

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE, NATIONAL FADAMA III PROJECT AND SMALL-SCALE FARMER CROP PRODUCTION OUTPUT IN PLATEAU STATE NIGERIA (2009-2024)

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ABSTRACT

This study assesses the role of the state, Fadama III project and small-scale farmer production output in Plateau State (2009-2024). The study used both primary and secondary method for data collection. Two sampling techniques were employed: purposive and random sampling techniques and sample size, was 393. The study employed survey design with mixed in-depth interviews, questionnaires, and focus group discussion. Questionnaires were administered and interviews held, Data collected were analysed using Tables, Percentages and linear regression analysis. Using the derivative, instrumentalist Marxist strand, the study explain the relationship that exist between the State and the Farmers which was characterised by class interest, and that the interest of the elites will continue to be protect and projected by the State. The study further argued that, the state develops with the social division of labour and is the form in which the ruling class asserts its common interests. The Communist Manifesto argues that, the executive of the modern state is but a committee for managing the common affairs of the bourgeoisie (Marx and Engels 1848). Which is why, all attempts to transform small-scale farmers to promote production output and income via agricultural policies and programmes or loan facilities are bound to fail. Therefore, the findings of this study reveals non-increase in production output and income of small-scale farmers before and after implementation of the project in Plateau State, and recommended that the longer the state exists, the less likely society will achieve equality. State being the guardian of personal property, obstructs classless, exploitation-free socialism. proletariat must seize control of the state through revolution, to establish the "dictatorship of the proletariat" and communist society.

Keywords: State, Fadama III, Small-scale Farmers, production output.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture remains a key component of the Nigerian economy, contributing about 37% of GDP and employing about 70 % of the active population, the sector provides raw materials for the industrial sector, food and means of livelihood as well as foreign exchange earnings for the economy. Yet, it receives less than 10 % of the annual budgetary allocations (Adebayo and Okuneye, 2005). As a result, the agricultural sector has significantly been underperformed given its vast potential (Machethe, 2004). Consequently, Nigerian agriculture has failed to supply sufficient food in quantity and quality to feed the constantly growing population.

The small-scale agriculture has been plagued with challenges ranging from climate change which is a global phenomenon that generates problems like: floods, desertification, drought, and conflicts as a result of competing land uses, intensification of agricultural activities by farmers and herders-an aged long conflict over access rights to farmland and cattle routes (*labi*) (Ardo, 2004; Abbas, 2009)

Efforts by successive governments through the various agricultural programmes, have not achieved their intended objectives. Programmes such as: The farm settlement schemes (1960s), National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP) 1972, Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund (ACGSF) 1977, Land Use Decree 1978, Rural Banking Scheme, 1978, Directorate for Food Road and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) 1986, National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) 1991, National Special Programme for Food Security (NSPFS) 2002 among others designed to improve the agricultural sector.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this study is to evaluate the State, Third National Fadama Development Project (Fadama III project) and agricultural production output in Plateau State and the specific objectives are to:

1. assess the impact of the Fadama III project on small-Scale farmers' production output in Plateau State.
2. ascertain the extent to which the implementation of the Fadama III Project has increased the income of beneficiary small-scale farmers in Plateau State.
3. evaluate how state actions and class interests shaped the implementation of the Fadama III project in Plateau State.

HYPOTHESIS

In line with the research objectives, the following assumptions are formulated:

1. The Fadama III project has no significant impact on the production output of small-scale beneficiary farmers in Plateau State.
2. The Fadama III project has no significant increase in the income of beneficiaries in Plateau State.
3. The State actions and Class interests did not shaped the implementation of the project in Plateau State.

CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

The state has been envisaged from various points of views. Every theorist conceives and defines the state in terms of his own discipline. This part of the review conceptualizes the Marxist State, small-scale farmer and Fadama III Project.

