

EVALUATION OF ADP EFFECTIVENESS OF EXTENSION DELIVERY SERVICE. "A CASE STUDY OF SOME SELECTED CONTACT AND NON-CONTACT FARMERS IN 2008 FARMING SEASON IN OREDO AND IKPOBA OKHA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF EDO STATE, NIGERIA"

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ABSTRACT

A study was designed to evaluate ADP effectiveness of extension delivery service, a case study of some selected contact and non-contact farmers in 2008 farming season in Oredo and Ikpoba-okha Local Government Areas of Edo State, Nigeria. The objective of this study was to determine farmer's perception of the effectiveness of the Edo State ADP and the major problems hindering their effectiveness. One hundred (100) randomly selected contact and non-contact farmers were interviewed by use of structured questionnaire administered to these respondents. Data obtained were analyzed by frequency count, simple means and percentage estimation. Correlation coefficient (r) was used to show the effect of gender, age, farm size, educational status and income level on farmers' perception of Edo ADP effectiveness. The findings show that: 74% of respondents interviewed were male while 26% were female farmers. In addition, the findings revealed that 5% of the Contact farmer's age lie between 21-30 years, 23% are within the age range of 31-40 years, 40% are between ages 41-50 years while the remaining 32% of the respondent's age are between 51-60 years. In terms of farm size, the findings show that 62% of respondents have farm size of between 0.5-1.5ha, 31% have farm size of between 1,5-2.5ha while 7% have farm size of above 2.5ha. The major problems hindering Edo ADP effectiveness include: 92% claimed it was due to inadequate funding, 78% claimed it was due to poor logistic support for extension workers, 60% advanced the problem to insufficient extension agents while untimely input supply to farmers accounted for 44%, management and administrative bureaucracy accounted for 28% of the problem. It was however recommended that Edo ADP should intensify and strengthen the Extension sub-programme by increasing the morale of extension workers in the field to bring about improvement in the dissemination of scientific innovations to farmers across the State thereby bringing about Edo ADP effectiveness.

Keywords: *Evaluation, ADP Effectiveness, Extension Service, Farmers, Edo state.*

INTRODUCTION

The role of Agriculture in any economy cannot be over emphasized Agriculture plays a vital role in the economies of many countries by provision of food to man, provision of employment opportunities, raw material that are utilized by Agro-allied industries, serves as a major source of foreign exchange earnings to the nation and income to those engaged in farming business. However, Agriculture which was the main stay of the nation economy before Nigeria attained independence in 1960, suffered neglect due to oil boom of the 1970s. Agricultural production which contributed about 80% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined to less than 3% in the 1990s (Aweto, 1996). In an attempt to change this decline in agricultural production, government had initiated different policies and programmes, which lay emphasis on agriculture. Some of these past programmes include: Farm settlement schemes, National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) in 1975, Green Revolution and the Integrated Agricultural Development Programmes (ADPS) in 1976. Most of these programmes or schemes failed because of corruption among the implementers and undue bureaucracy, thus they did not meet the objective for which they were set up (Akerobo, et al, 1991). This had been further constrained due to the nature of Nigerian agriculture which is characterized by small scattered farm holdings and the use of crude implements by the peasant farmers. According to Olayide et al (1980), peasant farmers produce over 90% of the food crops grown in Nigeria using traditional means of production.

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There is the need therefore, to re-focus our peasant farmers towards modern agricultural production to overcome the problem of food insecurity in Nigeria. The transformation needed in agricultural production cannot be separated from extension service because extension provides the vital link between researchers and practicing farmers (Igodan and Adekoya, 1987). While according to Obibuaku (1983) opined that Extension education is an informal out-of-school system of education designed to help rural people to satisfy their needs. Agricultural extension is the vehicle used to disseminate research findings to farmers to increase food production, increase farmers' income and their conditions of living. In 1991, Bendel ADP was bifurcated into Edo and Delta ADPs consequent upon the State creation exercise on August 21st, 1991. Previously Bendel State ADP had five zones (North, Central, South, East and Delta). Consequent upon the creation of Edo ADP, Bendel North became Edo North and Bendel Central became Edo South in Benin, Edo Central in Irrua and Edo North in Auchi. Agricultural Development Programme (ADP is currently the extension arm of States Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, an agency of government saddled with the role of extension services in all States of Nigeria. The ADP concept originated out of the need to effectively reach out to farm families and link them up with research institutes and other agencies responsible for input supply, tractor hiring, land clearing, credit facilities, irrigation, formation of Co-operatives and marketing. The general objective of this paper therefore, is to evaluate the effectiveness of the Edo ADP extension services to farmers in Oredo and Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas of Edo State during the 2008 farming season only.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Oredo and Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas of Edo State. The State is located in the South part of Nigeria in the rainforest zone with an annual rainfall range of between 1500-3000mm and with about 200rainfall days. The two local government area studied are mainly dominated by the Binis and Esan tribes. The main occupation of the people is farming although many are civil servants, artisans and engaged in trading business with some pensioners. Delta was collected through the use of well-structured questionnaire administered to one hundred (100) randomly selected contact and non-contact farmers. A simple random technique was used in selecting 50 contact and 50 non-contact farmers in two (2) local government areas studied. These respondents were selected after consultation with Edo ADP headquarters for a list of Contact farmers registered with the programme as at time of this survey. The area and population size used for the study were in these percentages. Oredo 25% Contact farmers and 25% non-Contact farmers while in Ikpoba-Okha it was 25% Contact farmers and 25% non-Contact farmers. Data obtained was analyzed by Simple descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, means and percentage estimation. Inferential Statistics such as Pearson's Correlation (r) was used in testing the hypothesis of this study. The independent variables in the study ware the Socio-economic Characteristics of respondents (such as Gender, Age, Marital Status, Farm Size, Education, Occupation, Farming experience, Rate of adoption, while the Dependent variable is farmers' perception of ADP effectiveness.

