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AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION AGENDA AND THE ATTAINMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 1 AND 2 IN NIGERIA: A STUDY OF FADAMA III ADDITIONAL FINANCING FOR RICE PRODUCTION IN ENUGU STATE

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Abstract

Agriculture is the bedrock of food security and means of sustainable development in Nigeria in the pre and post-independence era, until 1970s during the emergency of oil boom in Nigeria. The unprecedented rise and consequent sale of the product pushed Nigeria away from agriculture to oil there by leading to unimaginable neglect and abandon of her mighty man of valour, these abandonment led to increased decline in food security and sustainable development thereby a continuous increase in poverty and hunger until the federal government through agricultural reform programmes decided to resuscitate the sector with the introduction of agricultural transformation agenda. Using the multistage research methodology and evaluation theory, this study is aimed at assessing the agricultural transformation agenda policy contribution towards the eradication of hunger and poverty in Nigeria using fadama III additional funding (AF) for rice production in Enugu State. The researcher find out among that World Bank gave out $200M grants to Nigeria in which Enugu state got $13,550,215.08. Which is (₦3,550,143,817.76) in naira, the reform drastically reduced hunger and poverty through the assistant given by Enugu-State government. Inferring from the above, the researcher recommended the appointment of a farmer who could be able to understand the body language of their colleagues and proffer solutions. The research concluded with a call to stake-holders to hasten up efforts towards agricultural transformation in Nigeria.

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Key words: *Agriculture, Sustainable development goals one &two, Fadama III AF, Agricultural transformation agenda, Enugu State.*

I. Introduction

Nigeria, a third world country is situated in Sub-Saharan Africa with huge agricultural potentials. It has an arable land potential of 98.3million ha consisting of 72.2 million ha (72.4 percent) cultivable (about 23 percent of arable land across all the West Africa) and only 27.1 million ha (27.6 percent) non cultivable land, (Okodigo 2010). Agriculture is the predominant activity in most of the zones in the country including the South Western Nigeria. Majority of the Nigerian labour force (70-80 percent) are peasants practicing subsistence farming (Odetola&Etumnu, 2013; Adebayo &Olagunju, 2015). At independence, agriculture dominated Nigerians' economy contributing 63.49 percent to Gross Domestic product in 1960 (CBN, 1980) and was the major source of funds for implementing the first national development plan, 1962-1968. Nigeria is an agrarian country with about 70% of her over 160 million people engaged in agricultural production (NBS/CBN, 2006) and provides subsistence for two-thirds (2/3) of Nigerians who are low income earners (Usman, 2006). While the Northern part can guarantee the production of cereals such as sorghum, maize, millet, groundnut, cowpea and cotton, the Middle Belt and the South have the potentials to produce root tubers such as cassava, yam, cocoyam and other crops like plantain as well as maize (Abdullahi, 2003). In addition to crops, the country is also involved in the production of livestock, fisheries, forestry and wildlife.

Agricultural reform could be defined as the rectification of the whole system of agriculture for improvement or amendment of what is wrong and unsatisfactory etc. Agricultural reform is concerned with the relationship between production and distribution of land among the farmers. It involves many measures like credit measures, integration of land and training of farmers. In the 1996, Rome declaration on world food security, food security is defined as food that is available at all times, to which all persons have means of access, there is nutritionally adequate in terms of quantity, quality and variety, and is acceptable within the given culture (cited in Clover, 2003:7). Availability, access and affordability are all elements of food security. Food security should not be seen only from the perspective of availability as earlier mentioned either in quantitative or qualitative terms. Food hygiene and safety should also be given important consideration in order to protect the health of the people. Food, for instance, may be available but the source from which the food is produced or processed may be unhygienic or that the chemical substances used to produce or preserve the food may constitute a health hazard.

In the 40s and early 50s, Nigeria did not have to contend with the problem of food insecurity. The Nation was able to feed her citizens and at the same time export the surplus food items. Every regions of the country specialized in the production of one or two major crops, whether food or cash crops, and together the country was relatively self-sufficient in food production. Nigeria had the groundnut pyramids in the North, the cocoa maintains in the west, oil palm and kernel heaps in the East and the rubber plantation in the mid-west (see, Tell, August 3, 2009:2). But when oil was discovered in 1956 and exportation of it started in 1958, things started changing gradually, and later furiously. It was like declaring holiday for hoes and machetes. As oil prices went up, interest in agriculture waned which marked the beginning of decline into the abyss as a polity.

Sustainable agricultural development is propelled by agricultural policies. The first national policy on agriculture was adopted in 1988 and was accepted to remain valid for about fifteen years, that is, up to year 2000. Also, in year 2001, a new policy document on agriculture, was launched. These policies usually have major impact on profitability of the agricultural system and the welfare of farmers as they affect the flow of funds to the sector in terms of budgetary allocation, credit, subsides, taxes and therefore, must be in harmony and mutually reinforcing with the agricultural policies. The macro-policies comprise the fiscal, monetary, trade budgetary policies and other policies that govern macro-prices.

Nigeria is endowed with favorable ecologies for rice cultivation. The country has immense potentials for growing the crop since virtually all the rice growing ecologies (the upland irrigated, inland valley swamp, deep water floating and tidal mangrove swamp) abound in Nigeria (Abdullahi, 2012). Rain fed lowland rice is the most predominant rice production system, accounting for nearly 50 per cent of the total rice-growing area in Nigeria; 30 per cent of production is rain fed upland rice, while just 16 per cent is high yielding irrigated systems and the remaining 4 percent is for other production systems (Cadoni, 2013; Fashola, 2007).

After years of neglecting agriculture, Nigerian government began to reform the sector, government implemented a new strategy called the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA). ATA was designed to achieve a hunger-free Nigeria through an agricultural sector that drives income growth, accelerates achievement of food and nutrition security, generates employment and transform Nigeria into a leading player in global food market to grow wealth for millions of farmers (FMARD, 2011). It is therefore necessary to confirm if the benefitting farm families involved in rice production perceive that ATA has significant contribution to their production. The inability of rice production in Nigeria to meet domestic demand has raised a number of questions in policy circle. The level of rice imports in Nigeria with such abundant agro-ecological and other natural resources suitable for its production is worrisome, especially as rice is gaining such importance in the average Nigerian diet (WARDA, 2007). Nigeria consumes nearly 6 million tons of rice annually and more than half of it is imported parboiled rice (FAOSTAT, 2013). However, apart from increase in population led demand, rice has become a staple in most household due to rapid urbanization and associated changes in family occupational structure and convenience in its preparation (Goni and Amaza, 2006). Nigeria's per-capita rice consumption level has grown significantly at 7.3% per annum, rising from 15.4kg in the 1980s to 22kg in the 1990s and 25.4kg in 2012 (FMARD,2013). Hence, rice is an economically important food security crop in Nigeria.