The Marxist State

Marxists' writings of how the State emerged maintain that the state is not a creation for the interest of all, but it originated in conflict situation and operates as a form of instrument of domination. Scholars here include Karl Marx, Fredrich Engels, Lenin, Mao and Lukas (Anifowose, 1999). These people were great philosophers, revolutionaries and political thinkers who observed that the State neither evolved as a result of agreement, contract nor gradual process. According to Marx, man is not a political animal as Aristotle claimed; rather,

man is a social animal. Marx maintained that the forces of production in any given society constitute the basis of all social relationships while the State rests (or is founded) upon economic conditions. Thus, the mode of material production in social life preconditions the general character of socio-political and spiritual processes in the society (Mahajan, 2000).

Unfortunately, however, as earlier noted, Marx maintains that the State's creation is not for the interest of all, but it originates in conflict and operates as a form of instrument of domination.

Small Scale Farmer Production Output

Many terms are used to refer to small-scale agricultural production, including smallholder and family farmer. The term small-scale farmer is used in this study to focus on the nature of the farm's production rather than the size of the landholding, as the following definition explains. There are an estimated 450 million small-scale farms worldwide defined by IFAD as farms of two hectares or less of land (IFAD, 2008). These 450 million farms are thought to support a population of roughly 2.2 billion people (Singh, 2009).

Fadama III Project

Fadama III project is a World Bank assisted project, designed to meet the challenges of the Nigerian agricultural sector by using Community Driven Development approach (CDD). The CDD approach has become a key strategy that is used by both governments and organizations that sponsor development assistance programs (Gillespie, 2004). The appeal of CDD arose from recent efforts to (1) empower local communities to participate in decision-making and implementation of development programs and (2) promote democracy and decentralization (Dasgupta & Beard, 2007). Social inclusiveness is one of the key features of CDD programs, for the purpose of fostering involvement of the poor and vulnerable in such interventions.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The Marxist Theories of the State

The Marxist theories of the State was derived from the radical models of economic policy formation as popularized by Marx and Engel (1842; 1843c); Sweezy (1942:243); Miliband (1969: 48-56); McGowan and Walker (1984); (Asobie, 1990: 17-19). The most distinguishing feature of the Marxian theory is its assumption that the state pursues the interest of the capitalist ruling class. What this implies is contrary to the general assumption that the state is an unbiased umpire and a neutral power broker in relation to the interests of capital and labour, the State in a capitalist society basically functions to foster, advance and defend capitalist accumulation and profit of the ruling class (Asobie, 1990: 17-19).

In general, the earliest theoretical work of Marx treats the State as an irrational abstract system of political domination which denies the social nature of man and alienates him from genuine involvement in public life. It also sees the State elite as the representative of private interests and, indeed, argues that the bureaucracy attempts to appropriate state power in its own interest. None of this suggests that Marx had yet developed a class theory of the State (let alone one articulated with the political economy of capitalism). For, although his contemporary political journalism on such matters as the 'wood theft' law and the plight of the Moselle peasants alludes constantly to the use of State power to advance particular

economic interests (Marx, 1842; 1843c), Marx does not integrate these remarks with his view of the Prussian State as a system of political domination to produce an account of the State as an organ of class rule.

The first general formulation of the approach is found in *The German Ideology* which was co-authored in 1845-1846 but was not published in full until 1932. It was subsequently elaborated in the *Manifesto of the Communist Party* and many other political analyses. However, while it is customary to talk about the Marxist class theory of the State, these studies do not contain a unitary and coherent analysis. Instead, Marx and Engels present a complex array of ideas and arguments unified (if at all) through their common concern with the relations between class struggle and State power within the general framework of historical materialism.

Population

The study population was the Small-Scale Beneficiary Fadama III Farmers in Plateau State. The main beneficiaries of the project in Plateau State were: A total of 22,757 beneficiaries comprising of 11,543 (50.72 percent) female and 11,214 (49.67 percent) male, grouped into 1,271 Focus User Groups (FUGs) and 84 Focus Community Associations (FCAs) that benefited directly from the project in Plateau State (State Fadama Coordination Offices (SFCOs), 2013).

Sample Size

A sample size of three hundred and ninety-three (393) Fadama III beneficiaries from nine (9) local government areas of Plateau State thus: Bassa, Jos-South, BarkinLadi; Kanke, Pankshin Mangu; Lantang North, Quaan'pan and Shandam were selected for this study.

