

CONTRIBUTIONS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOS) TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN KOGI STATE

BY

¹OCHIJENU, M. A. & ²SHIMAVE, A. G

¹University of Nigeria, Nsukka

²University of Agriculture, Makurdi
(godwins209@gmail.com)

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the contributions of non-governmental organisations to agricultural development in Kogi State. Four research questions and two hypotheses guided the study. Survey research design was used. The population was 950 comprising 930 farmers and 20 extension agents of the NGOs. The instrument for data collection was the structured questionnaire which was face-validated by three experts. The research questions were analysed using mean and standard deviation. The findings of the study showed that NGOs make significant contributions to agricultural development by creating awareness to farmers about agricultural programmes; supply of farm inputs and encouraging the adoption of farm technologies/innovations. The study therefore recommended that: Governmental and farmers' organizations should adapt the measures used by NGOs to improve agricultural productivity; greater collaboration between governmental organizations (GOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should be sought for greater agricultural development; and adequate policies should be adopted for improved access by farmers to farm inputs.

Introduction

Agricultural production system practised in the pre-independent Nigeria was able to sustain the social, cultural, economic and political systems. There was adequate agricultural production through the mobilization of millions of small and medium scale farmers. The result was that agriculture played a significant role in national development by providing abundant food for the growing population without importation; raw materials were available for the industrial sector. There was increase in public revenue and foreign exchange for the government through the export of agricultural produce such as cocoa, kola nut, groundnut, cotton, palm produce, rubber and hides and skin; and provision of employment opportunities for the expanding labour force. Thus the self sufficiency in food production seemed not to pose any problem worthy of public attention (FGN, 2000). During this period, 75% of the estimated population of 55 million was engaged in farming and over 80% of all foreign exchange earnings came from

agriculture (Aliyu, 1998). Agriculture then was the largest employer of labour and the regional governments used the proceeds realized from the export of agricultural produce that were specific to their regions to develop the regions (Ayitchi, 1995, Balogun, 2001).

Agriculture suffered a major set-back as a result of the discovery of oil. This led to mass exodus of able bodied men and women from villages to urban areas in search of white-collar jobs brought about by the oil wealth to the detriment of agriculture. Agriculture became a despised and dreaded occupation, abandoned in the hands of the elderly. The result was low agricultural production with its attendant importation even of staple foods. According to Adedoyin, (2004) and Ajayi, (2004) low agricultural production is linked with farmers' use of crude farm tools, lack of capital, inadequate infrastructural facilities, illiteracy, post-harvest losses, lack of storage and processing facilities, pests and diseases problems, inadequate lands, illiteracy on the

part of the farmers, rural-urban migration and irrigation problem. The authors also observed that relevant farm inputs and modern technologies are not made available to farmers at the right time and quantity and at a price that encourages their use. Such was the fate of agriculture as government's growing attention was shifted oil, and to providing infrastructure in urban centres that were teeming with population escaping from farming communities. This affected further attention and development of the (agricultural) sector.

Development is the process of changing, or becoming more successful or advanced (Encarta, 2009). Agricultural development on the hand refers to the shift from traditional methods of production to new science based methods of production that involve new technological components like new cultural practices, new crop varieties/breeds of livestock, use of fertilizers and pesticides for sustainable agricultural production that is able to meet the consumption needs of the growing population (Bebbington, 1996). FAO (2001) averred that agricultural development involves primarily a positive change in the nature, structure and quantity of purchased input, changes in the productive capacity of land and labour, change in crop and livestock management practices. The priority for agricultural development is to create a policy and institutional environment that empowers poor people to derive a better livelihood from agriculture. This will include reform of policies, institutions and laws to improve the realization of poor people's rights. USDA (2015) noted that agricultural development is the maintenance or expansion of production without degrading the natural resource base or social structure upon which a production system depends. This emphasizes mostly in the protection, maintenance and enhancement of soils so as to have long term sustainability of any agricultural system. In the context of this study, agricultural development is seen as an improvement in the knowledge, skills, values and beliefs, as well as methods and practices of

producing crops and animals for use by man. DFID (2002) submitted that agriculture can be developed through the establishment of public/private sector partnerships that bring together complimentary skills, ideas, resources, and outcomes based on funding arrangements that encourage the effective delivery of appropriate technologies to farmers. This implies greater participation of governmental and non-governmental organizations in agricultural production.

