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National Fadama Development Project (III) Implementation and the Target Class: Evidence from Abuja Area Councils

Umaru Baba[1]; Mohammed Shehu Tijjani[2]

[1&2]*Department of Economics, Bayero University, Kano*

Abstract

This article employed a descriptive Statistical technique to investigate the level of reaching out to the primary target class in terms of Implementation of the National Fadama Development Project III in Abuja Area Councils. We used primary data collated from 114 respondents via a structured questionnaire to the Fadama User Groups (FUGs) in Abuja. The level of reaching out to the primary target class as enshrined in the Project Implementation Manual (PIM), 2009 was scrutinised through the examination of the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents from the Fadama III project users in Abuja. Findings from the results showed that, the project was able to achieve its objective as the primary target class were the real beneficiaries of the National Fadama Development Project III intervention activity in Abuja Area Councils. Sustainability in terms of implementation approach was recommended therefore and, its broad extension to cover the entire poor and the rural poor in particular for the achievement of poverty eradication, food security and economic empowerment.

Keywords: Fadama, Development Project, Target Class
JEL Codes: M29

1. Introduction

According to the Brookings Institution report of 2018 tagged narrative of "future of development", extreme poverty in today's world is largely about Africa. In a similar account, a new report by the World Poverty Clock shows Nigeria has overtaken India as the country with the most extreme poor people in the world even though India has a population seven times larger than Nigeria's. Over seventy (70%) of the population is classified as poor, with over 35% living in absolute poverty (IFAD 2013). Poverty is especially severe in rural areas, where social services and infrastructure are limited or non-existent. The 86.9 million Nigerians now living in extreme poverty represents nearly 50% of its estimated 180 million population. As a consequence, the mission to end extreme poverty globally is already at risk (Yomi K., 2018). The great majorities of those who live in rural areas are poor and depend on agriculture for food and income. Most of the country's food is produced by small scale farmers cultivating tiny plots of land and, who are depended on rainfall rather than modern irrigation systems. Surveys by the National Fadama Development Coordinating Office as cited in the volume two of its Project implementation Manual (PIM) of 2009 shows that across the country, 44% of male farmers and 72% of female farmers cultivate less than one hectare per household. Women play a major role in the production, processing and marketing of food crops. The poorest groups eke out subsistence but often go short of food, particularly during the pre-harvest period. A high proportion of rural people suffer from malnutrition, and other diseases related to poor nutrition.

Indeed, women and residents headed by women as cited in Alberto V. et al (2011), are frequently the most chronically poor within rural communities. Women have lower social status than men and subsequently less access to schooling and training. Yet women play significant roles in rural economic activities. While the number of men migrating from rural areas in search of employment has increased over the last decades, the number of residents headed by women risen substantially. Women struggle to cope as the burden of work at home and in the fields fall on their shoulders. Malnutrition is a frequent problem in these residents.

Other vulnerable groups among rural poor are young couples with children, the disabled and old people with no relatives to support them (PIM, Vol. 2, 2009). Rural Poverty tends to evenly distributed across Nigeria rather than concentrated in specific geographic areas (Omoniyi, 2013). However, in some zones the poverty situation threaten to worsen considerably, such as in the northern part of Nigeria and, especially the north-eastern zone where also severe insecurity threatens. Also due to environmental degradation, the fishing communities living in the mangrove swamps and along the Atlantic coast are among the poorest in the country.

However, despite the worse poverty levels in the rural areas, projects and programmes of governments and other international and local development partners usually tends to be diverted away from the target beneficiaries, thereby making a nuisance of its entirety and impossible to achieve targets, (Anyanwu, 2004). The National Fadama Development Project III is one of those numerous government and International development partners intervention programmes aimed at Poverty Alleviation and food security in Nigeria, targeted at the poor and rural poor in particular. In this study, an attempt is made to investigate, if the actual beneficiaries were the targeted class as described by the Project Implementation Manual (PIM, 2009); to include the target groups of the rural poor engaged in economic activities (farmers, pastoralists, fishermen, nomads, traders, processors, hunters and gatherers as well as other economic interest groups) and; Relatively disadvantaged groups (women including widows) such as the handicapped, the sick including people living with HIV/AIDS, and the youth.

Fadama I and Fadama II focused basically on provision of irrigation and other farm infrastructural facilities for crop production, even though non farmers were also among the Fadama users, such as vulnerable groups among others. The Fadama III project thereafter is a follow-up to Fadama II and is designed to raise the production level and efficiency of Fadama users and accordingly their income. Fadama III project, is a comprehensive five-year action program developed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Water Resources (FMAWR) in close partnership with the Federal Ministry of Environment (FME) and other federal and state government ministries, local governments and key stakeholders (PIM 2009, Vol. 1). The Fadama III is more of agricultural diversification program, providing financing for the diverse livelihood activities which the beneficiaries themselves identify and design, with appropriate facilitation support.