In the light of the foregoing, the main objective of this research is to historically underscore the achievements of agricultural transformation agenda (ATA) towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals 1&2 (poverty and hunger reduction) using Fadama III AFRice project in Enugu-state

Statement of problem

In the 1960s, Nigeria agriculture contributed significantly to the nations GDP and played major roles in the global community. It accounted for 42 percent of the world's export of shelled groundnut in 1961; 27 percent of the global export of palm oil in 1960 and 18 percent global export of cocoa in 1961. Nigeria was also the largest exporter of cotton in West Africa. Today, Nigeria has lost its glory. The decline in agriculture contribution to GDP from 63 percent in 1960 to 34 percent in 1988 was due to the neglect of the sector and not because of increased share of the industrial sector (Ekpo and Umoh, 2012). It is paradoxical seeing Nigeria

gradually transcending from an El Dorado of affluence to a hotbed of global ignominy where hunger and poverty are rife. Taking walk down the memory lane, the incidence of poverty in Nigeria has been on the increase since 1980 (Abdullahi, 2004). According to the Federal Office of Statistics (cited in Nwagwu, 2014), poverty incidence was 28.1% in 1980, rose to 46.3% in 1985 and decreased to 42.7% in 1992 and rose to 65.6% in 1996, 69% in 1997, 54.7% in 2004, and 69% in 2010 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2007). The chart below, furnished by Dapel (2018), captures the situation.

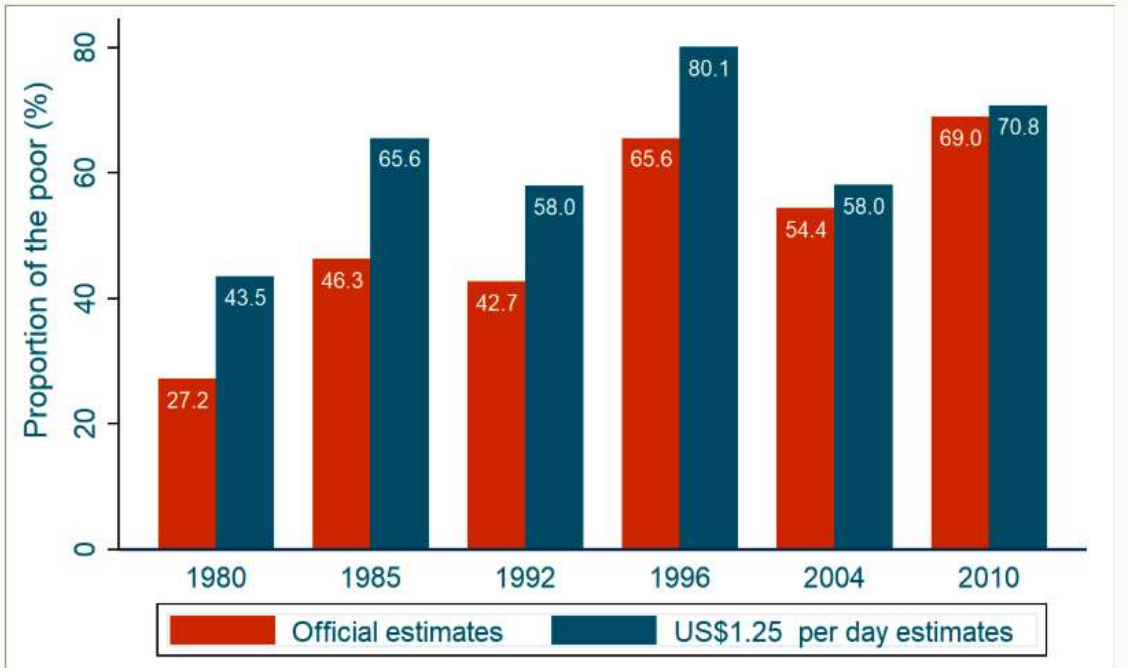


Figure 1: Poverty rate in Nigeria, 1980-2010

Source: Dape (2018).

In 2018, a report by Brookings Institution think-tank, an American research group based in Washington DC, named Nigeria as the nation with the highest number of extremely poor people in the world (Thisday Newspaper, 2019). By its projections, Nigeria has 87 million out of its 200 million populations living in abject poverty as against the former poverty headquarters of the world, India, which with its 1.324 billion people has 73 million living in extreme poverty (ibid). Furthermore, the report noted that every minute six Nigerians plunge into extreme poverty. This leaves no questioning why as of June 2019; an Austria-based World Poverty Clock (cited in Punch, 2019) declared that 93.8 million Nigerians suffer from extreme poverty. Again, many institutions and pundits have admonished that if proactive steps are not taken, the rate of poverty in Nigeria will continue to surge. It is against this backdrop that the following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1 What are the contributions of government in the Fadama III AF project of Agricultural Transformation Agenda policy?

2 What are the impacts of Fadama III AF project of Agricultural transformation agenda in achieving SDG two (zero hunger in Enugu-State)?

3 What are the impacts of Fadama III project of Agricultural transformation agenda in achieving SDG one (ending poverty in Enugu-State?

4 What are the factors that militated against the achievement of Agricultural Transformation Agenda of Fadama III AF projects in Enugu-State?

II. Literature Review

The Four Dimensions of Food Security

Availability: The first dimension is the availability. In the World Food Summit (WFS) definition it refers to the term "sufficient". It is defined by WFP as "The amount of food that is present in a country or area through all forms of domestic production, imports, food stocks and food aid". (WFP, 2009: 170). The definition obviously refers to net commercial imports, once deducted the commercial and other exports, furthermore the definition does not only apply to countries or areas but also to villages and households. Although the final declaration adopted by the Founding Conference stated that "the first cause of malnutrition and hunger is poverty", for a long time it has been considered that food security was a synonym to availability of food. (Shaw, 2007: 4).

Access: The second dimension of food security is the access. In the WFS definition, it refers to "have physical, economic and social access" Although the concept of access to food was first presented by AmartyaSen in the early 1980's, it is not yet necessarily common to refer to it as an important element of food security. WFP, for example, defines the food access as "A household's ability to acquire adequate amount of food regularly through a combination of purchases, barter, borrowings, food assistance or gifts". (WFP, 2009: 170).In fact, there are three elements in the access to food: physical, financial and socio-cultural.

a. The physical aspect is in fact almost a logistical dimension. An illustration is provided by a situation where food is being produced in the concerned country or area but in another region with limited or no transport facilities between both regions and lack of information. In a situation of food security the food is available at the location where people (households, etc.) actually need it.

b. The economic aspect of the access to food can be defined as WFP does. In a situation of food security, thus, food commodities are available where people need it and households have the financial ability to regularly acquire adequate amounts of food to meet their requirements. For many years, in fact, the problematic of food security had been perceived as that of rural population living in almost complete autarchy and some times, for climatic and other reasons, not producing enough food to meet their own requirements and hence suffering famines and malnutrition. Today, likewise OXFAM, many analyst have found out that: "Even in rural areas most people, and especially the poor, rely on market systems to provide food and essential goods and services but also for selling their produce". (OXFAM, 2007).

c. Finally, the last element of the access to food, as per the WFS definition, is the "social" or socio-cultural access to food. This refers to the fact the food commodities may be available, physically near to the consumer that may have the required resources to acquire them but that there may be socio-cultural barriers limiting the access to food, in particular to some groups of the population for gender or social reasons for example. It seems to be one of the fields where there is, so far, the less research although some work is being done by researchers such as Dr. MariameMaiga from the University of Wageningen whom is working on the cultural dimensions of vulnerability related to HIV/AIDS and Food Security from a gender perspective. (Maiga, 2009).

