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Factors Influencing Smallholder Farmers Participation in IFAD-Community Based Agricultural and Rural Development Project in Katsina State

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Abstract

This study assessed Factors Influencing smallholder farmers' participation in IFAD-Community Based Agricultural and Rural Development Project in Katsina State. Data for the study were obtained by the use of structured questionnaire. Multistage sampling technique was employed to select the 698 respondents. In the first stage, a purposive sampling technique was used to select one village area that had the highest participating farmers out of the three village areas in each LGA. The second stage involved the use of proportionate random sampling technique to select 12% of the population. This gave a total of three hundred and forty nine (349) participating farmers from the twelve participating village areas. Also, 349 non-participating farmers were selected from neighbouring communities using proportionate random sampling. Descriptive statistics and logit regression analysis were used to analyze the data. The result shows that 23% of the participating farmers were between the ages of 46-50 years and 91% were males. The result also shows that level of education with coefficient value of (-0.309), household size (-0.041), farm size (0.801), membership of cooperative (0.547) and extension contact (-0.283) were the factors influencing smallholder farmers participation in the project. The result further shows that inadequate capital, inadequate agricultural credits and inadequate storage facilities were the major constraints to participation in the programme. The study recommends that extension workers should assist farmers to form viable co-operative associations and where they are in existence, efforts should be made to strengthen them for easy access to credit, farm inputs and markets for their agricultural products.

Keywords: Small holder farmer participation, Rural development and extension workers.

Introduction

Approximately 1.5 billion people are engaged in smallholder agriculture across the world. They include 75% of the world's poorest people, whose food, income and livelihood prospects depend on agriculture (Andrea 2014). Peasantry is the dominant mode of agricultural production and livelihood in Nigeria with over 70 percent of the population engaged in agricultural activities as a career and largely feeding the nation (Atala and Hassan, 2012). Schubert (1994) asserted that the major source of income of the poor is agriculture and poverty is more prevalent among smallholder farmers. Previous studies established that poverty incidence is as high as 67% in the North West (IDEP, 2006) to which Katsina state belongs. Hence, poverty incidence in the state, as in the major part of the country, is a matter of urgent policy concern. Poverty reduction in Nigeria will not be possible without rapid agricultural growth. Babatunde (2006) reported that the concern over increasing poverty levels especially in the developing countries such as Nigeria and the need for its alleviation as a means of improving the standard of living of the people has led to the conceptualization and implementation of various poverty alleviation programmes worldwide. Among which is the International Fund for Agricultural Development Community Based Agriculture and Rural Development Project (IFAD-CBARDP).

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) support to the Nigerian Government's poverty reduction programme in rural areas targets large numbers of smallholder farmers and is essentially people-centered. IFAD supports programmes and projects that work with communities, with smallholder farmers as the key players (IFAD, 2013). The International Fund for Agricultural Development Community Based Agriculture and Rural Development Programme (IFAD-CBARDP) is an integrated agriculture and rural development programme. The programme was launched on 31st January 2003 with a completion date of 31st march 2013 in eight states of northern Nigerian where poverty is widespread namely; Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara in the north-west, and Borno and Yobe in the north-east (Bukar, 2005). It builds on the project previous experience with implementing community-based projects in the northern states of Sokoto and Katsina, and its objective is to help the most vulnerable groups improve their incomes and living conditions.

The major objectives include-

- i. the improvement of the livelihoods and living conditions of the rural poor with emphasis on women and other vulnerable groups;
- ii. empowerment of poor rural communities to enable them identify their needs, implement a broad range of agricultural and rural development (ARD) initiatives, and
- iii. Institutionalise and internalise community-driven development (CDD) into government policies and procedures.

Participation in extension is the process of communication among farmers and extension workers, during which the farmers take the leading role to analyze their

situation to plan, implement and evaluate development activities. Participation according to Aref *et al.* (2010) is the direct involvement of marginalized groups in a development process, which aims to build people's capabilities to have access to and control of resources, benefits and opportunities towards self-reliance and improved quality of life. Studies have shown that farmers have different reasons for participation in agricultural development programmes. In a study conducted by Edi *et al.* (2007) on factors affecting farmers' participation in Agric environmental measures reported that projects that provided easy access to farming inputs, and are environmentally friendly and provide adequate leisure time encouraged participation.

Justification of the study

Most of the farmers in Katsina State are smallholder farmers that depend mostly on agriculture for their livelihoods. They rely on income from this occupation to finance their investments and domestic needs. By determining the factors that influence farmers participation in IFAD-CBARDP activities in the study area, this research work would provide guidance to the IFAD-CBARDP stakeholders. As such, the added knowledge on which factors have the greatest influence on IFAD-CBARDP participation will help administrators make more informed decisions on how to promote IFAD-CBARDP recommended agronomical practices within the study area and beyond.

