

Impact of Fadama III Financing on Farm Household Income and Poverty Reduction in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study assessed the impacts of Fadama III programme financing on household income and poverty reduction in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Changes felt by participating farm households were tracked and documented. Both primary and secondary data were collected from the respondents. Primary data were collected from beneficiaries (treatment) and non-benefitting (control) farmers. Simple random sampling methodology was used to select 170 data collected and were analyzed using Difference –in-Difference approach. Results revealed that over 50 % of the respondents were between the ages of 26-60 years, 61 % were females while 39 % were male beneficiaries, 88 % were into farming and trading, over 49 % received capacity building on advisory services, 14 % had formal education while 37% had non-formal education. Most (80 %) of the beneficiaries earned between 26,000 - 50,000 monthly from farming and agro-processing. Farm households attributed increase in income to Fadama III financing. Over 78 % of the beneficiaries were maximally empowered (capacity building, input supply, advisory services, asset acquisition, etc.) and their poverty status maximally reduced by over 13 %. It was concluded among others that Fadama III financing in Akwa Ibom State had improved income generating capacities and reduced poverty of benefiting farm households. Based on these findings, it was recommended that Fadama III programme should be sustained and relevant community structures and institutions be strengthened. Also, the beneficiaries should create value addition of their produce to enhance marketing and job creation.

Introduction

The Nigeria agricultural sector is presently facing dwindling financial investment by the government. This development has led to increased importation of food crop like rice, food insecurity, low GDP, increased food prices, increased unemployment and crimes in Nigeria. These indicators do not only worsen Nigeria economic growth but has driven the rural poor households into extreme poverty. According to Olomola and Nwafor (2011), public expenditure on agriculture decreased from 106 billion Naira in 2010 to 77 billion Naira in 2016 while total federal expenditure increased from 4.2 trillion in 2010 to 5.2 trillion in 2016 within the same period implying a reduction in the share of agriculture in total federal expenditure. Surprisingly, recent studies by Olomola et al (2011), reveals that, the share of agriculture expenditure has reduced from 3% in 2010 to 1 % in 2016, at the state level, agriculture expenditure decreased from 133 billion in 2010 to 92 billion in 2015 but averaged at 151 billion in 2011 to 2013 period. It is obvious that, funding of agriculture in Nigeria is negatively trending. It is clear as the 2014 to 2016 average of 124 billion is lower than the 2010 level. The share of agriculture in combined federal and state expenditure equally decreased from 3.2 % in 2010 to 1 % in 2016. These

implies that Nigeria is performing poorer in terms of meeting the Maputo declaration of committing 10 % budgetary resources to agriculture. The foregoing has forced economists to conclude that the disparity in income and agricultural financing trend typifies the imperfections in the country's macroeconomic structure and poor agricultural policy implementation. In Nigeria, Recent report by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2017) report showed that 60.9 % of the Nigerian population or approximately 100 million people lived in abject poverty. Implying that this class of people lives on less than \$1 or ₦360 a day. Yet, Nigeria has a population of over 180 million people and vast deposit of natural resources. It is trumpeted in media that Nigeria is one of the fastest and largest growing economies in Africa. The abundant of fertile land for agriculture makes it one of the leading sectors of the economy contributing about 45 % to gross domestic product (GDP). The sector employs over 65 % of the country's total labour force and provides a livelihood for about 90 per cent of the rural population in developing economies. Nigeria is the world's largest producer of tuber and leguminous crops such as cassava, yam and cowpea. It is one of the major producers of fish and livestock's in Africa. Despite these potentials, it is a food – deficit nation and imports large amounts of grains, livestock products,

