

## Marginality and Social Exclusion in Economic Development Among Livestock Farmers in World Bank Assisted Fadama Projects

<sup>1</sup>Amahiri, C.C., <sup>2</sup>Ujoh, S.U., <sup>3</sup>Chibundu, E.I., <sup>4</sup>Enyinnia, N.U.,  
<sup>5</sup>Akalonu, C.I., <sup>6</sup>Anyanwuocha, M.C., & <sup>7</sup>Agbasimalo, C.G.

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Vocational & Technical Education,  
Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education Owerri, Imo State.

<sup>2&3</sup>Department of Agricultural Extension,  
University of Agriculture and Environment Sciences, Umuagwo, Imo State

<sup>4&6</sup>Department of Animal Health & Production Technology,  
School of Agriculture & Agricultural Technology  
Federal Polytechnic Nekede Owerri, Imo State Nigeria

<sup>5</sup>Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igboariam Campus Anambra State

<sup>7</sup>Federal University of Technology Owerri Imo State

Article DOI: 10.48028/iiprds/ijsressd.v6.i1.15

### Abstract

The process of economic development involves the resolution of contending interests that lay claims to scarce resources. In this regard, social divisions between racial, ethnic, tribal and other groupings along economic, cultural and political lines are central features. It is within these divisions that the expressions of several conditions that define the ability of each group of livestock producers to compete. Such conditions include those of marginality, social exclusion, vulnerability, deprivation and poverty among others.

**Keywords:** *Marginality, Social Exclusion, Economic Development, Livestock Farmers*

**Corresponding Author:** Amahiri, C.C.

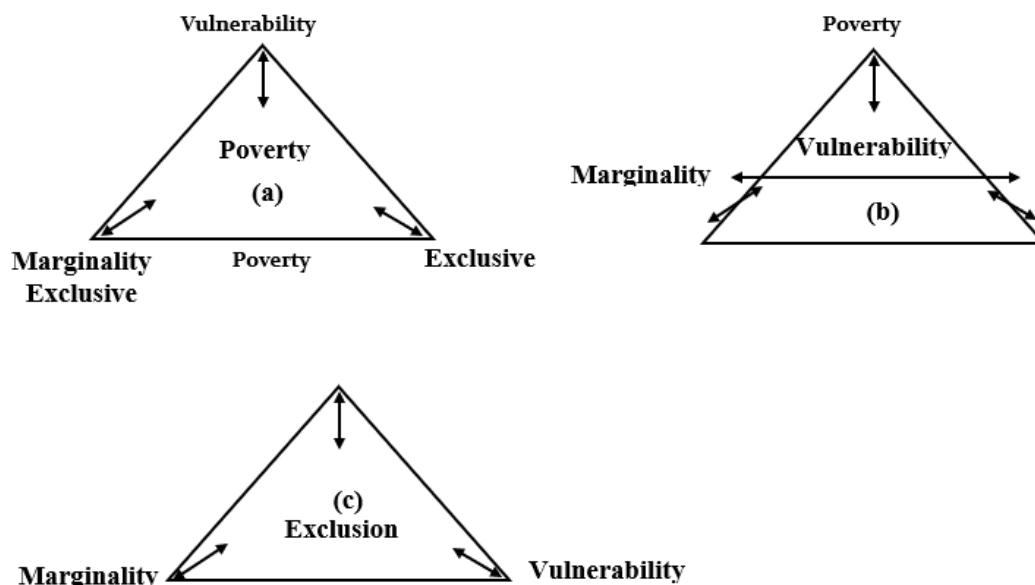
### **Background to the Study**

Marginality could be defined as the reality of existing and operating more or less outside the mainstream group processes of governance, decision making and economic activity. The concept of marginality relates closely to the concept of social exclusion among livestock farmers. Social exclusion encompasses the nation of poverty broadly defined, but is more general in that it explicitly emphasizes poverty's relational as well as distributional aspects (Bhalla and Lapeyre, 1997). They draw from the theories of poverty, inequality, and disadvantage and include connotations of deprivation. The more common term “marginalization” connotes subjection of one individual by another to the sideline.

But somebody maybe marginalized by own attitudes or circumstances that cannot be blamed on another person or himself for that matter. Marginality and social exclusion do not necessarily mean the same thing in every culture. The attitudes of docility or passivity on issues of participation and involvement in community decision making may sometimes be a reflection more or less of cultural expectations and sentiments in a community. In a multi—ethnic setting as in some of the fadama areas, we must focus on boardcontemporary appropriations and applicability of these terms.

