SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT APPROACH OF WORLD BANK ASSISTED PROJECTS IN SOUTH WESTERN NIGERIA

Adeyemo, P. A.*

Kayode, A. O.*

ABSTRACT

This study examined sustainability of community-driven development approach beneficiaries of World Bank assisted projects in south western Nigeria. Multistage sampling technique was adopted in the selection of two hundred and forty six participants each of Fadama and CSDP projects respectively making a pooled total of four hundred and ninety two (492) respondents for the study. Firstly, two States from the Southwest of Nigeria were purposively selected. These were Oyo and Osun states. Secondly, fifteen percent of Local government areas in each State were randomly selected. Finally, 25% of membership of each of the selected community associations was chosen. This resulted to 246 respondents each in respect of Fadama and CSDP and a pooled figure of four hundred and ninety two respondents were chosen for the purpose of this study. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics. The average age of both Fadama and CSDP participants were 47 and 45 years respectively. Thus, they were in their productive years. Leaders elected democratically ranked first. Charges and levies paid also ranked first. Government should endeavour to aid poor farmers with funds and incentives so that the core poor who can not afford such levies will be able to participate in the programme.

Keywords: *Democratically elected leaders, funds, project operators.*

* Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, P. M. B 4000, Ogbomoso, Oyo-State, Nigeria

Introduction

Countries and their development partners have been trying to involve communities in their own development since the end of World War II, when the first colonies gained independence in South Asia (IFAD, 2003). Pioneers in both India and Bangladesh (then a part of Pakistan) developed a clear vision- of how it would be done: Local development should be planned and managed by local citizens, their communities, and their local governments within a clearly defined decentralized framework that devolves real power and resources to local governments and communities.

This vision sets up a tension between central power and empowerment of communities and local governments (FAO, 2003). This tension has rarely been fully resolved and is still being grappled with in many countries as well as in many externally financed development projects. While the vision was often piloted successfully in individual projects, it was again and again lost in the process of scaling up and, ironically, replaced by centralized, top-down bureaucratic approaches that failed. In these approaches, local citizens were treated as passive recipients, and service delivery suffered because the service providers were not accountable to their clients (World Bank, 2002).

Several programmes, activities and projects are being executed at various levels including rural communities across the country; yet there is a lack of knowledge about how these services are sustained (Lerner, 1995). Funding providers and the professionals who receive their funds are obligated to work towards sustaining programmes. Series of reasons might have been attributed to the cause of such scenario. Amongst is whether such programmes originated from the benefiting community or not. If communities were not carried along in the identification and

subsequent implementation of such services to a significant stage, the likelihood of failure is imminent (World Bank, 1996).

The objectives are to;

- Examine the socio-economic characteristics of the Fadama and CSDP participants (respondents) in the study area.
- Analyze the perceived level of sustainability of projects implemented in the study area.

Methodology

The study was carried out in selected states (Oyo and Osun) of Southwest, Nigeria. Southwest Nigeria lies between latitude 5^0N and 9^0N of the Equator and longitudes 2.5^0 and 6^0 east of the Greenwich Meridian. It is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean in the south, Kwara and Kogi States in the north, Anambra state in the eastern Nigeria and Republic of Benin in the west. The study area has a land area of about 114,271 km^2 representing about 12 percent of the country's total land area. The nation's population is put at about 140,003,542 with about 65 percent of this population living in the rural areas (National Population Commission (NPC), 2006). The Southwest zone comprises six states namely: Lagos, Ogun, Osun, Oyo, Ondo, and Ekiti States (Shahib *et al.*, 1997). These states are situated mainly in the tropical rain forest zone with swamp forest in the coastal regions of Lagos, Delta, Ogun and Ondo states. The zone also covers the derived savannah in the extreme north of this region including Oyo, Osun, Edo and Ekiti states. The climate in southwestern Nigeria is predominantly humid with rainfall from 1500mm to 3000mm per annum .The mean monthly temperature ranges from 18^0C to 24^0C during the rainy season and 20^0C to 35^0C during the dry season (Shahib *et al.*, 1997).

The population of the study were beneficiaries of Fadama and CSDP projects in the selected states of southwestern Nigeria. Multistage sampling technique was adopted in the selection of two hundred and forty six participants each of Fadama and CSDP projects respectively making a pooled total of four hundred and ninety two (492) respondents for the study. Firstly, two States from the Southwest of Nigeria were purposively selected. These were

Oyo and Osun states. They were selected because of their participation in the two projects in southwest Nigeria. Secondly, fifteen percent of Local government areas in each state were randomly selected, making five Local Government Areas from each state and ten Local Government Areas altogether. In the third stage, 50% each of total Fadama Community Associations and Community Development Associations (for CSDP participants) were chosen from the number of community associations participating in the two projects within the selected Local Government Areas. Finally, 25% of membership of each of the selected community associations was chosen . This resulted to 246 respondents each in respect of Fadama and CSDP and a pooled figure of four hundred and ninety two respondents for the purpose of this study.