The major development objectives of the Fadama III Project are to increase the income of users of rural land and water resources on a sustainable basis. By increasing their income, help reduce rural poverty, increase food security, attainment of a key Millennium Development Goal (MDG) and contribute to the economic empowerment of Fadama users.

The problem of our interest is that in Nigeria, poor implementation of poverty eradication and alleviation programs and interventions, in terms of diversion of resources away from the targeted class of the poor has been identified as a major draw-back to the achievement of the primary objective of the programs. Studies identified diversion of resources as a major constraint to the achievement of rural poverty alleviation and food security programs. As cited in Ogwumike (1998) and Kankwenda et al (2000) that, government initiated interventions were all affected by the common problem of resources not pretty reaching the main targets of the various initiatives.

Reasons for Poor results or gross failure of government and international intervention efforts with regards to poverty alleviation, food security, and micro economic empowerment is often attributed to diversion of resources by officials, rather than judiciously applying resources to the real target primarily meant for, its often diverted away for political, social or personal interests. However, there has not been any scientific investigation on this matter with regards to the National Fadama Development Project (III). The objective of this study is to investigate the level of Fadama III implementation in reaching out to the primary target class, the rural poor as identified in the Project Implementation Manual (II) of the National Fadama Development Project (2009).

Our main object here is to investigate the level of Fadama III implementation in reaching out to the primary target class, the rural poor, as identified in the Project Implementation Manual (II) of the National Fadama (III) Development project.

To achieve our objective, this article is organized to give the background of the study, problem

statement, and justification in the first section, literature review and methodology in the second and third sections respectively, section four presents the analysis and discussion of results, and our conclusion on the study.

2. Literature Review

There is a considerable amount of research on the interventional policies and activities on poverty alleviation, eradication and food security issues by the Government and its development partners. Majority of these researches examine the effect of such policies on the poverty alleviation, efficacy constraints and challenges in both rural and urban sectors of various economies. A lot of these studies however identified diversion of resources and or wrong targeting of beneficiaries as a major drawback to the achievement of policy goals (Emmanuel, 2002).

Poverty Alleviation strategies in Nigeria examined under the three broad eras of the Nigerian economic history as cited in Ogwumike, 1987, 1988 and 2001, also as cited in (Muktar, 2001), were all found to be associated with a common constraint of diversion of resources from their primary target or beneficiaries. These are the eras of period before the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), Structural Adjustment Programme period and period under the Democratic rule.

In the first era, the forth national development plan appeared to be the first plan with a precise focus on objectives that are associated with poverty reduction, emphasised increase in real income of the average citizen as well as reduction in income inequality among other things. During this era, many of the programmes (either wholly Government or in association with International Agencies) targeted poverty alleviation including; the River Basin Development Authorities (RBDA), the Agricultural Development Programme (ADP), the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme (ACGS), the Rural Electrification Scheme (RES), and the Rural Banking Programme (RBP). Mostly were designed to take care of enhancing agricultural output and income among others. Despite some significant degree of success made, most of them could not be sustained due resource leakage and diversion from the original focus. For instance, according to Ogwumike (1998), the Rural Banking and the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme at many stages failed to deliver the desired credit for rural agriculture and rural transformation because a lot of savings were mobilised in the rural areas only to be diverted to urban areas in form of credits/investments.

Other notable poverty reduction related programmes during this era include Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), in 1977, Free and Compulsory Primary Education (FCPE) Green Revolution, 1980, and Low Cost Housing Scheme, both OFN and Green Revolution were targeted at agricultural output could not achieve sustainability due to lack of political will and commitment, policy instability, diversion of resources and insufficient involvement of the beneficiaries in these programmes (CBN, Enugu Zone, 1998).

During the Focused policy attempt by government towards poverty alleviation, the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) era, many interventions were designed and implemented by government between 1986 and 1993. Also under the guided deregulation of the period 1993 to 1998, whereby more poverty reduction programmes were implemented including; Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) 1986, the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) 1986, Better Life Programme (BLP) 1987, Peoples Bank of Nigeria (PBN) 1989, Community Banks (CB) 1990, Family Support Programme (FSP) 1994, and Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) 1997.

