

Impact of Fadama Agricultural Policy on Economic Development in Akwa Ibom State

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Abstract

The objective of the study is to examine the extent to which Fadama III contributed to economic development in Akwa Ibom State with specific reference to Onna Local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State. Descriptive and historical research designs were adopted; data were drawn from textbooks, journal, and government publications on Fadama among others. Accordingly, to give the work a scientific base, structural functional theory espoused by Gabriel Almond (1966) was adopted. The findings study revealed that poverty eradication, improved infrastructure and improved rural dwellers' income have significant relationship with fadama agricultural policy in Onna Local Government Area. It was discovered that through fadama agricultural policy, soft loans were granted to farmers, access to sustainable entrepreneurial opportunities improved, agricultural programmes were mechanized, health facilities were renovated and upgraded and also, grants to beneficiaries for investment, improved beneficiaries' own assets were provided. But however, this has not translated to wealth and poverty eradication in Onna LGA due to implementation and monitoring challenges. Based on the findings, it was recommended among others that [i], the government, relevant authorities and stakeholders should ensure the sustainability and maintenance of the poverty eradication structures established under the Fadama policy to achieve economic development. [ii], to ensure improvement in the income of rural people, the government should ensure timely disbursement of funds, disbursement of counterpart funds, hiring more coordinators and providing logistical support to extension agents to further improve the income and sustainability of the program.

Background to the Study

The development of Fadama marked the beginning of financing small scale irrigating practices, characterized by flexibility of agricultural activities, low input requirements, and high economic values, minimal social and environmental impacts thus conform to the general criteria for sustainable economic development (Oladoja and Adeokun, 2009). Like every other agricultural development project, Fadama 111 contributes enormously to the Nigerian economy ranging from providing food for a growing population; Providing sufficient raw materials for the growing industrial sector; acting as main source of job creation and foreign exchange earnings as well as providing market for industrial products (Okumadawa, 1997; World Bank, 1998, Food and Agriculture Organization, 2006). By so doing, this raises concerns about agriculture and economic development. Accordingly, it has been argued that support to agriculture is largely driven by both the government and the public sector, which has established institutional support in the form of agricultural research, extension, commercialization of raw materials, provision of inputs and economic development through financing and supports from Fadama III projects (CBN, 2010).

By definition, economic development is generally understood to entails the systematic process of improving the general wellbeing of persons or group of persons in the society particularly those with the lowest incomes, to eliminate mass poverty and illiteracy, to eliminate disease and premature death, and changes in the composition of inputs and outputs, which generally include changes in the basic structure of production, the transition from agricultural to industrial activities, the organization of the economy in such a way that productive employment is widespread among the older working population rather than in a privileged minority situation, and a proportionately greater participation of large groups decisions about which direction, economic and other, to direct their wealth (Kindleberger, 1971).

In a bid to guarantee support to fadama projects and to achieve economic development in the state, the Akwa Ibom State government no doubt has allocated over two hundred and twelve million naira (N212,000,000) to developed over 196 local development plans (LDP), approved 3118 sub-projects and fully implement 2225 sub projects to give a boost to fadama III project. Statistically, that entails that 1,015 sub-projects are in progress and 1,210 sub-projects have been completely completed. Thirty LDPs were fully implemented. In the area of social inclusion, a total of 259 GUB were supported, consisting of 60 women's groups, 131 widows' groups, 40 youth groups, 27 groups with physical disabilities and a group of people with HIV/AIDS (Fadama, 2018). In this context, this paper was prepared to assess the impact of the Fadama agricultural policy on the economic development of Akwa Ibom State with particular reference to Onna Local Government Area.

Statement of the Problem

Since the return of the fourth republic, agricultural sector in Nigeria continues to be characterized by decreasing production as productivity declines, limiting the sector's

ability to fulfill its traditional role in economic development. To shatter this phase and improve the performance of the agricultural sector, the government over the years has introduced and implemented series of agricultural policies and programs to modernize the sector which Fadama III is inclusive (Ajibefun and Aderinola 2004). Regrettably, despite the programme intended goals and objectives, it has been argued that the programme has not attained its goals of ensuring food security and accessibility. Sadly, most farmers lack the necessary agricultural technologies as well as availability of adequate agricultural information in most communities. The failure of the programme in Akwa Ibom State and Onna Local Government in particular has been attributed to lack of proper focus of the programme. The focus of the project no doubt failed to target the rural farmers and the underprivileged segment of the populace directly as it was hijacked by the non-poor, the more politically and economically powerful members of the state to compensate their political supporters as well as family and friends. This adversely affects the goals of the programme negatively.