The tools and procedure that were employed elucidated the objectives of the study: this includes the following.

Descriptive statistics:

They are the mean, percentages and frequency distribution. These were used as tools to describe the socioeconomic characteristics of respondents and the perceived level of sustainability of projects implemented in the study area.

Results and Discussion

The pooled age classification is presented in Figure 1. The result indicate that 6.9% of the Fadama farmers were less than 30 years of age while 11.0 % were between 30 and 39 years of age. 37.8% were between the ages of 40 and 49 while 28.9 % were between 50 and 59 years of age. 15.0% were 60 years and above. For CSDP participants, 5.3% were less than 30 years of age while 30.5% were between ages 30 and 39. Another 17.9% of CSDP participants were between ages 40 and 49 while 35.0% were between 50 and 59 years of age. The percentage of 11.4 were 60 years and above. The mean age of Fadama farmers was 47.3 years while that of CSDP participants was 45.6 years. The pooled mean, median and modal age was 45.8, 46.0 and 46.0 years respectively. The pooled age distribution in this study is normal because the mean, median and modal values are very close to each other . The average age of 45.8 years for this distribution conforms with the findings of Oladebo and Oladejo (2008) and Oladosu *et al.* (2004) which indicated that participants in production activities were active and in their

productive ages. The result agrees with the findings of OYSFADO (2007) which indicated that majority of the Fadama participants belong to the active labour force of between 31 and 50 years of age. It also indicated low participation in community empowerment projects by respondents below 30 years of age. The implication of this for respondents with lower participation is that they were reluctant to participate in the community development project as advanced age have been found by many studies to be negatively related to participation in community development programmes (Turner *et al*., 1983; Amponsah,1985). Similarly for those below 30years of age, this could be attributed to the fact that they either work directly under their parents which may disallow them from acting on their independent wish.

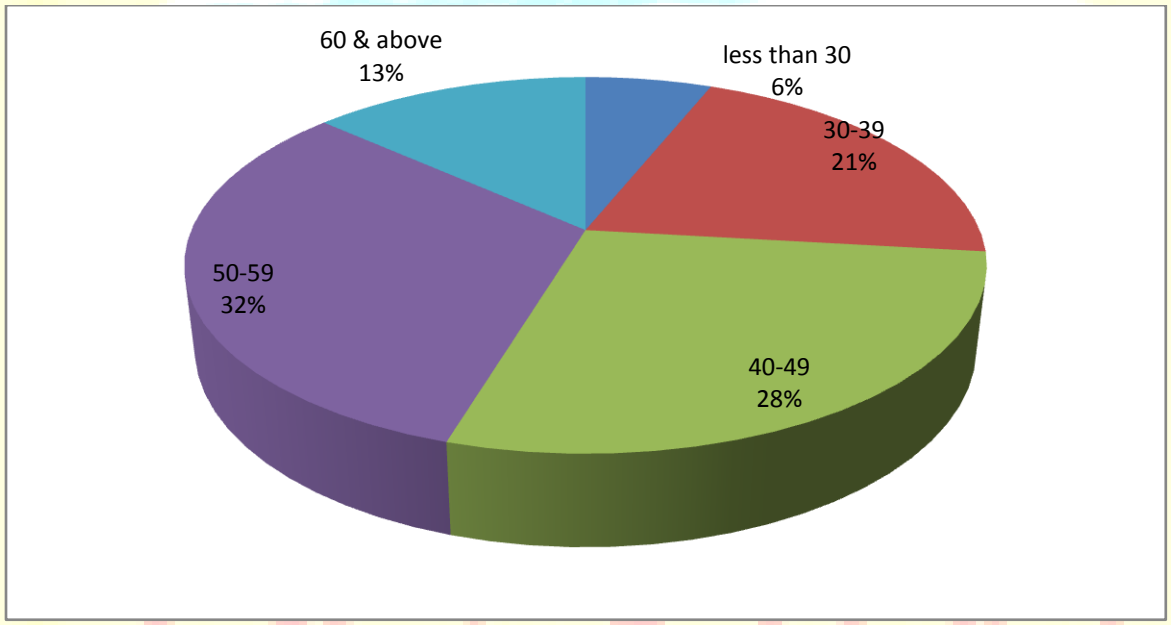

Figure 1: pie chart showing the distribution of pooled respondents according to age

Table 1 shows the rank order distribution of three elements of sustainability under leadership competence. Leadership elected democratically (wms=4.03) ranked 1st while leaders planning for group within the first two years (wms= 3.77) ranked 2nd . Leaders continuing to plan for

sustainability (wms= 3.30) ranked 3rd . Democratic leadership even at the community level was a major sustainability plan (NFDO, 2007) .