fish, etc. According to Oludanni (2014) it is estimated that, Nigeria has 69.9 million hectares of agricultural land about 39.2 million are under permanent pasture with another 2.8 million ha under permanent crops, leaving about 27.9 million ha for arable crops. Given the area of Nigeria's cultivable land, it is estimated that some 25 million ha are cultivated each year implying a high cropping intensity with respect to arable land. Forestry constitutes about 26 million ha currently. Crops contributed some 27 % of total gross domestic products (GDP), 3.3 % of livestock and forestry and fisheries 1.5 %. The only agricultural export of significance is cocoa, which contributes less than 0.5 % to the nation's GDP. Nigeria's huge agricultural resource base offers great potential for growth. Recent government policies including agricultural promotion policy have started to show results: between 2003 and 2007 the agricultural sector is reported to have grown by 7 % in a year (which can be trace to contribution of Agricultural Development Programmes (ADPs), Fadama projects and other revolutionary measures taken to revamp the sector). Empirical evidences have shown that slightly lower rate of agricultural GDP contribution to total GDP is declined in recent years with 7.2 % and 5.7 % between 2006 and 2011 (CBN Annual Report, 2011 and Oludanni (2014). The area of land under cultivation could be increased by as much as 100 %. There is also substantial scope for an increase in irrigation, which now covers only 7 % of total irrigable land. Emphatically stated by Oludanni (2014) that, increase in inputs used for production purposes could substantially increase average yields for major staple crops which currently are below those in other developing countries. Despite Nigeria's enormous agricultural resources and wealth, poverty is widespread, pervasive, multifaceted, and chronic. Given the most recent data available, it is estimated that appropriately 69 million (54.4 %) Nigerians lived in poverty in 2004, an increase of more than 24 % since 1980, (IFPRI, 2015). Adeboye(2012) reported that out of the total population in 2000-2010, 63.5 % were suffering from at least three deprivations as a measure of multi-dimensional poverty and the intensity of deprivation was estimated at 57.9 %; 42.4 %, 59.5 % and 72.1 %. These people were severely deprived in education, health and living standards respectively, while 64.4 per cent of the total population lived below the poverty line of \$1.25 a day. The Objective of this study is to assess the impact of Fadama 111 financing on farm household income and poverty reduction in Akwa Ibom State.

Fadama Programme in Nigeria

The National Fadama Development Project (NFDP) is a project of the Federal Government of Nigeria

through the pooled World Bank loan to finance the development of Fadama lands by introducing small-scale irrigation in states with Fadama development potentials. The project aims at boosting incremental food production and raises the standard of living of the beneficiaries. The NFDP was established consequent to the failure of large scale irrigated schemes (National Accelerated Food Production Programmes (NAFPP), Agricultural Development Programme (ADP)-sponsored by World Bank (WB), River Basin Development Authority (RBDA), Rural Banking Scheme (RBS), Better life for Rural Women (BLRW), Peoples Bank of Nigeria (PBN), Community Bank (CB), National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NACDA) and Special Programme for Food Security (SPFFS)) which the country has pursued for the last 2 decades to yield the anticipated increase in food production despite the huge sums of money (<2.0 billion US and spent on it (Bab and Singh, 1998). The programmes has traverses through phases – Phase I, II and III. The third National Fadama Development Project III is a follow up of National Fadama Development Project II. The basic strategic approach is Commodity Driven Development (CDD) which has proven to be one of the most valuable approaches to Rural Development Objective (RDO) is to increase the income of rural people through the use of land and water resources on a sustainable basis, thereby reducing rural poverty, increase food security and contribute to the achievement of agricultural transformation agenda of the present government, (Environment Social Audit Report, 2014)With projections made by the World Bank that poverty in Nigeria will increase by two-thirds, and the possibility of 60 % of the population living below the poverty line in ten years, the government of Nigeria adopted the concept of poverty alleviation as a major thrust of its annual budget since 1996. In order to raise the standard of living of the people and instill in the poor people some sense of belonging, Several Nigerian governments adopted and implemented various poverty alleviation programmes including the National Fadama Development Project (NFDP). The project come into being and is operated in 18 sluts (including Akwa Ibom State) supported by World Bank and African Development Bank (ADB). The objectives of the project were to: increase the incomes of users of rural land and water resources and a sustainable basis, increase their incomes and reduction of rural poverty, increase food security and contribute to the achievement of key Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) such as eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, promote gender equality and empower women, ensure environmental sustainability and develop a global partnership for development.