According to Ogwumike (1998), as cited in the Emmanuel, (2002) and also Oyesanmi, O. et al (2005) The Better Life Programme (BLP) which was mostly gender biased, meant to improve the life and incomes of rural women among other objectives, was hijacked by position seeking individuals leading to its failure. The resources were used for personal aggrandizement of other individuals aside the target class and rather than for the set objectives. As such it was more rhetoric than pragmatic in its objectives. Family Support Programme (FSP) the successor of the BLP was also beset by the same problems suffered by its predecessor, and so could not achieve its objectives. Similar faith among other factor including poor implementation of projects, corruption by officials etc, militated against the sustainability and success of other similar programmes afore mentioned.

Moreover, under the Democratic era, several interventions aimed at job creation, income generation and poverty alleviation/eradication were

initiated including, the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), 2001 and the National Fadama Development Projects, since 1992. The target of NAPEP was to completely eradicate poverty by the year 2010. Three stages were identified for the attainment of the target including, the restoration of hope in the poor through provision of basic necessities, restoration of economic independence and confidence and, wealth creation. As observed by Omoniyi et al (2013), the lack of consideration of socio political environment and lack of participation of target beneficiaries were among other constraints of NAPEP towards achieving its laudable objective of poverty eradication.

For the Fadama projects, whose funding is sourced from all the tiers of government, the World Bank and other development partners, is structurally executed in phases; Fadama I (1992 to 1999), II (2000 to 2007) and III (2009 to 2013) projects. The word "Fadama" as cited in Akinola and Atala, (2004) is a Hausa word, meaning the "seasonally flooded or floodable plains along major rivers and or depressions on the adjacent low terraces". These areas can adequately be used to grow crops in the dry seasons because of their rich hydromophous nature. In Oriola's (2004) view; this is similar to cultivating river beds adjacent to rain-fed farms. Ultimately, the Fadama land farming and the use of irrigation facilities have developed into a close relationship armoured by the needs for food security throughout the year and, to eradicate poverty and achieve economic empowerment.

3, Methodology

For the purpose of the execution and administration convenience of the Fadama III project, the Federal Capital Territory was divided into nineteen (19) areas, called the Fadama Development Areas (FDAs), by the Abuja Fadama Projects Coordinating Office. The population for this study therefore consists of all the nineteen FDAs which is composed of the given number of one thousand and eighty three (1,083) Fadama User Groups (FUGs) fairly distributed across the FDAs, with each FUG having fifteen (15) Fadama Users in a group. Therefore, making up a total population of sixteen thousand, two hundred and forty five (16,245) Fadama III Users in the Abuja Area Councils of the Federal capital Territory.

The study uses the random sampling technique to arrive at the desired sample size. This technique is adequately applicable since the accurate number of the FUGs as well the actual Fadama users is obtainable. Therefore, all Fadama users from the nineteen areas referred to as the Fadama Development Areas (FDAs) have equal chance of being selected and all respondents come from the One thousand and eighty three (1,083) Fadama User Groups (FUGs) of the National Fadama Development Project III. The random identification of participants is therefore conserved from the FUGs within these FDAs from which the research instrument is administered.

Since the entire targeted population of Fadama Users cannot be used for the study, samples are selected from it to reflect the entire situation. The target sample is therefore arrived at by using the Taro Yamen (1969) proportionate sampling formula.

The total population as derived from the FDAs is twenty one thousand, six hundred and sixty (21,660) people, the confidence interval adopted is 90% (0.1 significance level). 90% confidence interval is selected in order not to over minimize the margin of error. Therefore, substituting for the desired sample size (n) from the Taro Yemene (1967) proportionate sampling formula above, n is obtained as; 99.5

Given that we have nineteen FDAs to cover, the 99.5 participants will be distributed across the total number of the FDAs to give us 5.23. Therefore since we are dealing with individual persons such number is rounded up to six (6) respondents from each Fadama Development Area (FDA). Therefore, six (6) participants are selected from each of the nineteen (19) FDAs to make a total number of one hundred and fourteen (114) respondents.

4. Results and Discussion

To examine the appropriateness of attending to the real Fadama III target class, the socio-economic characteristics of the beneficiaries of Fadama III in Abuja Area Councils is examined.

Results from the questionnaire are therefore here analytically described in tables and charts drawing out the descriptive Statistics.

Table 1: Gender Distribution of Respondents from the Fadama III Users

Sex	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative
Male	78	68.42	68.42
Female	36	31.58	100.00
Total	114	100.00	

Source: Field work, 2016

The results from Table 1 indicate that there were 114 respondents. The results show that among the respondents, 68.42% were male, while 31.58% were female. The implication is that the study is not gender bias, as both sexes have been considerably represented. Furthermore it goes to show that the beneficiaries of FADAMA III cut across the male and female sexes. Thus, FADAMA III is not gender bias.

