

Impact of Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) in boosting food security in Taraba State

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Abstract

Impact of Agricultural development Programme (ADP) in boosting food security in Taraba state. The study makes use of sampling technique and the systematic random sampling using the list of farmers provided by TADP. In this form of administration, the researcher located the respondent in their settings, discuss the aim of the study and seek their participation in the study. Which is, to investigate the extent Taraba state Agricultural Development Projects (TADP) help to boost foods security by efficient provision of fertilizers to farmers in Taraba state. To assess the extent Taraba State Agricultural Development Projects (TADP) provides technical assistance to farmers in Taraba State toward food security. Based on the findings, on the role of TADP to help boost foods security it was revealed that T ADP has helped in providing fertilizers to farmers in the state, Fertilizer assistance to farmers significantly contributed to food production in the state. Government through the TADP should increase the quantity of fertilizers for sufficiency.

Keywords: TADP, impact, security, food, Taraba state

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria, with her huge endowed natural and human resources is not exempted, as Food security has become an issue of global concern in the recent time. The Taraba State Agricultural Development Programme (TADP) is a parastatal of the Ministry of Agriculture. It is one of the World Bank Assisted projects that formed part of the phase II Multi-State Agricultural Development Projects (MSADP II) whose loans terminated on 30th June, 1995. It started in the then Gongola State, as Gongola State Agricultural Development Programme (GADP). Following the creation of Taraba State in 1991, TADP was established by an edict. The agency started functioning from January, 1992. In 1992, all the (MSADP II) projects of which Taraba was one were redesigned. The redesigned exercise placed Taraba ADP with the potential of better performance and it later became World Bank disbursement effective in November, 1993. The TADP was then jointly funded by tripartite arrangement of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) and Taraba State Government (TRSG). The loans were Agricultural Technology Support Facility (ATSF) and National Fadama Facility (NFF). The decision to go for the loan was informed by the need to ensure maintenance of funding of the programme activities for a targeted period of two years after which another World Bank Loans would be sought, The main goal of TADP is to contribute to the attainment of food sufficiency and security in the State and the country at large and raise the

income and standard of living of 3,609, 800 families and household in the state particularly, rural communities.

In recent time, there have been a lot of concerns expressed over threatening danger of food crisis in Taraba, even Nigeria as whole. The Food and Agricultural Organization, among others have been persistent in expressing these concerns for the global food crisis over the years. According to Food and Agriculture Organization, food security obtains when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 1996). The main goal of food security therefore, is for individuals to be able to obtain sufficient food needed at all times, and to be able to utilize the food to satisfy the body's needs. Food security is multifaceted. The World Bank (2001) identified three pillars underpinning food security. These are food availability, food accessibility, and food utilization. This means that a nation whose food production level is unable to satisfy these three criteria is said to be food insecure. Supporting this assertion, Maxwell (in Nana- Sinkam 1995) stated that a country and its people are food secured when their food system operates in such a way as to remove the fear that there will not be enough to eat. He further stressed that food security requires that the poor and vulnerable have secure access to the food they want. The World Food Summit plan of Action of 1996 (according to Attah, (2012) states that food insecurity occurs when;

- People experience a large reduction in their sources of food and are unable to make up the difference through new strategies.
- The prevalence of malnutrition is abnormally high for most time of the year, and this cannot be accounted for by either health or care factors.
- A large proportion of the population or group is using marginal or unsuitable strategies, and
- People are using "coping" strategies that are damaging to their livelihoods in the longer term or incur some other unacceptable cost, such as acting illegally or immorally.

According to Attah (2012), Nigeria's situation on food security is highly precarious and pernicious as a significant percentage of the Nigerian population is left with only the bilious taste of poverty. Haruna, a member of the House of Representatives in an emotion laden speech in 2005 said, "People are dying and the hunger is simply unbearable. We need to tell ourselves the truth; there is hunger in the Land. Our people go to bed with empty stomachs (TELL: August 22, 2005:23 in Attah, 2012). This lamentation persists till today in Nigeria, given these criteria presented by the World Food Summit plan of Action in 1996 (in Attah, 2012).

Agriculture contributes immensely to the Nigeria economy, in the provision of food for the increasing population, supply of adequate raw materials (and labour input) to a growing industrial sector, a major source of employment; generation of foreign exchange earnings, and, provision of market for the products of the agrarian sector (Okumadewa, 1997).