Fadama III Project and Poverty Reduction in Akwa Ibom State

Previous studies (Edet, 2014; Umoh, 2011 and Oladunni, (2014) reported that poverty is pervasive in Nigeria despite the abundant resources that should have translated to a better living standard. The incidence of poverty has generally been on the rise since 1980, with two significant dips during 1985 - 1992 and 1996 – 2004. Focusing on the most recent surveys (1996-2004), the National Poverty Survey (NPS) incidence was 65.6 % in 1996 and declined to 54.4 % in 2004. Similarly, in 1996, the poverty depth (P1) and poverty severity (P2) were 0.36 and 0.21, but these decreased respectively to 0.23 and 0.12 in 2004. Estimates of inequality also indicate that Nigeria has more equal distribution of income than Ethiopia, Madagascar, India, and Niger. Further analysis suggests that poverty in Nigeria is predominantly a rural phenomenon, with rural poverty increasing from 28.3 % in 1980 to 63.8 % in

2004. However, the proportion of the urban poor also rose from 17.2 % in 1980 to 43.1 % in 2004. Poverty is especially severe in rural areas, where up to 80 % of the population lives below the poverty line and social services and infrastructure are limited. The country’s poor rural women and men depend on agriculture for food and income. As indicated in mid-line study, Fadama III is one of such efforts aim at poverty reduction. Along with the Federal government of Nigeria, participating states, Fadama III is funded by World Bank (World Bank, 1996). The project was targeted toward poverty reduction and enhance the capacities of the Fadama User’s Groups (FUGs), which are beneficiary groups and aggregate into Fadama Community Associations (FCAs), Edet, 2014). The Project Development Objective (PDO) of Fadama III is to increase the incomes of users of rural land and water resources on a sustainable basis. The key indicators and target of the PDO were shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Project Key Indicators and Target in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

| S/N | Key Indicators | Targets |
|-----|---|--|
| 1. | Income of participating households | 75 % of Fadama user households who benefit directly from project-supported activities have increased their average real incomes by at least 40 % by 2013 and beyond. |
| 2. | Yields of primary agricultural products of participating households | 20 % increase in yield of primary agricultural products of participating households. |
| 3. | Savings of participating groups | 10 % of net earnings from income-generating activities of the FUGs is saved annually (with effect from year 2) |
| 4. | Physical verification of operations | Maintenance and utilisation of assets at mid-term and at project closing by surveys of random selected sites. |
| 5. | Surveys at mid-term and at project closing | 75 % of Fadama users are satisfied with operations, maintenance and utilisation of community owned infrastructure and capital assets acquired through the project. |

Source: End-term ToR, (2016)

In addition, support to the non-oil (agricultural) sectors through the development of productive infrastructure has enhanced agricultural productivity and diversification of livelihoods and facilitated finances and implementation of four critical

components designed to transfer financial and technical resources from the funding affiliates to the targeted beneficiaries –FCAs. The four critical components of Fadama III project implemented were stated in Table 2.

Table 2: Fadama III Key Project Components in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

| S/N | Components | Sub-components |
|-----|--|---|
| 1. | Capacity building, communications and Information support | Capacity building support for community organisations Capacity building for LGAs Communications and information support |
| 2. | Small-scale community owned infrastructure | Rehabilitation and/or construction of feeder and roads, culverts and small bridges. Rural markets and infrastructure for sustainable natural resource management include improved conservation of soils and agronomic practices, water harvesting techniques and where feasible, integration of this infrastructure into local/community land-use planning supported under component 1. |
| 3. | Advisory services and input support | Delivery of advisory services responsive to the needs of Fadama users in production, processing, marketing and supply chain management and input support, including training and TA to promote savings schemes within FUGs and to develop linkages between farmer's organisations and financial institutions. |
| 4. | Support to the ADPs and sponsored research | Support to advisory service providers, quality assurance of advisory services. Training of facilitators, sponsored research and on-farm demonstrations, training of extension staff |
| 5. | Asset acquisition for individual Fadama User Groups (FUGs)/Economic interest groups (EIGs) | |
| 6. | Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation | |

Source: Fadama 111 ToR, (2016)

Materials and Methods

Study Area

This study was carried out in Akwa Ibom State. The state is an off-shoot of Cross River State and was created in 1987 by the military administration of General Badamosi Babangida. It has an estimated land area of 8412 km² with a population of over 3.2 million and its population grows at 2.83 % (Ukpong, 2006) and Edet, (2014). The State came with the feature that characterized it: largely agrarian civil service orientation with high level of poverty. Some studies have shown that Akwa Ibom State is rated as the 7th poorest state of the 36 states in Nigeria including FCT. Unemployment rate still remains very high up to 60 % despite the status of oil producing state in Nigeria and agriculture remains the widest and largest sector of the State economy (Umoh, 2011). The state falls within the tropical zone with a dominant vegetation of green foliage of trees and shrubs, which constitute a chunk of the nation's oil-palm belt. The main economic activities include crude oil production,