The gender distribution of Respondents from the Fadama III users is further illustrated by chart 1

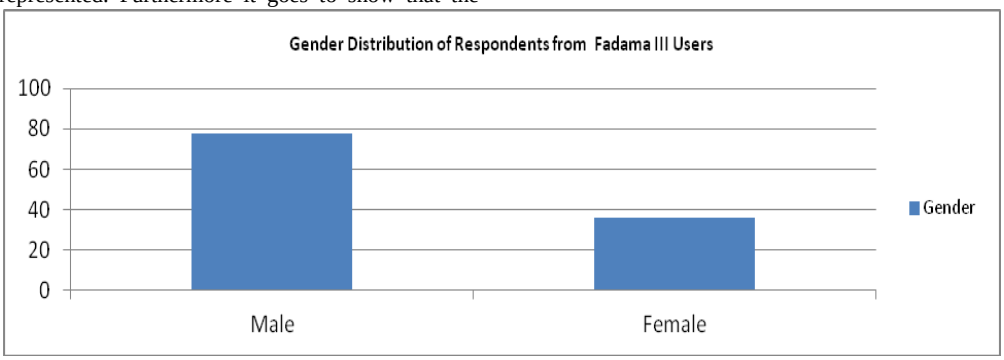

Chart 1: Gender of Respondents from the Fadama III Users
Source: Field work, 2016

On the age structure of the respondents to the field instrument, Table 2 presents the statistics. Four age categories are used for this purpose; (18 - 30, 31 - 45, 46 – 60, 61 and above).

Table 2: Age Structure of Respondents from Fadama III Users

Age	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative
18-30	14	12.28	12.28
31-45	65	57.02	69.30
46-60	27	23.68	92.98
61+	8	7.02	100.00
Total	114	100.00	

Source: Field work, 2016

From Table 2 it can be seen that most of the Fadama users were mainly of the productive employment age of 18 to 60. 14 of the Fadama III users were of age range of 18-30, 65 were of the age range of 31-45; 27 of the participants are of the age range 46-60 and, only 8 of the Fadama users in the Table 2, were of age above 60. That represents a percentage contribution of 12.28% for group age 18 - 30 and, 57.02%, 23.68% and 7.02% respectively for the other groups in that range. The information deduced from table 2 indicates that 92.98% of the fadama III users are of active productive age of 18-60. Therefore, it is an indication that the respondents were well sampled for the study. Considering that all the respondents were adults gives credibility since their responses can be relied upon.

Further insight into the age structure of respondents from Fadama III users is provided in Chart 2.

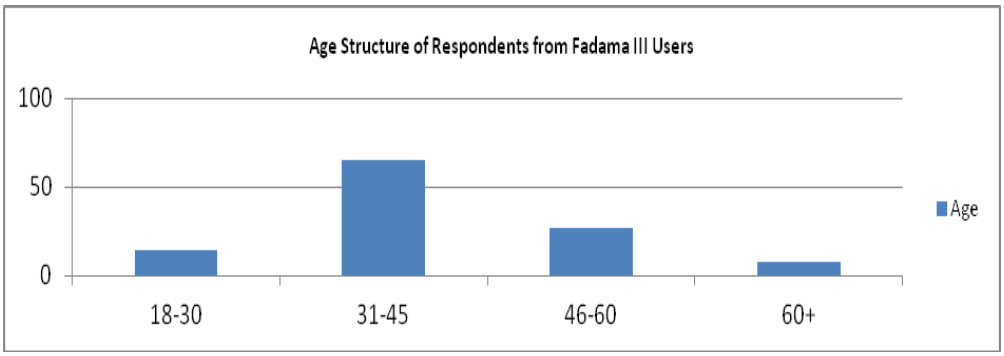

Chart 2: Age Structure of Respondents from the Fadama III Users
Source: Field work, 2016

With respect to the educational attainment of the respondents, Table 3 reveals the statistics on this aspect.

Table 3: Educational Qualifications of Respondents from Fadama III Users

Education	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative
Primary	32	28.07	28.07
Secondary	64	56.14	84.21
Tertiary	4	3.51	87.72
Informal/Non	14	12.28	100.00
Total	114	100.00	

Source: Field work, 2016

Data from Table 3 depicts the educational qualification attained by the various respondents drawn from among Fadama III users during the study period. The information indicates that 32 of them held the formal basic or primary education, representing about 28.07% of the Fadama users. 56.14% of the people held the Secondary level of formal education, 3.51% of the 114 respondents attained a tertiary level of formal education and, 12.28% were either educated in the informal methods or are have no education at all. The Statistics implies that with 87.72% of the respondents having at least a primary level of formal education, the respondents can give enlightened responses. Furthermore, the level of education among the Fadama III users indicate that communication, training as well as record keeping and appreciation are enhanced. This educational qualification variance among the Fadama III users is further indicated by Chart 3 below.