RESULT OF FINDINGS

Tables I, II, III, IV shows the summary of results obtained from the findings of the study of ADP effectiveness of Extension Services: a Case study of some selected contact and non-Contact farmers in Oredo and Ikpoba-Okha L.G.A. of Edo State.

TABLE 1: Sociol – Economic Characteristics of Respondents

S/No	Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Gender Male	74	74.0
	Female	26	26.0
	Total	100	100.0 (%)
2.	(Age) (Years) 21-30	5	5.0
	31-40	23	23.0
	41-50	40	40.0
	51-60	32	32.0
	Total	100	100.0 (%)

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2.	Marital Status:		
	Single	16	16.0
	Married	75	75.0
	Widowed	8	8.0
	Divorced	1	1.0
	Total	100	100.0 (%)
4.	Educational Level:		
	No Formal education	18	18.0
	Primary education	31	31.0
	Secondary education	46	46.0
	Tertiary education	5	5.0
	Total	100	100.0 (%)
5.	Farm Size (Ha):		
	0.5-1.5	62	62.0
	1.5-12.5	31	31.0
	>2.5	7	7.0
		Total	100
6.	Farming Experiences (Years)		
	>4 Yrs	5	5.0
	4-7	21	21.0
	>7 Years	74	74.0
		Total	100
7.	Occupation:		
	Arable Farming	57	57.0
	Poultry Farming	4	4.0
	Fish Farming	1	1.0
	Cassava Farming	36	36.0
	Total	100	100.0 (%)

Source: Field Survey, 2008

TABLE II: Contact and Non-Contact Farmers' Perception of Edo ADP Effectiveness in Oredo and Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area in Edo State.

S/N	Farmers' Perception	CF		NCF	
		Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.	Frequency of Extension agents visits to farmers	2.42	0.64	2.00	0.99
2.	Provision of processing and storage facilities by ADP	1.02	0.14	1.04	2.0
3.	Conducting demonstration plots on farmers' farm (SPATs)	2.32	0.54	2.00	0.99
4.	Linking farmers with Credit Institutions	1.20	0.40	1.14	0.35
5.	Farmers adoption of innovations due to ADP contact to farmers	2.26	0.53	1.66	0.75
6.	Formation of Fadama users Association (FUAS)	2.04	0.45	1.80	0.61
7.	Formation of farmers' co-operatives	2.02	0.32	1.78	0.71
8.	Organization of farmers' field days	1.86	0.40	1.86	0.90
9.	Timeliness of farm input supply to farmers	1.46	0.54	1.16	0.37

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Key CF – Contact farmers NCF – Non-Contact farmers.

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TABLE III: Contact and Non-Contact farmers’ Perception of the Effectiveness of Communication Channels used by ADP in the Study Areas (Oredo and Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas)

S/N	Farmers’ Perception	CF		NCF	
		Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.	Farm and Home visit by E.A	1.98	0.14	1.58	0.57
2.	Telephone calls	1.88	0.44	1.94	1.96
3.	Personal Letters/correspondence	1.30	0.51	1.14	0.40
4.	Monthly farmers meeting	1.84	0.51	1.68	0.74
5.	Seminar and workshops organized by Edo ADP	1.78	0.55	1.72	0.78
6.	Formation of radio listening group of farmers by Edo ADP	1.34	0.52	1.38	0.60
7.	Use of Newspapers, bulletins and magazines to transfer information to farmers	1.32	0.47	1.76	0.87
8.	Regular airing of ADP programmes on radio/ television media	1.66	0.66	0.1.86	0.98

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

KEY CF = Contact Farmers; NCF = Non-Contact Farmers

TABLE IV: Farmers’ perception of major problem hindering Edo ADP effectiveness in the study area.

