

Assessment of the Perceptions of Farmers on the Performance of *Fadama III* Activities in Niger Delta Area of Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

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The study, assessed the farmers perceptions on the performance of *Fadama III* activities in Niger Delta area of Nigeria. The population of the study covered Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa and Delta States Fadama III farmers involved in cassava, poultry and fisheries production. A multistage sampling procedure was used to select 36 Fadama Users' Groups (FUGs) from which farmers were randomly selected to obtain a sample size of 360 beneficiaries. Primary data were used for the study, which were collected using a structured questionnaire administered to the respondents. Data collected were subjected to mean computation and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The results from specific States showed that beneficiaries' perceptions on programme/activities achieved the following perception pooled means having Akwa Ibom, 2.83; Delta, 2.68 and Bayelsa, 2.66. In general, the satisfaction level attained a grand mean of 2.72. This was positive, there was no significant variation ($p < 0.05$) in the perception of the *Fadama III* agricultural projects beneficiaries about achievement of project objectives in the implementation of activities among the three Niger Delta States. Generally, it was concluded that among others, beneficiaries were satisfied with gender inclusiveness of the programme and good commitment of local facilitators leading to increase in income generation. Beneficiaries were however not satisfied with *Fadama III* officers conducted of quarterly monitoring and evaluation activities, and low responses to farmers' problems by *Fadama III* officers. The study recommended that *Fadama* field staff should conduct regular quarterly monitoring and evaluation activities to meet beneficiaries' needs, while prompt responses should be given to farmers' problems and more provision of inputs in terms of quality to ensure durability of provisions for farming activities such that achievable goals, tasks and targets should be given to *Fadama III* Officer for effective execution.

1.0 Introduction

The World Bank has contributed enormously to agricultural development in Nigeria. The Niger Delta area of Nigeria has witnessed the development of agricultural sector through the introduction and implementation of *Fadama* activities over the years (World Bank, 2018). *Fadama* activities cut across all types of farming based on outcome of beneficiaries' need assessments survey. Ovharhe (2019) asserted that *Fadama III* agricultural activities in the Niger Delta States included supply of various

arable and permanent crops, poultry, piggery, rabbitry, goat keeping, bee keeping, and fisheries. The *Fadama III* project beneficiaries are farmers and resident community members in farming related businesses.

Fadama III project activities for human resource development include advisory services and capacity building. Farmers' performance depends on the support from *Fadama III* Advisory Service Activity (ASA). ASA is a service that delivers information to



Fadama Users on current agro- technological details with its associated input, production and markets. It is designed to guide and persuade farmers to adopt more productive and profitable practices in their income generating activities using educational means. The goal of advisory service is to enable Fadama User Groups (FUGs) participating in the project to adopt productivity- enhancing techniques in order to overcome major constraints of low productivity and income of their Fadama enterprises. The achievement of the output objective will be measured by the percentage of Fadama users who succeed in improving their production and marketing practices as a result of the advisory services utilized under the Project. Advisory Service Activities are carried out by local facilitators (LF), service providers (SP), ad hoc NGO personnel and consultants (National Fadama Development Plan, 2009). The LFs are similar to the Extension Agents of the ADPs.

Service providers are one of the important stakeholders in Fadama III implementation. They are a category of stakeholders that render services to primary stakeholders (FUGs/FCAs) in areas like advisory service in related agricultural enterprises, capacity building, performance, small scale owned infrastructure, agri-business management, human, material and environmental resources management. An additional essence of the Fadama agricultural project is to encourage private/community driven development where the community with the assistance of technical experts (i.e. Service Providers) will take lead of development (National Fadama Development Plan, 2009).

Despite the design of the Fadama III project to provide farm inputs, assets, capacity building and advisory services to boost agriculture and income generation in most Nigeria communities, there are still issues with low agricultural production among the small scale farmers, insufficient use of available human and material resources (Ovharhe, 2014 and Onugu, Gbughemobi and Okonkwo, 2016).

In a bid to scrutinize the activities of Fadama III in the Niger Delta and to position their beneficiaries' perceptions, this study became essential in bridging any existing gaps of perceived low agricultural production, identify whether project beneficiaries are satisfied or not satisfied and to ensure sound

contributions to exiting knowledge.