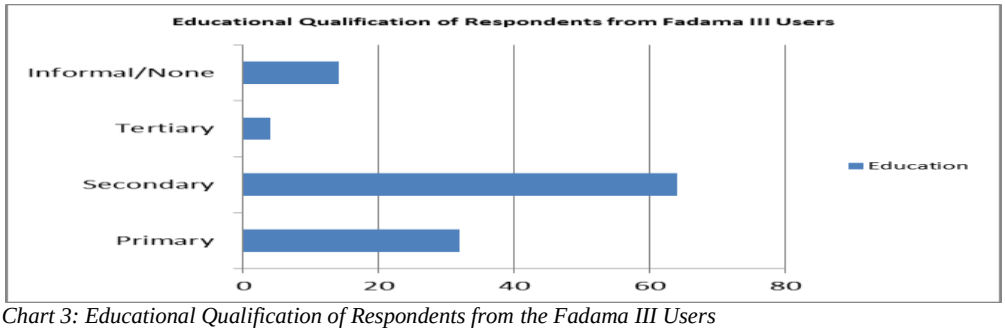

Chart 3: Educational Qualification of Respondents from the Fadama III Users
Source: Field work, 2016

Table 4: Marital Status of Respondents from Fadama III Users

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative
Married	92	80.70	80.70
Not Married	22	19.30	100.00
Total	114	100.00	

Source: Field work, 2016

The data from Table 4 indicates that 80.70% of the respondents are married men and women and, 19.30% which is similarly were found to be otherwise. This implies that reasonably responsible accurate information can be deduced from the respondents of Fadama III project. This gives credence to the results obtained. Chart 4 further provided more insight into the marital status of the respondents.

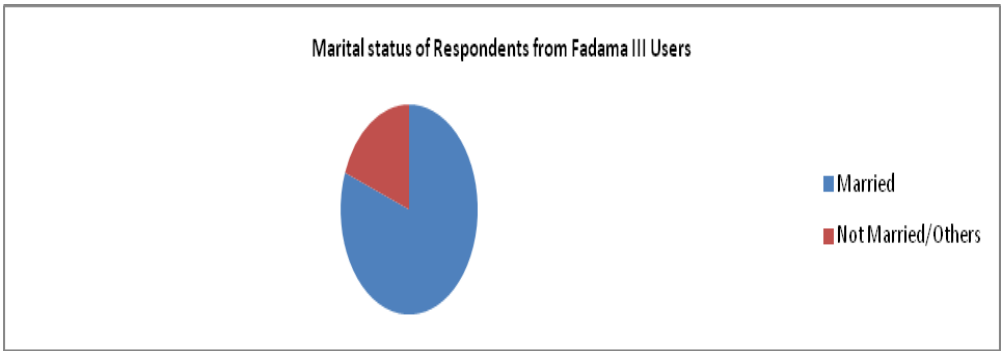

Chart 4: Marital Status of Respondents from the Fadama III Users
Source: Field work, 2016

Table 5: Number of Dependents of Respondents from Fadama III Users

Dependents	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative
Less than 5	31	27.19	27.19
5 - 10	70	61.40	88.60
11 – 11+	9	7.89	96.49
None	4	3.51	100.00
Total	114	100.00	

Source: Field work, 2016

Table 5 shows that 27.19% of the respondents from the Fadama III users had less than 5 dependents representing about 31 respondents. 61.40% Fadama users of the respondents had between 5 to 10 dependents under them, 7.89% of the respondents had at least 11 or more dependents under them and, 3.51% of the 114 respondents which is symbolized as "none" in the table had no dependent at all. The data indicates that 96.49% of the respondents had at least one dependent or more.

The class distribution in terms of level of dependants' responsibility upon the Fadama III users is indicated by Chart 5 below.

