support.

**Statement of the Problem**

The effect of food shortage in the country has caused decrease in consumption of food and also decrease in nutritional standard of the people. The situation is worsened by reduction in the number of youths willing to take farming as their source of livelihood despite the fact that the population of people increases every day. The emphasis here is that (even with fadama as an intervention program), the information given to people especially the rural dwellers was below expectation and also the assistance given to the farmers was below minimum requirement to bring about the drastic change that was needed in agricultural production. It had earlier been speculated that the success of fadama programme in any part of the country were closely linked with the communication support of the programme.

However, the main cause of lack of interest among rural dwellers in assessing fadama programme towards increased agricultural production was because the information received by the rural dwellers are either not reliable or distorted in the process of transmission, (Diso 2006). This unhealthy situation keeps the rural community in Nigeria far away from development indicator. It therefore means that something needs to be done to bridge the gap created as a result of inadequate information. It is against this background that this study seeks to seek to assess the information and communication support of fadama III.

**Objectives of the Study**

The specific objectives of this study were:

1. To determine the demographic characteristics of fadama III users in the study area.
2. To investigate if fadama III beneficiaries are aware about information and communication support of fadama III.
3. To assess the attitude of fadama users to information and communication support of fadama III.

**Hypothesis of the Study**

One hypothesis stated in null form was tested by this study.

$\mathbf{H_{01}}$:- There is no significant relationship between the demographic characteristics of fadama III users and their access to information and communication support

**Methodology**

The study area is Ogun State, Nigeria. The population for the study includes all Fadama Users Groups (FUGs) of the selected local government areas in Ogun State. The selection of the area is due to its contribution to fadama project in the country. A multistage sampling technique was used for the study. Five local government areas were randomly selected in Ogun State. These are Yewa South, Ipokia, Shagamu, Ado-Odo Ota and Ijebu-Ode North Local Government. Secondly, one Fadama Community Association (FCAs) were randomly selected from each local government, then three fadama users groups (FUGs) were also randomly selected from each FCA to make a total of 15 FUGs in all. Lastly 10 Fadama users were selected from each FUGs to make a total of hundred and fifty (150) respondents in all.

Data were collected through the use of a structured questionnaire. Descriptive statistical tools such as frequency count and simple percentage were used to report the findings, while inferential statistical tool of Chi-Square and was used to test the hypothesis.

## Results and Discussion on Findings

The discussions are guided by the objectives of the study.

## Respondents Demographic Characteristics

The demographic characteristics of the Fadama users assessed in this study include age, sex, marital status, educational level, qualification, religion, major agricultural enterprises, other occupation and land ownership status.

**Table 1 Respondents' Demographic Characteristics**

| Characteristics | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| **Sex:** Male | 114 | 76.0 |
| Female | 36 | 24.0 |
| **Age: (in years)** | | |
| 20 – 40 | 49 | 32.67 |
| 41 – 60 | 84 | 56.0 |
| 61 and above | 17 | 11.33 |
| **Year of Experience:** | | |
| 2 – 4 yrs | 48 | 32.0 |
| 5 – 7 yrs | 75 | 50.0 |
| 8 yrs and above | 27 | 18.0 |
| **Marital Status:-** | | |
| Single | 19 | 12.67 |
| Married | 104 | 67.33 |
| Divorced | 18 | 12.00 |
| Widowed | 9 | 6.00 |
| **Qualification** | | |
| No formal education | 15 | 10.00 |
| Grade II | 61 | 40.61 |
| OND | 53 | 35.33 |
| HND | 12 | 8.00 |
| BSc. and above | 9 | 6.00 |
| **Religion** | | |
| Christianity | 72 | 48.00 |
| Islam | 76 | 50.67 |
| Others | 2 | 1.33 |
| **Major Agricultural Enterprise** | | |
| Crop Base | 37 | 24.67 |
| Fishery Base | 45 | 30.0 |
| Livestock Base | 29 | 19.33 |
| Forestry Base | 10 | 6.67 |
| Fruit Base | 29 | 19.33 |
| **Land Ownership Status** | | |
| Personal Land | 48 | 32.0 |
| Land Tenant | 41 | 27.33 |
| Family Land | 44 | 29.33 |
| Community Land | 17 | 11.33 |
| **Other Occupation** | | |
| Farming | 47 | 31.33 |
| Trading | 46 | 30.67 |
| Civil Servant | 49 | 32.67 |
| Others | 8 | 5.33 |
| **Total** | **150** | **100** |