Nigerian governments have not been lacking in terms of policies and programmes. Several agricultural development programmes to boost agricultural production like, Farm Settlement Scheme (FSS), National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), Agricultural Development Programme (ADP), Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme (ACGS), River Basin Development Authority (RBDA), Rural Banking Scheme (RBS), Nigeria Agricultural and Co-operative Bank (NACB), Directorate of Food, Road and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), National Directorate of Empowerment (NDE), School to Land Programme (SLP), Better Life for Rural Women Programmes (BLFRW), People Bank of Nigeria (FBN), Community Banking Programme, National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) have been tried.

Unfortunately, most of these programmes could not achieve their aims because of political instability. Others blame the failure on the waste and corruption in performing public services in Nigeria (Alfa, Otaida & Audu, 2014), that other alternatives in helping farmers improve their production methods and practices such as the non-governmental organizations is often thought of.

According to Cornish (2001), NGOs are bodies with broad international structure and goals to be accomplished by influencing governments and not constituted as political parties. They are non-profit organisations that derive at least a

portion of their funding from private sources. NGO typically includes any private or non-profit entity that is formed or organized independently from any national or local government. They are associations of individuals who identify some problems and make efforts to find solutions to them by organising themselves around the problems and seeking to supplement with resources generated. Farrington (1998) put that NGOs provide extension services, input procurement and distribution, credit schemes for farmers, health and social infrastructure and distribution of relief materials for the victims of natural disasters, create awareness among farmers, organize participatory programmes for extension officers, farmers and stakeholders, assist in transfer of appropriate technologies to farmers, improve productivity of farmers and contribute immensely to the income of farmers.

Adedoyin (2004) enumerates the following as some of NGOs existing in Nigeria: Nigeria International Rural Development Organization (NIRDO), Christian Rural and Urban Development Association of Nigeria (CRUDAN), Institute for Research and Change Advocacy (IRCA), Nigeria Rural Extension Service Project (NIRESP), Nigeria Participatory Rural Appraisal Network (NIPRANET), Country Women Association in Nigeria (COWAN), Nigeria Association of Women in Agricultural Development Programme (NAWAD), Farmers Development Union (FADU), Diocesan Agricultural Development Programme (DADP), others are United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA). Alongside the international and national NGOs, various local NGOs exist that are involved in agricultural development.

The researchers observed that in the area of the study, though farmers are zealous and hardworking, they still practice rudimentary agriculture handed down from their ancestors.

These farmers are illiterate and poor, and cannot practice modern farming that would raise productivity and enhance food security without external assistance. Elsewhere, NGOs have been known to have proven track records of commitment to welfare of rural people. The question then is could NGOs have failed in Kogi state? What role do they place in agricultural production in the state? This is the focus of this study, as adequate/increased involvement of the private sector like NGOs in agricultural production will not only increase food supply and improve the standard of living of the farmers, but also contribute to national development.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to investigate the contribution of NGOs in agricultural development in Kogi State. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Ascertain the media employed by NGOs to create awareness to assist farmers;
2. Find out the measures employed by the NGOs to enhance farmer's participation in agricultural programmes;
3. Determine the inputs supplied to farmers by NGOs for agricultural development activities; and,
4. Ascertain the technologies in agricultural productions adopted by the farmers through the activities of the NGOs in Kogi State.

Research Questions

1. What are the media employed by the NGOs for creating awareness among farmers in Kogi State
2. What are the measures employed by the NGOs to enhance farmers' participation in agricultural programme?
3. What are the inputs supplied to farmers by the NGOs for agricultural development in Kogi State.
4. What are the technologies in agricultural productions adopted by the farmers through the activities of the NGOs?

Methodology

Four research questions guided the study. A survey research design was adopted for the study. This is in line with Emaikwu(2008) who explained that a survey research design is one in which a group of people or items is studied by collecting data through interview or questionnaire and analyzing them. Thus, the questionnaire was used to collect data for this study. The study was carried out in Kogi state made up of four agricultural zones: Aiyetorogbede, Alloma, Ayangba and Koton-Karfe. The population for the study was 950 comprising 930 registered farmers and 20 NGO extension agents (Ministry of Agriculture, 2013). The stratified sampling technique was used to get a sample of 260 farmers, with each zone contributing proportionately (64, 74, 60, 72 for Aiyetorogbede, Alloma, Ayangba and Koton-Karfe respectively).