The specific objectives of this study were to:

- i. describe the socio-economic characteristics of the smallholder crop farmers in the study area;
- ii. determine the socio-economic factors influencing farmers participation in the programme and;
- iii. identify the major constraints to the effective participation of farmers in the programme.

Hypothesis

The null hypothesis tested in this study was:

Ho: Farmers' socio-economic factors have no significant influence on participation in the project.

Methodology

This study assessed smallholder farmers' participation in IFAD-Community Based Agricultural and Rural Development Project in Katsina State. Data for the study were obtained by the use of structured questionnaire. A multistage sampling technique was employed to select the 698 respondents. In the first stage, a purposive sampling was used to select one village area that had the highest participating farmers out of the three village areas in each Local Government Area. The second stage involved the use of proportionate random sampling technique to select twelve per cent (12%) of the population from the list of the participating farmers obtained from the extension agent of each of the

selected villages. This gave a total of three hundred and forty nine (349) participating farmers from the twelve participating village areas. Also three hundred and forty nine (349) non-participating farmers were selected from neighbouring communities using random digit number to get the corresponding sample. The non-participants were used as control group to justify the use of the logit regression model for the study. Percentages, means and logit regression analysis were used to analyse the data.

Table 1: Sampling design

LGA	Participants			Non-participants		
	selected Participating Villages	Participating Farmers in the Villages	selected Participating farmers (12%)	Selected non-Participating Villages	non-Participating Farmers in the Villages	Selected non-Participating farmers
Danja	Kahutu	492	59	Dabai	552	59
Kurfi	Rawayau	280	34	Gwanzo	378	34
Musawa	Tsabe	220	26	Jikamshi	380	26
Bakori	Jargaba	180	22	Makera	447	22
Baure	Hurtumi	135	16	Kawari	219	16
Bindawa	Yangora	171	21	Doro	320	21
Dutsi	Karawa	172	21	Danaunai	264	21
Jibia	Daga	125	15	Bugaje	218	15
Kaita	Baawa	415	50	Yandaki	643	50
Batsari	Yauyau	293	35	Madaddabi	432	35
Dutsinma	Yanshantuna	165	20	Karofi	241	20
Kusada	Kofa	246	30	Dan gamau	534	30
Total		2894	349		4628	349

Source: Reconnaissance Survey 2013

Logit Model Specification

Participation in IFAD-CBARDP was the dependent variable and represented in the model by binary variable taking the value of 1 if the farmer had participated and 0 if otherwise. The cumulative logistic probability function is specified as:

$$P_i = F(Z_i) = F[\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i X_i] = \left[\frac{1}{1 + e^{-(\alpha + \sum \beta_i X_i)}} \right] \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Where, P_i represents that the probability that i^{th} farmer being participating given X_i , X_i represents the i^{th} farmer's explanatory variables, $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n$; Z_i a linear function of n explanatory variables (X_i), e represents the base of natural logarithms; α and β_i are regression parameters to be estimated in the model, where α the intercept and $\beta_1, \beta_2 \dots \beta_n$ are slope coefficient of the equation.

The model can also be written in terms of the log of the odds ratio (the probability that the farmer is participating (P_i) to the probability that is not-participating ($1-P_i$) (Gujrati, 2004). The probability that is non-participating ($1-P_i$) is defined by:

$$(1 - P_i) = \frac{1}{1+e^{z_i}} \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

Using equation (1) and (2), the odds ratio becomes

$$\left(\frac{P_i}{1 - P_i}\right) = \left[\frac{1 + e^{z_i}}{1 + e^{-z_i}}\right] = e^{z_i} \dots \dots \dots (3)$$

Alternatively,

$$\left(\frac{P_i}{1 - P_i}\right) = \left[\frac{1 + e^{z_i}}{1 + e^{-z_i}}\right] = e^{(\alpha + \sum \beta_i X_i)} \dots \dots \dots (4)$$

Taking the natural logarithms of odds ratio of equation (4) it results as,

$$z_i = \ln \left[\frac{P_i}{1 - P_i}\right] = \ln e^{[\alpha + \sum \beta_i X_i]} = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 \dots \beta_n X_n + U \dots \dots \dots (5)$$

If the disturbance term (U_i) is introduced to the model, the logit model becomes

$$z_i = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 \dots \beta_n X_n + \mu_i \dots \dots \dots (6)$$

The logit model is specified as:

$$\text{Log} = \left(\frac{P}{R - P}\right) =$$

Linearizing

$$Y = a + b_1 X_1 + b_2 X_2 + b_3 X_3 + \dots \dots \dots b_8 X_8 + u \dots \dots \dots (7)$$

Where:

Y = Participation ($\sum_{0=No=not\ Participating}^{1=yes=Participating}$)

X_1 = Age (in years)

X_2 = Level of education (years)

X_3 = Family size (number of persons)

X_4 = Farm size (ha)

X_5 = Sex (male = 1; female = 2)

X_6 = Membership of co-operative (number)

X_7 = Extension contact (no. of visit)

X_8 = Amount of credit used (₦)

a = Constant

b_1 ----- b_8 = Regression co-efficient of x_1 ----- x_8 to be estimated

u = Error term.