The concept of social exclusion in economic development among livestock farmers in Imo State has gained a wide currency in recent times. Its use came on stream as a result of prolonged depression and unemployment in Nigeria and Africa which provoked criticisms of the welfare system for failing to prevent poverty and for hindering economic development (Loury, 1999). These concepts generally aim to properly describe situations in which there is lack of consolidation of social bonds, incomplete extension of social rights and absence of protection to all interest groups.

Figure 1 (a – c) illustrate the inter-connectedness of the concepts of marginality, vulnerability and exclusion and show that each of them can lead to the other, and that could decide to make any of them the central focus of the analysis, depending on the specific issues that is being addressed.



**Figures 1 (a – c):** The various Triangle of obstacles to people's participation and involvement.

It is indeed like the chicken and egg dilemma. The issues here can be summed by noting that:

- a. Figure 1 (a) shows that one maybe poor because he/she is any marginalized, vulnerable and excluded or all.
- b. Figure 1 “b” shows that one maybe vulnerable because he is any of poor, marginalized and excluded or all
- c. Figure 1 “c” shows that one may suffer exclusion because he is poor, marginalized and vulnerable or all.

Whatever the meaning of these terms, in this paper, we try to use them to understand the mainstream processes involved in common property resource management, how they can generate conflict, and how knowledge of the characteristics of those affected could be used to plan development interventions and to ameliorate conflict. In the fadama areas, due to their biophysical features such as fragility, marginality, and their economic character of scarcity, there is a strong inherent potential for poverty promoting processes, mainly as a result of the stronger out completing the weaker stakeholders in appropriating available resources.

### Statement of Problem

Several projects executed or implemented in Nigeria in the past by international development agencies have witnessed some setbacks ranging from elite high jack or elite-capture, marginality and social exclusion in economic development among livestock farmers, varying methods of disbursement of funds to farmers among others which eventually have led to the unrealisation of the goals, aims/objectives of the donor agencies.

## **Literature Review**

The International Development Agency (IDA) in partnership with the Federal Government of Nigeria through the National Fadama Development Office (NFDO) of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources packaged the National Fadama Project under the following:

- a. Capacity Building (CB)
- b. Pilot Asset Acquisition (P. P.A)
- c. Advisory Services (ASS)
- d. Rural Infrastructure (RI)

But for the purposes of this paper, we are going to dwell and discuss on capacity building (CB) and Pilot Asset Acquisition (PAA)

### **Capacity Building (CB)**

This involves workshops, training etc of the various Fadama users' groups (FUGS), Fadama Community Associations (FCAS), the marginalized and social exclusion farmers in some cases and other relevant stakeholders by the International Development Agency in order to achieve the target of project implementation. In order to address the deficiencies observed among the project beneficiaries, the state Fadama Development Office (SEDO) undertook a skill gap evaluation that was carried out to determine areas requiring intervention and these gaps were addressed through various capacity building needed to produce an effective and efficient capacity building programmes. The Fadama Community Association (FCAS) and Fadama Users Groups (FUGS) including the marginalized and social exclusion groups were trained and guided in the use of the proper procedures in community-based procurement and contracting of service providers.

### **Pilot Asset Acquisition (PAA)**

Pilot Asset Acquisition (PAA) involves funding those sub-projects in agriculture that are income/revenue generating based. The various Fadama Farmers on demand driven are empowered with world-bank assisted fadama projects like: palm oil processing machines/mill, poultry houses, piggery houses, garri processing machines, fish ponds etc which are all Pilot Asset Acquisition Projects and thus to enable them generate maximum revenue and live above poverty level.

Some of the agro-processing equipments like palm oil and cassava mills process below installed capacity. Some of the FUGS have complained of the high cost of fuel, which reduces profit margins. The present capacity utilization is 60% for both the upstream and downstream. These are caused increased in both raw materials and output from processing thus stimulating greater economic activity. (Chikwe 2014).

### **Specific Objective of the Study**

- i. To evolve practical approaches, strategies and techniques for efficient identification of the more marginalized and vulnerable Fadama users in Imo State.
- ii. To examine if the level of impact played by the International Development Agency in

Poverty reduction in Nigeria through Fadama Project in Imo State have been able to increase the income and the standard of living conditions of the Fadama beneficiaries.