INSTRUCTMENTS FOR DATA COLLECTION

Instrument for data collection were Questionnaires, Key Informant Interview, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Observation.

METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The study employed descriptive statistical tools such as frequency tables and simple percentages for clear presentation and analysis of data. First, the data were checked for completeness and consistency. The responses from the questionnaire were collected, collated and presented in frequency distribution tables to show the majority opinions. Descriptive analyses were used, with inferences drawn based on the frequency counts and simple percentages and used in analyzing the data.

The data from the interviews were first transcribed by transferring the participants' opinions on paper and thematically analyzed. The data were then presented alongside the quantitative data for triangulation. The linear regression was employed to test hypotheses to indicate the predictive direction of relationships. It is also important to state that, the analysis was carried out using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences, Version 26.0 (SPSS 26.0), and in order to ensure accuracy, using 00.5 as level of significance.

Table 1

The Distribution of Respondents According to Fertilizer Utilization by Beneficiary Farmers Before and After Fadama III Implementation

A. Before Fadama III

Quantity Per Bag (50kg)	Frequency	Percentage
1-5	220	59.46
6-10	70	18.92
11-15	80	21.62
16-20	0	0
Total	370	100

B. After Fadama III

Quantity 50kg	Frequency	Percentage
1-5	292	78.92
6-10	78	21.08
11-15	0	0
16-20	0	0
Total	370	100

C. Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Adequate	20	5.41
In-adequate	350	94.59
Total	370	100
Timely	40	10.81
Untimely	330	89.19
Total	370	100

Source: Field Survey, 2024

In Table 4A 59.46 % and 78.92 % of the Fadama III beneficiary small-scale farmers before and after responded according to Fertilizer utilization by beneficiary farmers before and after Fadama III implementation, which stated that both had 1-5 bags of fertilizer on a hectre of farm 18.92 % and 21.08 % the farmer before and after Fadama III had 6-10 bags of fertilizer used on the farm. Therefore, from the table above, fertilizer usage in both before and after implementation stood at 1-5 bags, which did not portray difference before and after implementation of the project. The implication is that the same quantity of fertilizer was utilized before and after implementation by beneficiaries. As a result of the expensiveness and unavailability of the in-organic fertilizer, farmers in an interview exclaimed that, the beneficiaries before and after implementation continue to patronize the use of organic fertilizer (livestock manure, poultry droppings, and compound waste) as means of improving soil fertility.

Table 2

The Distribution of Respondents according to Seeds Utilization by Beneficiary Farmers Before and After Fadama III Implementation

Before Fadama III

Quantity (kg)	Maize/Rice	Percentage
1-5	70	18.92
6-10	220	59.4
11-15	80	21.62
16-20	0	0
Total	370	100

After Fadama III

Quantity (per kg)	Maize/Rice	Percentage
1-5	50	13.51
6-10	300	81.08
11-15	10	2.70
16-20	0	0
Total	370	100

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 5 shows distribution of respondents' small-scale farmers according to the quantity of seeds used per hectre (Ha), before and after implementation of Fadama III project. Where 18.92% and 13.51% of the farmers before and after admitted to the use of 1-5 Kg, 59.46% and 81.08 % had used 6-10 kg of seeds and 21.62% and 2.70% said they used 11-15 kg of seeds. Therefore, from the table above, seeds usage in both before and after implementation stood at 6-10 kg, which implies that both before and after implementation used almost the same quantity of seeds which was 6-10 kg. This depicts no difference in the quantity of seeds usage before and after implementation of the project. One farmer affirms that:

Once we are given seeds by extension workers, we try them out on one section of our farm. Sometimes everything goes on well but at other times there are problems. For instance, we discovered that with these new seeds, we had problems with birds – they particularly liked that type and they sucked out the juice out of the young rice ears. So, we decided not to use that type (interview with beneficiary, 2024).

Also, in an interview with the State Fadama III Coordinating office in Plateau State said: The National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC) collaborated with the Project to transfer technical know-how on seed production as well as provide necessary seed regulation and certification functions to beneficiaries. Supports were also given to the mandate Research Institutes (upgrading of Gene Bank, Zonal REFILS etc) and NASC (upgrading of seeds lab, rehabilitation of demonstration plots irrigation facilities, provision of field vehicles to properly position the two bodies to perform these functions.