gas exploration, mineral exploitation, fishing, farming, trading, artisanship and white-collar services. It has a robust public sector, with a growing private sector. It is a major oil and gas producing area, contributing over 45 % of Nigeria's oil production. The ecological condition (presence of swamps) favours the growing of crops and the sector in general has a high potential for further growth. The State is among the 36 states that have benefited from Fadama project in Nigeria for the first time. Other features found in the study area include vast finest resources including palm oil, cassava, sea food, raffia palms, rubber, and wood citrus and vast deposit of industrial materials including silica, sand, gravel, limestone, clay, sodium chloride, crude oil and natural gas. Blessed with abundant aquatic resources including fish, crayfish, clam and periwinkle etc. Edet (2014) stated that, despite the dominance of petroleum as a source of revenue to the state, agriculture remains the backbone of the economy as it is the major sector that engages majority of the rural poor.

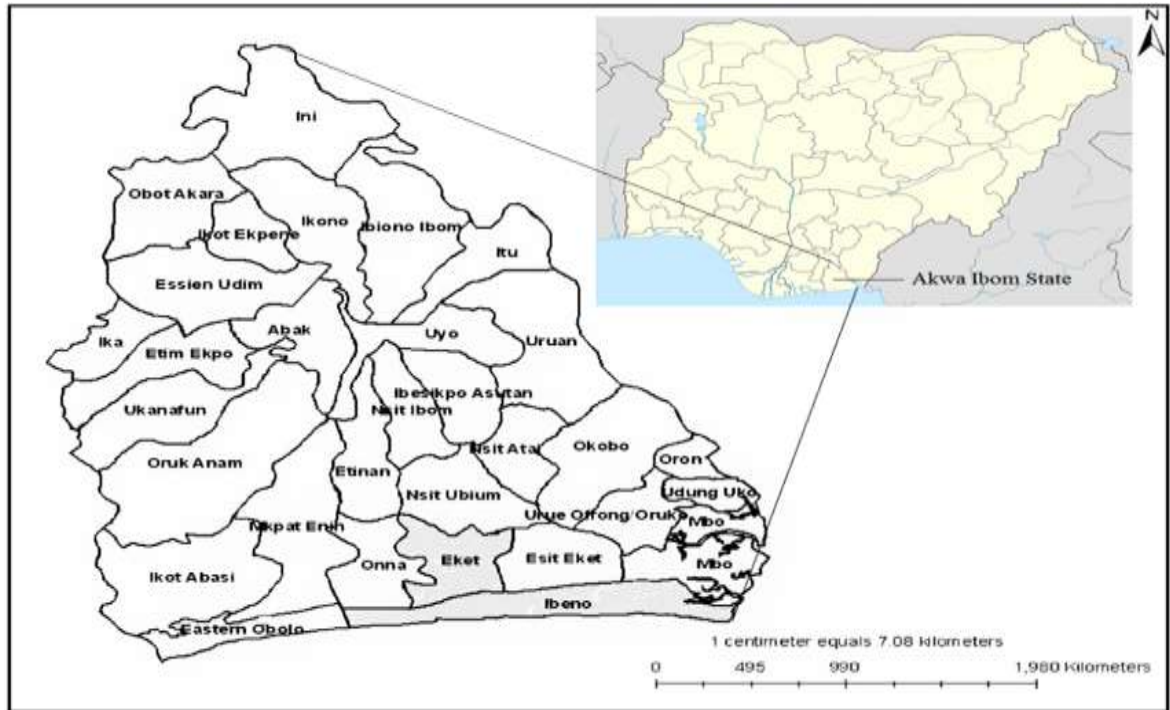


Fig. 1: Map of Akwa Ibom showing the study Area

Source: <https://www.google.com/search.mapofakwaibomstate>

Population of study, sampling technique and data collection

The study targeted Fadama and non-Fadama households in the study area. The data used in this study was collected from participating farm households (both control and treatment) as well as community associations and economic interest groups. Following the baseline and mid-term data points. Simple random sampling technique was used for the selection of respondents for the study. Panel data were collected on household income and poverty status proxy by income. The study also relied on secondary information sources (baseline and mid-term reports) regarding the baseline and mid-term studies for a robust comparison and changes.