Table 1 shows that out of a hundred and fifty (150) respondents, 76.00% of them were males while 24.00% were females. This implies that males are much more into fadama programme than female and as such their participation in fadama activities was more than females. This is in line with Raheem (2012), Akangbe, Ogunyinka, Ayanda, Achem and Adisa (2012) who reported more males involvement in fadama development project in their various studies.

Also, the table shows that majority of them fall within the age bracket of 41 – 60 years of age which is 56.0% of the respondents. This suggests that most of the fadama users were at their prime age and are still active in their various farm enterprises. This corroborate with Odermeho (2010) who stated that the number of youth willing to take farming as their source of livelihood has tremendously reduced despite the fact that population growth is continuously outstripping production in Nigeria. Furthermore, the table shows that 32.0% of the respondents had been in farming for a period of 2 to 4 years, 50% of the respondents had been engaged in farming for a period of 5 to 7 years. Also, the result revealed that 18.0% of the respondents had been engaged in farming for about 8years and above. This implies that most of the respondents are experienced and have been in the farming business for many years. On the basis of Marital Status, the table revealed that more than half i.e. 69.33% of the fadama users were married while 12.67% were single, 6.0% were widow and 12.0% were divorced. This implies that majority of people into fadama users are responsible individuals. One could also go further to say that the married fadama users are better than their unmarried counterparts owning to the fact that they use to have helping hands from their wives and children.

It is further shown in table 1 that almost all the fadama users had one form of formal education or the other except for few 10% who have no formal education. This implies that the educational level of fadama users had a positive impact on their awareness to fadama project. The result on religion of respondents shows that 48% are Christians while 50.62% of them are Muslims. Two of the respondents 1.33% choose the other form of religion.

The result on agricultural enterprises shows that 24.67% of the respondents were crop base, 30.0% were fishery base, 19.33% were livestock base, 6.67% were forestry base and 19.33% of the respondents were fruit base. This implies that the fadama users are engaged in different type of farming activities.

**Table 2. Distribution of Respondents According to the Awareness of Fadama III Beneficiaries to Information and Communication Support of Fadama III**