Accordingly, it is also argued that there is the problem of inadequate coordination among the agencies and personnel entrusted to implement the programme to its fullest in Onna Local Government. Hence, there is total lack of coordination between the agents that coordinates the programme at the federal, state and the local level. The programme was executed at the mercy of state governors. The state governors decided on the modalities of implementation without aligning with the center. This in turn led to duplication of functions as well as conflict among agents and the state actors in Akwa Ibom State. Due to such disjointed implementation, the programme has not produced the desired results and even the little result achieved became unsustainable due to absence of a follow up mechanism.

Again, lack of professional operators also contributed to the failure of the programme in Onna Local Government. It is succinctly pointed out that lack of professional capacity is not a programme or a specific problem, but one that pervades the nation. FADAMA I, II and III performs below expectations due to managerial failure, lack of professional operators for implementation, monitoring, evaluation and disbursement of fund for the programme across the 20 selected local government areas within Akwa Ibom states. Most of the people entrusted to the implement the programme, lack the professional knowledge toward effective implementation of the programme. This is because those entrusted with the programme at the state and local government level were selected not on professional basis, but on political consideration. Hence, most beneficiaries were not monitored on how to use the fund allocated to them. This contributed immensely to the failure of the programme.

Finally, citizen's attitudes toward government programmes and opportunities and mismanagement of funds also pose a great threat towards effective implementation of the programme to the fullest. In Akwa Ibom State, most citizens see government empowerment programme as opportunities to partake in national cake. When fund allocated for the programme reaches them, they diverted such to non-purported

programme plans which most time affect policies and programme's goals. Based on weak regulation some economic saboteurs/cabals were able to misappropriate the programme's funds and channel it to their own personal pockets instead of using it for what it was intended for. Sadly, most of the rural farmers in Onna Local Government are still battling to gain government attention on the area of road construction leading to their farmlands, markets for easy transportation of their farm produce. Furthermore, acquisition of and installation of modern storage facilities also become a challenge among rural dwellers due to inadequate funding. This has however, resulted to waste of agricultural products and consequently loss of incomes by farmers in the hands of middlemen. Based on the above stated problems, the study seeks to investigate factors influencing effective implementation of Fadama III projects and the extent to which such impacted on the economic development in Onna Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

Theoretical Framework

To give work a scientific base, the researchers adopted “structural-functional approach” advocated by Gabriel Almond (1966) as a theoretical framework to analyze the subject matter. The theory emphasizes that social systems are made up of different that are generally interconnected and interdependent; there is a state of normal equilibrium in the system/society; all parts of the system are reorganized so that when disruptions occur, everything returns to normal; consensus on values is the key to maintaining balance. Therefore, society is like a living organism created by individuals working together according to a consensus of values to maintain the balance, stability, survival or correct functioning of the entire organization or society (Course Hero, 2017).

This approach further views society as a complex system whose parts work together to promote solidarity and stability. More so, the proponent of this theory holds the view that an individual's life is determined by social structures that represent relatively stable patterns of social behaviour. Social structures shape the lives of individuals, for example within families, communities and religious organizations and certain rituals, such as shaking hands or complex religious ceremonies, structure our everyday lives. Every social structure has social functions, that is, consequences for the functioning of society as a whole.

In the light of the above theory, Fadama Agricultural Policy is one of the frameworks (strategies) created to achieve specific objectives and perform multiple functions that contribute to the economic development of Onna Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. Thus Fadama agricultural policy performs several important functions for economic development such as eradicating poverty, improving farmers' income, improving infrastructure, etc. It is evident that the established Fadama agricultural policy has its own structure and pattern of delegation of functions to achieve the functions, goals and objectives of the policy. The goals and tasks are aimed at the economic development of Onna Local Government.