Analytical Technique

The quasi-experimental impact assessment approach. The study deployed quasi-experimental approach. The approach demands disaggregation across all the components: capacity building, small-sale community owned advisory services, input support and support to Agricultural Development Programmes and sponsored research. The use of panel data made up of baseline and midline data with quasi-experimental design were employed in this study. The quasi-experiment is implicated when randomization is often impractical or impossible and no control over extraneous variables.

Model Specification

The Heckman’s Difference –in- Difference was used to capture (assess) the impact of Fadama III programme in the State. The model developed by Heckman (1985) and used by Smith (2001), Edet 2014 and Oludanni, 2014 was stated implicitly as follows:

$$\Delta Y = E(Y_0 - Y_1 // D = 1) = E(Y_1 // D = 1) - E(Y_0 // D=1) \text{ ----- (1)}$$

Where:

E (Y0 –Y1//D = 1) is expected changes (baseline, mid-term and end-term),

E (Y1 –Y0//D = 1) is outcome Y in baseline, mid-term and end-term periods for the beneficiaries (treatment), E(Y0//D=1) is outcome Y in baseline, mid-term and end-term periods 1, 2 and 3 for the non-beneficiaries (control). Generally, following Oladunni (2014), submissions let D =1 if an individual is treated (participated) and D = 0 otherwise (for non-participants). The definition of the outcome for the treated (D = 1) is Y1 and the outcome for non-treated subject (D = 0) is Y0. Most impact studies (Rubin, 1978, Edet, 2014; Oludanni 2014 used matching method (kernel matching, near neighbour matching and double difference matching methods) for data analysis. The essence was to draw impacts where it exists in other to achieve the goal of identifying the average treatment effect on the treated, which is the effect of Fadama 111 project on beneficiaries in the study area.

Results and Discussion

Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents.

Table 3 presented the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents. Result revealed that respondents with age range of 41-60 years and 60 years and above were 36 % and 25 % respectively. Those with ages less than or equal to 25 years were represented by 16 %. This implied that most farming households were aged including youth of active age group. This result is in tandem with the programme objective of encouraging youth participation in agriculture. Most of the respondents (39 %) were males while 61 % were female participants whose major occupation (52 %) was farming, 29 % were into trading, 13 % were artisans, 6 % were public servants, while 3 % participated in off-farm related occupations. In terms of household size, 54 % of the respondents had household size of 4 to 6 persons, 20 % and 14 % had ≤ 3 and 7 to 9 persons respectively. It can be deduced that, over 60 % of farming families (including dependent relatives) had 4 to 9 persons per household. Only 12 % of the respondents had 10 persons. Result further revealed that, respondents who owned processing facilities were 43 % while 38 % of the respondents those who owned fabricated machines purchased as a result of support from Fadama project financing. 20 % and 9 % of processing facilities were locally made and rent/lease respectively. It implied that most of the respondents process their farm produce through the support received from Fadama III programme in the State. This had help improve the value of agricultural produce and additional income as well as employment to participating Fadama households and non-beneficiaries. Over 40 % of the beneficiaries had benefited from advisory services of the programme, 37 % had indirectly acquired skills through non-formal training (ranging from land preparation to marketing including proper record keeping), 14 % had formal training on agricultural business management, group formation and dynamic management, donor funding management, among others. The study deduced that, skill development was higher among participating Fadama III households due to non-formal and advisory services components of Fadama III programme than the non-Fadama III beneficiaries. This result is consistent with Edet, (2014) that there is a significant impact of training programme on the general living conditions of the rural women.

Table 3: Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

| Variables (Age) | Freq. | % |
|------------------------|-------|----|
| ≤ 25 | 25 | 16 |
| 26 - 40 | 37 | 23 |
| 41 - 60 | 58 | 36 |
| ≥ 61 | 40 | 25 |
| Sex | | |
| Male | 62 | 39 |
| Female | 98 | 61 |
| Occupation* | | |
| Farming | 84 | 52 |
| Trading | 47 | 29 |
| Artisanry | 21 | 13 |
| public service | 10 | 6 |
| others | 5 | 3 |
| Household size | | |
| ≤ 3 | 32 | 20 |
| 4 to 6 | 86 | 54 |
| 7 to 9 | 22 | 14 |
| ≥ 10 | 19 | 12 |
| Processing facilities | | |
| Owned | 68 | 43 |
| Rent/leased | 15 | 9 |
| Locally made | 32 | 20 |
| Fabricated machines | 45 | 38 |
| Educational Attainment | | |
| Formal | 23 | 14 |
| Non-formal | 59 | 37 |
| Advisory Services | 78 | 49 |