In Taraba State, Taraba Agricultural Development Project (TADP), Taraba Food produce are some of the major agricultural development agencies established to ensure food security in the state. These agencies are playing important role though there is still loopholes toward food sufficiency in the state. Therefore, there is need to examine the impact of TADP in boosting food security in Taraba. Against this backdrop, this study seeks to investigate the impacts of TADP on food security in Taraba State. This study is structured into four sections section one discussed a general introduction and an overview of the background to the study. Section, two look at the literature review of the research, empirical review, and theoretical framework. Section three focused on the research methodology in terms of research design, research population, sampling technique,

sampling size, instrument of data collection, and technique of data analysis. Section four looked at the presentation and analysis of findings, conclusions and recommendations from the findings

LITERATURE REVIEW

This study reviewed some relevance and related literatures that could give a meaning to this study impact of TADP in boosting food security in taraba state. The review looks at the concept of food security and food security problems in taraba and how to fill in the gap by reviewing some relevant and related literatures thereby choosing appropriate theory to ameliorate food security issues in taraba state.

Taraba Agricultural Development Programmes (TADPs)

The idea of Agricultural Development Programmes is an offshoot of the concept of integrated agricultural and rural development. It started in 1972 in Northern Nigerian towns of Gombe and Gusau with two pilot projects assisted by the World Bank. This became necessary because of the need for the application of knowledge and skills in all the relevant areas of agriculture. This concept involves the provision of Infrastructural facilities such as roads, schools, water supply in the rural areas at the right times in required quantity to farmers. The ADP is the implementation organ of the state ministry of agriculture and natural resources. It is semi-autonomous and focuses on the small farmer. It adopts the integrated rural development strategy in its operations (Jibowo, 2005).

The success of the Gombe and Gusau projects encouraged other state governments to embark on more of such projects with the assistance of the World Bank. Since then, Nigeria has continued to witness agricultural development programmes of various dimensions. It is against this background that effective extension services have been established. The closest assistance ever realized by farmers in Nigeria have come from contact with various Agricultural Development Programmes (ADPs) and the extension agents working under the Training and Visit (T and V)) system. The Activities of ADPs in Nigeria spread eve. Three thematic areas; provision of infrastructural rural facilities, conducting worthwhile trainings on improved agricultural technologies and supply of farm inputs.

Achievements of TADP

TADP recorded some achievements during the period it enjoyed funding of its programme activities. Some of the achievements include;

- i 4,301 supervisory field visits to Village(rural) Extension Agents (VEAs) was recorded.
- ii. 8,325 field visits to farmer's farm by Village Extension Agents out of 44,160 targeted farms were achieved.
- iii. 4 Management training plots on maize and rice out of 12 targets were established.
- iv. 3 On-Farm Adaptive Research (OFAR) out of 6 targets was carried out.
- v. Technology Review and Training meetings were held.
- vi. 6,475 Small Plot Adaptive Technique (SPAT) on crops were established out of annual target of 10,500.
- vii. 18,340 contact farmers out of annual target of 18,400 were reached out to by VEAs.
- viii. About 3,095.85 liters of assorted agro-chemicals were sold to the farmers.

Challenges of TADP

For some years now, the objectives of the extension sub programme have not been achieved for the following reasons; I. Lack of funding of most extension activities: Apart from imprest of

₦200,000.00, the TADP has no fund to sustain its routine activities in the state. Despite the Taraba state government claim that agriculture is one of its areas of priority, the state allocated only ₦2.3billion representing 3.35 percent of the total budget in 2016. The Federal government on the other hand allocated 1.6 percent of the ₦12.2 trillion total budgets to the agricultural sector.⁵ This is in sharp contrast to the Maputo declaration of 2003 which recommends allocation of 10% of annual budget to the agricultural sector. At the Second Ordinary Assembly of the African Union in July 2003 in Maputo, African Heads of State and Government endorsed the “Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa” in which they recommend for increase annual national budgetary allocations for agriculture to at least 10% and to ensure a growth of the agricultural output of at least 6 % annually Shortage of Extension Service staff: The staff situation in the agency is very pathetic because many have retired and some died. The staff losses have not been replaced because of the embargo on employment in the State. Some of the extension agents from the TADP were later seconded to Taraba Agricultural Product Marketing Agency (TAPMA) 6 and FADAMA sub programme. In fact, the staff situation is very bad not only for the extension sub programme but also for the other sub programmes within the agency and Ministry of Agriculture in the state.

