

Evaluation of Youth Empowerment Scheme under the National Poverty Eradication Programme on Agricultural Technology Adoption in Borno Central, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study evaluated the effect of youth empowerment scheme under National Poverty Eradication Programme on agricultural technology adoption in Borno Central, Nigeria. Primary data were obtained from one hundred and thirty (130) participants through structured interview schedules which were supplemented by secondary data. Random and purposive sampling were employed and the data were analyzed using percentages (%) and chi-square (χ^2) statistics. The results of the study revealed that the highest percentage of the training was on poultry production (22.31%) while vegetable oil production received the lowest (6.15%) relatively. However, none of the participants were given credit for resettlement after the training by the scheme. On the Agricultural Technology, improved seeds and seedlings recorded the highest (60%) in terms of adoption after the scheme. The chi-square analysis showed that there was no significant association in terms of adoption before and after the scheme at 5% level of significance. The study also revealed that 45% of the participants were highly satisfied with the technology adoption while no participants was satisfied with regards to credit facilities. In view of the above, the study recommended that, government should launch appropriate initiatives to ensure that the objective of the training is attained through adequate post training empowerment by the scheme in study area.

KEYWORDS: *Poverty Eradication; Technology Adoption*

Introduction

The word Bank (1996) identified unemployment as one the obvious causes of poverty, which in turn limits the ability of a man to contribute to the development as well as benefit from development. It has been estimated that six out of every ten of the worlds poor are youths (Ajayi and Yisa, 2004). In Nigeria, Youths Unemployment has been identified as one the greatest problems of the government (Aliyu, 2003; Bawa, 2004). Majority of the youths live in rural areas, and are the major clientele group needed for agricultural transformation.

Technology is mainly an instrument or practical knowledge designed and disseminated to provide end user with the means to control natural and social forces for higher productivity and improved living conditions. The new technology involves the use of high yielding crop and livestock varieties, diffusion of crop protection chemicals, labour saving chemicals and machineries. Modern agricultural technologies currently being disseminated in Nigeria were introduced to address the failures of traditional practice to bring about increased production of food and agricultural raw materials. Studies on the technology adoption behaviour of

peasant farmers since the introduction of the new technology packages have shown that adoption rates have not been uniform (Yahaya, 1992). It depends highly on the type of technology, social factor, farmer's resource endowments and type of crops / livestock enterprise undertaken.

The necessary component in meeting the millennium development goals by 2015 in many parts of the world is a more productive and profitable agricultural sector (Nwachukwu, 2007; Fakiyesi, 2001). Therefore, mobilizing the Nigerian youth for the adoption of improved agricultural technologies most necessarily begin with the establishment of an institutional arrangements/frameworks to guarantee steady supplies of the improved production inputs, including land, credit, market outlet, information and technical advice.(Ogunbameru,2001). The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) was introduced in 2001 with Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES)projects on agriculture and agro-allied industries among others with the aim of eradicating absolute poverty among the poor.(Aliyu,2003).

The paper defines Youth Empowerment as a strategy adopted to enable youths through training and provision of credit facilities with the aim of eradicating absolute poverty among them. Youth empowerment and their involvement in agriculture will facilitate dissemination of improved agricultural technologies to farmers (Ogunbameru, 2001). Thus, the paper makes a case to evaluate the effect of youth empowerment scheme under national poverty eradication programme on agricultural technology adoption in Borno Central, with a view to suggesting

improvement.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study was to evaluate the effect of YES under NAPEP on agriculture technology adoption in Borno Central.

The specific objectives were to :

- i. examine the type of training and credit facilities received by participants in the study area.
- ii. determine the effect of YES on Agricultural Technology adoption among participants in the study area.
- iii. identify the level of satisfaction derived by participants with the YES on their training, credible facilities and agricultural technology adoption.
- iv. Ani (2004) indicated that increased agricultural productivity could be achieved by the acceptance and adoption of cultural and technological changes at the rural farm levels.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Borno Central consisting of eight Local Government Areas namely Maiduguri Metropolitan, Jere, Mafa, Dikwa, Ngala, Kala Balge, Konduga and Bama.

Random sampling was employed to select six local government areas for the study. In each of these Local Government Areas, all the participants on agricultural activities were purposely considered. In all one hundred and thirty (130) respondents were used as the total sample size for the study. The lists

of the participants were obtained from the Borno State Office of the NAPEP Maiduguri.

Data were collected from both primary and secondary sources; the primary sources consisted of information received through a structured interview schedule while secondary data comprised information obtained through informal interviews with the officials of NAPED in Borno State office, Maiduguri, Journals and authentic write UPS on the Subject.