A 42 item questionnaire was developed from literature reviewed and used for data collection. The questionnaire had a 4 point response option of Strongly Agreed (SA), agreed (A), Undecided (U), Disagreed (D) and Strongly

Disagreed (SD) with a corresponding value of 5,4,3,2, and 1 respectively. The instrument was face validated by 3 experts, two from the department of agricultural extension, University of Agriculture, Makurdi. Their inputs were used to produce the final copy of the questionnaire. The Cronbach Alpha technique was adopted, and a reliability coefficient of 0.81 was obtained. The instrument was administered by the research and two research assistants trained for the purpose.

Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions, while t-test was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. A mean of 3.0 was used for decision making. Any item with mean ratings of 3.0 above was considered agreed, while any item with mean ratings

Results

The results for the study were obtained from the research questions and hypothesis through data collected and analysed.

Research Question 1

What are the medium employed by the NGOs for creating awareness among farmers for agricultural development in Kogi state?

Table 1: Mean ratings of the responses of respondents on media employed by NGOs in creating awareness among farmers in Kogi state. N = 280

S/N.	Media employed	X	SD	Decision
1	Individual visits	4.09	1.05	Agreed
2	Radios	4.05	1.05	Agreed
3	Newspapers	4.18	.88	Agreed
4	Televisions	4.25	.93	Agreed
5	Field trips	4.18	.96	Agreed
6	Posters	4.11	.98	Agreed
7	Leaflets	4.06	1.07	Agreed
8	Exhibitions	4.07	1.04	Agreed
9	Campaigns	4.03	1.13	Agreed
10	Magazines/journal	4.19	.93	Agreed

Data in table 1 shows that 10 items had their mean values between 4.03 – 4.25. indicating that their mean values were above the cut-off point of 3.0. This in line with the findings of Ochiyeu M. A. & Shimave A.G (2013) who reported that NGOs in creating awareness among farmers.

Research question 2

What are the measures employed by the NGOs to enhancing farmers’ participation in agricultural production?

Table 2: Mean ratings of respondents on measures employed by the NGOs in enhancing farmers’ participation in agricultural production in Kogi State. N=280

S/ N	Measures in enhancing agricultural production	\bar{X}	SD	Remark
11	Introduction of new varieties of crops to the farmers for practice	4.16	1.00	Agreed
12	Competitions of farmers’ output during agric. Shows and exhibitions.	4.10	1.10	Agreed
13	Training for increased farming knowledge and skills	4.12	1.08	Agreed
14	Proper use of facilities and appropriate methods	4.17	.97	Agreed
15	Involving farmers in planning and implementation of programmes.	4.12	1.04	Agreed
16	Involving farmers in decision making and situation analysis	4.09	1.14	Agreed
17	Researchers, farmers, extensionists and input providers meet regularly	4.16	.95	Agreed
18	Building local capacities to ensure self-reliance by involving farmers	4.13	1.03	Agreed
19	Giving credit and loans	4.19	.97	Agreed
20	subsidizing farm inputs	4.03	1.11	Agreed

Resulting in table 2 reveals that 10 items had their mean ratings between 4.06 – 4.20, meaning that their mean ratings were above the cutoff mark of 3.0. This means that the 10 items are used by NGOs in enhancing farmers’ participation in agricultural production. With

mean ratings ranging between 4.06 and 4.20 which is above the criterion level of 3.50 and standard deviation ranging between 0.93 and 1.11. This shows that NGOs secure farmers’ participation in programmes through items 11 – 20 in the table.

Research question 3

What are the inputs supplied to farmers by the NGOs for agricultural production in Kogi State?