- iii. Increasing the income of Fadama beneficiaries
- iv. Empowerment and self-sufficiency of the fadama beneficiaries
- v. Accountability and financial management among members

### Materials and Methods

This study was carried out in 10 out of 27 Local Government Area Council in Imo State, through a participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) in which the formation of various Fadama Users Groups (FUGS), Fadama Community Associations (FCAS) were formed in order to ascertain the total number of beneficiaries of farmers in each Local Government Area Councils.

### Methodology

Secondary data obtained from the office of the Imo State Fadama Development Office (Imo SFDO) was used in the course of the research and analyzed as follows:

**Table 1:** Types of Groups

S/N	LGA	Poultry Farmers	Piggery Farmers	Fish Farmers	Marginalized Groups	Total No. of Farmers
1	Aboh Mbaise	50	40	30	Nil	120
2	Ahiazu Mbaise	40	20	15	Nil	75
3	Ehime Mbano	60	50	40	Nil	150
4	Nkwerre	30	40	20	Nil	90
5	Oguta	40	50	40	Nil	130
6	Ohaji/Egbema	45	30	50	Nil	125
7	Oru West	50	60	40	Nil	150
8	Owerri North	30	40	45	Nil	115
9	Ihitte-Uboma	60	50	40	Nil	150
10	Owerri West	30	40	20	Nil	90
	<b>Total</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1195</b>

### Results Analysis from Table I

Analysis of the result in Table 1: The total number of poultry farmers in the 10 Local Government Councils obtained from the secondary data available from the records in Imo State Fadama Development Office is 435, while the total number of piggery and fishery farmers in the examined 10 LGAs are 420 and 340 respectively. Totaling 1195 sample size. Farmers which will give the same figure of 1195 when you total the numbers of poultry, piggery and fish farmers in each Local Government Areas whereas the marginalized and social exclusion in economic development are left behind and not carried along.

**Table 2:** No. of Funded Fadama Projects in the 10 examined LGAs.

S/N	LGA	No. Poultry projects funded	No. of Piggery projects funded	No. of Fishery Farmers projects funded	No. of Marginalized projects	Total No. of funded projects
1	Aboh Mbaise	40	30	25	Nil	95
2	Ahiazu Mbaise	35	20	15	Nil	70
3	Ehime Mbano	50	45	35	Nil	130
4	Nkwere	30	30	20	Nil	80
5	Oguta	30	40	30	Nil	100
6	Ohaji/Egbema	40	30	40	Nil	110
7	Oru West	40	50	30	Nil	120
8	Owerri North	30	30	40	Nil	100
9	Ihitte-Uboma	50	40	30	Nil	120
10	Owerri West	30	30	20	Nil	80
	<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>1005</b>
	<b>Total No of funded projects</b>					<b>1005</b>

**Explanation/Discussion of Result from Table 2**

The result from table 1 shows that in Aboh Mbaise LGA of Imo State, a total no of 120 fadama farmers applied for fadama sub projects grant in various livestock enterprises such as: poultry, piggery, and fishery of which 95 fadama co-operative group beneficiaries benefited in Aboh Mbaise L.G.A. which is significant and more than 60% funding.

In Ahiazu Mbaise, a total no of 75 co-operative groups applied for grant and table 2 results shows that 70 fadama farmers groups received funding which is equally significant and more than 60% funding though none was given to the marginalized and social exclusion groups. Ehime Mbano, Nkwere, Oguta, Ohaji/ Egbema, Oru West, Owerri North, Ihitte-Uboma and Owerri West equally have the following no of fadama farmers in table 1 that applied as 150, 90, 130, 125, 150, 115, 150, and 90 respectively out of which the following no of Fadama farmers benefitted by receiving their fadama funds (grants) as seen in table 2. Ehime Mbano L. G.A, 130, Nkwere 80, Oguta 100, Ohaji/Egbema 110, Oru West 120, Owerri North 100, Ihitte-Uboma 120, Owerri West 80, fadama co-operative groups benefitted respectively.

The result in table 2 equally shows that fadama project is a loudable one, cherished and embraced by all levels of fadama farmers across the Nation irrespective of gender, ethnicity, religion or tribal background. The objective of the study and that of the international Development Agency for implementing the programme /project is met through the marginalized where socially excluded from economic project development. This is evident in the number of applied and funded group sub- projects as seen in tables 1 and 2 respectively which is significant and variably have improved and increased the standard of living of the benefitted fadama beneficiaries from the secondary data records available.