This result agrees with the position of Ozor (2008) which attributed bane of project sustainability to poor leadership. He stated that even when resources already exist, what is missing is the mastery of the practical wisdom and technology to mobilize them for overall benefit (leadership). To help bring a rural community to action, it is necessary for individuals and groups to provide good leadership. When good leadership is provided, the people participate voluntarily in the accomplishment of stated objectives. The approach to rural community development is always through local leaders who not only act as pioneers of projects but also help in influencing and motivating their people to action. For any rural community development to be successful, influential local leaders must be involved else they might undermine the progress of such programmes. Therefore, any agency or organization coming up with a development programme for the community must initially "clear" with these influential local leaders, a process otherwise referred to as legitimization (Ugboh, 2007). Bossert (1990) also agreed that leadership competence permeates most aspects of an organization, because leaders are the designated instigators for initiatives and provide quality control. Activities that contribute to high-quality programs are the responsibility of leadership and include: clearly developing and articulating a program's vision and objectives; performing regular needs assessments; ongoing program planning and adaptation; program evaluation; securing funding; fiscal management; supporting and supervising staff; and providing staff training (The Finance Project, 2002).

Table 1: Rank order Frequency of sustainability elements under leadership factor

Sustainability indicator	Wms	Rank
Elements of leadership competence		
Leaders democratically elected	4.03	1
Leaders planning within the first 2 years	3.97	2
Leaders continuing to plan for sustainability	3.30	3
Mean = 3.77		

Source: Field survey, 2013.

Table 2 show sustainability indicators of understanding the community. Dynamics of a community where project implementation will thrive must be well understood so as to ensure proper identification of major issues (Adeyemo ,2010). Project having Local Government support (wms =4.24) ranked 1st followed by project addressing key community needs (wms= 4.06) which ranked 2nd .Project goals matched with community resources (wms=3.92) ranked 3rd while community getting involved in programme implementation (wms = 3.69) ranked 4th . Community involved in programme design (wms = 3.66) ranked 5th .

Table 2: Rank order frequency of sustainability elements under understanding the community

Elements of understanding the community	Weighted Mean Score	Rank
Projects have strong local government support	4.24	1
Projects address key community needs	4.06	2

Projects goals matched with community resources	3.92	3
Community involved in program implementation	3.69	4
Community involved in program design	3.66	5
Mean = 3.91		

Source: Field survey, 2013.

Table 3 contains sustainability indicator of strategic and systematic funding comprising of four elements. Charges and levies paid regularly (wms = 3.32) and contact people to facilitate alternative funding (wms = 3.32) ranked 1st while plans in place for additional funding (wms = 2.91) ranked 2nd . Funding availability for at least 2 years (wms = 2.43) ranked 3rd while existing funding sufficient for project operations (wms = 2.26) ranked 4th .

One of the major elements of sustainability was the issue of raising funds for community developments. Sustainability is deemed to be planned for when there is mechanism for continued funding through internal arrangements such as launchings, donations, levies and fines, as against donor funding that come from outside the community. Charges on the use of community projects such as town hall/civic centers, boreholes and health centers could be of greater assistance for project sustainability. Community stakeholders must have a practical and formidable plan to sustain their projects without necessarily looking outwards (Ozor, 2008). Strategic funding includes having plans and resources in place to support current and prospective program requirements. Strategic funding provides an essential basis for program continuity, particularly for those programs that are not associated with a larger organization (Goodman & Steckler, 1989). Intentional planning for continued funding includes an analysis of short-term and long-term funding needs, developing a range of financing options, and recognizing that sustainability

is enhanced when there is diversity in funding support (The Finance Project, 2002). Diverse sources of funding increase the odds of having sufficient funding for short-term and long-term program development and implementation.

Table 3: Rank order frequency of sustainability elements under systematic and strategic funding

Elements of strategic/ systematic funding	Weighted Mean Score	Rank
Charges and levies paid	3.32	1
Contact people to facilitate alternative funding	3.32	2
Plans in place for additional funding	2.91	3
Funding availability for at least 2 years	2.43	4
Existing funding sufficient for project operations	2.26	5
Mean = 2.73		

Source: Field survey, 2013.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The average age of both Fadama and CSDP participants were 47 and 45 years respectively. Thus, they were in their productive years. Youths, and most especially educated ones should be given incentives that could encourage them to be engaged in agriculture. Leaders elected democratically ranked first. Therefore, the beneficiaries of an intervention programme should be allowed to choose their leaders. Charges and levies paid also ranked first. Government should endeavour to aid poor farmers with funds and incentives so that the core poor who can not afford such levies will be able to participate in the programme.

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