The aim of the study was to assess the perceptions of farmers on the performance of Fadama III programme in the Niger Delta Area of Nigeria. Specifically, the objectives were to determine the activities that constitute the *Fadama III* programme and, ascertain the perceptions of farmers on the performance of *Fadama III* programme.

The study was guided by a null hypothesis (Ho) which stated that there is no significant variation in the perception of farmers on the performance of *Fadama III* programme among states in the Niger Delta Area.

Related theoretical and empirical issues

Fadama III Projects is known as a donor of agricultural inputs and assets to increase farm outputs and income of beneficiaries. There are needs to examine the nexus upon which its theoretical and empirical issues are built.

The Project Objectives, Inputs, Outputs, Effect, Impact and Beneficiary (POIOEIB) Model

The impact of agricultural development/extension projects on the socioeconomic activities of the entire farm-families could be evaluated through the application of POIOEIB model (Ajayi, 2005). He noted that the POIOEIB model is a simplified complete method of studying the socioeconomic impact of an extension programme on a given clientele. The model is compactible to a wide variety of development interventions. It provides simple and valid method by which extension agent evaluate the socio-economic impact of a programme on the participant farm families.

The model assumed that before the intervention of a development programme in a given area, a base-line survey was carried out to discover felt needs and thereafter, some achievable objectives were developed. The intervention starts with the project inputs (PI). The PI are the resources needed for the operation of the project, for example, capital, manpower, goods and services, training, practices, systems and technologies to be advanced by the project's management unit. The project inputs will generate certain project outputs (that is, the specific physical products which the project is likely to

produce from its inputs so as to accomplish the pre-determined objectives, for example, improved seeds, fertilizers, health facilities, tractor hiring services, irrigation facilities, road construction facilities, schools, rural banking system, marketing facilities and proportion of farmers who use or are to use these facilities).

The use of project output (PO) generates certain effects, called project effects (PE). That is, the outcome of the use of the project outputs over a given time, for example, purchase of better seeds, increase in yield, purchasing of farm equipment/tools, increase in usage of health facilities, improve transportation and marketing activities etc. The adoption of the project outputs over a period of time will generate some types of socio-economic impact (PI) being outcomes of the project effect on the farmers (that is, the expressions of the results actually produced by the project, for example, high income, improved nutritional status, better housing, transportation and educational facilities, better marketing system, agricultural knowledge, skills and desirable attitude towards agriculture as a profession). The farm-families who are directly concerned with the extension activities of the project are called the project beneficiaries (PB). They are the project participants who are expected to adopt the recommended improved systems, practices and technologies introduced by the project (Ajayi, 1996).

Research Methods

A purposive sampling technique was done to select the three states (from the nine states of the Niger Delta Area in the south-south region) mostly involved in the surveyed enterprises. The population of the study comprised of all Fadama III farmers involved in cassava, poultry and fisheries production in Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa and Delta States of Nigeria. Akwa Ibom is a state in Nigeria named after the Qua Iboe River. It is located in the coastal South-Southern part of the country, lying between latitudes 4°32'N and 5°33'N North, and longitudes 7°25' and 8°25' East. Bayelsa State is located via the Global Position System (GPS) coordinates between 4°45'N 6°05'E and 4.75°N 6.083°E (C-GIDD, 2008). While Delta State via the Global Position System (GPS) coordinates are between 5°30'N 6°00'E and 5°30'T51 6°00'E (C-GIDD, 2008)

The lists of beneficiaries (Table 1) from various

Fadama Community Associations (FCAs) and Fadama Users Group (FUGs) were obtained from the various State Fadama Coordinating Offices (SFCOs). A random sampling was used to select three states from the nine Niger Delta states. From the list of farmers registered with the three SFCOs, a multistage sampling procedure was used to select 12 FUGs from four Local Government Areas (LGAs) in each state resulting to 36 FUGs across the three States. From each group, six cassavas, three poultry and three aquaculture FUGs were randomly selected per State. Out of the 36 FUGs, randomly selected farmers per State were 70 cassava farmers, 30 poultry farmers and 20 fish farmers respondents resulting to a sample size of 360 farmers (Table 1).