Levy (2017) defines functions as a state or situation that results from the functioning of a structure over time. It is clear that development policy issues always result in or are aimed at certain functions, such as: improving education, infrastructure, improving income, eradicating poverty, developing agriculture, health reform in rural areas, improving social protection and housing, road expansion, and construction management. In order for these functions to be achieved, policies are required that establish the structure through which the objectives of the function are achieved. For example, the Fadama agricultural policy exists as a structure (policy) among others (structures) to fulfil certain economic development functions in Onna local government such as: Infrastructure, income increase, poverty reduction and agricultural development.

Literature Review

This segment of the study aimed at reviewing scholarly opinion on the subject matter with the aim of identifying gap in the existing literature to propel further study. This will be done under different subheadings.

The Fadama II Policy

Notably, the third national development project is nothing but the continuation of the national development projects, Fadama I and II. Among others programme strategies, the main strategic approach of Fadama III is Community Based Development (CDD), which has proven to be one of the most useful approaches to achieve rural development objectives (RDOs) with the aim of increasing the income of the rural dwellers through the use of land and water resources in a sustainable manner. This no doubt will reduce poverty in rural areas, increase food security and contribute to the implementation of the agricultural transformation agenda contained in the government's recent environmental and social audit report (2014) (Akpan, Ogonna and Usoroh, 2020).

Unlike Fadama I and II, the Fadama III project was a comprehensive five-year program of activities developed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (FMAWR) in collaboration with the Federal Environment Ministry (FME) and other federal ministries as well as state and local governments and key stakeholder authorities (donors, private operators, non-governmental organizations). The first Fadama project (Fadama I) focused exclusively on irrigated agriculture, while Fadama II and Fadama III are more agricultural diversification programs that provide financing for various livelihoods that the beneficiaries themselves identify and develop, with appropriate support. Accordingly, the main objective of the Fadama III project was to sustainably increase the income of users of rural land and water resources. Thus, by increasing rural dweller income, the project has significantly reduced rural poverty, increased food security and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The specific goals of the programme are listed below.

- i. Sustainably increase the income of Fadama beneficiaries by directly providing

- them with resources effectively and efficiently.
- ii. Give beneficiaries the opportunity to decide collectively how to allocate and manage resources for their livelihood activities and participate in the design and implementation of sub-projects.

The first Fadama project (Fadama I and II) focused solely on irrigation. The key indicators and targets for monitoring progress towards the development goal of the Fadama III project were:

- i. Income of participating families: 75% of Fadama families who directly benefit from the activities financed by the project would increase their average real income by at least 40% by 2013.
- ii. Agricultural product yields of the participating households: 20% increase in agricultural product yields of the participating families.
- iii. Participatory collective saving: Every year (from the second year) 10% of the replacement value of the community assets is saved, which is used for the income-generating activities of the FUGs.
- iv. Physical verification of operations, maintenance and resource utilization in the medium term and during project completion through surveys at randomly selected locations (Agunloye, Fasina & Akinnagbe, 2017).

The Fadama project follows a community development approach (CDD) and has given responsibility to the beneficiaries. Local community members, under the umbrella of the Fadama Community Associations (FCAS) and Fadama User Groups (FUGS), oversee the design and implementation of the project and are empowered through the development of skills and abilities to improve their livelihoods through increased income. The Fadama III program ended in 2013 and it is important to find out how the program affected the living conditions of the beneficiaries, including the size and scope of their agricultural activities. Increasing scale (number of agricultural production activities) before Fadama III scaling (change in production capacity) through Fadama III program (Agunloye, Fasina & Akinnagbe, 2017).

Fadama Agricultural Policy and Poverty Eradication

Among other societal factors, one of the biggest challenges facing Akwa Ibom State is poverty despite the state's relative oil wealth, huge revenue accruing from monthly appropriations from the federal account, crude oil surplus and internally generated revenue. Consequently, the reports from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2022) put the state's unemployment rate at 51% and the poverty rate at 71.3%. With these percentages, citizens of Akwa Ibom State are economically backward. This was calculated by adding the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate to the May 2022 inflation rate (Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), 2022). Being a petroleum producing State, employment is low due to capital intensity. The oil sector provides less than 5% of jobs with a large population and low commercial attractiveness for investors (Ndidi, 2018).

Fadama III is one such poverty reduction effort. Together with the Federal Government of Nigeria and the participating states, Fadama III is financed by the World Bank (World Bank, 1998). Aimed at poverty alleviation, the project aimed to improve the capacities of Fadama User Groups (FUGs), which are groups of beneficiaries grouped into Fadama Community Associations (FCAs). Accordingly, the Project Development Objective (PDO) of Fadama III was to increase the income of rural land users and water resources in a sustainable manner (Edet, 2014).