	Farmers Performance of major problem	CF		NCF	
		Freq	%	Freq	%
1	Inadequate funding	64	92.0	47	92.0
2	Poor logistic support for extension workers	39	78.0	46	92.0
3	Insufficient extension agents	30	60.0	48	69.0
4.	Untimely input supply	22	44.0	47	94.0
5	Management/Administration bureaucracy	14	28.	43	86.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Key CF=Contact farmers

NCF= Non-Contact farmers

DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

TABLE 1: Above presents the results of the Personal Characteristics of Contact and Non-Contact farmers. It shows that 74% of the respondents are male while 26% are female, the relative frequency is 74. This implies that majority of the male farmers are usually engaged in farming as their primary occupation. Table 1 equally revealed that 5% of the respondents age lie between 21- 30years, 23% lie between the age bracket of 31-40years, 40% of them had age between 41-50years while 32% lie between 51-60years. This implies that about 28% of youths were actively participating in farming in Oredo and Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Areas of Edo State. In terms of farm size. Table 1 shows that 20% of respondents have a farm size of between 1.5-2.51a, 31% have a farm size of 1.5-2,5a, while 7% have a farm size of above 2.5 hectares. In terms of education, the findings further showed that 18% have no formal education, 31% have primary education, 40% have secondary education while 5% had undergone tertiary education with at least an OND certificate.

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In terms of occupation, the study showed that 5.7% of the respondents were Arable farmers, 4% were poultry farmers, 1% was engaged in fish farming, 36% were cassava farmers while remaining 2% were engaged in trading as their Primary occupation.

TABLE II: Above showed the perception of respondents (Contact and Non-Contact farmers) to Edo ADP effectiveness. The study showed that Contact farmers perceived that the frequency of extension agents visit to farmers was effectively carried out with mean = 2.42 and Standard deviation = 0.64, followed by conducting demonstration farms inform of spats was effectively carried out with mean =2.32 and standard deviation = 0.54. In addition, farmers adopted recommended farm practices (Innovations) was effectively carried with mean =2.26 SD= 0.32 was effectively carried out. However, Contact farmers perception of ADP organizing farmers field days (M=1.86 and SD=0.4) was not effectively carried out, timeliness of farm inputs supply to farmers (means= 1.46 and 5.1) = 0.54) was not effectively carried out. In comparison, Non-Contact farmers perception of the frequency of extension agent visit to farmers (M=2 SD= 0.99) was effectively carried out followed by conducting demonstration plots on farmers farm with mean (M=2.00 and SD= 0.99) was not effectively carried out as presented in table 2.

TABLE III: Above presents farmers perception of the effectiveness of communication channels used by ADP in the Areas of studied (Oredo and Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area of Edo State). Contact farmers Home visits (M= 1.98), personal letters/correspondents (M=1.30), such as Telephone Calls (M=1.88), farm and Home visits (=1.98), monthly farmers meeting (M=1.54); Seminar/workshop organized by the ADP (M=1.78) as well as formation of radio listening group of farmers (M=1.66), use of newspapers, bulletins and magazine by ADP to transfer information to farmers (M = 1.32) were all perceived by Contact farmers to be ineffectively carried out. While for non-Contact farmers perception on the subject matter discussed above showed that the channels were ineffectively used as these farmers were not informed of ADP operations (Mean \geq 2.00).

TABLE IV: Presents the major problems hindering the ADP effectiveness as follows: problems due to:

1. Inadequate funding (92%) (2) Poor logistic support for extension workers (78%) (3) Insufficient extension agents (60%) (4) Untimely inputs supply to farmers (44%) (5) Management/Administrative and Bureaucracy (28%).

CONCLUSION

The study showed that 74% of the respondents interviewed were males while 26% were females. This implies that majority of the respondents are male farmers and have a low level of education. Contact farmers' perception of the ADP effectiveness in their delivery of extension services to farmers was effective and significant. While Non-Contact farmers' perception of the ADP effectiveness was ineffective and not significant in terms of ADP frequencies of extension agents visit to farmers and conduction of demonstration plots (Spats) in farmers field.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To enhance or improve on Edo ADP effectiveness based on the findings of this study, the following are the recommendations proposed by the researcher.

1. Government should make credit facilities accessible and affordable to peasant farmers.
2. More extension agents with at least an OND certificate in General Agriculture should be employed by the Government to do extension services.
3. ADP management to adopt-botton-top approach in needs assessment of farmers problems.
4. Government should supply radio set to farmers' group at subsidized rates to bridge the wide gap of ineffective communication between ADP and the farmers.
5. Better incentives and logistic support should be given to boost the morale of extension workers in Edo State. This will eventually encourage farmers to increase their production and their living standard through better farm income.

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