Lack of mobility for proper supervision: For the training and visit system of extension service to work effectively, there is need for utility vehicles such as Hilux and PickUp vans for principal officers in the Extension Sub programme and motorcycles for the field staff. Provision of the vehicles will enable the extension workers follow their schedule to the letter and their impact would be better felt by the farmers and the general public

Lack of working materials (Extension kits)/Inputs for demonstrations: These working materials include rain boots, rain coats, measuring tapes and measuring scales for demonstrations and field visits. They also include inputs such as seed, fertilizer and agro-chemicals. They are very essential in the agricultural business but have not been provided by government for demonstrations for more than ten (10) years now (interview 2016)

Lack of publicity and campaigns: Over the years, the media outfit of the Taraba ADP has been neglected. All its equipments inherited from the defunct Gongola State days are non-functional. Without mincing words, the Ministry of Agriculture and the TADP have recorded a certain degree of achievements but these have not been known because of lack of publicity

Increase in the number of farm families the number of farming families has increased over the years. This increase also call for more support by way of increase in extension services and demand for farming inputs such as improved seed, fertilizer and agro chemicals among others;

Non implementation of the MTP (Management Training Plot) approach as an alternative to SPAT (Small Plot Adaptive Technique)

Unlike Bauchi State Agricultural Development (BaADP) which runs 9 meteorological stations and Jigawa State ADP which collects meteorological data for 21 stations within their (JSMWR, 2000), Taraba State ADP has no any meteorological station of its own but relied on 3 meteorological stations of the Upper Benue River Basin Development Authority (UBRBDA) 1 Nigerian Meteorological Agency station at Ibi LGA. This also affects efficient agricultural development policy design and planning. Was well funded. The premise of the agency then was a beehive of activity. After the period of the loan facility, the activities of the agency began to decline. The agency was left to manage the meagre financial resources provided by the state government as

running cost. This also stopped with time. Many staff of the agency transferred their services to other government Ministries and departments. Thus, the agency has been inactive in its operations and programmes in the past one decade. The farmers in the state are now at the mercy of few intervention programmes from the state Ministry of Agriculture that comes up once in a while. This development has greatly affected agricultural productivity in the state.

Empirical Review

Oruonye ED & Ahmed YM (2019) Agriculture presents the only viable opportunity to Nigeria's economic development in the face of the recent economic challenges. The Agricultural Development Programme (ADPs) is one of the structural platforms established by the Federal Government of Nigeria to support the State Government effort in the development of agricultural projects. After 25 years of its existence, studies to assess the impact of the agency on the quality of life of rural farmers in the state have not been explored. This study examines the activities of the Taraba State Agricultural Development Programme (TADP) from inception to dates and the challenges of the agency. Primary and Secondary data were used in this study. Primary data includes personal observation and interviews with officials of the TADP and key informants. The findings of the study shows that despite the good intention and policy design of the TADP, the programme has not fared well in the state. Some of the challenges that constrained the agency's activities include poor funding, shortage of extension service staff, lack of mobility for proper supervision, lack of working materials, lack of publicity and campaigns and increasing population of farmers. Based on the findings of the study it is recommended that government should increase funding to the agency, employ more extension service staff and increase the capacity of the agency through training of workers.

Similarly, Dooshima P I, Edwin M I & Olaolu M O (2015) the study assessed the food security situation and living conditions of Tiv farming households. Respondents were drawn from farming households in Benue, Taraba and Nasarawa States. Data was collected from 315 heads of households using interview schedule, and the data were analysed using means and food security index. The study found that enhanced ICT use ($M=2.47$) and increased competition ($M=2.40$) were perceived conditions that were found to be attributed to their agricultural operations. The analysis of food security situation shows that majority (64.1%) of these households were food secured. This could be because that strategy for ensuring food security is working for majority of the families. Also on the strategies put in place to ensure households' food security were the use of high yielding crop varieties ($M= 1.60$), mixed cropping ($M=1.53$) and use of early maturing crop varieties. It was recommended that governments in these states should support various extension agencies by funding these agencies to be involved in the dissemination of these technologies that enhance the food security of the farmers.