Poverty reduction includes a range of economic and humanitarian measures aimed at permanently lifting people out of poverty. Policies are actions that suggest or seek to suggest ways to enable the poor to create wealth for themselves, thereby ending poverty forever. Poverty reduction occurs largely as a result of overall economic growth. Food shortages were common before modern agricultural technology and in places that now lack nitrogen fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation methods. Today, the continuity of economic development is limited by the lack of implementation of development policies. Economic liberalization requires extending property rights to the poor, especially land. Financial services, especially savings, can be made accessible to the poor through technologies such as mobile banking. Inefficient institutions, corruption and political instability can also deter investment. Government aid and support in the areas of health, education and infrastructure contribute to growth by increasing human and physical capital. All these services are components of the Fadama agricultural policy with the aim of contributing to the eradication of poverty, particularly among farmers in rural areas (Ike, 2012).

Eradicating poverty is today's greatest global challenge and an essential prerequisite for sustainable development, especially for developing countries. To achieve such goal, the center stage of every government policy directed towards poverty alleviation are:

- i. To improve access to sustainable livelihoods, business opportunities and productive resources.
- ii. Providing universal access to basic social services.
- iii. Gradually develop social protection systems to help those who cannot support themselves.
- iv. Strengthen people living in poverty and their organizations.
- v. Addressing the disproportionate impact of poverty on women.
- vi. Work with interested donors and recipients to allocate a higher percentage of ODA to poverty reduction; And
- vii. Intensifying international cooperation to eradicate poverty (Dugger, 2007).

Unlike Fadama I and II, the Fadama 111 Development Project contributes immensely to poverty eradication through supplying the rural population with food; Supplying a growing industrial sector with sufficient raw materials; an important source of job creation and foreign exchange earnings; and creating a market for the products of rural people (Okumadawa, 1997). According to Esping-Andersen (1999), the political objectives of Fadama 111 are to improve the living conditions of already poor people and

also to provide assistance, especially in the medical and scientific fields, which is essential for a better life. Priority measures to combat poverty include:

- i. **Providing Education to Children:** Educating children was considered one of the best solutions to eradicate poverty. It was believed that even the most basic education (reading, writing, and arithmetic) can open doors to children that would otherwise be closed (Wolfe, 2021).
- ii. **Providing Clean Water:** Ensuring that everyone and children have access to clean water is one of Fadama's key solutions to poverty. Drinking water close to home can protect anyone from water-borne illnesses and free them from long and often dangerous walks to fetch water.
- iii. **Providing Basic Health Care:** As part of the government's poverty eradication effort, Fadama 111 is concerned with improving the health of farmers. Therefore, basic, affordable and accessible healthcare is critical to eradicating poverty. According to the World Health Organization, around 100 million people fall into extreme poverty every year because they spend on their own health.
- iv. **Protecting and Empowering Girls and Women Farmers:** Societies with greater gender equality enjoy more sustainable development and faster economic growth. Protected and empowered women are role models for girls in their communities. And they are more likely to send their own daughters to school (Wolfe, 2021).
- v. **Support environmental programs:** Climate change is having a drastic impact on poverty. In fact, experts agree that any viable solution to poverty must include environmental programs, not just in poor communities but across the country.
- vi. **Improve child nutrition:** As contained in the main objectives of Fadama 111, eliminating malnutrition is one of the most cost-effective solutions to poverty. The impact of malnutrition on development, economy, society and health is serious and long-term. It affects both individuals and their families and communities (Wolfe, 2021).

Effects of Fadama Agricultural policy and Improved Infrastructure

The understanding and the meaning of rural infrastructure is varying from society to society depending on its scope and nature. Generally, the concept can be understood as the facilities and services required to improve the living standards of the rural population, such as: Roads, electricity, police stations, post offices, banks, schools, markets, etc. However, rural infrastructure plays an important role in poverty alleviation and overall economic development of farming families in rural communities. Infrastructures are systems of physical, human and institutional forms of capital that enable rural populations to better carry out their production, transformation and distribution activities and contribute to improving the general quality of life of the population (Abumere, 2002).

