



IFAD/FGN ASSISTED VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (VCDP)

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The Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) emerged from the IFAD Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) covering the 2010-2015 period.. This programme takes a holistic and demand-driven approach to addressing constraints along the cassava and rice value chains. This study was aimed at providing useful and basic information on the impact of IFAD Assisted Value Chain Development Programme on income, productivity and food security of small holder farmers in Ogun state. The objective of this programme is to sustainably enhance rural incomes and food security. The target groups include 15,000 smallholder farming households, 1,680 processors and 800 traders. Specifically, the programme focuses on developing agricultural markets and increasing market access for smallholder farmers and small to medium-scale agro-processors and enhancing smallholder productivity. The broad objective of this study is to analyze the impact of IFAD value chain development programme on smallholder farmers' welfare in the state. Specifically, the objectives include evaluating the project's intervention in terms of benefit to farmers productivity and security, investigating the standard of living of farmers in terms of assets acquisition, determining the small holder farmers' incremental net benefit based on the project and identifying the constraints encountered by the participants in IFAD VCDP for the crop enterprise.

The intervention and study was carried out in Ogun state. Ijebu East, Ijebu north, Obafemi Owode, Ifo and Yewa LGAs were purposively selected based existence on high concentration of cassava and rice farmers. 2 villages were randomly selected from each LGAs making a total of 10 villages. 2 rice and 8 cassava VC actors were selected from each village making a total of 100 rice and 400 cassava VC actors. The final analysis made use of 82 rice and 383 cassava VC actors. Two separate questionnaires were administered to the different VC actors. The data obtained was analyzed using SPSS software. The results were represented using descriptive statistics like tables, bar charts and pie charts. The Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) emerged from the IFAD Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) covering the 2010-2015 period. This programme takes a holistic and demand-driven approach to addressing constraints along the cassava and rice value chains.

This study was aimed at providing useful and basic information on the impact of IFAD Assisted Value Chain Development Programme on income, productivity and food security of small holder farmers in Ogun state. The objective of this programme is to sustainably enhance rural incomes and food security. The target groups include 15,000 smallholder farming households, 1,680 processors and 800 traders. Specifically, the programme focuses on developing agricultural markets and increasing market access for smallholder farmers and small to medium-scale agro-processors and enhancing smallholder productivity. The broad objective of this study is to analyse the impact of IFAD value chain development programme on smallholder farmers' welfare in the state. Specifically, the objectives include evaluating the project's intervention in terms of benefit to farmers productivity and security, investigating the standard of living of farmers in terms of assets acquisition, determining the small holder farmers' incremental net benefit based on the project and identifying the constraints encountered by the participants in IFAD VCDP for the crop enterprise.

Some key findings showed that participants in the rice value chain earned more on average than those in the cassava value chain. A very large number (96%) of the actors were farmers. The average yield of rice farmers who used improved varieties was 3 tons/ha while the average yield of cassava farmers who used improved varieties was 20 tons/ha. The average increment in income of rice VC actors was N16,509 whereas the average increase in income of cassava VC actors was N22,567. It is recommended that the government replicate the programme in other LGAs to spread the income enhancing effects across the region and utilize a community driven approach when initiating the project to reflect the uniqueness and distinctiveness of each community.

Importance of the Programme

Since agricultural production shifts from traditional method to filling the soil with local tools to the use of machines, and seeds often provided by the farmers themselves to more modern method in which more of the inputs are of high yielding variety of crops as a result of research carried out by scientists, the provision of high yield and disease resistant crops for the farms makes it very difficult for the farmers' savings in this developing part of the world to purchase these needed inputs for cash. It is also observed that actors other than the farmers along a food value chain benefit the most from both the rewards and funding operations in the sector. One of the major problems faced by most funded agricultural projects including this IFAD project is an underachievement of objective or goal. This can be attributed to diversion of inputs for other purposes, poor implementation strategies, policy and political inconsistency. The project has recorded low achievement on its primary goal and the determining factors for this underachievement are yet to be ascertained.

My Research Findings

- Project replication in other non-IFAD VCDP benefitting LGAs of the state.
- Use of community driven development approach (CDD) in the execution of rural development projects with poverty alleviation thrust as in the case of IFAD-VCDP.
- Reprioritize funding to large scale processing projects in the state
- Choice of economically beneficial projects with state income generation as the thrust

Recomendations

- **Project replication in other non-IFAD VCDP benefitting LGAs of the state:** this policy although requiring more funding and planning from the government will help make income distribution among farmers in the state more equal.
- **Use of community driven development approach (CDD) in the execution of rural development projects with poverty alleviation thrust as in the case of IFAD-VCDP:** this policy approach will require more experts and delay in project execution to study the uniqueness of each community. If done properly will help avoid underachievement of the goal. It further will help build the capabilities of the community in areas where they are at competitive advantage especially as it regards to environmental quality and lifestyle.
- **Reprioritize funding to large scale processing projects in the state:** the goal of improving on processing of agricultural produce to increase food availability, avoid wastage and post-harvest loss arising from increased yield based on the effect generated by this programme may be advised. This will help processing and marketing actors the most doing very little to improve on farmers' income which is a critical challenge in agriculture
- **Choice of economically beneficial projects with state income generation as the thrust:** the challenging economic state of the country has driven government to engage in profitable projects with primary aim of generating income. This generated income may then be used to support the agricultural sector. The diversion of government attention from agricultural projects creates a weak agricultural economy in the short to medium run which may be long enough to erode the gains already achieved in the sector due to the huge dependence of the sector on government funding and support.

IMAGES FROM THE FIELD PRATICUM



my self and field supervisor administering questioners to farmers





Farmland awaiting cassava cropping at Obafemi owode

Acknowledgement:

