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LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL FUNDING OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT-VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN TARABA STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The review examined the level of implementation of international funding of agricultural development-value chain development programme in Taraba State, Nigeria, such as been neither widely acknowledged nor explicitly credited. Specifically the paper evaluates the level of implementation of IFAD-VCDP and the constraints experienced by the programme in Taraba State. The review identified achievements of IFAD-VCDP such as Agricultural market development, smallholder productivity enhancement and permanent temporary jobs for both adult and youths. The Programme trained youths at various institutions on entrepreneurship; development on operation and maintenance of road and infrastructure facilities, use of smart tractor, seed multiplication on rice and cassava stem, spraying techniques to form sprayer group mention but a few. The constraints identified were branding and packaging of products; agricultural marketing Information system, Value chain aggregators established to facilitate sustainability not effectively serving their members and access to machinery enterprise is limited. It is therefore recommended that capacity of the beneficiaries of branding should be further enhanced through appropriate trainings and education should be targeted.

Key words: Implementation, IFAD, Women, Value Chain, Agriculture, Development Programme, Taraba State

INTRODUCTION

Majority of the world's population live in rural areas where they are engaged in agriculture and agricultural related activities (Taimi, 2013). Developing countries and their rural areas in particular are characterized by poverty, unemployment, unequal distribution of resources, acute shortage of social, physical and institutional infrastructure as well as increasing rural-urban drift (Williams, 2018). Nigeria is Africa's most populous country with approximately over 200 million citizens increasing at 2.6% annually, and has one of the largest populations of poor people in the world (World Bank, 2016). Nigeria's rural people are the most deprived of all Nigerians, having least access to services such as health, educational facilities, and access to modern agricultural input (IFAD, 2018). In essence,

infrastructural and institutional arrangements are deficient at the local level where most people who need them live. According to Thor, Madison and Green (2011), rural transformation denotes a rapid improvement in the life of rural man and his physical environment.

Whereas Smith (2013) opined that rural development is almost synonymous with agricultural development, which has been broadened recently to encompass the equitable and balanced transformation of complex social, economic, institutional, political, other relationships and process of rural development, including but not limited to agriculture, education, employment, health care and nutrition, voice in decision-making and actions that affect the lives of rural dwellers (Consultative Group of International

Agricultural Research CGIAR (2010). Kanu and Ukonze (2018) contended that for rural development programmes to succeed, one of its major concerns should be to reflect the realities, needs and aspirations of the rural people. Similarly, Obwona (2013) is equally of the opinion that for any development project to succeed there is need to not only involve the community on development projects in a bottom-up manner but empowering them to initiate projects based on their felt needs and priorities, plan by themselves and implemented by themselves with outsiders as facilitators. Participation of the rural people is thus considered a powerful instrument for meeting this concern. It should be noted that most past policies, strategies and interventions failed to achieve their objectives as a result of poor design (Tomori *et al.*, 2015).

According to Kanu and Ukonze (2018), the over-centralized strategy of the top-down approach which perceives development process as a paternalistic charity of the Government is no longer tenable or appropriate. Indeed, Government of Nigeria in the past engaged in poverty reduction programmes though many of them were not successful. These programmes had faulty backgrounds, riddled with corruption, no political will to do what is right and follow programmes to a logical conclusion (Collaborative Research Support Programme (CRSP), 2012). Unlike other programmes the International fund for agricultural development an America based donor agencies displayed a unique approach for agricultural and rural development in Nigeria with a remarkable success. The study therefore intends to examine the activities and programmes of IFAD in Nigeria.

DISCUSSION

Understanding of IFAD

With the view for providing guides to other local programmes and to ginger the political will for sustainable development to Nigeria.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN), which was established as an international financial institution in 1977 as one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference.

It resolved that "an International Fund for Agricultural Development should be established immediately to finance agricultural development projects primarily for food production in the developing countries in 1977." IFAD is dedicated to eradicating rural poverty in developing countries. Working with poor rural people, governments, donors, non-governmental organizations and many other partners, IFAD focuses on country-specific solutions, which can involves increasing poor rural people's access to financial services, markets, technology, land and other natural resources. For it to do so, it needs to work in a way that is bigger, better and smarter: Bigger: by mobilizing substantially more funds and resources for investment in rural areas; Better: by strengthening the quality of IFAD's country programmes through innovation, knowledge-sharing, partnerships and policy engagement; and Smarter: by delivering development results in a cost-effective way that best responds to partner Countries' evolving needs. The goal of IFAD is to empower poor rural women and men in developing countries to achieve higher incomes and improved food security. Specifically;

IFAD ensures that poor rural people have better access to knowledge, skills and organization they need to take advantage of natural resources, especially secure access to land and water, and improved natural resource management and conservation practices; Improved agricultural technologies and effective production services; A broad range of financial services; Transparent and competitive markets for agricultural inputs and produce; Provide opportunities for rural off-farm employment and enterprise development

and Local and national policy and programming processes. IFAD decisions on regional, country and thematic strategies, poverty reduction strategies, policy dialogue and development partners are made with these objectives in mind.

Through low-interest loans and grants, IFAD partner with governments to develop and finance programmes and projects that enable rural poor people to overcome poverty. Since starting operations in 1978, IFAD has invested US\$14.8 billion in over 900 projects and programmes that have reached some 400 million poor rural people (IFAD,2016). Governments and other financing sources in recipient countries, including project participants, contributed US\$12.2 billion, and multilateral, bilateral and other donors provided approximately another US\$9.6 billion in co-financing. This represents a total investment of about US\$21.8billion (IFAD,2019).

Value chain Development Programme (VCDP).

The Value chain development Programme (VCDP) is a six-year development collaboration of the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and state government with the aim of improving cassava and rice value chains for small farmers in six states of Anambra, Benue, Ebonyi, Niger, Ogun and Taraba. The programme which was prepared in 2010, approved for a loan of USD 74.4 million and Grant of USD 0.5million in April 2012, financing agreement signed in August 2012, became effective on 31 October 2013 and disbursement effective on February 2015 with the completion date scheduled for 31 December 2019, while the closing date was 30 June 2020 (IFAD, 2016). The program goal is to reduce poverty and enhance accelerated economic growth sustainably. The value chain approach adopted by the Federal Government of Nigeria is aimed at

concentrating commodity production activities around existing rice mills and cassava clusters by organizing farmers in groups (Farmers Organizations/cooperatives) to readily access inputs such as improved seeds, Agro chemicals and innovative methods of production from extension services.

Intense efforts are been made to achieve self-sufficiency in rice production in Nigeria in which several bilateral, multilateral agencies as well as local entrepreneurs are currently supporting rice production and processing in the country. The FGN through the Central Bank of Nigeria has established the Anchor Borrowers Programme which has recorded significant increase in Rice production. The VCDP has been put in place to address the demand gap in rice production by substantially increasing production through the use of best agronomic practices, making it more competitive and providing more income. The VCDP focuses on enhancing the productivity and profitability of smallholder farmers and small/medium-scale agro-processors by improving their

access to markets, and capacity to increase yield as well as add value to locally produced raw materials through improved processing and packaging. The Development Objective of the VCDP is that the Incomes and Food Security of poor rural households engaged in production, processing and marketing of rice and cassava is enhanced on a sustainable basis. The programme is operating in three components, namely:

Agricultural Market Development:

The aim of this component is to enhance the profitability of smallholder farmers and small/medium-scale agro-processors by improving their access to markets and their capacity to add value to locally produced raw materials. The component is divided into two sub- components, comprising (i) support to value addition and market linkages, and (ii) support to market infrastructure;

Smallholder Productivity Enhancement:

The main objective of this component is to enhance smallholder farmer productivity on an economically and environmentally sustainable basis. Outcomes from this component in the form of increased volume and quality of marketable produce feed directly into Component 1. The component is divided into two sub-components, comprising (i) strengthening of farmers' organisations, and (ii) support to smallholder production.

Programme Coordination and Management:

This component will ensure that the Programme is efficiently and effectively managed to achieve expected results. Gender, youth, environmental, knowledge management and communication

considerations will be integrated in all aspects of programme management.

Taraba State IFAD - Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP).

The Value Chain Development Programme started in Taraba state in November 2014 after the recruitment of the management staff with their support through competitive bidding. The programme started with three local government areas of Wukari, Gassol and Karim Lamido due to their prominence in rice and cassava production. Takum and Ardo Kola local government were added before finally adding Bali, Donga and Jalingo local government. In a nutshell, VCDP takes a holistic, market – led and demand driven approach to addressing constraints along the rice and cassava value chains.

According to Gallup (2017) stated that inclusive policy that are evident during implementation made from the other stages. This is achieved through an inclusive strategy of strengthening the capabilities of actors along the chain (including producers and processors as well as public and private

institutions, service providers, policy makers and regulators). The developmental objective of the programme in the state is that incomes and food security of the poor rural households engaged in production, processing and marketing of rice and cassava is enhanced on a sustainable basis. The target groups selected for value addition program are categorized into; primary and secondary target groups.

The primary target groups are:

i. Poor rural households engaged in cassava and rice value chain (not more than 5ha); ii. Small scale processors (processing capacity of 2mt/day for cassava and 4mt/day for rice); iii. Marketers with emphasis on women and youths (with reasonable volume of produce).

The secondary target groups are:

i. Downstream operators linked to large number of primary target group; ii Local government councils; iii Communities strengthened to sustainably manage marketing infrastructure supported by the program; iv Private sector operators strengthened to provide quality services.

Targeting Strategy and Gender Mainstreaming

Targeting strategy: This is the strategy adopted by IFAD to get its participants. The entry point for the Programme are groups of producers/processors with attention to women/youth groups. Implementation started with existing strong or mature groups (in terms of governance, level of production and processing, and market linkages) while providing capacity building for weaker groups. The program emphasized on the consolidation of existing groups rather than the creation of new ones. To achieve this, the following numbers of farmer organizations (FO) were selected and have been involved in the program from its inception in 2015 to 2019.

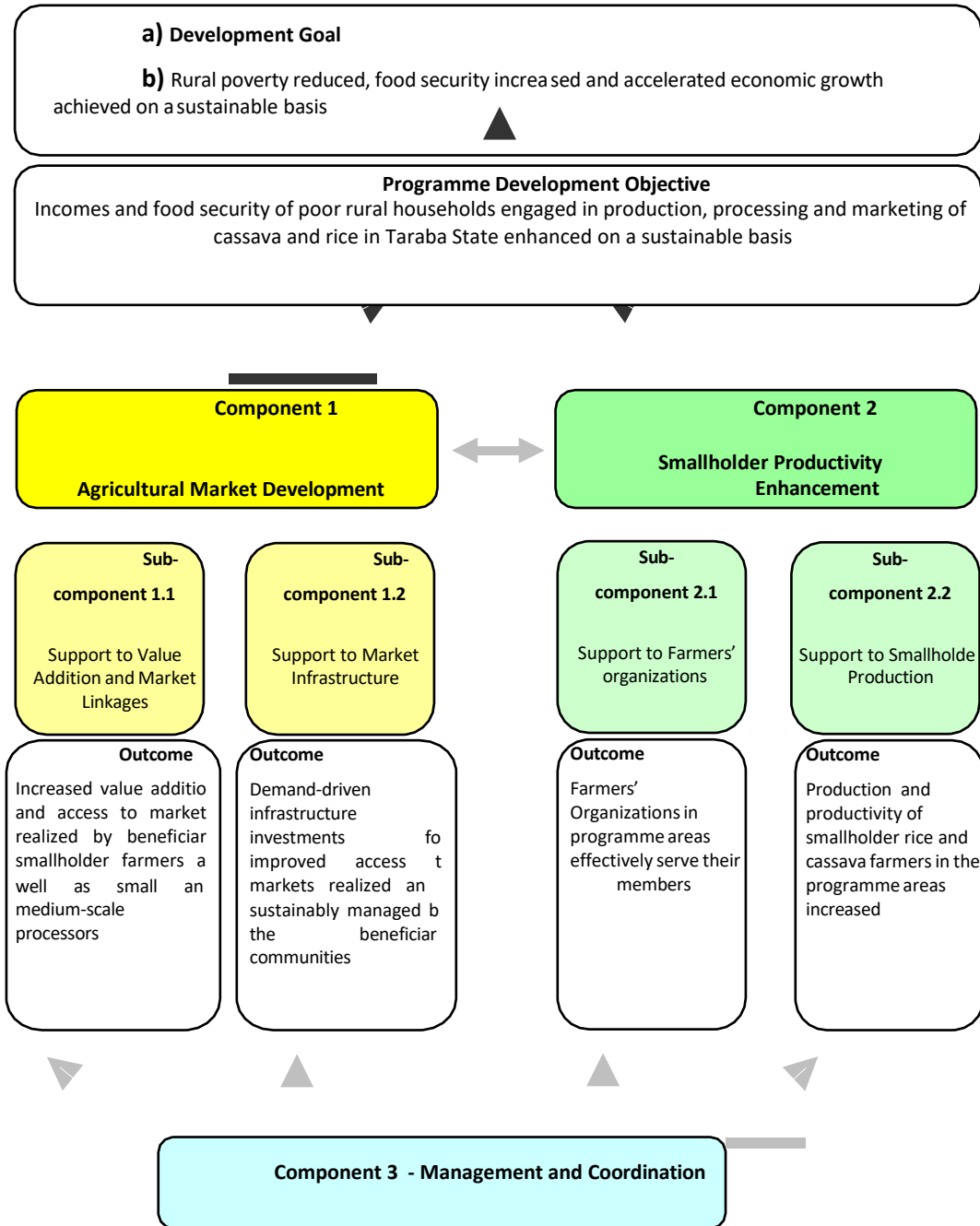


Figure 1: IFAD – VCDP implementation manual 2014 adapted from operational Guideline IFAD’s Engagement in Pro-Poor value Chain Development

As shown on table 1, 219 Farmers organization are involved in cassava related activities while 1033 are involved in Rice. The total membership of all the farmers organization is 17,865 farmers across the eight

VCDP local government areas. 11,035 of the members constituting 62% are males while 6,830 constituting 38% are females. This means that males are more involved in VCDP activities than their female counterpart.

According to Baributsa (2013), the most important role that women are known to play in agriculture is in aspects of value addition, processing and marketing. The implication of this is that the processing and marketing

aspects of the VCDP will not be fully exploited as the number of women in the programme is not large enough to fill the gap. There is the need therefore to co-opt more women into the program.

Table 1: Statistics of VCDP Farmers in Taraba State as at 2019

LGA	COMMODITY	FOS	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	%M	%F
Ardo Kola	Cassava	36	434	210	644	76	34
	Rice	135	1227	803	2030	60	40
Bali	Cassava	3	10	22	32	27	73
	Rice	85	725	362	1087	66	34
Donga	Cassava	9	55	37	92	59	41
	Rice	96	708	427	1135	62	38
Jalingo	Cassava	14	85	63	148	57	43
	Rice	154	1215	800	2015	60	40
Gassol	Cassava	26	275	220	495	56	44
	Rice	122	1337	620	1957	68	32
KarimLamido	Cassava	31	342	202	544	63	37
	Rice	222	1821	1101	2922	62	38
Tukum	Cassava	66	535	343	878	61	39
	Rice	89	778	495	1273	61	39
Wukari	Cassava	34	399	294	693	57	43
	Rice	130	1089	831	1920	56	44
Total Cassava		219	2135	1391	3526	61	39
Total Rice		1033	8900	5439	14339	62	39
Grand Total		1252	1103	6830	17,865	62	38

Source: IFAD Fact sheet, 2019

Table 2 shows the farmers organization segregated by gender and youths. As shown on the table, 4116 are adult male rice farmers while 4787 are youths. Adult male cassava farmers are 1198 while the youths are 938 making a total of 11,039 male farmers. For the females, 3061 are adult rice farmers while 2369 are youths. For cassava, 816 are adult females while 580 are youths making a total of 6826 females. In all, the males constitute 62% of the total Women being one of the primary target group for the programme have not been adequately involved. The population of both the male and female youth is 8,674 which constitutes 49%. This shows that the youths to a large extent have been adequately captured in the programme and the implication of this is that the objective of the youths being one of the primary target for the programme has been achieved. According to Andre, Markcus and Nina (2013) opined that active policies that

support gender's access and participation, not just greater overall access are essential if these gaps are to be closed.