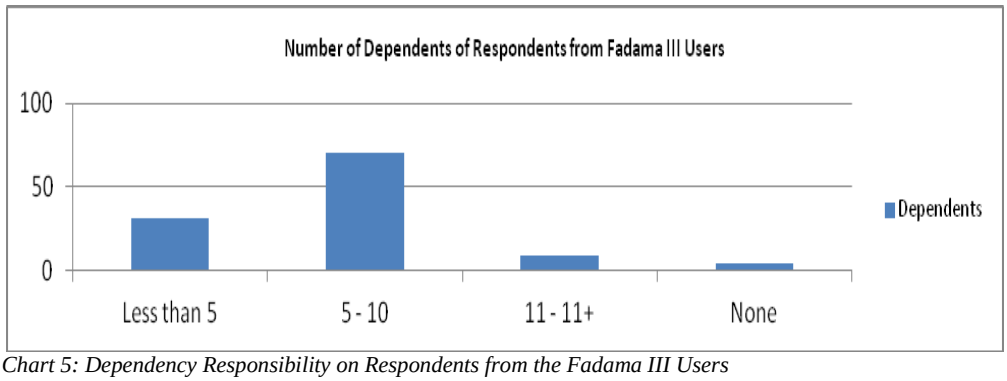

Chart 5: Dependency Responsibility on Respondents from the Fadama III Users
Source: Field work, 2016

On the years of farming experience of the respondents, Table 6 reveals the scenario of various years of experience.

Table 6: Years of Farming Experience of Respondents from Fadama III Users

Years of Experience	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative
1 – 4	1	0.88	0.88
5 – 10	18	15.79	16.67
11 – 15	52	45.61	62.28
At least 16	43	37.72	100.00
Total	114	100.00	

Source: Field work, 2016

Table 6 above indicates that only about 0.88% of the total respondents, denoted as 1 had less than 5 years of farming experience, 15.79% of the entire respondents had between 5 to 10 years of experience. Of the total respondents 45.61% of them had 11 to 15 years of farming experience, and 37.72% of the respondents had a farming experience of at least 16 years and above. This implies that the respondents are capable and experienced farmers that can easily utilize the Fadama III project to maximum benefit. Chart 6 shows the trend of the relationship that exist between age bracket (in years) and engagement of Fadama III activity of respondents.

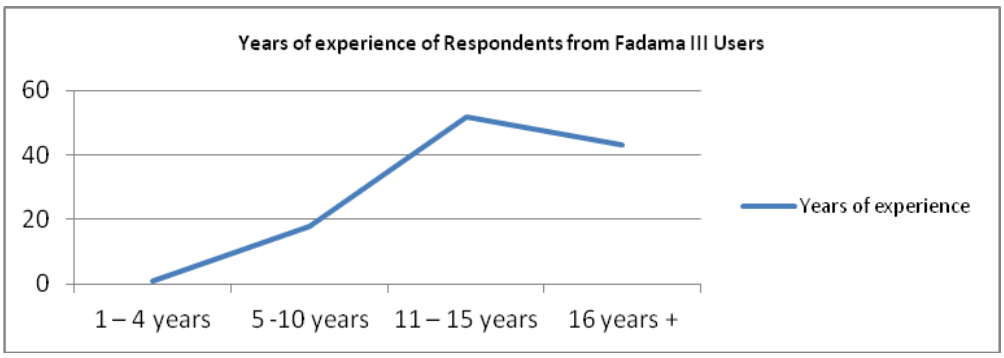

Chart 6: Farming Experience of Respondents from the Fadama III Users
Source: Field work, 2016

Table 7: State of Origin of Respondents from Fadama III Users

State of Origin	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative
Abuja Indigenes	103	90.35	90.35
Non Indigenes	11	9.65	100.00
Total	114	100.00	

Source: Field work, 2016

From table 7, 90.35% Fadama users are indigenes of the FCT, while 9.65% of total respondents are non FCT indigenes, also denoted as 2. The Statistics showed that Fadama III project surely targeted the grass roots and is indigenous biased. This could be accounted for by the fact more of the indigenes are into agriculture since they have relatively better access to land than non- indigenes.

Clearly, the descriptive statistics of the beneficiary show that Fadama III users cut across both sexes, across all the age groups,; with the beneficiary having attended different levels of education; and of different marital status; as well are from different places. This goes to show the relative absence of bias in the process aimed at empowering the rural dwellers in the councils. This is further illustrated by Chart 7 on the respondents' classification by state of origin basis**.**