Results and Discussion

Socio-economic characteristics of respondents

The study shows that 23% of the participating farmers were between the ages of 46-50 years, while the same age bracket was 19% for the non-participating farmers. The mean age of the participating farmers was 46 years while that of the non-participating farmers was 48 years. The result implies that most of the respondents were of middle age; signifying that both the categories of the respondents were within the agricultural productive age range of 30-50 years quoted by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 1997; 2005). The result also revealed that 91% and 9.0% of the participating farmers were males and females respectively, while 99.0% and 1.0% of the non-participants were males and females respectively. This implies that the majority of the respondents were males which could be attributed to the current practice of purdah (women in seclusion) as the people in the area are predominantly Muslims. The dominance of males in farming agrees with Oyedele and Yahaya (2007). It also confirms the findings of Onuk (2008) which found that males constitute the majority in rice production because females are mostly involved in domestic work. However, the finding revealed that there were more females among the participants than with the non-participants. The study further revealed that 95% and 5% of the

participating farmers were married and single respectively while 96.0% and 4.0% of the non-participating farmers were also married and single respectively. This could be attributed to the culture of the people in the area, which encourages early marriage. It could also be due to struggle to meet the needs of their families. Findings further shows that 23.7% and 17.1% of the participating and non-participating farmers had secondary education respectively. Also 5.8% of the participating farmers had tertiary education while only 4.7% of the non-participating had tertiary education. This implies that there were more educated farmers among the participating farmers and were aware of the importance of improved-inputs for increased agricultural productivity, which would facilitate the adoption of technologies promoted by the IFAD-Community Based Agricultural and Rural Development Project. Farinde *et al.* (2005) had identified literacy among other factors as a variable that positively influenced the use of improved agricultural inputs by farmers. The result of membership of cooperatives reveals that 85.7% of the participating farmers belong to cooperative associations while 68.5% constitute the numbers of the non-participating famers that belong to cooperative association. Finding also shows that 82.5% of the participating farmers had extension contact while only 39.4% of the non-participating farmers had contact with extension agent. The finding is in line with that of Atala (1980); Ogunfiditimi (1981); Agbelemoge *et al.* (2001) which confirmed independently the important role of extension agent in the diffusion and adoption of an innovation. The result also agrees with the findings of Isa *et al.* (2013) which stated that agricultural extension services helped famers to adopt innovations related to crop practices, better nutrition, improved health practices and better home living.

Table 2: Socio-economic characteristics of sampled farmers

Variables	Participants	Non- participants
	Percentage %	Percentage %
Age		
21 – 25	2.3	3.2
26 – 30	6.4	8.8
31 – 35	7.9	10.0
36 – 40	18.1	15.0
41 – 45	16.9	15.0
46 – 50	23.0	19.0
51>	25.4	29.0
Mean	46	48
Sex		
Male	91.0	99.0
Female	9.0	1.0
Marital status		
Married	95.0	96.0
Single	5.0	4.0
No formal educ.	2.9	1.2
Qur’anic educ.	48.6	43.2
Adult educ.	5.0	14.4
Primary educ.	14.0	19.4
Secondary educ.	23.7	17.1
Tertiary educ.	5.8	4.7
Membership of coop.		
Yes	85.7	68.5
No	14.3	31.5

Level of education

The result of logit regression in Table 3 showed that level of education had a negative coefficient (-0.309) and significant at 1 percent level of probability. This implies that the higher the level of education of the respondents, the less the probability of farmers participating in IFAD Community Based Agriculture and Rural Development Project. This confirms the findings of Okunmadewa (2002) who reported that education has a significant impact on farmers’ efficiency in production. Farmer’s literacy levels usually influences the decision-making and the adoption of innovation by farmers, which may bring about increase in productivity. Household size was also found to have a negative coefficient (-0.041) and significant at 1% level of probability. The implication of this result is that the higher the number of people in a household the less the probability of farmers participation in the project. Farm size had a positive coefficient (0.801)