Achievements of IFAD - VCDP in Taraba State:

Agricultural Market Development

The aim of this component is to enhance the profitability of smallholder farmers and small/medium-scale agro-processors by improving their access to markets and their capacity to add value to locally produced raw materials. This aim to a large extent has been achieved thus; (i.) VCDP farmers have been linked to off-takers for ease of market and sustainability of their activities This linkage is a win-win model where all benefit. (ii) Market opportunity assessment: Two off takers were identified which are Popular Farms and Mills with processing capacity of 1.5 Million MT of rice per annum and Forensic Tool Kit (FTK) Cassava Mill with processing capacity of

1,560 MT per annum and have been into partnership with the FOs.

Table 2: Farmer organization membership segregated by gender and youth

LGA	ADULT MALES		YOUTH MALES		ADULT FEMALES		YOUTH FEMALES		TOTAL FEMALES		TOTAL MALES	
	C	R	C	R	C	R	C	R	C	R	C	R
	ArdoKola	242	523	192	714	121	388	89	405	434	237	210
Bali	4	327	4	398	19	133	15	219	8	725	34	352
Donga	29	391	26	317	19	299	14	132	55	708	33	431
Jalingo	50	488	38	727	29	366	31	434	88	1215	60	800
Gassol	147	609	128	728	135	360	85	260	275	1337	220	620
K/Lamido	175	874	167	947	101	764	101	337	342	1821	202	1101
Takum	302	351	233	420	210	270	133	232	535	771	343	502
Wukari	249	150	5553	536	182	481	112	350	399	1089	294	831
Total	1198	4116	938	4787	816	3061	580	2369	2136	8903	1396	5430

Source: IFAD Fact Sheet, 2019

Further, there was support for market infrastructure and the processing of rice using the false bottom technology. The adoption of False Bottom Technology in rice milling is turning the fortunes of rice farmers in Taraba state as all processors in the VCDP participating LGAs of Wukari, Gassol, Karim Lamido, Takum and Ardo Kola have keyed into it. The basic principle and aim of parboiling using false bottom is to separate water in the parboiling container (drum or pot) from the rice paddy. Others cassava processing mill armed with a biogas plant, solar powered dryer, aggregation center, market stalls, roads and solar powered borehole.

Smallholder Productivity Enhancement

The main objective of this component is to enhance smallholder farmer productivity on an economically and environmentally sustainable basis. Thus rice and cassava farmers organization were strengthened and supported with improved seeds, agrochemicals, extension services among others. Other support given to the farmers’ organization include capacity building such as training on food fortification and packaging, use of weight and measure as well as training on good agronomic practices. The farmers particularly the youths received trainings on cassava stalk multiplication and rice seed entrepreneurship. A mini seed lab

was also donated to Taraba Agricultural Programme to ensure that high yielding quality seeds are made available and at affordable rate to the generality of farmers in the state.

Statistics of jobs created and the Category of jobs created for Adults

Permanent jobs are jobs that are for long term income generating example operators in processing plants, the youth seed-entrepreneurs, individuals owning input shops, etc, while temporary jobs are those engagements for short period’s example providing labour for farm operations, spraying gangs, etc. Waste to wealth is the conversion of end products of a value chain to useful income products e.g converting cassava peels to animal feeds, rice brand is sold to poultry farmers for litter, used as briquette etc . As shown on the table 3, 817 jobs have been created for cassava production and 1362 are for rice production. In terms of processing, only 167 and 330 jobs have been created for cassava and rice respectively. For marketing, 40 cassava and 184 rice jobs have been created. On the other hand, 59 and 51 wastes to wealth jobs have been created for cassava and rice.

It has been clearly shown on the table that more jobs have been created on production than any other enterprise. Since more people

are involved in production than marketing, it means that the farmers usually sell off their produce immediately after harvesting without value addition. The reason could be because majority of the programme participants are males who are more into production enterprise than processing and value addition. The implication is that the farmers will lost out on the additional income that is associated with value added product which would have

accrued to them. As for the category of job created, 280 and 721 permanent jobs have been created for cassava and rice respectively. Meanwhile, 763 and 1246 temporary jobs have been created for cassava and rice. According to Food and Agricultural Organization FAO, (2018) stated that the supply deficit should serve as motivation for cassava farmers to produce more.

Table 3: Number of Jobs Created For Adults

LGA	PRODUCTION		PROCESSING		MARKETING		WASTE TO WEALTH	
	C	R	C	R	C	R	C	R
Ardo Kola	147	251	25	36	0	25	11	11
Gassol	159	261	27	48	10	35	12	10
K/Lamido	170	282	18	97	10	31	12	10
Takum	176	237	70	21	10	46	12	10
Wukari	165	334	27	128	10	47	12	10
Total	817	1362	167	330	40	184	59	51

Source: IFAD Fact Sheet, 2019

Tables 4 and 5 shows a statistics of the number of jobs created for the youths as well as the category of job created. The number of youths involved in rice production is 2,255 which are higher than any other enterprise. Marketing wastes for wealth enterprises where only 50 youths are involved in each of the enterprise. This could be explained by the fact that most of the youths were specifically trained as seed entrepreneurs and their major activity is the production of seedlings which they sell off to other farmers and this explains why a large number of them are into production.. As for the category of job created, 128 and 395 permanent jobs for cassava and rice have been created while 49 and 9 temporary jobs have been created for the youths in cassava and rice enterprise respectively. There is no quick fi for generating employment opportunities for youth in Nigeria, creating an environment for innovation or spurring economic growth. However, through targeted policies and investments such as investing in Job hubs (Tejumola, 2021).

SUMMARY

Summary of other Achievements of VCDP in Taraba State

A number of youths were trained at various institutions on entrepreneurship development which includes:

- 1) Ranging from 15 – 49 days for rice production
- 2) 20 Youths were trained on Operation and Maintenance of road Infrastructure facilities in Taraba State.
- 3) 20 Youth trained on the use of smart tractor in Taraba State
- 4) 10 Youths trained by African Rice on Seed Multiplication, at IITA, Ibadan.
- 5) 15 youths trained on Cassava Stem Multiplication at National Root Crop Research Institute, Umudike.
- 6) 100 youth trained on spraying techniques to form Sprayer Group.

500 youth trained on how to access information and make offer or place demand on Agricultural Marketing Information System (AMIS), with 35% able to access and use AMIS.

Table 4: Number of Jobs Created For Youths

LGA	Production		Processing				Marketing				Waste to wealth						
	C	R	C		R		C		R		C		R				
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
<u>Ardo Kola</u>	58	29	379	74	5	20	14	50	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	669
<u>Gassol</u>	75	20	369	90	8	10	20	37	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	669
<u>K/Lamido</u>	28	32	495	156	5	115	20	87	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	878
<u>Takum</u>	85	85	132	90	5	25	10	24	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	496
<u>Wukari</u>	70	37	375	95	15	20	44	63	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	759
TOTAL	316	193	1750	505	38	90	118	261	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	3471

Source: IFAD Fact Sheet, 2019

Table 5: Category of Jobs Created For The Youths

LGA	PERMANENT				TEMPORARY				
	C		R		C		R		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Ardo Kola	10	25	20	55	58	29	388	84	669
Gassol	13	10	20	42	75	25	384	100	669
K/Lamido	10	20	20	82	28	32	510	176	878
Takum	10	10	20	39	85	85	137	110	496
Wukari	10	10	39	58	80	52	395	115	759
Total	53	75	119	276	326	223	1814	585	3471

Source: IFAD Fact Sheet, 2019

Other Success stories of IFAD – VCDP in Taraba State

1. Munir Mohammed Mafindi

Lost his teaching job in 2014 and joined IFAD - VCDP in 2016. He trained as a seed entrepreneur and was able to produce 7 tons of rice seedlings on his 2hectares of farm land during 2016 dry season farming and 9tons during the wet season. He achieved same feat by producing 10 tons in 2017, 2018 and 2019 dry season farming. Munir used the proceeds realized from his earnings to complete building his house in 2016, bought 100x100 land, bought his own power tiller from Lagos in 2019 at the cost of N300,000, bought 2 motorcycles and one bullock (cow) for his farming. As many as 30 peoples have been trained by him. He also trained as an Agricultural Marketing Information System expert.

2. Sale Yusuf

Sale Yusuf was introduced to VCDP in 2018. According to him sequel to his joining VCDP, the best he got from his 10 hectares after the broadcast of 2 bags of 80kg of rice was 5 bags of 80kg of rice due to poor agronomic practices. After training on good agronomic practices however and with inputs from the VCDP like fertilizer and rice seeds, he restricted himself to cultivating just 1hectare of land from which he got 10 bags of 80kg rice in 2018 and 12 bags of 80kg of rice.He used the proceeds from the sales of rice to build a 3-bedroom flat with set of cushions, TV, Video, fridge, fan and a motorcycle.