Table 3

The Distribution of Respondents According to Agro-chemical Utilization by Beneficiary Farmers Before and After Fadama III Implementation

Before Fadama III

Quantity litre	Frequency	Percentage
2-5	289	78.11
6-10	81	21.89
11-15	0	0
16-above	0	0
Total	370	100

After Fadama III

Quantity litre	Frequency	Percentage
2-5	315	85.14
6-10	55	14.86
11-15	0	0
16-above	0	0
Total	370	100

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 6 shows distribution of respondents small-scale farmers according to the quantity of Agro-Chemicals utilization, before and after implementation of Fadama III project. While 78.11 % and 85.14% of the farmers before and after implementation used 2-5 litres of agro-chemicals, 21.89 % and 14.86 % had used 6-10 litres. Therefore, from the table above, agro-chemical usage in both before and after implementation was 2-5 litres, which did not present any difference before and after implementation of the project. The implications were that the same quantity of agro-chemical before and after implementation of the project were used and signify no potential difference.

	<i>Before</i>		<i>After</i>		<i>Remark</i>
Variable/Coefficient	<i>Coeff.</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>Coeff.</i>	<i>P-value</i>	The income level FADAMA III farmers decreased by 34.4%
<i>Constant</i>	1.402	0.000***	0.639	0.000***	
<i>FADAMA</i>	0.163	0.000***	0.507	0.000***	
<i>F-test</i>	75.035	0.000***	1004.23	0.000***	
<i>Dependent Variable</i>	<i>Income</i> $R^2= 0.169$				$R^2= 0.732$
					The production output of farmers' decreased by 14.8% due to FADAMA III
<i>Constant</i>	1.359	0.000***	1.366	0.000***	
<i>FADAMA</i>	0.258	0.014***	0.110	0.000***	
<i>F-test</i>	6.131	0.014***	379.134	0.000***	
<i>Dependent Variable</i>	<i>Production</i> $R^2= 0.016$				$R^2= 0.507$
					Class interest/ relation of the State actors shaped the project by 67.9%
<i>Constant</i>	1.564	0.000***	-0.141	0.000***	
<i>STATE</i>	0.710	0.000***	1.369	0.000***	
<i>F-test</i>	107.438	0.000***	2949.89	0.000***	
<i>Dependent Variable</i>	<i>FADAMA</i> $R^2= 0.226$				$R^2= 0.889$

Table 24

Regression Analyses for Before and After for Income, Production and Fadama

* = significant at 1%, **= significant at 10% and ***= Significant at 5%

This part of the analysis looked at the predicting powers of the established constructs on the dependable using linear regression so as to see if the established hypotheses can be accepted or rejected.

TEST OF HYPOTHESES

Hypothesis One

H₀₁: There is no significant increase in the production output level of small-Scale Fadama III farmers before and after implementation in Plateau State.

. Table 24 shows the result of the relationship between FADAMA III project and production output of farmers for before and after the implementation of project. It was found that FADAMA III was found to have a negative effect on production output of farmers for both before and after implementation. However, the production level decreased by 14.8 %, that is the difference between the coefficients before (0.258) and after (0.110) with P-value (0.000). Given that the P-value is 0.090 for after implementation of FADAMA III which is higher than the significance level of 0.05 as shown in Table 24. We accept the null hypothesis

and reject the alternate hypothesis which states that there is a significant increase in the production output of small-Scale Fadama III farmers before and after implementation of the Project in Plateau State.

Hypothesis Two

H₀₂: There is no significant increase in the income level of small-Scale Fadama III farmers before and after implementation in Plateau State.

. Table 24 shows the result of the relationship between FADAMA III project and income level of small-scale farmers for before and after the implementation. It was found that FADAMA III has a negative effect on income of small-scale beneficiary farmers for both before and after implementation. Accordingly, the income level decreased by 34.4 %, that is the difference between the coefficients before (0.507) and after (0.163) with P-value (0.000). Given that the P-value is 0.090 for after implementation of FADAMA III which is less than the significance level of 0.05 as shown in Table 24. We reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis which states that there is significant increase in the income level of small-Scale Fadama III farmers before and after implementation of the Project in Plateau State.