and was significant at 1% level of probability. The positive and significant influence of farm size implies that farmers with large farms size are likely to participate more in the project. This result is in agreement with the findings of Yahaya *et al.* (2013) who found farm size of the participating farmers to be highly significant at 1% level of probability. Sex was found to have a negative coefficient value (-0.283) and was statistically significant at 1% level of probability. Membership of cooperative had a positive coefficient (0.547) and was statistically significant at 1% level of probability. This implies that membership of social organizations was an important factor in inducing farmers to participate in the IFAD-Community Based Agricultural and Rural Development Project. Access to credit also had a positive coefficient (1.213) and was statistically significant at 1% level of probability. It implies that access to credit of the individual's increases their probability of participation in the project. This finding is line with those of Oluwafemi *et al.* (2006) and Edi *et al.* (2007) who noted that access to credit, farm size and contact with extension influence participation. Extension contact had a positive coefficient (0.283) and was statistically significant at 1% level of probability. This implies that the higher the number or frequency of the visit of extension agent to the farmers, the higher the probability level of participation and the adoption of recommended practices. This confirmed the findings of Oluwafemi *et al.* (2006) who found the socio-economic characteristics of farmers to have an influence on their level of participation in agricultural development programmes. However, age was inversely related to participation since the value of its coefficient was found to be negative (-0.077) and was not statistically significant at either 1% or 5% level of probability. It therefore shows that the age of the farmer has no influence on farmers' participation in the project activities.

It was hypothesized that farmers' socio-economic factors have no influence on project participation. The finding showed that education with coefficient value of (-0.309), household size (-0.041), farm size (0.801), sex (-0.283), membership of cooperative (0.547) and extension contact (0.283) had significantly influenced farmers' participation at 1% level of probability. It is therefore concluded that farmers' socio-economic factors have influence on farmers' participation in the project; hence, the null hypothesis is hereby rejected.

Table 3: Logit regression of socio-economic factors influencing farmers participation in IFAD-CBARDP

Variables	Coefficient	Standard Error	Valid Statistic	P value
Constant	-1.535	0.173	-8.870	0.000
Age	-0.068	0.042	-1.608	0.085
Level of education	-0.309*	0.051	-6.110	0.000*
Household size	-0.041*	0.013	-3.223	0.000*
Farm size	0.801*	0.254	3.151	0.000*
Sex	-0.283*	0.120	-2.371	0.001*
Membership of coop.	0.545*	0.130	4.197	0.000*
Access to credit	1.213*	0.397	3.059	0.000*
Extension contact	0.583*	0.252	2.309	0.001*

Likelihood Ratio Test Statistic= 943.117. *P≤0.01*

The result of the analysis of the major constraint to participation in the project revealed that inadequate capital 16.1%, inadequate agricultural credits 11.3%, inadequate storage facilities 15.7%, limited access to market information 15.5%, poor extension agent output 11.3%, inadequate agricultural insurance 10.7%, poor leadership 5.7%, lack of awareness 5.5% and socio-cultural barrier 3.5% as the factors affecting the effective participation in IFAD-CBARDP in the study area. This supports the findings of Akpabio (2007) that inadequate credit facilities and poor utilization of credit advances are factors constraining effective beneficiaries' participation in women Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The reported socio-cultural barrier that constrained participation was attributed to the fact that the majority of the respondents were male with only a few female participants. Women participation in some agricultural activities is limited due to socio-cultural practices.

Table 4: Major constraints to effective participation in IFAD-CABARDP by the farmers

Variables	Percentage %	Rank
Inadequate capital	16.2	1 st
Inadequate agricultural credit	16.0	2 nd
Inadequate storage facilities	15.7	3 rd
Limited market information	15.5	4 th
Poor Extension agents outputs	11.3	5 th
Inadequate agric. insurance	10.7	6 th
Poor leadership	5.6	7 th
Lack of awareness	5.5	8 th
Socio-cultural barrier	3.5	9 th
Total	100	

Conclusion and Recommendation

The combined influence of socio-economic variables (level of education, household size, farm size, sex, membership of cooperative, access to credit and extension contact) have made positive and significant contributions to farmers participation in IFAD-CBARDP activities at 1% level of probability. However, age of the farmers was not significant at either 1% or 5% level of probability. The study further reveals that inadequate capital, inadequate agricultural credit, inadequate storage facilities and limited market information among other factors had constrained the effective participation of farmers in the project. It is recommended that Government and non-governmental organizations dealing with extension should motivate farmers through the provision of more subsidy packages and making credit facilities accessible. This would enhance greater participation in the project and increase crop output. Government should provide incentive measures to the farmers that will reduce the effects of the dwindling market prices of agricultural commodities. In addition, extension workers should assist farmers to form viable co-operative associations and where they are in existence, efforts should be made to strengthen them for easy access to credit, farm inputs and markets for their agricultural products.

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