Source: Field Survey (2018)

Monthly income of the respondents was presented in Fig. 2. The low-income category was 11 % showing that participating Fadama farmers earned up to 25,000 a month. This result contrasts with several other studies that reported a relatively low income of rural farmers (Udo, 2014 and Asa and Ubong, 2016). Result showed that most (42 %) of the respondents earned from 26,000 to 50,000 per month. 21 % earned between 51,000 to 75,000. Those ranked as high-income earners of 76,000 to 90,000 and above 91 % were represented by 16 % and 10 % respectively. It can be deduced that, Fadama III financing in Akwa Ibom State had contributed to upsurge income thereby reducing poverty, scale-up of investment in farming, creation of employment as a result of value addition emanating from huge financing in crop and livestock sub-sectors.

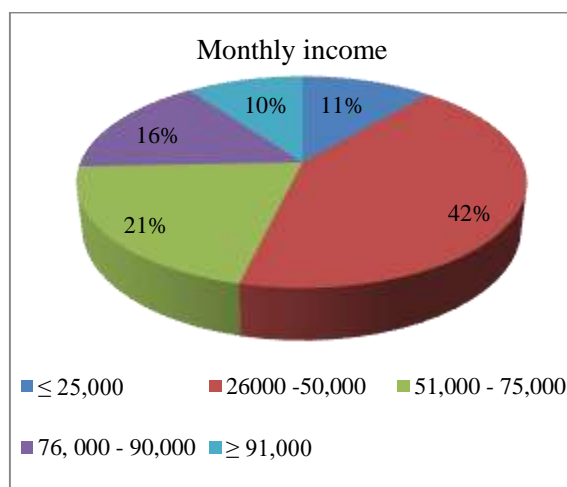


Fig. 2: Income status of the respondents in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria
Source: Field Survey (2018)

Impact of Fadama III financing on beneficiary’s income

Impact of Fadama III Table 4 showed the agricultural income of beneficiaries of Fadama III project in Akwa Ibom State using the matching method. It suggested that Fadama III activities contributed significantly to income of the beneficiaries. In monetary terms, the project had led to over ₦620,000 representing 57 % increase in agricultural income of the households at 5 % and 1 % levels of significance in both kernel and nearest neighbour outcomes respectively. In general, the project had led to increase in household’s income and by extension helped to improve the living conditions of the beneficiaries. This result is consistent with studies in other states implementing the project in Nigeria (Umoh, 2006 and 2011, Ja’afar et al., 2013, Oladunni 2014, Udo, 2014 and Asa and Ubong, 2016).

Table 4: Impact Fadama III financing on agricultural income in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

| Variable | Matching Method | |
|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Kernel | Nearest Neighbor |
| Beneficiaries | 621274.9 (376148.5)** | 621274.9 (365442.7)* |
| Constant | 5769713.9 (376148.5) | 5769713.9 (184533.8) |

Source: Field Survey (2018)

The result presented in Table 5 showed beneficiaries’ income from non-agricultural activities. At 1 % level of significance, non-agricultural activities had contributed to the growth of agricultural household income by 10 %. However, income from agricultural activities contributed

significantly to household income. As presented above over ₦43,000 was received as non-agricultural income of Fadama III beneficiaries in the State.

Table 5: Impact of Fadama III on non-agricultural income in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

| Variable | Matching Method | |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Kernel | Nearest Neighbor |
| Beneficiaries | 435330 (746558.6)** | 435330.8 (746553.5)* |
| Constant | 387166.5 (35416) | 387166.5 (353665.8) |

Source: Field Survey (2018)

Table 6 showed the homogenous impact of Fadama III on household income. The result showed a progression from ₦103,316.9 in 2011 (baseline) to ₦139,179.1 during mid-term survey in 2014 and ₦332,390 during end-term in 2016. The result showed a marginal (small) increase in income of ₦35,862.2. At end-term the income position of participating households is ₦332,390 representing an increase of ₦193,211. The upsurge of income during the end-term review was in line with the agricultural vegetation. The increase was attributed to full implementation of the project and the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms from both the supply side (Fadama implementation team and the response from the demand side (beneficiaries). The implications that were drawn from this result was that, Fadama III project had impacted in every facet (income, asset acquisition, value addition and poverty reduction) of the beneficiaries. This result is in line with Oladunni (2014) that, more than 75 % of Fadama user household who benefited directly from project supported activities would have increased their average real incomes (agricultural and non-agricultural) by more than 57 % target which is higher than 40 % purposed for 2013.