The Utilization Dimension: The third dimension of food security is food utilization. In the WFS definition it refers to "safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs".It is not sufficient that food be available and accessible to households to ensure that people will have a "safe and nutritious" diet. A number of elements intervene here such as: the selection of food commodities, their conservation and preparation as well as the absorption of nutrients. Food has to be of good quality and safe. Food utilization is also related to clean water, sanitation and health care. This dimension, thus, not only refers to nutrition but also to other elements that are related to the use, the conservation, the processing and the preparation of the food commodities.

The Stability: The fourth dimension of food security is stability. In the WFS definition it refers to: "at all times". This stability applies in the first instance to the previously mentioned three dimensions of food security. Food security is "a situation" that does not have to occur a moment, a day or a season only but on a permanent basis with sustainability.Based on the stability dimension of food security, one speaks about chronic and transitory food insecurity:

a. Chronic food insecurity is a long term or persistent inability to meet minimum food requirements

b. Transitory food insecurity is a short term or temporary food deficit. There are also cyclical food insecurity such a seasonality. (Devereux, 2006)

Past Efforts at Reforming Agriculture in Nigeria

It is only recently that the growing awareness of the role of agriculture in the economic development of Nigeria has prompted various governments in the country to intensify efforts aimed at transforming agricultural from its present subsistence level to a market-oriented production. There had been a number of policy measures and programmes within the last two decades which involve the reconstruction or reformation of the whole structure of the agricultural sector by the creation of appropriate institutions and public services designed to strengthen the economic position of the independent farmer Anyanwu (1997). These measures and programmes are as discussed below:

The River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs): The development of river basins was conceived in 1963 with involvement in the Lake Chad Basin and River Niger Commissions for countries bordering the Lake and the Niger River Anyanwu (1997) and Are (1985) cited Okoli and Onah (2002). But the concept was first tried in 1973 with the establishment of the Sokoto-Rima and the Chad Basin Development Authorities Anyanwu (1997). In addition, Anyanwu (1997) noted that eleven others were established under Decree Nos. 25 and 31 of 1976 and 1977 respectively. These include the Sokoto-Rima (for Sokoto), Hadejia-Jamare (for Kano), the Chad (for Borno), the Upper Benue (for Gongola), the Lower Benue (for Benue and Plateau), the Cross River (for Cross River), the Anambra- Imo for Imo and Anambra), the Nigeria (for Kaduna, Niger and Kwara) the Ogun-Oshun (for Oyo Ogun and Lagos), the Benin-Owena (for Bendel and Ondo) and the Niger Delta (for Rivers).Decree No. 87 of September 28, 1979 amended some sections of the original decree. Another amendment came in October 1981 under Amendment Act No. 7. In June 1984, the number of these river basins was increased to 18 under the new name of River Basin in River Development Authorities (old name being River Basin Development Authorities). The River Basin Development Authorities are expected to cater for the development of the land and water resources potentials of Nigeria for agricultural purposes and general rural

development. The rural development aspect will receive greater emphasis under their new names. Each RBRDA covers a state, except Lagos and Abuja, which share with one other state each.In the area of surface water development, remarkable achievements have been made since the creation of the RBRDAs. They have also been involved in the exploitation of ground water resources.

As at August, 1984, 12 of the 18 RBRDAs have assisted their participating farmers to crop 188, 194 hectares of various crops during the 1984 planting season for where 524,859 metric tonne of assorted crop like maize, wheat, cowpeas, rice, millet, sorghum, groundnut and vegetables were produced. In the area of irrigation, the story is only about 82,305 hectares or 33% is presently under irrigation. By 1995, the later reduced number of RBDAs (from 18 to 11 in 1987) developed 51,558 hectares of land, irrigated 12,540 hectares, constructed 443 kilometres of roads, catered for 136,514 families, and drilled 58 boreholes. Its funds stood at N589.3 million, with 96.1% coming from the Federal Government (CBN, 1995b). Activities of the RBRDAs have been hampered due to inadequate planning data. Shortage of funds, shortage of spare parts and lubricants, difficulties in securing land for development especially in the south and the shortage of qualified and experience technical, professional and managerial manpower.

The National Accelerated Food Production Project (NAFPP): National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP) was an agricultural extension programme initiated in 1972 by the Federal Department of Agriculture during General Yakubu Gowon's regime.

Its main objective is to accelerate the production of six major food crops namely rice, millet, sorghum, maize, wheat and cassava. This to be achieved by using field tested the traditional ones. The project which has three component-research, extension and agro-services- is divided into three phases namely the Minikit, Production Kit and Mass Production phases (Anyanwu, 1997).

The International Institute for Tropical Agricultural (IITA), Ibadan is the national coordinator of the project. The National Cereals Research Institute (NCRI). Ibadan houses the National Rice/Maize centre which guides and coordinates the activities of the NAFPP for rice and maize while the National Root Crop Research Institute Umudike is in charge of cassava. Another centre at Samaru near Zaira takes charge of sorghum, millet and wheat Anyanwu (1997) and Eze et al (2010).

Despite the fact that a substantial number of farmers have gained from the programme, it is bedeviled by inadequate finance; inadequate commitment by some states inadequate publicity and poor infrastructure facilities, Abrupt/premature withdrawal of funding by the Federal Government due to the introduction of another programme termed Operation Feed the Nation.

Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) May 1976 witnessed the launching of the Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) Scheme by the Obasanjo regime mainly to increase food production and eventually to attain self-sufficiency in food supply Ijere (2001). Other objectives of the programme included encouraging the section of the population which relies on buying food to grow its own food. Under the scheme encouragement and material assistance were given to the people in the form of technical advice and the supply of essential farm inputs such as improved seeds. Fertilizer, pesticides, farm implement, livestock and livestock feed at subsidized prices.In other to protect farmers against a drastic fall in prices of food crops minimum prices increases in output, the government announced guaranteed minimum prices per metric ton for the 1976 agricultural season. But it was soon found that the prices fixed were less than those obtained in the markets.

As a development strategy, the impact of the OFN was not as profound as its initiators may want us to believe. The programme only succeeded in keeping the nation aware of food shortage the mobilizing its effort in the fight against the problem. Everybody irrespective of trade took to farming but this did not last long for after a while interest started waning. Increased food importation, the land use decree, inadequate human and material resources, faulty campaign strategy and faulty administrative system led to the death of OFN.

Rural Banking Scheme: At the instance of the Central Bank of Nigeria, the Financial System Review Committee in 1975 recommended and the Federal Government approved a programme of geographical dispersal of bank branches particularly designed to ensure the penetration of the rural areas by banks. The rationale for this included, among others, the fact that a network of rural banks would help to mobilize rural savings some of which would be invested in the agricultural sector. The first cycle of the plan covered the period 1877-1980 and 200 bank branches which were projected to be set up have since been established. During the second phase 1980- 1983, 266 rural branches were planned to be opened. The third phase which was launched in 1985 covered 1985 to 1989 and it involved the opening of 300 rural branches. Though the scheme was abandoned in 1990, by 1991-200, 266, and 299 branches had been opened for each of the three phases, giving a total of 765, with only 1 outstanding.

Apart from the above, it has been observed that, this programme aimed at facilitating the transformation of the rural economy and thus restrain the population drift from the rural to the urban centres, was not being vigorously implemented. This appeared too slow and unacceptable. In addition, mere extension of the branches of existing ill-adapted banks into the rural areas falls short of a good model for "rural bank". They should rather provide rural financial facilities in a more dynamic manner by engaging in the mobilization of funds for investment in most of the productive activities which offer potential returns in the rural areas.