Descriptive Statistics were used in analyzing objectives one and three while both descriptive statistics and chi-square analysis were used in achieving objective two.

Results and Discussions

Table I reveals that the highest percentage of training was on poultry production (22.31%) and closely followed by livestock fattening (22.77%) while vegetable oil production received the lowest percentage (6.15%). Majority of the participants chose livestock production and this could be attributed to the ease of establishing one at any time of the year without waiting for raining season unlike that of arable crops. Even the lowest participants of vegetable oil production were mostly as a result of the female participation. The study reveals that none of the participants received credit neither in cash or in kind (Table I). This could result into poor outcome of the scheme. This was consistent with the view of Aliyu (2003) who reported that the trainees under YES of NAPEP were yet to be resettled (with credits).

On the agricultural technology, the highest

adoption (20.00%) and of (60.00%) was obtained for improve seeds and seedlings before and after the scheme respectively (Table 2) while fish farming received no adoption before the scheme but 5.38% of the participants adopted after the scheme and this could be attributed to the effect of the scheme.

The result obtained in Table 3 indicates that there was no significant relationship on technology adoption before and after the scheme among the participants. This could be as a result of the participants' non-exposure to such improved technologies until they were trained by the scheme.

On the participants' level of satisfaction with the scheme, Table 4 reveals that 45% of them were highly satisfied with regards to technology adoption, 50% asserted that they were moderately satisfied with the training while 100% indicated that they were not satisfied with regards to credits facilities. The worrisome situation in credit facilities could be expected because of the lack of provision of credit facilities after training (Table I).

Conclusions and Recommendation

The results of the study have shown that the activities of the YES under NAPEP had enhanced the skills of the participants by improving their level of adoption of agricultural technology. However, the major constraint facing the YES was found to be the lack of provision of credit facilities after the training.

The chi-square analysis (Table 3) revealed that there was no significant relationship on technology adoption before and after the scheme among participants. This could be attributed to the non exposure of the participants to such improved

agricultural technologies until they were trained by the scheme. The study equally revealed that technology adoption recorded the highest level of satisfaction (45%) while 100% of the participants indicated that they were not satisfied with anything to do with credit by the scheme.

Based on the findings of the study and observations made during the course of the study, the following recommendations were therefore made for

the efficient and effective operations of the scheme in the study area:

1. The government should launch appropriate initiatives to ensure that the objective of training is attained through adequate post training empowerment.
2. Improved training facilities and trained specialist on agricultural extensions should adequately be provided on technology adoption.

Table I: Distribution of participants by type of training and provision of credit facilities

Variable	Type of Training		Received Credit	
	(No)	(%)	Yes (%)	No (%)
Seeds and Seedlings Production	23	17.69	0	23
Fish Farming	18	13.85	0	18
Lives Stock Fattening	27	20.77	0	27
Poultry Production	29	22.31	0	29
Local Drinks Production	15	11.54	0	15
Vegetable Oil Production	8	6.15	0	8
Fish Smoking	10	7.69	0	10
TOTAL	130	100.00	0	130

Source: Field Survey, 2007.

Table 2: Distribution of participants on the effect of YES by Agricultural Technology Adoption

Technology	Before the scheme		After the scheme	
	Yes (%)	No (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)
Improved Seeds and Seedlings Production	20	44.61	60.00	6.92
Fish Farming	0	11.54	5.38	10.77
Lives Stock Fattening	14.61	19.23	26.15	10.00
Improved Poultry Production	13.85	27.70	33.85	5.38
Local Drinks Production	0	6.92	6.15	0
Improved Vegetable Oil Production	4.61	4.61	6.92	0
Fish Smoking	0	7.69	6.15	3.10

Source: Field Survey, 2007.

Table 3: Association of Agricultural Technology Adoption Before and After the Scheme

Technology	*Before the Scheme (No)	*After the Scheme (No)	X ²	X ² Calculated	Remark Tabulated
Seeds & Seedlings Production	26	78			
Fish Farming	0	7			
Lives Stock Fattening	19	34			
Improved Poultry Production	18	44	12.270	12.592	NS
Local Drinks Production	0	8			
Improved Veg Oil Production	6	9			
Fish Smoking	0	8			

Source: Field survey, 2007.

* Figures referring to yes adopted only

Degree of freedom = 6.

NS = Not significant at $P \leq 0.05$.

Table 4: Distribution of participants by level of satisfaction with the scheme

Variable	LEVEL OF SATISFACTION		
	Highly satisfied (%)	Moderately-satisfied (%)	Not satisfied (%)
Training	16.67	50.00	41.67
Credit Facilities	0	0	100.00
Technology Adoption	45.00	39.16	24.17

Source: Field Survey, 2007.

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