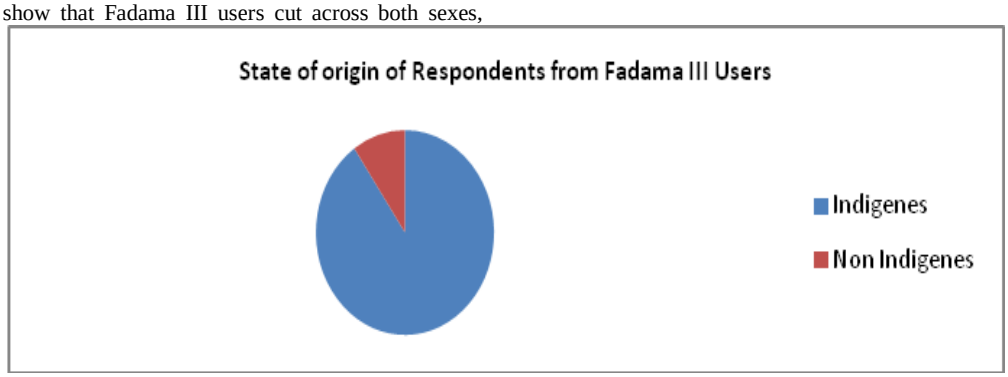

Chart 7: Respondents' State of Origin from the Fadama III Users
Source: Field work, 2016

Table 8: Challenge of inadequate Farm Tools

Farm Tools Adequacy	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative
Inadequate	86	75.44	75.44
Adequate	28	24.56	100.00
Total	114	100.00	

Source: Field work, 2016

The analysis on Table 8 reveals the classification of farm tools adequacy among the Fadama III Users in the rural areas of Abuja area councils. Respondents who felt farm tools were inadequate to achieve their objective constitute 75.44% of total respondents. The second category farmers hold that farm tools were adequate. This set of 28 Fadama users constitutes 24.56% of the total respondents. The data therefore indicates that most Fadama users, over 75% of respondents had inadequate farm tools and apparently it was a fundamental challenge and a constraint to growth and economic empowerment. Chart 8 revealed that most respondents from the Fadama III users had inadequate working tools.

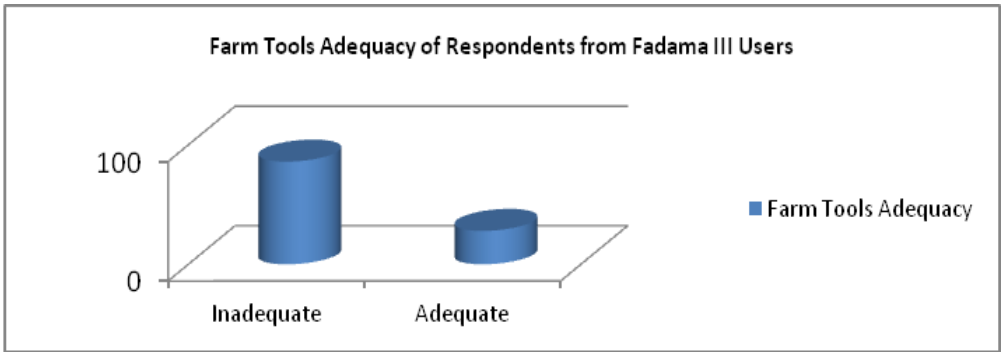

Chart 8: Farm Tools Adequacy of Respondents from the Fadama III Users
Source: Field work, 2016

Table 9: The Nature of Output Limiting Factors

Limiting Factor	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative
Economic	96	84.21	84.21
Social	3	2.63	86.84
Political	3	2.63	89.47
Others	12	10.53	100.00
Total	114	100.00	

Source: Field work, 2016

From Table 9 presents the general nature of output limiting factors faced by Fadama Users. Economic factors such as farmland ownership, agricultural inputs (fertilizer, seedlings, Processing Machines, Storage facilities etc) is dominant for most Fadama Users. Farmers who identify this as a challenge constitute about 84.21% of the respondents. Socio-political factors such as family and community land ownership conditions and rights, jointly constitutes 5.26%. Miscellaneous/Other factors limiting output such as theft of produce constitutes about 10.53% of the respondents. In essence, the analysis shows that economic factors are mostly responsible for limiting the ability of respondents to expand or maximize the required output, increase income, accumulate farm related and non-related assets and, achieve economic empowerment. This is represented by chart 9.

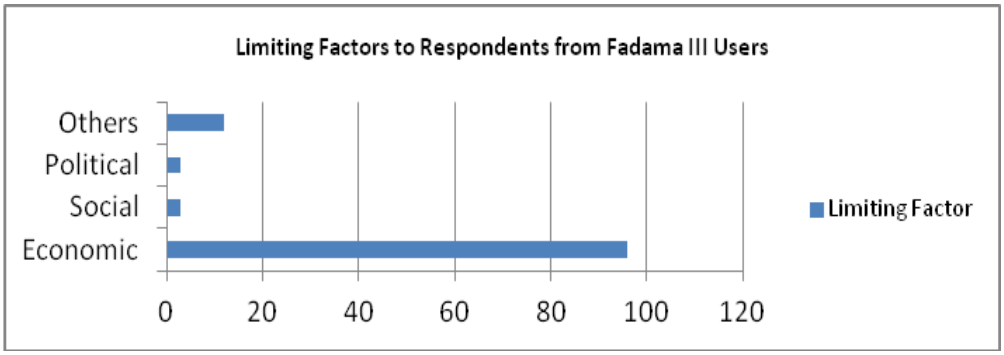

Chart 9: Ability Limiting Factors of Respondents from the Fadama III Users
Source: Field work, 2016

Another challenged considered in the study is that of farmland ownership. This analysis of this challenge is presented on Table 10.