The Green Revolution Programme (GRP) : With the birth of civilian administration in 1979, the question of food shortage in the country once more received a critical look as the drain in the nation's foreign reserves and its threat to the economy and existence were realized Anyanwu (1997) and Okeke (2001). Thus the Green Revolution Programme was launched in 1980 by the then Shagari administration. Its objective is centred at self-reliance in food production and the diversification of Nigeria's sources of foreign exchange. To achieve this all known constraints to increased production were to be removed. Under the scheme, new input procurement and distribution systems came into operation. Input subsidies and crop pricing were streamlined while construction of rural physical infrastructure was embarked upon via massive federal funds allocation.

Green Revolution National Committee and state Representatives were formed with the state coordinating committees responsible for coordinating and implementation policies and programmes of various Federal Ministries concerned with the Green Revolution in the states. The programme covered all areas of agricultural production, food and export crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry. Some measures of positive results were recorded in increased cultivated land hectares, livestock production, forestry of funds, mismanagement and fraud, poor and thorough research and extension services, problems of land acquisition, inadequate data, inadequate executive capacity and lack of infrastructural facilities (Anyanwu, 1986).

The National agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA): The NALDA was established in 1991 to execute a national agricultural land development programme to moderate the chronic problem of low utilization of abundant farm land. The main target of the programme was the development of 30.000-50.000

hectares of land in each state during the 1992-94 National Rolling Plan period. Also, it was to see to the placement of at least 7,500-12,500 farmers within the area developed such that each lives within 3km-5km radius of his farmland. An average of ₦300 million was allocated to NALDA by the Federal Government annually in 1991 and 1992, while the State and Local Government were to allocate suitable tracts of land to authority in addition to token contributions towards the funding of its programme.

By the end of 1995, NALDA had developed a total of 16,000 hectares of land, of which 81.1% was cultivated with various crops. However, NALDA's performance had been constrained by inadequate and untimely release of funds and inadequate farm machinery/equipment.

Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs): As part of rural development programmesADPs were established first in pilot states and later in all the state in the country. Some of their key areas of activities are the provision of infrastructure (including water points wash bores), farm service centres, the supply of farm inputs such as fertilizers, root crops/ tubers, agro-chemicals (pesticides and herbicides), and water pumps, and extension and training (including the establishment of special plots for extension and training (SPAT). Indeed, the ADP concept has been used as the primary method to increase production and welfare in the small holder agricultural sector in Nigeria. Since 1974, the World Bank had assisted Nigeria with a series of ADPs which have gone through various phases. ADPs started in 1974 with the establishment of the first three "enclave projects" in the northern part of Nigeria (Funtua, Gusau and Gombe ADPs). The development approach focused on simple improved packages for some of the major food crops such as maize, sorghum and millet, combined with improvements in the extension service, the input supply system, the rural road network and village water supply. Some success recorded with these early ADPs caused both the federal government and the World Bank to quickly replicate the ADP model in other states. Thus, from 1975 to 1980, the number of projects grew for the original 3 to total of 9 enclave projects.

In August 1990 when the loan for the first set of state-wide ADPs terminated, an Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) loan was initiated for the projects, (NATSP) and the National Fadama Development Project (NFLP). Both loans became effective in 1992. The NATSP provides assistance for technology adoption and dissemination in Bauchi, Kano and Sokoto states while the NFDP provides funds for Fadama Development in Nigeria by concentrating on irrigation with the use of ground water in already cultivated Fadama.

We note that, basically, all ADPs had the key objective of increasing food production and hence farm incomes for the majority of the rural households in the defined project regions, thus improving the standard of living and welfare of the farming population.

The various components of ADPs are: farm and crop development, civil assistance through long-term and short-term consultancies. These components are achieved by the following:

a. Through applied research, an improved extension system and a more efficient system of input procurement and distribution (especially fertilizer).

b. Provision of feeder roads, the construction of Farmer Service Centres (FSC) for input supply in rural areas, and the establishment of project offices and staff houses.

c. Establishing the development programmes through training as well as the training of local government staff.

Agricultural Transformation Agenda in Nigeria (ATA): Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) was initiated on 7th November 2011 by Goodluck Ebere Jonathan's administration. Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) as part of the Federal Government effort to revamp the agriculture sector to ensure food security, job creation, diversify the economy and enhance foreign exchange earnings. It was implemented by the Federal Government of Nigeria under the ministry of agriculture and rural development (FMARD), to assist farmers to access farm inputs at affordable prices and to develop agricultural value chains for rice, sorghum, cassava, horticulture, cotton, cocoa, oil palm, livestock, fisheries, etc. Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) comprises three components as follows:

a. Infrastructure Development;
b. Commodity Value Chain Development; and
c. Program Management.

However, Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) is the most current agricultural policy in Nigeria. One main thrust of ATA is to rehabilitate all irrigation projects in the zones to extend the farming season and achieve all year round farming. Hence, it will contribute to poverty reduction and food security because an improvement in the productivity of the smallholder farmers will translate to improved food security. The general focus of Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) policies were geared towards agribusiness promotion, increased private sector investment in agriculture, reduction of post-harvest losses, value addition to agricultural produce, development of rural infrastructure and enhancement of farmer's access to financial services and markets.

Objectives of Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA)

a. To increase, on a sustainable basis, the income of smallholder farmers and rural entrepreneurs that are engaged in the production, processing, storage and marketing of the priority commodity value chains.
b. To achieve a hunger free:
c. To generate employment and transforms Nigeria into a leading player in global food market:
d. To accelerates achievement of food and nutritional security:
e. To diversify the economy and enhance foreign exchange earnings
f. To improve the standard of living of the farmers
g. To ensure adequate supply of raw materials for production
h. To achieve affordable price of farm output
i. The quest for self-sufficiency and national food security
j. For development of rural infrastructure
k. The challenge of reducing poverty and raising farmers' incomes
l. The desire to curtail unfair competition from imported rice
m. The desire to reverse the heavy outflows of foreign exchange for rice imports

Fadama III AF: It may be important to mention that Fadama III, Additional Financing is a Project of Agricultural transformation Agenda funded with Credit/Loan to the Federal Government of Nigeria from the World Bank, but a Grant to benefitting States, including Enugu State. However, benefitting/participating States are required to pay Government Counterpart Contribution (G.C.C.) as part of their commitment to the implementation of the Project in their respective States.

a. **Modalities for Selecting Benefitting Rice Farmers**

The modalities for selecting the benefitting rice farmers are as follows:

1. Information on rice producing LGAs and communities was obtained from the Enugu State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources as well as from the Enugu State Agricultural Development Programme (ENADEP) as the basis for further action;

2. Based on the information on Rice producing LGAs and communities so obtained, Local Government level sensitization was conducted by the Project, immediately after the State level sensitization;

3. Community Facilitators were assigned to such LGAs and communities for further sensitization and mobilization of potential and interested rice farmers;

4. Interested farmers form Cooperative Societies which were registered by the Cooperative Department of the Enugu State Ministry of Human Capital Development and Poverty Reduction;

5. The Community Facilitators assist the Registered Cooperative Societies in the preparation of Business Plans, which are a major instrument for funding of registered Cooperative groups;

6. The prepared Business Plans were submitted to the Local Government Desk Offices where the Business Plans were endorsed by the LGA Chairman or his representative.