Table 3: Mean rating of respondents on input supplied to farmers by the NGOs for agricultural development in Kogi State. N = 280

S/N.	Inputs supplied by NGOs	\bar{X}	SD	Remark
21	Improved varieties of seed/seedlings	4.15	.95	Agreed
22	Machinery operations services	4.04	1.12	Agreed
23	Fast growing fingerlings	4.14	1.07	Agreed
24	Improved breeds of livestock	4.12	.95	Agreed
25	Fertilizer (organic and inorganic)	4.23	.92	Agreed
26	Storage chemicals	4.19	.89	Agreed
27	Herbicides	4.17	.91	Agreed
28	Livestock drugs	4.08	1.03	Agreed
29	Tractor hiring services	4.16	1.07	Agreed
30	Livestock feeds	4.19	.93	Agreed
31	Fungicides	4.21		<i>Ochijeu M. A. & Shimave A.G</i>
32	Insecticides	4.29	.93	Agreed

Note: X = Mean, SD = Standard Deviation, RQ = Research Question, Ho = Null Hypothesis, N = number of respondents, A= Agree NS = Not significant.

Table 5 revealed that with their mean ratings ranging between 4.00 and 4.29 are above the criterion level of 3.00 and standard deviation ranging between .85 and 1.14. This indicates that NGOs supplied inputs to farmers for agricultural production.

Research question 4

What are the technologies in agricultural production adopted by the farmers through the activities of the NGOs?

Table 4: Mean ratings of respondents on technologies in agricultural productions adopted by the farmers through the activities of the NGOs. N = 280

S/N.	Technologies adopted by farmers	<u>X</u>	SD	Remark
33	Spacing of crops	4.11	1.03	Agreed
34	Using chemicals/drugs to prevent/control infections	4.21	.91	Agreed
35	Tractor hiring services	4.20	.93	Agreed
36	Storage services/facilities	4.21	.90	Agreed
37	Division of farmers into groups for experimental work	2.93	1.40	Disagreed
38	Training farmers on rudimentary animal improvement	4.13	.99	Agreed
39	Applying fertilizer (organic/inorganic)	4.03	1.10	Agreed
40	Using herbicides to control weeds	4.11	1.00	Agreed
41	Using processing equipment	4.13	1.06	Agreed

Data in table 4 shows that 9 items had their mean ratings between 3.98 and 4.21 which is above the cut-off point of 3.00, and a standard deviation between .90 and 1.15. This implies that the items are technologies in agricultural production adopted by the farmers through the activities of the NGOs. However, 1 item had a mean rating of 2.93 which is below the cutoff point. This means that the item is not used by NGOs.

Findings and Discussion

The results of the study found out that 10 media are used by NGOs in creating awareness for agricultural development programmes; 10 measures for enhancing farmers’ participation in agricultural production; 12 types of inputs/services are supplied to farmers for agricultural production; and a technologies in agricultural production were adopted by farmers while NGOs do not engage farmers in 1 of the items.

The findings in respect of media employed by NGOs in creating awareness revealed that NGOs used all the listed media in creating awareness about agricultural development programme. This is consonant with the findings of Adedoyin (2004) who averred that

posters, exhibitions, audiovisuals and leaflets are vital for creating awareness of agricultural programmes. The findings in table 2 are consistent with the Ukonze (2004) who also found out that NGOs conduct training and educational programmes to expose farmers to knowledge and skills, and that these serve as incentives for participation in agricultural production.

The findings in table 3 are in conformity with the findings of Ukonze in a study carried out on NGOs intervention, capacity building and constraints in farmer education in South Eastern Nigeria, where it was found that NGOs provide farmers with various inputs to encourage their participation in agricultural development programmes. The findings are also in line with Mc Namara and Morse (1996) and Onipede (2004) who found out that inputs supplied by NGOs like storage chemicals, herbicides, fertilizer, improved varieties of crops/breeds of animals and machinery services helped to improve agricultural productivity. Mc Namara and Morse further stressed that such inputs supply is not aimed at profit-making, but to ensure that quality and quantity of output improves. The finding further supports Kgosiemang and Oladele

(2012) where farmers collaborated that provision of inputs like fertilizer, seeds, machinery hiring services will improve their. The findings in Table 4 are in agreement with Bruntrup-Seideman (2011) who argued that NGOs are not active in agricultural research and development (mainly because donors do not engage them to do so, because they do not have the capacity. In this study, farmers disagreed that they were carried along in experimental work in the development stages. It is however, contrary to Narayan (1993) who said that participatory method promote ownership adoption and acceptability of new technologies. Though farmers are not involved, they adopted 9 of the technologies introduced.