Table 10: Challenge of Farm Land Ownership

Farmland Ownership	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative
Owner	54	47.37	47.37
Non Owner	60	52.63	100.00
Total	114	100.00	

Source: Field work, 2016

Results from table 10 reveals the structure of farm land ownership of respondents and the extent of challenge it imposes on the achievement of Fadama III primary objective of economic empowerment. Farmers that own their farm land represents 47.37% of the respondents, while, conversely farmers who do not own the farm land they use represent 52.63% of the respondents. The statistics implies that more than half of Fadama III users do not personally own their farm which is a major input in agricultural practice. Therefore farm ownership poses a significant challenge to the realization of Fadama III objective. Chart 10 clearly indicated the extend of farm land ownership among the Fadama III users.

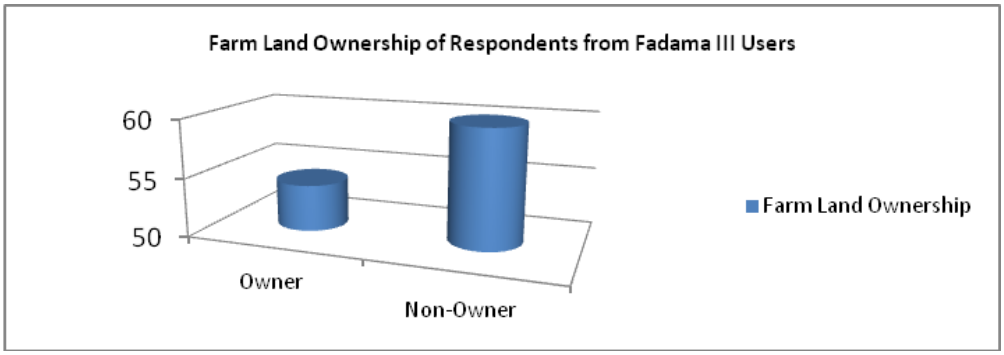

Chart 10: Farm Land Ownership of Respondents from the Fadama III Users
Source: Field work, 2016

5. Findings and Conclusion

Findings

From the findings in table 1, the beneficiaries of FADAMA III cut across the male and female sexes, with 68% males and 32 per cent females, the users of the project is thus fairly gender unbiased. The project users are mainly composed of youth with 57% within the age of 31 to 45 as is seen from chart 2. Chart 3 expressed that 56% were educated at secondary level, but only about 4% at the tertiary level indicative of only basic literacy level among the beneficiaries of Fadama III. Results also shows that over 80% of Fadama users were responsibly married members of the society with a relatively high dependency levels of over 61% of beneficiaries carrying between 5 to 10 dependents, as shown by table and chart 5. Respondents were mostly not first timers as almost half of the respondents had between 11 to 15 years of farming experience as depicted in chart 6 and, from table 7, over 90% of them are indigenous, that is the project beneficiaries are originally from the FCT. 75% of respondents revealed that their farm tools are inadequate and 84% said the output limiting factors are economic in nature, as buttressed in charts 8 and 9 respectively. Table 10 shows that about 53% of respondents do not own the land wherein their activity is based.

Therefore from the fore-going, it is apparent that Fadama III users from Abuja Area Councils were mostly men and women, non-land owners, engulfed by poor farm implements due to economic related factors. Respondents were also mostly family heads with very high levels of dependants, characterised by low level of education and predominantly youths populace of Abuja origin.

Conclusion

From the precise description of the rural poor as cited in Alberto Valdés, et al (2011), rural poor households have more members, a higher share of dependents, less education, less land ownership, a greater number of working age adults and often engage in on-farm activities as a source of livelihood. Consequently, from this study, it is

evident that Fadama III has appropriately engaged the real class of the rural poor in the implementation of the project as intended, thereby significantly nullifying the usual constraint of misplacement and diversion of resources in the implementation of poverty alleviation/eradication and economic empowerment intervention projects and programmes. It is recommended that the project be sustained with the same implementation style, higher momentum and extended to cover the entire rural population of Nigeria for a decisive action on poverty eradication, food security and economic empowerment.

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