Table 6: Fadama III household income (homogeneous impact) in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

| Variable | Matching Method | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|
| | Baseline | Mid-term | Mid-term | % increase |
| Household Income | 103,316.9 (1.7)** | 139,179.1 (2.6)** | 332,390 (2.7)* | 57 |

Source: Field Survey (2018)

Impact of Fadama III Project on Poverty Reduction

The results presented in Tables 7a, 7b and 7c showed poverty levels of the beneficiaries as measured by \$1, \$1.25 and \$2.5 poverty lines. It revealed that there was 13 % poverty during the baseline study of the programme. Subsequently, the poverty level increased from 13 % to 35 % during the mid-term project implementation. The increase might have been caused by social factors such as weak social capital, low contribution of advisory services, underdeveloped infrastructures, low capital formation, among others. The end-term result shows

a reduction in poverty among the beneficiaries by 22 % (about 13 % difference from the mid-term result). Among other positive change brought about by Fadama III project in the state is the reduction in poverty from 35 % during the mid-term review to 12 % (22 % less than mid-term and 1 % less than baseline conditions) during the end-term study. This result is consistent with the programme objective of reducing poverty by 45 % and improvement in the living standards of the beneficiaries. Onwumere et al., (2016) showed that value addition in the poultry value chain significantly reduced the poverty status of the households.

Table 7a: Poverty level at \$1 Poverty line in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

| Variables | Control | | Treatment | | All | |
|-----------|----------|---------|-----------|--------|----------|---------|
| | Non-poor | Poor | Non-poor | Poor | Non-poor | Poor |
| Baseline | 207 (87) | 30 (13) | 11 (79) | 3 (21) | 218 (87) | 33 (13) |
| Mid-term | 155 (65) | 82 (35) | 7 (50) | 7 (50) | 162 (65) | 89 (35) |
| End-term | 184 (78) | 53 (22) | 9 (64) | 5 (36) | 193 (78) | 58 (22) |

Source: Field studies (2018)

Figures in parentheses are percentages

Table 7b: Poverty level at the \$1.5 poverty line in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

| Variables | Control | | Treatment | | All | |
|-----------|----------|---------|-----------|--------|----------|---------|
| | Non-poor | Poor | Non-poor | Poor | Non-poor | Poor |
| Baseline | 207 (87) | 30 (13) | 11 (79) | 3 (21) | 218 (87) | 33 (13) |
| Mid-line | 153 (65) | 84 (35) | 7 (50) | 7 (50) | 160 (84) | 91 (36) |
| End-term | 187 (78) | 50 (22) | 9 (64) | 5 (36) | 196 (78) | 55 (22) |

Source: Field Study (2018)

Figures in parentheses are percentages

Table 7c: Poverty level at \$1.25 poverty line in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

| Variables | Control | | Treatment | | All | |
|-----------|----------|---------|-----------|--------|----------|---------|
| | Non-poor | Poor | Non-poor | Poor | Non-poor | Poor |
| Baseline | 207 (87) | 30 (13) | 11 (79) | 3 (21) | 218 (87) | 33 (13) |
| Mid-line | 155 (65) | 82 (35) | 7 (50) | 7 (50) | 162 (65) | 89 (35) |
| End-term | 184 (78) | 53 (22) | 9 (64) | 5 (36) | 193 (78) | 58 (22) |

Source: Field Study (2018)

Figures in parentheses are percentages

Conclusion and recommendations

The study revealed that Akwa Ibom State showed a significant reduction of poverty especially among the poor and vulnerable groups including women and children as expected. In the areas of income generation, progression and sustainably, the project had helped improve the income of the beneficiaries both in agriculture and non-agricultural activities. Fadama III had positively impacted on the beneficiaries in the following areas: asset acquisition, job creation, savings mobilization, capacity building and infrastructures. More farmers were now able to serve and acquired inputs, skills were developed and jobs created for both the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of Fadama III project in the State. The recommendations among others are that community structures and associations formed should be properly strengthened and developed and exit strategy plans as well as effective gender, mainstreaming and policy and programme consistency should be promoted.

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