Conclusion

Based on the result of this study, the following conclusions were made:

1. Different forms of media are used in creating awareness to farmers about agricultural programmes. These include individual visits, field trips, posters/leaflets, exhibitions, and the mass media.
2. Many farmers in the study area are poor and illiterate, and so need external assistance in the form of credit facilities, subsidizing farm inputs, capacity building and agricultural shows to enhance their participation in agricultural production.
3. In Kogi state, NGOs encourage agricultural production through the supply of farm inputs like improved varieties of seeds/seedlings, machinery operation services, fertilizers, storage chemicals, improved breeds of livestock, and the like.
4. Farmers are not familiar with many farm technologies/innovations. NGOs are of great assistance in bridging this gap.

It was therefore, recommended that: 1) Governmental and farmers' organizations should adapt the measures used by NGOs to improve agricultural productivity. 2) Greater collaboration between governmental organizations (GOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should be sought for greater agricultural development. 3) Adequate

participation in agricultural development project and ensure food security.

policies should be adopted for improved access by farmers to farm inputs. 4) Farmers should also be encouraged to adopt new technologies/innovations for increased agricultural production.

References

- Adedoyin, S. F. (2004). Plentiful Agricultural Resources but limited Andragogical Transmission, 33rd Inaugural Lecture, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Agwo-Iwoye
- Alfa, P. I., Otaida, E. and Audu, E. (2014). Poverty Alleviation and Governance in Nigeria. *International Journal of Public Administration and Management Resources*. 2(2) 98-105 <http://www.rcmcss.com>. Retrieved 2015/03/3
- Balogun, E. D. (2001). Resuscitation-Agricultural Production for Export. <http://www.cenbank.org/outpublication/occasionalpapers/Rd/2001/OWE-ofpff> retrieved 2014/07/05.
- Bebbington, A. J. (1996). Government, NGOs and Agricultural Development: Perspectives on Changing Organisational Relationships. *Journal on Development Studies*. 29 (2) 199-219.
- Bruntrup-Seideman, S. (2011). Actual and Potential Roles of NGOs in Agricultural Development in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Quarterly Journal of Agriculture* 50(2011) No.1. DLG Verlag Frankfurthm. Retrieved 2015/07/07.
- Cornish, P. (2001). Microsoft Corporation. New York: Microsoft Encarta. Department for International Development (2002). *Eliminating Hunger: Strategy for Achieving the Millennium Development Goal on Hunger*. London: DFID. Development'. Microsoft Encarta (2009) [DVD]. Redmond, W.A: Microsoft Encarta.
- Emaikwu, S. O. (2008). *Fundamentals of Research Methods and Statistics*. Makurdi: Seflar's Academic Press United.

- Farrington, J. (1998). Organisation Role in Farmers Participatory Research and Extension Lessons from the last decade. London: ODI Natural Perspectives Food and Agricultural Organisation (2001). Agricultural and Rural Extension Worldwide: Options for Institutional Reforms in the Developing Countries. Rome: FAO.
- Federal Government of Nigeria (2000). Agricultural Policies. Abuja: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources, and Rural Development.
- Hassan, M. F. and Otsuki, T. (2012). The Role of NGOs Involvement in Agricultural Development: An Econometric Analysis using Household Data from Bangladesh. Osaka University. Knowledge Archive: OUKA <http://irilibrary.Osaka-u.ac.jp/dspace/tech>. Retrieved 2015/05/05.
- Kgosiemang and Oladele (2012). Factor influencing farmers' participation in agricultural projects in Mkhondo Municipality of Mpumalanga Province, South Africa.
- <http://www.krepublishers.com/02-journals/JAC 37-0-Retrieved 2015/06/06>
- McNamara, N. and Morse, S. (2006). *Diocesan Agricultural Development Services*. Cork Ireland: Onstream publications ltd.
- Ministry of Agriculture (2004). Kogi State Ministry of Agriculture Annual Report. Lokoja.
- Onipede, O. (2003). An Assessment of the contributions of the Agricultural supply company to Agricultural Development in Ekiti State. *Unpublished M.Ed.* Thesis, Department of Vocational Teacher Education, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.
- Ukonze, J. A. (2005). NGOs Intervention, capacity building and constraints in farmer education programme in South Eastern Nigeria. *Unpublished Ph.D.* Thesis, Department of Vocational Teacher Education, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.
- United States Department of Agriculture (2015). Definition of Sustainable Agricultural Development <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?> Retrieved 2015/05/05