7. The endorsed Business Plans were then submitted to the State Fadama Coordination Office for review and approval in line with implementation Manual.

8. A one-Day Pre-Disbursement Workshop was held for members of the Cooperative Societies whose Business Plans have been approved, during which a copy of the approved Business Plans was given to the respective Cooperative groups to guide implementation.

9. Funding of the approved Business Plans then followed on the initiation of action by the members of the Cooperative Societies that own the approved Plans.

10. It is worthy to note that participation or benefitting from the Project is open and voluntary to all indigenes of Enugu State, either by birth or residence, as long as they are interested in rice production and have access to swamp land or high hydromorphic soil that has other necessary ingredient to support rice production.

c. Disbursement Method

The disbursement method by the Project is as follows:

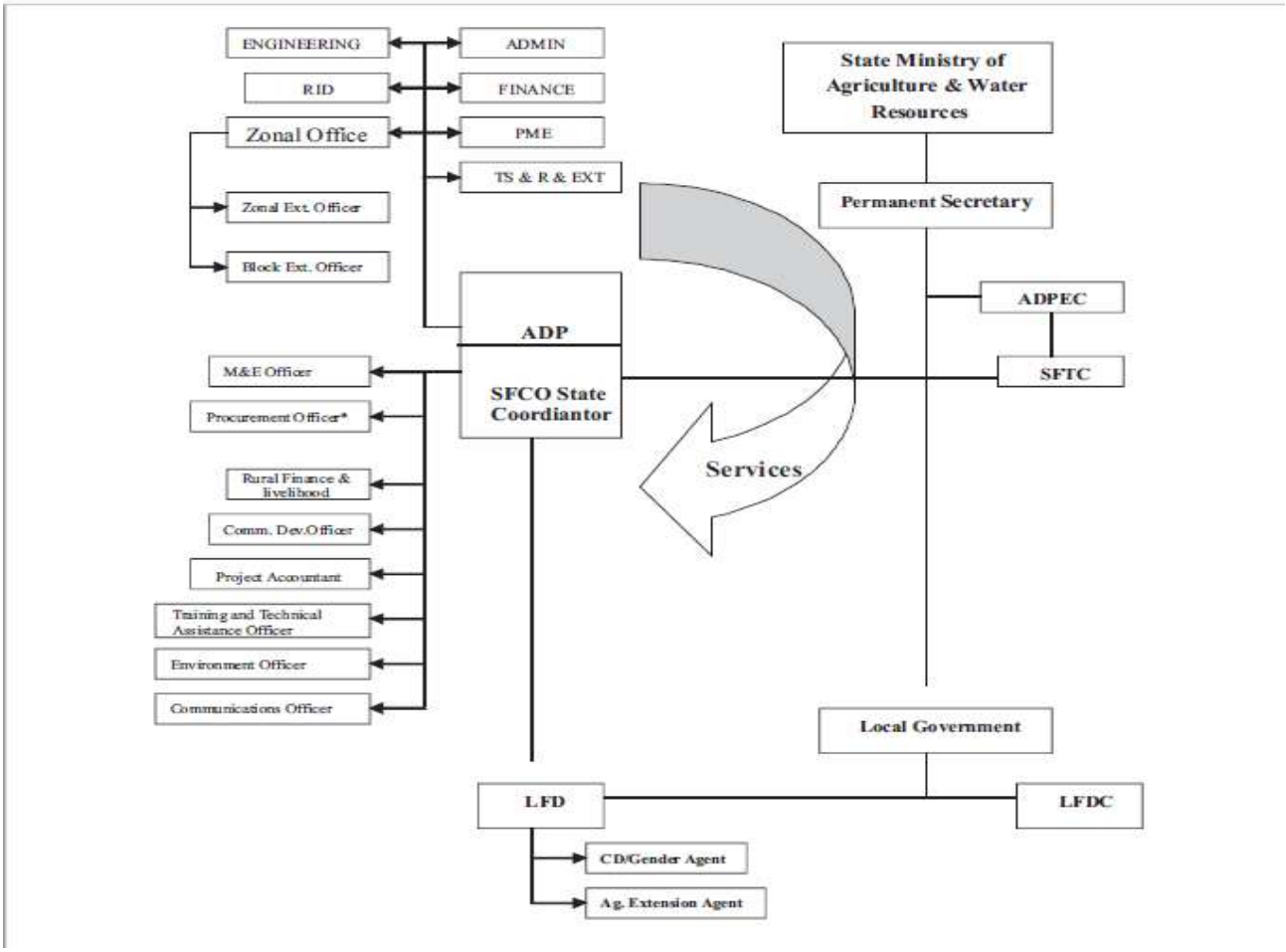
(i) Use of Agro Input Dealers or Service Providers for Inputs and Assets.

(ii) Payment of 50% Beneficiary Contribution by the farmers for input and payment of 20% Beneficiary Contribution for assets (small farm implements and equipment) by farmers to the Input Dealers and Service Providers.

(iii) When such payments are made, the Input Dealer or Service Provider quickly supplies all the Agro Inputs and Assets as contained in the Business Plan.

(iv) After necessary documentations between the farmers' groups, the Service Providers, the Community Facilitators and the Advisory Services and Input Consultants, the State Fadama Coordination Office will then review and pay Agro Dealers or Service Provider the Project Contribution of 50% and 80% for agro-input and assets, respectively, based on request for payment by the Agro Input Dealers or Service Providers.

FADAMA III ORGANOGRAM



Institutional and Implementation Arrangement

The ADPEC, SFTC, SFCO, PC and PGs are the key institutional platforms used to implement the project in Enugu State. The Enugu State Fadama Coordination Office funded some of these institutions such as ADP which helped to increase farmers' access to extension services, including access to improved and quality inputs, as well as modern agricultural technology.

The State Fadama Technical Committee (SFTC) is another institution that performed oversight, policy and strategic orientation functions on the project and was chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, who may delegate chairmanship to the Programme Manager/Managing Director of ADP. The committee usually meets every six months, and/or at any other time determined by the chair, to assess progress of implementation, and review and approve Annual Workplans and Budgets. Other members include Directors of relevant technical department of SMANR, Representatives of State Ministry of Environment, State Ministry of Water Resources, State Ministry of Finance, Members of civil society and the private sector whereas the SFCO served as secretariat.

The SFCO was responsible for executing a communications strategy, recruiting and organizing training of facilitators, organizing training of all relevant stakeholders, tracking financial and physical progress of subprojects implemented by the farmers, using a MIS, and monitoring and evaluating performance. The SFCO engaged, trained and deployed Community Facilitators who, in turn, provided technical assistance and training support to beneficiary groups (PCs and PGs) in the participating communities. The Facilitators assisted in the

formation of groups, preparation of Business Plans and in the planning, designing and implementation of their selected subprojects.

The SFCO also supervised the activities of the Facilitators, consultants and other service providers as well as facilitated linkages of the Production Clusters with other support agencies, including financial institutions.