| S/N | Statement | Responses | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Yes | No |
| 1. | Information and communication support of fadama III can bring change from traditional to convectional farming expected to improve the lifestyle and income earning capacity of fadama III beneficiaries | 145 (96.67) | 5 (3.33) |
| 2. | Majority of the farmers have restricted themselves to subsistence agriculture and therefore does not need information and communication Support of fadama III | 97 (64.67) | 53(35.33) |
| 3. | The trainings given to the farmers under the Information and communication support of fadama III play vital roles in creating awareness about agricultural development, progress and innovation as well as fadama III programme. | 123 (82.0) | 27 (18.0) |
| 4. | The extension staff of fadama III programme are mostly responsible for disseminating information required for mobilizing the farmers into participating actively in the agricultural development programmes | 141 (94.0) | 9 (6.0) |
| 5. | Information and communication support improves the quality of production and presentation hence farmers can fully understand the stages of production and development | 136 (90.67) | 14 (9.33) |
| 6. | Meeting of farmers or groups of farmers in their farm s can make them see reason s for information dissemination | 144 (96.0) | 6 (4.0) |
| 7. | In order to convince the farmer s to adopt latest technology for increased productivity, it is essential that farmer s should be conversant with the information and communication support | 128(85.33) | 22(14.67) |
| 8. | Training of new techniques, methods and practical knowledge aided by the information and communication support of fadama III are also more effective in removing all doubts and problems in production | 145 (96.67) | 5 (3.33) |
| 9. | Media use in information and communication support of fadama III can play vital roles in updating and informing the farmers about various applications and usage of agricultural practices | 78 (52.0) | 72 (48.0) |
| 10. | The fadama programme has help agriculture to remain the major contributor to gross domestic product and economy independence to large extent | 64 (42.67) | 86 (57.33) |
| 11. | Information and communication support are useful and effective means for dissemination of information to the fadama III beneficiaries | 84 (56.0) | 46 (44.0) |
| 12. | The small farmers already living below poverty level can be convinced to adopt latest agricultural development and technology with the help of technical training aided by the information and communication support of fadama III | 58 (38.67) | 92 (61.33) |
| 13. | Advisory service can be a means of information dissemin ation concerning inputs that need special approach and method of application. | 76 (50.67) | 74 (49.33) |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15. | Farm publications are also useful and effective means for dissemination of information to the literate farmers and fadama III beneficiaries | 111(74.00) | 39 (26.0) |
| 16. | The Advisory service aided by the information and communication support of fadama III help to improve the quality of production and development | 133 (88.67) | 17 (11.33) |
| 17. | The information and communication support has helped agriculture to remain the major contributor to the gross domestic product and economy independence to a large extent | 64 (42.67) | 86 (57.33) |
| 18. | The information and communication support has helped to improve the quality of product and product development | 99 (66.0) | 51 (34.0) |
| 19. | Providing knowledge to the farmers for agriculture through different information and communication support play an important role in helping the farmers to achieve their goals. | 116 (77.33) | 34 (26.67) |
| 20. | Information and communication support has make use of the multi-media such as radio, television, etc for information dissemination in order to actualize the goals of Fadama III programme. | 130 (86.67) | 20 (13.33) |

**Figures in Parenthesis represent percentages**

The result on table 2 shows that 96.67% of the respondents believe that information and communication support can bring change and also improve the lifestyle and income earning capacity of fadama III beneficiaries and 3.33% of the respondents disagree with this statement. Also, 64.67% agreed that majority of the farmers have restricted themselves to subsistence farming and do not need the information and communication support of fadama III and 35.33% of the respondents disagree with the statement.

The response of the fadama beneficiaries also shows that 82% believes that training given to the farmers under the Information and communication support of fadama III play vital roles in creating awareness about agricultural development, progress and innovation as well as fadama III programme. had also helped the fadama project and 16% disagree to the statement, in another perspective, 94% believes that the extension staffers are responsible for dissemination of information that is required for mobilizing the farmers into participating actively in the agricultural development programmes, while only few respondents of about 6% do not believe in this statement. Also, 90.67% of the respondents accepted that information and communication improves the quality of production and presentation while 9.33% of the respondents say no to this statement. Furthermore, 96% believes that meeting with farmers can make them see reasons for information dissemination and 4% of the respondents disagree with this statement. 52% of the respondents believe that Media use in information and communication support of fadama III can play vital roles in updating and informing the farmers about various applications and usage of agricultural practices while 48% of the respondents disagree to this statement. 56% agreed that information and communication supports are useful and effective means for dissemination of information to the fadama III beneficiaries while 44% says no to the statement. More so, 88.67% agreed that advisory service aided by the information and communication support of fadama III help to improve the quality of production and

development while 11.33% disagree with the statement. Also, 74% of the respondents believes, that farm publications are useful and effective means of dissemination of information while 26% of the respondents disagree. 77.33% of the respondents also accepted that information and communication support has helped to improve the quality of product and product development while 26.67% believes that it is not an important role that help farmers to achieve their goals.

Finally, a sizeable percent (86.67%) of the fadama users/respondents believe that information and communication support Information and communication support has make use of the multi-media such as radio, television, etc for information dissemination in order to actualize the goals of Fadama III programme. This finding implies that almost all the fadama users are already aware of the project and as well know the usefulness and advantage which they can get from fadama III project.