Likewise, Oji-Okoro (2011) examined the contribution of agricultural sector on the Nigerian economic development. They employed multiple regression analysis and found that a positive relationship exists between Gross Domestic Product (GDP) viz-a-viz domestic saving, government expenditure on agriculture and foreign direct investment between the periods 1986-2007. It was also revealed in the study that 81 per cent of the variation in GDP could be explained by Domestic Savings, Government Expenditure and Foreign Direct Investment. The study also revealed that foreign direct investment on agriculture contribute the most (56.43), this means that for every unit of change in FDI on agriculture there is a corresponding change of 56.43 unit in GDP in Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

The sampling technique to be use in this research is the systematic random sampling using the list of farmers provided by TADP. The researcher systematically picked respondent at the interval of three until the required sample size is obtained. For this study, the sample size is 293 farmers.

The sample of this research is calculated by using Taro Yamane (Yamane, 1973) formula with 95% confidence level. Eighty-five persons selected to be the population, the calculation formula of Taro Yamane is presented as follows.

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where:

n= sample size required

N = number of people in the population

1 = Constant

e = allowable error (%)

Substitute numbers in formula:

$$n = \frac{1095}{1+1095(0.05)^2}$$

n = 293 approximately

After calculating the sample size by substituting the numbers into the Yamane formula, the sample size is 293.

Instrument of Data collection and validation

The researcher used questionnaire as instrument for data collection. All items on the questionnaire are closed ended. The questionnaire for this study was content validated. All items were deduced from the research survey.

Method of data collection and techniques of data Analysis

The research used face-to-face administration technique. In this form of administration, the researcher located the respondent in their settings, discuss the aim of the study and seek their participation in the study. On the aspect of analysis, the researcher used statistical tools such as simple percentages and frequency to analyze the data obtained. Furthermore, tables were used to present the data in a meaningful manner.

TADP is established to help farmers with technical knowledge and resources to boost food production in the state.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	12	4.1
Agree	32	10.9
Undecided	109	37.2
Strongly Disagree	51	17.4
Disagree	89	30.4
Total	293	100

Survey 2019

From the table above, it shows that, 12 of the respondents representing 4.1 % strongly agreed that TADP is established to help farmers with technical knowledge and resources to boost food production in the state, 32 of the respondents representing 10.9% agreed, 51 of the respondents representing 17.4 % strongly disagreed and 89 of the respondents representing 30.4 % disagreed. While, 109 respondents representing 37.1% were undecided. This depicts that TADP is established to help farmers with technical knowledge and resources to boost food production in the state by majority of the respondents. However, some of the respondents are not aware of role.

Loans provided to farmers by T ADP are sufficient to boost food security in Taraba State.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	19	6.5
Agree	26	8.9
Undecided	64	21.8
Strongly Disagree	99	33.8
Disagree	85	29
Total	293	100

Survey 2019.

From the table above, it shows that, 19 of the respondents representing 6.5 % strongly agreed that Loans provided to farmers by T ADP are sufficient to boost food security in the Taraba State, 26 of the respondents representing 8.9% agreed and 99 respondents representing 33.8% strongly disagreed, 85 respondents representing 29% disagreed. While, 64 of the respondents representing 21.8% were undecided. This is an indication that loans provided to farmers by T ADP are insufficient to boost food security in the Taraba State. Until this is done there would not be food sufficiency in Taraba State.

Major Findings

The findings of this study are based on the response from the table above. It was found out that: TADP is established to help farmers with technical knowledge and resources to boost food production. TADP does not released fertilizer in a good time to farmers in the state. Fertilizers released to farmers are insufficient in the state.

Discussions of findings

In the course of this study, the researcher was exposed to a lot of information and findings.

Based on the analysis and presentation, the result shows to a great extent On the role of TADP to help boost foods security it was revealed that T ADP has helped in providing fertilizers to farmers in the state, Fertilizer assistance to farmers significantly contributed to food production in the state, T ADP does not real eased fertilizer in a good time to farmers in the state, fertilizers released to farmers are insufficient in the state. However, TADP released

Fertilizer at affordable rate to farmers in the state. The LIdings concur to previous study by Azih (2011) who revealed that, agricultural food agencies in Nigeria, does not lived to expectation, according to him, the agencies lack capacity to be able to provide services they are meant to provide. In same light, Abayomi (1997) earlier revealed that, food agencies in Nigeria are shadow of themselves.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study in general concluded that farmers in the state are faced with the challenged of lack of adequate support from TADP. T ADP should ensure fertilizers are released to farmers on good time to ensure crops are treated at the rightful time. Such timing will help boast food production in the state. Government should provide a special agricultural intervention fund for farmers in the state.

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