Hypothesis Three

H₀₃: Class interest/relations between the State political elites and the Farmers did not shape the implementation of the project in Plateau State.

Table 24 shows that the relationship between FADAMA III project and Class interest/relations between the State and the farmers. It was to determine whether the role of the political elites in the State affected the implementation of FADAMA III project. It was found that Class interest/relations between the political elites and the farmers have a positive effect on FADAMA III implementation for both before and after. This means that there was at least a 67.9 % influence from the political elites on the implementation of the project as indicated by the significant difference between the coefficients for before (0.710) and after (1.369) with P-value (0.000). Since, the P-value is 0.000 less than the significance level of 0.05 as shown in Table 24. We reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis which states that Class interest/relations between political elites and the farmers did affect the implementation of the project in Plateau State.

This reveals that, the influence of political elites on the implementation of the project was so significant and negatively impactful. Platteau (2004) observed that, a large share of financial support by foreign Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to farmer organizations in Africa was appropriated by local corrupt political leaders which are the case in Plateau State.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

In the light of the above, the study wish to reiterate that, Nigeria has experimented with so many agricultural strategies right from the colonial period such as the integrated rural development, import substitution, export promotion, Green Revolution, Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) among others designed to improve production output for food security and income of peasant farmers. But in spite all these agricultural strategies/programmes, and the fact that small-scale farmers who provided the export earnings that serviced Nigeria's external

reserves for over a decade before oil took over from the 1970s, remain the most neglected and abundant (Dudley, 1982: 230).

This neglect of the rural farmers, lopsided and enclave urban development strategy is a colonial inheritance that has been dedicatedly maintained by contemporary administrations. Policies such as the ones mentioned above, or “sporadic efforts” that hardly took into consideration the needs and desires of the majority peasant rural dwellers (Ake, 2001: 52-54) were designed top-down without proper studies and consultation.. just like in the classical case of ‘wood theft’ law and the plight of the Moselle peasants alludes constantly to the use of state power to advance particular economic interests (Marx 1842; 1843c), the promulgation of the Land Use Decree in 1978, typified the use of state power to dispossess the peasants of their land.

It is logical to say that the oppressed farmers who are the main productive force, and that their labour which sustains the society should be the target and primary focus of the state in terms of socio-economic development, but no, they are seen as a threat and not a responsibility of the State, the peasant farmers have been viewed either as threat or a burden to the bourgeois class.

CONCLUSION

It is important to note that a project’s success (all things being equal), depends on the involvement of whom the programme is targeting, which in this case the poor farmers. However, the findings of this study led to the conclusion that small-scale farmers after being compared before and after benefiting from the project found out that their production output level did not improve. Due to the fact that the state develops with the social division of labour and is the form in which the ruling class asserts its common interests. Also that political struggles within the state are merely the illusory forms in which the real struggles of antagonistic classes are fought out (Marx & Engels, 1845-1846) with the State as an instrument, in which the individuals of a ruling class assert their common interests with the executive of the modern state is but a committee for managing the common affairs of the bourgeoisie (Marx & Engels, 1848).

RECOMMENDATIONS

No matter how good a development project is, it is likely to fail if it goes against the interests of the local populations and if local people do not participate in decision-making and planning. Public participation, therefore, is crucial to the success of any donor funded projects, not only at the level of implementation, but design (Lancaster, 1999). World Bank as a neoliberal institution cannot guarantee an exploitative-free policies, therefore poses an eminent danger to the interest of the poor in their developmental agenda.

The study is in consonance with the Marxist scholars, who opined that, since the state is solely controlled by the bourgeoisie for their own interests, the longer the state exists, the less likely society will achieve equality. The State, being the guardian of personal property, obstructs classless, exploitation-free socialism.

CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE

The study provides the class analysis of why the Fadama III Project failed to increase production output of small scale farmers in Plateau State, due to the role of the State in protecting the interests of the ruling class. Thus contributes to knowledge.

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