**Table 3. Distribution of Respondents According to the Attitude of Fadama Users to Information and Communication support of Fadama III**

| S/N | Statement | SA | A | U | D | SD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | The use of capacity building is not effective in communication and information access to fadama III. | 15(10) | 18(12) | 20(13.33) | 39(26) | 58(38.67) |
| 2. | Capacity building towards effective information and communication is not meant for poor and illiterate beneficiaries | 14(9.33) | 16(10.67) | 25(16.67) | 45(30) | 50(33.33) |
| 3. | The use of capacity building facilitate information and communication assess to fadama III | 54(36) | 47(31.33) | 15(10) | 18(12) | 16(10.67) |
| 4. | Capacity building should be encourage for effective and efficient communication and information assess of fadama III | 51(34) | 49(32.67) | 14(9.33) | 19(12) | 17(11.33) |
| 5. | The use of farmer's association/village meeting is neither effective nor efficient in communication and information assess of fadama III | 13(8.67) | 17(11.33) | 24(16) | 40(26.67) | 56(37.33) |
| 6 | The use of capacity building in information and communication assess of fadama III will increase income of beneficiaries | 60(40) | 54(36) | 10(6.67) | 15(10) | 11(7.33) |
| 7. | Language is not a barrier of advisory service for information and communication assess of fadama III | 25(16.67) | 35(23.33) | 15(10) | 40(26.67) | 35(23.33) |
| 8. | The input support of Fadama III is timely | 50(33.33) | 52(34.67) | 10(6.67) | 20(13.33) | 18(12) |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9. | The input support/advisory service information is not meant for the poor and illiterate beneficiaries | 25(16.67) | 35(23.33) | 15(10) | 40(26.67) | 35(23.33) |
| 10. | The use of community owned infrastructure should be encouraged for effective and efficient communication and information access by fadama III beneficiaries. | 40(26.67) | 60(40) | 12(8) | 18(12) | 20(13.33) |
| 11. | The use of community owned infrastructure of fadama III will increase the income of beneficiaries | 62(41.33) | 53(35.33) | 13(8.66) | 12(8) | 10(6.66) |
| 12. | Community owned infrastructure is only meant for the literate beneficiaries of fadama III | 11(7.33) | 12(8) | 15(10) | 54(36) | 58(38.67) |
| 13. | Information and communication support of fadama III has limited reach | 53(35.33) | 59(39.33) | 17(11.33) | 10(6.67) | 11(7.33) |
| 14. | Information and communication support will increase the dissemination of important information of fadama III | 68(45.33) | 52(34.67) | 10(6.67) | 08(5.33) | 12(8) |
| 15. | The information and communication support of fadama III permit states to disseminate information to beneficiaries | 45(30) | 40(26.66) | 32(21.33) | 16(10.67) | 17(11.33) |
| 16. | The information access to credit for purchase of input is easily reaching beneficiaries of fadama III | 25(16.67) | 45(30) | 20(13.33) | 35(23.33) | 25(16.67) |
| 17. | The asset acquisition of fadama III is not given to the rural beneficiaries | 33(22) | 37(24.66) | 30(20) | 31(20.66) | 19(12.66) |
| 18. | The use of multimedia such as mobile vehicle posters, leaflets, radio/television and video/DVD are the most means of reaching out to beneficiaries | 56(37.33) | 54(36) | 21(14) | 11(7.33) | 08(5.33) |
| 19. | The project monitoring has limited reach | 40(26.67) | 42(28) | 20(13.33) | 30(20) | 18(12) |
| 20. | The use of project monitoring through information & communication technology | 65(43.33) | 50(33.33) | 09(6) | 11(7.33) | 09(6) |