Table 1: Distribution of States, LGAs, FUGs and Farmers in the sampled in the study

S/N	State Stage 1	LGAs Stage 2	FUGs Stage 3	Farmers/ Group	Total
A	Akwa	4	6C 3P 3F	70C 30P 20F	120
B	Ibom Bayelsa	4	6C 3P 3F	70C 30P 20F 70C 30P 20F	120
C	Delta	4	6C 3P 3F		120
Total					360
	3	12	36	360	respondents

Note: C = Cassava; P = Poultry; F = Fisheries enterprises

Primary data were used for the study, which were collected using a structured questionnaire administered to 360 respondents.

Primary data were used for the study, which were collected using a structured questionnaire administered to 120 respondents. Farmers' perception on Fadama III activities in relation to project objectives was measured using a rating scale. A Likert-type scale was used to measure farmers' perception of satisfaction. Various perceptual statements were associated with the following responses: Strongly Agree (4), Agree (3), Disagree (2) and Strongly Disagree (1). A mean cut off mark of was used to determine level of satisfaction as employed by Allagenyi, Ajayi and Adebayo (2009). Mean score of 2.5 and above was considered as



satisfactory while below 2.5 was considered as unsatisfactory. The obtaining of a pooled mean perception score was in accordance with Agbamu and Esegbue (2007).

The hypothesis for the study was tested using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The ANOVA and LSD equations mathematically involve the following stages:

- a. $\sum X_{ij}^2$ = summation of the square of the individual values
- b. $\sum \sum X_{ij}^2 - T^2/rk$ = Total Sum of Squares (TSS) (where r = number of rows and k = number of columns), $T^2 =$ Square of the Grand Total
- c. $X^2 =$ Sum of Square Column (SSC)
- d. $SSE =$ Sum of Square Error = TSS - SSC
- e. $MSC =$ Mean Square Column = SSC / df_{column} (where df = degree of freedom)
- f. $MSE =$ Mean Square Error = SSE / df_{error}
- g. $LSD =$ Least Significant Difference = $t_{\alpha/2}(df_{\text{error}}) \sqrt{2MSE/r}$ (where r = degree of freedom column, and α = interval level of the t-test).

Decision Rule: Where calculated values obtained are greater than tabulated values, the null hypothesis will be rejected and the alternative accepted that there are significant differences.

Results and Discussion

The Fadama III Project Document contains various agricultural activities which beneficiaries engaged in. During the field exercise, the Fadama III beneficiaries were allowed to express their views on the project activities based on the various options provided to guide the study. The outcomes of their responses from the various States in the Niger Delta are shown in Tables 2 – 5.

Farmers' Perception of Performance of the Fadama III programme in Akwa Ibom State

The results shown in Table 2 revealed that beneficiaries' perception mean score of 3.43 implied a satisfactory improvement on living conditions due to *Fadama III* activities in Akwa Ibom state. A perception mean score of 3.42 was found on increased harvest over the last three years, this implies satisfaction. The least perception mean score (1.66) was identified with regular field day activities which connoted a unsatisfactory situation. This result agrees with the findings of Nlerum (2010). He discovered a level of unsatisfactory status of extension workers' conduct on field day activities by the Green River Project in rural communities of the Niger Delta. The Akwa Ibom State Fadama III beneficiaries' perception on project activities recorded a pooled mean of 2.82 which indicates that beneficiaries of Fadama III project have a satisfactory perception.

Farmers' Perception of Performance of the Fadama III programme in Bayelsa State

Results in Table 3 showed that respondents found good training sessions by Fadama III Officers as the activity they viewed most satisfying with a mean score perception of 3.38. The results also showed that farmers' incomes have over the last 3 years increased by about 40% (a standard target in Fadama document) with a mean value of 3.24, ranking the fifth position in the series of Fadama III project activities. On the whole, beneficiaries of Fadama III in Bayelsa State exhibited favourable perception towards the programme with pooled mean of 2.63.

