

Impact of Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) on the Farmers in Ardo-kola Local Government Area of Taraba State, Nigeria

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Abstract: *The study was conducted on the impact of Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) on farmers in Ardo-kola Local Government area of Taraba State. The specific objectives of the study were to; describe the socio-economic characteristics of the framers, determine the impact of VCDP on the livelihood of the farmers and identify problems militating against VCDP in the study area. Data were collected from 90 respondent's randomly selected using structural questionnaire and were analyzed using frequency, percentage and t – test. The analysis on the socio-economic characteristics shows that majorities (96.7%) of the respondents were youth, (77.8%) were men and (72.2%) were married. Most (94.4%) attended one form of education or the other. Majorities (77.8%) were small scale farmers and (83.4%) has house hold size below 11 persons. The result on impact of VCDP on the livelihood of the farmers shows that VCDP has significant impact on the livelihood of the farmers in the study area. This was based on t – calculated value (3.18) which was greater than t – tabulated value (2.048). Therefore we reject the null hypothesis (Ho) which stated that VCDP has no significant impact on the livelihood of the farmers and accept the alternative hypothesis (Ha) which stated that VCDP has significant impact on the livelihood of the farmers. This implies that through VCDP the yield and income of the farmers has been increase, also the farmer has acquired more assets such as (house, motorcycle, tricycle, and land e.t.c).Recommendations were made based on the findings of this study: The government should bring lasting solutions to this farmers/pastoral conflict and farmers/pastoral should accept dialogue and forgive one another for peace to reign. Farmers / facilitators should avoid corruption.*

Keywords: *Impact, VCDP and Farmers*

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I. Introduction

The Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) emerged from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) with Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) covering the 2010-2015 periods (IFAD, 2012). This COSOP built on the recommendations of the Country Programme Evaluation (CPE) carried out in 2008/2009 April, 2009 by the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) and IFAD. The CPE recommendations focusing on future IFAD interventions on Agriculture, with emphasis on enhancing productivity and access to market (Fumilola, 2018). According to IFAD, (2012), the Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) is a six-year development initiative of the federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) and IFAD programme that is improving cassava and rice value chain for small farmers in the six states of Anambra, Benue, Ebonyi, Niger, Ogun and Taraba. The Value Chain Development programme (VCDP) is well anchored in Nigeria governments vision for agricultural transformation through commodity value chain approach, with enhancing productivity and access to market ([vcdpnigeria.org/? page -1-d=9](http://vcdpnigeria.org/?page=1-d=9)).The primary target groups for the programme are poor rural households engaged in the cassava and rice value chains. This include 15,000 smallholder farmer cultivating up to five hectares of land devoted to cassava and rice, 1680 small-scale processors and 800 traders as direct beneficiaries with emphasis on women and youth and 22,000 indirect beneficiaries benefiting largely from infrastructure improvements,amongstother things. (Mgbenka and Mbah, 2016).Despite the efforts of IFAD and FGN with the laudable objectives of the programme (VCDP) to increase income, food security and access to market of the targeted farmers but the reverse is the case. Therefore this study is imperative to find out whether the targeted farmers in the study area really benefited from the programme or not. The specific objectives wereto;

- i. describe the socio-economic characteristics of the beneficiaries.
- ii. determine the impact of VCDP on the livelihood of the beneficiaries in the study area.
- iii. identify the constraints associated with VCDP in the study area.

II. Methodology

2.1 The Study Area

Ardo-kola local government is one of the sixteen (16) local government areas of Taraba State, Nigeria. It lies between latitude 8⁰⁰ and 9⁴⁰ North of the equator and between longitude 11⁰⁰ and 12⁰⁰ east of the Greenwich meridian. Its headquarter is in the town of Sunkani. Its shares common boundaries with Lau, Jalingo and Yorro Local Government Area, to the North, to the east by Bali Local Government Area, to South by Gassol Local Government Area and to the West by Karim-lamido Local Government Area. The study area occupies a land mass of approximately 2,262 KM². It has a population of about 86,921 people (NPC, 2006). The study area has an average annual rainfall of 1260mm with a temperature of about 20⁰C-32⁰ C. It is characterized by dry and rainy season common to tropical region. The ethnic groups of the study area are: Kona, Mumuye, Hausa, Fulani, Jenjo and Yandang among others. Hausa language is the predominant language in the area as a medium of communications and little Fulani for social and economics interaction. Economy activities in the study area include; Agriculture, poultry, cloth weaving, cattle rearing mat making and blacksmithing.

2.2 Method of Data Collection

Both primary and secondary sources of data were used for this study.

2.3 Sampling Techniques

The beneficiaries of the programme (VCDP) constituted the population of this study. Simple random sampling techniques was employed for the selection of the respondents. Three wards were being randomly selected out of the Ten (10) wards in the study area namely: Jauro-yinu, Mayo-Ranewo and Sunkani ward. Then thirty (30) beneficiaries were randomly drawn from each ward to give a sample size of 90 respondents for the study.