**Figures in Parenthesis Represent Percentages**

Table 3 shows the result of respondents on attitude of fadama III users, 26% and 38.67% of the respondents respectively disagree and strongly disagree that the use of capacity building is not effective in information and communication assess to fadama III. Similarly, 30% and 33.33% respectively disagree and strongly disagree that capacity towards effective communication and information is not meant for poor and illiterate beneficiaries. In addition, 36% and 31.33% of the respondents respectively believes that the use of capacity building facilitate information and communication access to fadama III. Similarly, 34% and 32.67% of the respondents respectively also believed that Capacity building should be encourage for effective and efficient communication and information assess of fadama III. Moreover, 26.67% and 37.33% of respondents respectively disagree and strongly disagree that the use of farmer's association/village meeting is neither effective nor efficient in communication and information assess of fadama III. Also, 40% and 36% of respondents strongly agrees and agrees respectively that the use of capacity building in information and communication assess of fadama III will increase income of beneficiaries. Most of the respondents disagree that Language is not a barrier of advisory service for information and communication assess of fadama III. In addition, most of the respondents strongly agree to the fact that the input support of Fadama III is timely. Similarly, most of the respondents are of the opinion that the use of community owned infrastructure should be encouraged for effective and efficient communication and information access by fadama III beneficiaries. However, most of them disagrees (36%) and strongly disagree (38.67%) respectively to the fact that community owned infrastructure is only meant for the literate beneficiaries of fadama III. Moreover, respondents also strongly agree (45%) and agree (34.67%) respectively to the fact that information and communication support will increase the dissemination of important information of fadama III. Similarly, respondents strongly agree (37.33%) and agree (36%) respectively to the fact that the use of multimedia such as mobile vehicle posters, leaflets, radio/television and video/DVD are the most used means of reaching out to beneficiaries.

Finally, the use of project monitoring through information & communication technology enhances effectiveness of the programme was respectively strongly agreed (43.33%) and agreed (33.33%) upon by most of the respondents.

**Test of Hypothesis**

Ho: There is no significant relationship between the demographic characteristics of fadama III users and their access to information and communication components of fadama III.

**Table 4 Chi-Square Analysis of Relationship between Demographic Characteristics of Fadama III Users and their Access to Information and Communication support.**

| Demographic Characteristics | Chi-square ($X^2$) | DF | Sig (p) | Decision |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sex | 14.014 | 1 | 0.006 | S |
| Age | 16.413 | 2 | 0.002 | S |
| Years of experience | 31.034 | 2 | 0.001 | S |
| Marital status | 15.735 | 3 | 0.003 | S |
| Qualification | 4.567 | 4 | 0.521 | NS |
| Religion | 3.249 | 2 | 0.661 | NS |
| Major Agricultural enterprise | 3.943 | 4 | 0.561 | NS |
| Land ownership status | 2.481 | 3 | 0.641 | NS |
| Other occupation | 4.321 | 3 | 0.571 | NS |

Table 4 above present the inferential statistical analysis of relationship between demographic characteristics of fadama III users and their access to information and communication support of fadama III. The chi-square result shows that sex ($x^2 = 14.014$, $P < 0.05$), Age ($x^2 = 16.413$, $P < 0.05$), year of experience ($x^2 = 31.034$, $P < 0.05$) and marital status ($x^2 = 15.735$, $P < 0.05$) were significant to access of information and communication support of fadama III. This implies that individual sex (male) and age (41-60) have access to information and communication support of fadama III.

Similarly, the years of experience ($x^2 = 31.034$, $P < 0.05$) as well as marital status ($x^2 = 15.753$, $P < 0.05$) were also significant to access to information and communication support of fadama III. This implies that fadama III users with substantial years of experience as well as the married ones had better access to information and communication support of fadama III than their counterpart.

**Conclusion and Recommendation**

Base on the findings above, it can be concluded that information and communication support of fadama III can bring the desired change needed to transform agriculture for better. The following recommendations are hereby put forward:

1. More females should be encouraged to participate in fadama activities so that they can also contribute to increase in production which will translate to increase/improve agricultural development.
2. Attendance to workshops and seminars should be encourage among fadama users so that their knowledge and awareness can be increased for the betterment of their livelihood.
3. There should be increase monitoring, training and co-ordination for the farmers to ensure sustainable development.
4. Extension services should be improved upon and made available to fadama users even after the programme so that they can continue to improve in their agricultural production.

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