The SFCO is headed by a State Project Coordinator (SPC), supported by a core technical team comprising: Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, Community Development Officer, Gender and Youth Officer, Rural Finance and Livelihoods Officer, Environment Officer, Training and Technical Assistance Officer, Procurement Officer, Communications Officer, Project Accountant, Project Internal Auditor, Project Engineer, Agronomist and Public Private Partnership Officer.

III. Theoretical framework

According to Shadish, Cook, & Leviton (1991), the fundamental purpose of evaluation theory is to specify feasible practices that evaluators can use to construct knowledge about the value of social programs. This explanation of evaluation theory consists of five main components: practice, use, knowledge, valuing, and social programming. The authors trace the evolution of evaluation theory through a critical review of the writings of seven familiar names in the field of evaluation: Michael Scriven, Donald Campbell, Carol Weiss, Joseph Wholey, Robert Stake, Lee Cronbach, and Peter Rossi.

Evaluation is the structured interpretation and giving of meaning to predict or actual impacts of proposals or results. It looks at original objectives, and at what is either predicted or what was accomplished and how it was accomplished. So evaluation can be formative that is taking place during the development of a concept or proposal, project or organization, with the intention of improving the value or effectiveness of the proposal, project, or organisation. It can also be summative, drawing lessons from a completed action or project or an organisation at a later point in time or circumstance

Evaluation is inherently a theoretically informed approach with the following tenets

- ✓ A systematic, rigorous, and meticulous application of scientific methods to assess the design, implementation, improvement, or outcomes of a program. It is a resource-intensive process, frequently requiring resources, such as, evaluate expertise, labour, time, and a sizable budget
- ✓ The critical assessment, in as objective manner as far as possible, of the degree to which a service or its component parts fulfils stated goals, the focus of this definition is on attaining objective knowledge, and scientifically or quantitatively measuring predetermined and external concepts.
- ✓ The main purpose of evaluation can be to "determine the quality of a program (ATA) by formulating the objective standard for judgment.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Enugu state only owing to the inter-state lockdown orchestrated bythe Covid-19 pandemic lockdown in Nigeria Anambra state could not be visited. The study was on Agricultural transformation agenda using Fadama III additional financing (AF) project in Enugu State. The study made use of both primary and secondary sources of data.

Primary source qualitative: Multistage sampling technique was used in selection of respondents for the study. Stage one involved Purposive selection of management staff of Enugu State Fadama Technical Committee and executive of federated fadama community association Enugu branch for interview, while the second stage involved a simple random selection of a cooperatives from a cluster in each of the eight benefited local government areas of Enugu statefor focus group discussion.

Secondary source: to ensure a reliable data for qualitative analysis, the researcher will draw inferences from government official documents(world bank, Federal government of Nigeria and Enugu state government) about fadama III AF reports from 2015-2019, book chapters, journal publications, statistic bulletin, books, published thesis, internet source, and annual reports.

Table 2: List of Production Groups Supported by Fadama III AF from 2015 to 2017 in Enugu State.

S/N	BENEFITTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT	**PRODUCTION CLUSTER**	**PRODUCTION GROUP**	**Benefiting Farmers**
1	Aninri	94	517	5276
2	Uzo-uwani	59	252	2702
3	Isi-Uzo	33	153	1536
4	Ezeagu	13	57	512
5	Nkanu-east	39	149	1322
6	Oji-river	8	30	202
7	Agwu	6	26	202
8	Nkanu-West	2	6	50
Total		250	1148	11802

Source: Enugu state fadama III AF office 2020.

To ensure that all eligible rice farmers in Enugu state benefited from the world bank assisted rice production also known as Fadama III AF project, the farmers formed cluster groups, a cluster is a group of cooperatives living within a locality, cluster is proximity determined, group of cooperatives within the range of three to ten located in the same locality formed cluster groups as shown in the table above, a total of two hundred and fifty (250) clusters were formed in the eight local governments in Enugu state that cultivates rice. Whereas

farmers within the range of two to ten come together to form cooperatives (production group) the cooperatives are farmers whose farm lands are located within the same hectares of land it is either the hectares of lands are jointly owned by the cooperatives or demarcated with bond after construction of the ridges. 1148 cooperatives were formed from the 250 clusters made up of 11802 farmers.

Table 3: Selected respondents for the focus group discussion

BENEFITTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT	**Selected cluster**	**No of farmers group in the cluster**	**Selected farmers group**	**Gender**		**Total**
				Male	**female**	
Aninri	ODUMA-ACHARAOVUVE-AGU	9	Igwebuike	4	6	10
Uzo-Uwani	SOBECHIOSINOWEREIGGA	10	Oganiru	5	5	10
Isi-Uzo	ODEGEMAOKPOKWU	10	MGBUJI (EHA-AMUFU)	5	5	10
Ezeagu	INYIOGWEOZOMMGBAGBUOWA	9	Jesusbueze	6	4	10
Nkanu-east	Ihuopkaraanidede	10	Divine success aniiddede	5	6	11
Oji-river	Hope alammiri	3	Mmadubuike	7	3	10
Agwu	AMATAIMEAMAMGBOWO	5	AGAMUNIRU	5	5	10
Nkanu-West	UMUAGBOANIMIRIAKPUGO	2	Kiron	5	5	10
				42	39	81

Source: Enugu State Fadama III AF office 2020.

In order to ensure an even distribution of respondents, the researcher selected one cluster group from each of the eight local government areas, the cluster groups with the highest number of cooperatives were selected, where there is a tie, simple random was used in choosing the cluster group, cooperatives with an even gender spread were choosing and were a tie exist, Simple Random sampling was used in choosing a cooperative.

A total of eighty one farmers were selected through eight cooperatives from eight clusters selected from each of the eight local government. Focus group discussion was used to elicit information from the respondents,

owing to the prevailing Covid-19 lockdown and social distancing, the use of telephone calls, whatsapp group discussion and short message sending (SMS) were used in places that face to face contact were impossible.

IV. Data Presentation and Analysis

Hypothesis one: The World Bank and Enugu state government contributed Financial and technical support to the Fadama III AF of Agricultural transformation Agenda policy.

Financial contribution

The Additional Financing (AF) fund is a grant to the participating States (including Enugu) from the $200 million World Bank Credit to Federal Government of Nigeria. The fund was available for the participating states to drawdown as much as possible. Enugu State Fadama III AF was able to drawdown a total of $13,550,215.08. Which is (₦3,550,143,817.76) in naira.

Enugu State Government was expected to pay a total of ₦676,800,000 as State Government Counterpart Contribution to the project but the sum of ₦312,177,574.00 was paid by the State.

Source: Enugu State Fadama III AF office 2020.

Technical support

The project provided two types of technical support to the farmers

a. Advisory services which were provided using ASICs. Such services include:

- Line planting
- Correct spacing,
- Soil fertility management,
- Plant protection and water management.
- Post-harvest handling and storage,
- Processing and packaging,
- Food safety and agricultural practices standards.
- Business management and markets e.g. Farm enterprise, marketing, business planning and record keeping.

b. Capacity building which were also provided using other professional consultants. The capacity building programmes provided for the farmers are on the following:

- Business Plan preparation,
- Agribusiness Management,
- Contract Negotiation,
- Book Keeping,
- Group Dynamics,
- Utilization of assets,
- Adoption of New Technologies and Protection Practices,
- Improve access to credit facilities,

- Credit management and insurance, Safe and effective use of Agrochemicals,
- Management of Agro-Services,
- Good agronomic Practices,
- Management and handling of improved high yielding varieties of rice,
- Break-Even Analysis,
- Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture,
- Research/Market linkage,
- Demand for Advisory Services
- Conversion from Waste to Wealth,
- Rice parboiling using false bottom lid technology etc

A total of 11,802 farmers benefitted from both the advisory services and the capacity building.