3. Athanasius Ensley Maiyaki

He became a successful rice seed entrepreneur since he joined the VCDP in 2016 .During the 2019 dry season farming and on 1-hectar of

farmland, he was able to raise 9000kg or 9 metric tons of rice seedlings and sold 6100kg at N1, 376,550. He attained this as a result of Improved farming method especially maintaining 20-20cm spacing between rows and timely application of fertilizer. He was able to complete his house along airstrip in Jalingo, pay his children school Fees with ease and was also able to sponsor two of his younger brothers and a sister at tertiary institutions. He Opened a relaxation Centre in Karim , bought 10ha of farmland part of which he gave out for hire to farmers at the cost of N100,000 for three years. He cultivates just 2ha while the remaining 5ha is kept for future use. He bought a Motorcycle and fitted it with a trailer and this earns him N20, 000 per week

4. Rilwanu Abdullahi

Rilwanu was introduced to the VCDP through a sensitization programme in 2016. He was given breeder seeds free of charge in 2017 and with the knowledge of the training, he used 4 mudus for cultivating a plot of land and got 18 bags. In 2018, he established 2 farms of ½ ha each and in all got 25 bags of 100kg of seedling. He was able to step down the training he received to 10 other farmers in 2017; he trained 8 more people in 2018 and 12 people in 2019. He also visits other farmers to advise them on good agronomic practices. From the proceeds he made, he bought a piece of land, fenced and built a room for his widowed mother.

Table 6: Constraints experienced by VCDP during programme implementation

ZWh What Worked Well	What are the drivers (Factors)
Branding and packaging of products Agricultural Marketing information System	Capacity in the areas of branding is low. Low literacy levels of Value Chain actors to access the platform.
Disruption of work during unfavorable weather Not involving labour from the Community to benefit from the project	Natural cause at the peak of the rains Lack of skillful persons and technical know-how.
Value Chain Aggregators established to facilitate sustainability not effectively serving their members.	Need for strengthening of the ape bodies to effectively serve their members and promote sustainability
Women access to machinery enterprise is limited.	Women are sometimes unable to pay the requisite matching grant to acquire machinery for enterprise development.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the review, the following conclusions have been reached: One of the primary target beneficiaries of the programme are women. The review has however revealed that 62% of the total beneficiaries are men. This has led to a situation where the processing and marketing enterprises of the programme have not been fully exploited because women who are well known for their active roles in processing and marketing have not been highly in- cooperated into the VCDP. On the other hand, the objective of including the youths as primary target beneficiaries has been achieved as

supported by 49% of the total beneficiaries being the youths. Another cardinal objective of the programme is job creation and value addition activities.

The review has however shown that majority of the beneficiaries are into production. This means that the farmers sell off their produce immediately after harvesting them without any value addition. The implication is that the producers will also lost out on the additional profit that would have accrued to them through the additional income associated with value added products. The review has also revealed that more temporary jobs have been created than permanent ones particularly

among the youths. Out of a total of 3010 jobs created for adults, only 1001 constituting 33% are permanent jobs while the remaining 67% are employed on a temporary basis. For the youths, out of the 3471 jobs created, 523 constituting just 15% are permanent jobs while the remaining 85% are employed on a temporary basis. This means the programme need to ensure that the capacity of the youths is further enhanced through more trainings to enable them get more permanent jobs so that they could be self-reliant even after the closure of the program .

Recommendations

Based on the finding of the review, the following recommendations were made:

- i. Capacity of the beneficiaries in the area of branding should be further enhanced through appropriate trainings.
- ii. Since most of the beneficiaries are non-literates, emphasis should be removed from complicated means of getting market information to simpler ones like the use of telephone to exchange information through calls.
- iii. Good agronomic practices should be emphasized to avoid losses during periods of heavy rains.
- iv. The members of the community could be hired on some of the project activities as unskilled laborers.
- v. The programme can help the women group by subsidizing the matching grants Speeded to acquire machineries.
- vi. Finally the strategy of using only existing farmers group has disenfranchised the women because there are more existing male than women. As such they should be allowed to form more women groups only so as to fill the gap existing particularly in the processing and marketing enterprises.

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