2.4 Method of Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics and inferential statistics were be used for the analysis of this study. Descriptive statistics such as frequency table and simple percentage were used to capture objective i, and iii while T-test was used to analyzed objective ii.

t-test is expressed mathematically as;

$$t = \frac{\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2}{\text{Ste } \bar{x}}$$

Where,

t = T-test

\bar{x}_1 = amount of yield, income and asset before the VCDP

\bar{x}_2 = amount of yield, income and asset after the VCDP

ste x \equiv Standard error

III. Results And Discussion

Socio-economic Characteristics of the farmers

The result from Table:1 shows that (55.6%) of the respondents were between the age of (30 - 39) years, (27.8%) were between the age of (20 -29) years, (13.3%) were between the age of (40 - 49) years while (3.3%) were between the age of 50 and above respectively. This indicated that majority (96.7%) of the respondents were youths who were actively involved in the VCDP programme. The result from table:1 shows that (77.8%) were male while (22.2%) were female. This indicated that majority (77.8%) of the respondents were male than female. The result from table:1 shows that (72.2%) were married while (27.8%) were single. This revealed that majority (72.2%) of the respondents were married persons. The result from table:1 shows that (50%) attended primary education, (27.8%) attended secondary education, (16.6%) attended tertiary education while (5.6%) do not attend any formal education. This indicated that majority (94.4%) of the respondents attended one form of formal education or the other. The result from table:1, shows that (55.6%) were farmers, (33.3%) were traders while (11.1%) were civil servants. This indicated that majority (55.6%) of the respondents were farmers. The result from table:1 shows that (77.8%) has farm size between 1 5 ha, (20%) has farm size between 6 – 10 ha while (2.2%) has farm size between 11 and above. This revealed that majority (77.8%) of the respondents were small scale farmers. The result fromtable:1 also shows that (55.6%) has house hold size between 6 – 10 persons, (27.7%) has house hold size below 5 while (16.6%) has house hold size 11 and above. This indicated that majority (83.4%) has house hold size below 11 persons in the study area.

T – test analysis to determine the impact of VCDP on the livelihood of the farmers.

The result from Table:2 shows that the calculated t – value was (3.18) while the tabulated t – value was (2.048). Since the calculated t – value was greater than tabulated t – value we reject the null hypothesis (Ho) which stated that VCDP has no significant impact on the livelihood of the farmers and Accept the Alternative (Ha) hypothesis which stated that VCDP has significant impact on the livelihood of the farmers. This indicated that value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) has impacted positively on the livelihood of the farmers in the study area. This implies that through VCDP yields and income of the farmer has increased, also the farmers acquired more assets (such as house, motorcycle, land and tricycle e.t.c). This finding Concorderd with the report of the Nigerian Expression (TNE, 2018)

Problems associated with VCDP in the study Area

The result from table:3 shows the various problems associated with VCDP in the study area; (50%) opined on persistent farmers/pastoral conflict, (27.8%) opined on corruption, (16.6%) opined on lately distribution of farm inputs while (5.6%) opined on delayed in payment of counterpart funds by both federal and state government. This indicated that persistent farmers/pastoral conflict and corruption were the major problems militating against value chain Development programme (VCDP) in the Study area.

IV. Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study VCDP have impacted positively on the livelihood of the farmers in terms of their yield, income and assets. But the major problems associated with VCDP were persistent farmers/pastoral conflict and corruption.The recommendations were made that the government should bring lasting solutions to this farmers/pastoral conflict in the study Area and farmers/pastoral should accept dialogue and forgive one another for peace to reign. Farmers / facilitators should avoid corruption.

Table1:Socio-economic Characteristics of the respondents (n=90)

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age (years)		
20 – 29	25	27.8
30 – 39	50	55.6
40 – 49	12	13.3
50 and above	03	3.3
Gender		
Male	70	77.8
Female	20	22.2
Marital status		
Married	65	72.2
Single	25	27.8
Educational status		
Non – formal education	05	5.6
Primary education	45	50
Secondary education	25	27.8
Tertiary education	15	16.6
Main Occupation		
Farming	50	55.6
Trading	30	33.3
Civil servant	10	11.1
Farm size (Ha)		
1 – 5	70	77.8
6 - 10	18	20
11 and above	02	2.2
House hold size		
Below 5	25	27,8
6 – 10	50	55.6
11 and above	15	16.6

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

Table:2 T–test analysis to determine the impact of VCDP on the livelihood of the farmers.

Variation	Calculated value	Tabulated value	DF = at 0.005%	Decision Rule
VCDP has no Significant impact on the livelihood of the farmers.	3.18	2.048	3	Reject the Ho and Accept the Ha

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table:3problems associated with VCDP in the study Area

Variable	Frequency	Percentages %
persistent farmers/pastoral conflict,	45	50
corruption	25	27.8
lately distribution of farm inputs	15	16.6
delayed in payment of counterpart funds by both federal and state government.	05	5.5
Total		100

Source :Field survey, 2019.

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