To ensure a clear-cut understanding of rural infrastructure, scholars such as Idachaba (1985), divided rural infrastructure into three main groups: physical infrastructure (including roads, storage, water resources and treatment), social infrastructure (including health care, education and community services) and institutional infrastructure (including cooperatives, financial institutions, agriculture, companies and factories, research and training as well as marketing of products). Thus, lack of this infrastructure in rural communities has resulted in poor development and economic growth and advancement. To Ojide et al. (2015), in most developing countries, rural communities form the backbone of economic development and provide agricultural and non-agricultural products, but there have been occasional failures in infrastructure development. This is reflected in the underlying poverty rate in rural Nigeria, which stood at 63% in 2022 and 51% in Akwa Ibom State (NBS, 2022) and continues to rise. The causes of the increase in poverty are attributed to the lack of adequate infrastructure such as lack of accessible rural roads, schools, water, electricity, health infrastructure and commercial facilities (Umoh, 2019).

However, in an effort to eradicate poverty, government globally have embarked on numbers of agricultural policies and programmes which Nigeria is not an exception. Accordingly, with the introduction of the Fadama agricultural policy, the project has claimed to contribute to the development of rural infrastructure. The projects implemented included the registration of 4,920 rice farmers in the state, establishment of, 11,000 hectares of coconut plantations: 1,600 hectares of cassava plantations, 15 ASLs (FADAMA) in Akwa Ibom State. Other projects completed included training 450 youths in cocoa care, subsidized fertilizer, oil palm and cocoa plants, Akwa Prime hatchery – 10,000-day-old chicks per week, improved crops without maize plants, construction of greenhouses for vegetables and cultivation of 100 hectares Rice, cultivation of approximately 2,100 hectares of cassava in collaboration with the World Bank under FADAMA III (NGF, 2016).

Collaboratively, other infrastructure measures included financing projects with agricultural cooperatives, building 33 cassava micro-processing plants and training 300 youth through the Graduate Unemployed Young People (GUYS) program. Everyone was expected to contribute one million naira to start an agricultural business. As a result, the Akwa Ibom Employment and Entrepreneurship Program (AKEES) has created or empowered over 150 youths and over 85 businesses have been created or empowered including the construction of a Tractor Rental Center (AEHE) with delivery of 4 tractors and 14 attachments. Renovation of cassava processing plants in Nung Udoe, Ibesikpo/Asutan LGA and Ikot Ekeang in Abak LGA leased to private companies to produce high quality garri flour, odorless foofoo and cassava, including the purchase of 600,000 bags of fertilizer for farmers and planting of 500 citrus trees. Plants, 600 hybrid plantain stolon and 1,000 pineapple stolons at the Horticulture Centre, Wellington Bassey Way in Uyo Local Government Area among others (NGF, 2016).

Furthermore, Fadama supported projects within the state also included reconstruction work at Ikot Okoro General Hospital and Awa Cottage Hospital, caring for over 4,000 malnourished children, free screening and treatment of over 15,000 people for various eye diseases, training 20 biomedical engineers and providing home accommodation for 48 agents in public hospitals and 50 in Uyo University Teaching Hospital (UUTH), accreditation of nursing schools with 272 registered nurses, training and certification of over 100 doctors and nurses, in Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) with experts in the field of emergency medical services in the United States, the purchase of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and electrocardiographs (ECGs) for use in crisis situations (currently installed in all of our ambulances) (NGF, 2016).

Impacts of Fadama Agricultural Policy on Improved Rural Dwellers' Income

The concept "income" has been variously defined as there is no generally acceptable definition by scholars and authorities. Its definition varies from one scholar to another depending on the field of discipline. For example, a person's income in an economic sense may differ from their legally defined income. However, an extremely important definition of income is the Haig-Simons definition, which defines income as consumption + change in net worth (McCaffery, 2012). Income can also be viewed as the consumption and saving opportunity that a person or company receives within a certain period of time, usually expressed in monetary terms. For households and individuals, tax law defines income as a sum that includes all wages, salaries, profits, interest payments, rents or other forms of income earned in a calendar year. On the other hand, discretionary income is often defined as gross income less taxes and other deductions (e.g. mandatory pension contributions) and is often used as a basis for comparing taxpayer welfare. In public economics, the concept of income can be described as the accumulation of monetary and non-monetary consumption capacities, with the former (monetary) serving as an indicator of total income. However, for a business, gross income can be defined as the sum of all revenue minus the cost of goods sold, while net income excludes expenses: net income equals revenue minus the cost of goods sold. expenses, depreciation, interest and taxes (Barr, 2004).