### **Marginality and social Exclusion: Causes, Processes and Manifestations**

The causes of marginality and social exclusion are diverse, including geographic, economic, social, and political factors. In specific terms, one may experience marginalization and exclusion as a result of physical disability, lack of education, itinerant nature of one's vocation, poor access to information, poor physical, administrative and market integrated of some parts of the community among others.

The processes underlying marginalization and social exclusion have been located in the functioning of the labour market, access to state redistribution, and access to communal resources of reciprocity and mutual support. But marginalization and social exclusion could manifest in many ways including:

- a. The sidelining of traditional knowledge.
- b. Impositions of rules and regulations from outside the community, for instance the Bwatiye people of the upper Benue River valley claim that during the jihad at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Fulani imposed an administrative structure in Yola, and used this to collect taxes and /or dues from them (Sarch, Madakaan, and Ladu, 2017).
- c. Legal, administrative and fiscal measures displacing local controls/ decisions.
- d. Widening the gap between local resource users and decision makers.
- e. Loss of collective stake and local control over natural resources.
- f. Externally-conceived, ineffective and unenforceable interventions for use and protection of natural resources.
- g. Highly resourced persons increasingly acquiring the means of production to the detriment of the less endowed. For instance, those using more modern and more efficient fishing technologies concerning more of the common property fisheries.
- h. Poorly resourced persons being forced to get out of the community against own wishes. More or less the same individuals are regularly appointed to positions of authority and influence in the community
- i. When persons with one form of disability or another cannot complete.
- j. When persons living with HIV/ AIDS do not feel free enough to belong in community development groups, and
- k. When the nature of ones' vocation (eg hunting and fishing) takes him away when crucial decisions are taken in the community, et cetera.

### **What is the Impact and Response:**

The utility of marginality and social exclusion lie in their application in the study of inequality. Sen (2017) has discussed the effects of various forms of inequality on individuals to include: unemployment, social exclusion, family crises, lower skills, motivation, and non-participation in political activity. This is because they help us mainstream the status of the vulnerable and the more marginalized members of the community, including minorities, women, the physically challenged, the unemployed, indigenous people and immigrants in the development discourse, and in planning/implementing programs and projects for development.



One may ask, what have been the response of governments, development practitioners and natural resource managers to exclusion and marginality? Direct policy interventions to aid the poor, the marginalized, the deprived, the disadvantaged and the excluded in Nigeria have focused mainly on subsidized access to financial resources (NACRDB, NAPEP, and NDE, etcetera). But the processes for identification of the beneficiaries of these programmes has never been particularly sensitive to the pervasive disadvantage in society that fosters inefficient targeting in such programmes.

## Conclusion

As far as the issues of poverty, vulnerability, social exclusion and marginalization are concerned, key challenges facing the implementation of fadama projects including the gradual rebuilding of the social capital (culture and mechanisms, promoting trust, sharing, inclusiveness, participation and group action in the use of fadama resources,) which was conspicuously absent in the previous world bank assisted projects.

The understanding of these concepts has become imperative in order to use them in assessing the inclusiveness and distributive fairness of fadama in terms of the participation of all stakeholders in the project. This is crucial because one of the most critical and common causes/elements of modern forms of marginality and social exclusion can be located in the conception, design and implementation of external interventions.

## References

- Ejere, E. S. I. (2025). *Fadama III and poverty reduction among rural farmers in Akwa Ibom State*.
- Olaitan, M. A., Bamidele, J., Joel, O. J., Oyediji, B. I., Joel, A. F., & Sennuga, S. O. (2024). Effects of FADAMA III Development Project on livestock farmers' productivity and food security status in Abuja, Nigeria. *Cross Current Int. J. Agri Vet Sci*.
- Sanusi, W. A., Fanifosi, G. E., Oladayo, T. D., Otunola, O. B., & Ijila, O. J. (2021). *Comparative analysis of Fadama III beneficiaries and non-beneficiary's poverty status*. *Int. J. Food and Agricultural Economics*.
- Third National Fadama Development Project (Fadama III) – World Bank Project Paper (2020).
- Yakubu, U. I., & Usman, A. (2024). An assessment of the World Bank-Assisted FADAMA II Project. *Kashere Journal of Politics and International Relations*.
- World Bank Fadama III SIL Appraisal Document (2019). *Role of Fadama III Project in Empowering Fadama Women Farmers for Household Food Security* (Unpublished thesis).