Table 3 showing areas of contributions

Table showing Farmers supported by the project by both World Bank and Enugu State government

	Disaggregated by	**No**
Production Clusters Registered		**284**
Production Groups Registered	**Total**	**1,380**
	Male PG	**17**
	Female PG	**94**
	Mixed PG	**1269**
Farmers Registered		**14,242**
BPs (Business plan) Prepared		**1,380**
BPs Approved		**1,380**
BPs On-going		**11**
BPs Implemented		**1,148**
BPs not implemented		**231**
Farmers Disbursed		**11,802**

Source: Enugu State Fadama III AF office 2020.

From the table 3 above, a total of 1380 productions groups of farmers consisting of 284 productions clusters were supported in designing their business plans, male productions groups were 17 whereas female production groups were 94 and 1269 were mixed production groups. Of the 1380 production groups registered and approved, 11 Productions groups were on going as 231 were not implemented and 1148 were implemented.

Table 4: Production assets provided

Assets	No of Assets	No of PG	No of farmers
Water Pump	1,012	320	3,263
Sprayer	1181	320	3,263
Wheel Barrow	2,454	315	3,212
Thresher	173	173	1,778
Cutlass	1060	52	522
Hoe	1060	52	522

Source: Enugu State Fadama III AF office 2020.

Table 3 of the above shows the production assets provided by the World Bank, from the table Rice was provided and it is Faro 44, in 2015, one bag of faro 44 was provided at 60kg for each one hectares of land at the cost of ₦18000 covering 1499 hectares of land at the cost of ₦26,982,000. In 2016 a bag of faro 44 was provided at 50kg for each of the 2084 hectares of land at the cost of ₦17500 valued at ₦36,470,000. Whereas in 2017, a bag of Faro 44 was provided at 50kg at the rate of ₦27500covering 8249 hectares of land at the total cost of ₦226,847,500.

The Focused Group Discussion (FGD) agreed that World Bank kept their promise of releasing the fund for the fadama III AF project to the sum of $200 as a grant while Enugu state presented the sum of ₦312,177,574.00 out of ₦676,800,000 for the year under review (2015,2016 and 2017) as was presented by the Enugu State Fadama federated unit, Ali Christian, in his presentation, he argued that the farmers also contributed fund as ₦23500 was used for registration of 1148 cooperatives which amounted to ₦26,978,000 only, in the FGD, ObinnaIgwe of Agamuniru Cooperatives in AmataImeamaMgbowo cluster group in Agwu LG A further added that each farmer also contributed 35% of their total grant. In all it was agreed that a lot of financial contributions were made towards the project and that Enugu State government could not pay up her money. Corroborating, Mr Clement in Ezeagu and member of Jesus bu Eze farmers group, opined that varying contributions were made by the different farmers towards the implementation of the cluster group.

Based on the above submissions, the researcher hereby accept the hypothesis which states that the World Bank and Enugu state government contributed Financial and technical support towards the attainment of the objectives of Fadama III AF of Agricultural transformation Agenda.

Hypothesis two: FADAMA III Additional funding (AF) project of Agricultural transformation agenda in Enugu State has reduced poverty and accelerated the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal one.

Indicators	Achievements	Strategies To Meet Target
75% of beneficiaries, who benefit directly from Project supported activities, have increased their average real incomes by at least 40%	90% of the beneficiaries increased their income by more than 40%. The supported farmers recorded a gross average income of ₦532,400 which is 654% above the baseline of ₦70,604. 10,583 out of 11,802 beneficiaries increased their income by more than 40%	Consistent increase in the yield due to the increase in the adoption of the best agronomic practices by the beneficiaries also increased their incomes consistently.
40% increase in yield of Rice of participating households.	58% increase the yield of rice per hectare recording Average yield of 4.46MT per hectare against 2.83MT baseline (Administrative Records)	Consistent increase in the yield due to the increase in the adoption of the best agronomic practices which also the result of activeness and experience ASICs and quality inputs
Surveys at Project closing to show that at least 75 percent of beneficiaries are satisfied with operations, maintenance and utilization of community-owned infrastructure and capital assets acquired through the Project.	98% of the assets beneficiaries satisfied with utilization while 99% are satisfied with maintenance of asset acquired. (RRA 2017)	Achieved through consistent engagement with Service Providers to supply quality assets and sensitization of farmers to ensure proper utilization, maintenance and management
75% of beneficiaries would have successfully negotiated contract	100% of the beneficiaries (11,802 farmers) successfully negotiated and purchased inputs while 99% of the beneficiaries (11,736) sold their output	Achieved through consistent engagement and meetings between the farmers, agro dealers and off-takers.
By the end of the project, at least 20% of beneficiaries will be using inputs rich in micro – nutrients	70% of (8,219) beneficiaries used inputs (fertilizer) rich in micro-nutrients (Zn).	All the beneficiaries supported in 2017 production cycle used inputs (fertilizer) rich in micro-nutrients (Zn).

Source: Enugu State Fadama III AF office 2020.

The table above shows the production capacity of the fadama III AF project in Enugu State, it shows that the production of the beneficiaries increased on the fadamaIII AF project, it is evidence that the rate of poverty in Enugu State government was drastically reduced owing to the influx of rate of rice production in the State at a very reduced price and cost.

Speaking on the Focused Group Discussion, the members were unanimously agreed that the rate of poverty in Enugu State has drastically reduced owing to the fadama III AF project initiatives, they argued that the project was able to reduce the cost of rice production from ₦6000 per buchell (22.5kg) to ₦2500 according to IfeanyiOdo, corroborating with him, the head of Mgbuji plantation group in Odoegema Okpokwu in Isi-Uzo LG Mr Francis Ikegwu, affirmed that prior to the stage of the fadama III AF, that rice was seen as big man food owing to its cost and availability in the market, this, according to him is now a history as the product is widely assessable and available in the market. In his own report, the president of the Enugu State federated units of Fadama, Mr Ali Christian alleges that the rice (Faro 44) is of high quality far better than the foreign rice and still cheaper and affordable, an incidence he argued that placed the rice far above rich of others.

Sequel to the above, the researcher, having considered all the submissions, both primary and secondary hereby concludes by accepting the second hypothesis which says that Fadama III Additional funding (AF) project of Agricultural transformation agenda in Enugu State has reduced poverty and accelerated the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal one.

Hypothesis three: Fadama III Additional funding (AF) project of Agricultural transformation agenda in Enugu State has reduced hunger and accelerated the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal two.

Job Creation under Enugu State Fadama III AF

S/N	DESCRIPTION AND NATURE OF JOBS CREATED	TOTAL	
		Direct	**Indirect**
1	Direct Production (Farmers)	11,802	
2	Office Staff	35	
3	Facilitators	10	
4	Advisory Service and Input Support Services	31	
5	Agro Input Dealers	9	
6	Capacity Building consultants	23	

7	Off-Taker/Processor	4	
8	Tractor Service Provision	4	
9	Transplanting of rice seedlings		3,418
10	Fertilizer application		3,418
11	Weeding		5,127
12	Pesticides application		3,418
13	Harvesting of Rice		6,836
14	Packing of paddy		5,127
15	Threshing		5
16	Winnowing and bagging of threshed rice		3,418
	GRAND TOTAL	**11,918**	**30,767**

Source: Enugu State Fadama III AF office 2020.