The International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) defined income as increases in economic benefits during the accounting period in the form of inflows or improvements in assets or reductions in liabilities that result in an increase in equity, other than those associated with contributions from participants in equity related (IFRS, 2023). Income is indisputable access to wealth that is clearly realized and over which the taxpayer has full control. Sales include both sales and profit. Revenue arises in the ordinary course of a company's business and is known by various names, including sales, fees, interest, dividends, royalties and rent. Profits represent other items that meet the definition of revenue and may or may not arise in the ordinary course of a company's business. Profits represent increases in economic benefits and are therefore no different in nature from income (IFRS, 2023]

To support agricultural development programs, Fadama 111 was deployed to improve the income of Fadama Group users. Most farmers through the programme have received financial incentives to help increase their income. For example, the Akwa Ibom State Government has disbursed 20,000 COVID-19 stimulus and stimulus measures to 1,950 beneficiaries. This is intended to increase farmers' capital (Etim, 2022). Additionally, the Federal Government has disbursed over N993 million to 24,929 vulnerable in 9 local government areas (Obolo East, Ikono, Mkpato Enin, Nsit Atai, Nsit Ubium, Onna, Oruk Anam, Ukanafun and Uruan) in Akwa Ibom State under its conditional cash transfer program. Farmers who benefited received between N30,000 and N40,000 [Udonquak, 2020).

The implementation of Fadama III project, couple with the god blessed abundance resources such as palm oil, cassava, shellfish, raffia palm, rubber and citrus wood, and a huge reserve of industrial materials such as silica, sand, gravel, limestone, clay and sodium chloride, in Onna LGA have brought profits to the region. The average value of the beneficiaries' productive income increased from 107,786.00 in 2011 (baseline) to 213,071 in 2014 (medium term) and 250,700 at the end of the project. The asset value between the group's own assets and the households' (beneficiaries') own assets also increased significantly. This shows a marginal (small) change in the value of households' own assets in Onna. The policy also helps farmers whose businesses rely on abundant water resources including fish, crabs, mussels and periwinkles, etc. (Akpan, 2019; Edet, 2014)

Materials and Methods

To achieve the objective of the study, the research was carried out with the aid of descriptive and historical research design, which focuses on the major elements and characteristics of any phenomenon or attribute. Data for this research was sourced basically from secondary sources, which include textbooks, journals, internet materials and published materials.

Summary and Findings

The study arose out of the need to assess the impact of the Fadama agricultural policy on the economic development of Akwa Ibom State, with particular reference to Onna Local Government Area. To achieve this objective, the research was conducted using a qualitative descriptive design, where data was obtained primarily from secondary sources. The results of most of the documents examined yielded the following conclusions.

- a. There is an important connection between Fadama's agricultural policy and the eradication of poverty.
- b. Fadama's agricultural policy had a significant impact on improving infrastructure in Onna County.
- c. Fadama agricultural policy had a significant impact on improving the income of rural people in Onna Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

Conclusion

It should be noted that the main objective of Fadama agricultural policy is to improve food security while promoting economic development. Hence, food security and supply should be a major concern in a densely populated country like Nigeria. Therefore, all efforts to improve food supply and security should be welcomed and prioritized. Furthermore, the role of agriculture in the economic growth and development of a nation cannot be underestimated. The agricultural sector not only contributes to food production, but also provides the industry with raw materials for the production of finished products and is also an important source of foreign exchange and the main implementer of the rural poor projects. The rural projects need to be actively implemented and monitor to support economic growth and development.

Recommendations

- i. The government, relevant authorities and stakeholders should ensure the sustainability and maintenance of the poverty eradication structures established under the Fadama policy to achieve economic development.
- ii. To promote and enhance the successful implementation of the Fadama agricultural policy, adequate infrastructure such as road construction, mechanization of agricultural programs and modernization of health infrastructure should be provided.
- iii. To ensure improvement in the income of rural people, the government should ensure timely disbursement of funds, disbursement of counterpart funds, hiring more coordinators and providing logistical support to extension agents to further improve the income and sustainability of the program.

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