The Project created 11,918 direct jobs and about 30,819 indirect or ad-hoc jobs (totaling about 42,685). The details of the jobs created so far are quite enormous.The perception of Job creation was greeted with utmost euphoria and excitement in the Focused group discussion session as the respondent confirmed that the fadama III AF project has created more jobs than any other Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) in the annals of Enugu State history. They argued that the job created by fadama III AF project is bigger than the official report, this is according to Mrs. ObyIkpemaraeziokwu in which she argues that up to 60000 jobs were created when the food sellers, Okadas and others were included.

Speaking further, the FGD agrees that the project has not only made them rich but has reduced hunger in the state according to OnyiaIkechukwu a member of Mmadubuikem plantation group in hope alammiri of Oji-river LGA, she argues that prior to Fadama III AF project, he was a local farmer who eats from the proceeds of cultivating for others but under the Fadama III AF, he is rich enough to take care of his family and train his children in the tertiary education.

It is based on the above submission that the researcher hereby accepts the third hypothesis that says that Fadama III Additional funding (AF) project of Agricultural transformation agenda in Enugu State has reduced hunger and accelerated the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal two.

Hypothesis four: Inadequate counter-part funding, Environmental factor, Mismanagement and Insecurity are the factors that militated against the attainment of Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) and FadamaIII Additional funding (AF) projects in Enugu State.

Both the Enugu State Fadama III AF office and the farmers were unanimous in their confirmation of challenges bedeviling Fadama III AF project as they enumerated the following:

Inadequate Counter-Part Funding: The inability of Enugu State government to pay up her counter-part funding of ₦3,550,143,817.76is among the major setback and challenge that seriously affected the Fadama III AF project, the agency, through the director of information Mr Hillary Onyekwelu, reported that the State inability affected the funding of 2018 funding as the World Bank declined further funding of the project, speaking further he alleges that the Enugu State Fadama III AF office is more like a ghost office as most of the workers have gone their ways in search of greener pastures. Speaking further, MrEgbo Michael Chime the Chief Security Officer of Enugu State Fadama III AF office, in his remark during the FGD, argues that their monthly salary from April 2017-August 2020 (17 Months) have not been paid. In his corroboration, Mr Ugwu Felix, the procurement officer, Enugu State Fadama III AF resigns his appointment due to same reason.

Speaking on the above, the State Programme Coordinator, (SPC) of Enugu State, further alleges that the inability of the state Government to pay their counter-part funding affected the following:

- Unavailability of some of the most needed assets eg. Transplanter, reaper etc.
- Some of the land good for rice production are filled with trees (Land not developed)
- Service Providers on civil works inability to conclude their works as scheduled due issues of rain.
- Delay in the payment of Service Providers – Agro Input Dealer, Service Provider on Mechanization, consultants etc.

Environment Factors: Environmental factors was one of the factors that thwarted the Fadama III AF in Enugu State through flooding in the state, Mr Christian Ali, said that flooding cleared most of the crops in the Amata Imeama Mgbowo in Plantation Cluster in Agwu LGA, the loss is estimated at 11 hectares of land costing ₦28m.

Insecurity: Insecurity under this regime has been a thing to worry about inferring from the way and manner farmers and herdsmen conflict exist in Nigeria, the farmers argues that the clash is becoming a big threat in the Fadama III AF project as most of the farmers could no longer continue sequel to the loss of 100 hectares of land which is estimated at the cost of over ₦11m at Obontam Community with irrigation cost of ₦105m among others. The land was allegedly invaded by the Fulani herdsmen but was resisted by the farmers but it turns out to become a fight in which the Fulani with their weapons and connections disconnected the farmers.

Mismanagement: Under this, Mr Ali Christian argues that there exist high level of mismanagement and embezzlement of the fund by the political heads of the State as politicians used some farmers as conduit pipe to embezzle the fund, nothing with emphasis he said that Ezeagu and Nkannu East were not rice cultivating LGs but were brought in by Chief of Staff (Ezeagu) and Secretary to the State Government (SSG) (Nkanu-East) and no new development emerged from the communities as they were only interested in the Seeds from World Bank which they sold out on the point of receiving.

National Fadama Office NFO failed promises: there was a proposal to build an exclusive market for Fadama in Enugu state, a proposal was raised and other conditions met but the NFO diverted the sum of ₦22.7M meant for the work. According to Mr. Ali, Christian. He further blamed the Politicians on their interest in the financial benefit of the group at their own detriment.

Based on the above submissions, the researcher hereby accepts the fourth hypothesis that says that inadequate counter-part funding, Environmental factor, Mismanagement and insecurity are the factors that militated against the attainment of Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) and Fadama III Additional funding (AF) projects in Enugu State.

V. Findings

- The World Bank paid in $200m for the Fadama III AF project in Nigeria.
- The Enugu-State government paid of ₦676,800,000 as State Government Counterpart Contribution to the project but the sum of ₦312,177,574.00 was paid by the State.
- Enugu State Fadama III AF was able to drawdown a total of $13,550,215.08. Which is (₦3,550,143,817.76).
- Fadama III AF project covers rice, cassava and sorghum whereas rice was produced at the Enugu-State.
- Eight Local governments in Enugu –State participated in the rice production Scheme.
- A total of 250 Plantation clusters and 1148 plantation clubs totaling 11802 farmers benefited from the World Bank/ state government grant on rice production.
- Each cooperatives paid in ₦23500 to Enugu State government for registration
- Fadama III AF in Enugu-state reduced poverty and accelerated the attainment of SDG one in Enugu State.
- Fadama III AF in Enugu-state reduced hunger through job creation in Enugu –State and accelerated the attainment of SDG two.
- The grant was based on technical, agro and advisory support, there was no-direct financial support.
- Inadequate counter-part funding, Environmental factor, Mismanagement and insecurity are the factors that militated against the attainment of Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) and Fadama III Additional funding (AF) projects in Enugu State.

VI. Conclusion

The unimaginable level of poverty and food insecurity in Nigeria is a big blow on the face of a country that was once creating massive wealth and crafting masterpieces white hands were tempted to steal. With Nigeria's well-fertile and arable land, poverty need not be found in the country. It is paramount for the Nigerian government, stakeholders, and indeed, all Nigerians to take every political, institutional, financial and moral measure that will expedite the revival of crop production in the country through informed policy like Fadama III AF that is based on needs assessment.

VII. Recommendations

- ✓ Only farmers should be State programme Coordinator (SPC) of the event should the programme be resuscitated.
- ✓ State government should at least once in six months, have a meeting with the farmers.
- ✓ The security situation in the country should be improved upon to reduce the incidence of farmers/herdsmen conflict.
- ✓ Irrigation should be constructed to enhance an all-round production.
- ✓ Political office holders should be controlled from influencing the activities of the agricultural transformation agenda.
- ✓ The benefitting states should be selected on the basis of paying up there counter-part funding.

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