Farmers' Perception of Performance of the Fadama III programme in Delta State

The results from the study as shown in Table 4 revealed that both male and female inclusion in Fadama III activities had a perception mean scores of 3.55 signifying that Fadama III operations are gender friendly and satisfactorily. Conversely, among the least perception mean scores were the unsatisfactory provision of variable and fixed inputs in terms of quality ($\bar{x}=1.73$) and poor observance of regular field days activities ($\bar{x}=1.63$) which were not satisfactory. The Delta State Fadama III

beneficiaries' perception on project activities recorded a pooled mean of 2.70, which was above the earmarked point for assessment of the beneficiaries'

performance in field day outreach to farmers (Ebewore, Ovharhe, and Emaziye, 2015).

Table 2: Distribution of Farmers' Perception of Performance of the Fadama III programme in Akwa Ibom State (n = 120)

S/N	Project's objectives /activities	Responses				Total Score	Mean Score	Rank
		Strongly agree (4)	Agree (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly disagree (1)			
1	The project witnessed slight improvements in living conditions by farmers because of participation.	52 (208)	68 (204)	0 (0)	0 (0)	412	3.43	1 st
2	Fadama III officers conducted good training sessions.	56 (224)	58 (174)	6 (12)	0 (0)	410	3.42	2 nd
3	Farmers' increased farm harvest over the last 3 years has been due to Fadama III assistance.	48 (192)	71 (213)	1 (2)	0 (0)	407	3.40	3 rd
4	The Fadama III Operation is gender inclusive.	45 (180)	74 (222)	1(2)	0 (0)	404	3.37	4 th
5	Farmers' incomes have over the last 3 years increased by about 40%.	39 (156)	80 (240)	1 (2)	0 (0)	398	3.32	5 th
6	Provision of variable and fixed inputs in terms of quantity has been satisfactory.	60 (240)	29 (87)	26 (52)	5 (5)	384	3.19	6 th
7	FUGs actively participated in project activities.	23 (92)	91(273)	6 (12)	0 (0)	377	3.14	7 th
8	Provision of variable and fixed Inputs in terms of quality has been satisfactory.	50 (200)	25 (75)	33 (66)	12 (12)	353	2.94	8 th
9	The Local Facilitators showed good commitment.	28 (112)	55 (165)	34 (68)	3 (3)	348	2.90	9 th
10	Local facilitators have been able to galvanize FUGs to ensure high utilization rate of farm inputs provided.	30 (120)	33 (99)	42 (84)	15 (15)	318	2.65	10 th
11	Fadama III officers conducted quarterly monitoring and evaluation activities	20 (80)	40 (120)	32 (64)	28 (28)	292	2.43	11 th
12	The Service Providers are competent in their operations.	0 (0)	27 (81)	42 (84)	51 (51)	216	1.80	12 th
13	There has been rapid response to farmers' problems by Fadama III officers.	0 (0)	11 (33)	72 (144)	37 (37)	214	1.78	13 th
14	Regular field days activities have been operational.	0 (0)	0 (0)	79 (158)	41(41)	199	1.66	14 th
Pooled Mean							2.82	

perception scale designed for the study and considered satisfactory. On poor regular field day activities, it is not only common with Fadama III project activities; the Delta ADP extension activities have poor

Table 3: Distribution of Beneficiaries' Perception on Fadama III Activities in Bayelsa State (n = 120)

S/N	Project's objectives /activities	Responses				Total	Mean	Rank
		Strongly agree (4)	Agree (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly disagree (1)			
1	Fadama III officers conducted good training sessions.	46 (184)	74 (222)	0 (0)	0 (0)	406	3.38	1 st
2	Farmers' increased farm harvest over the last 3 years has been due to Fadama III assistance.	41 (164)	79 (237)	0 (0)	0 (0)	401	3.34	2 nd
3	The Fadama III Operation is gender inclusive.	41 (164)	78 (234)	0 (0)	1 (1)	399	3.33	3 rd
4	FUGs actively participated in project activities.	34 (136)	86 (258)	0 (0)	0 (0)	394	3.28	4 th
5	Farmers' incomes have over the last 3 years increased by about 40%.	30 (120)	89 (267)	1 (2)	0 (0)	389	3.24	5 th
6	Local facilitators have been able to galvanize FUGs to ensure high utilization rate of farm inputs provided.	50 (200)	38 (114)	23 (46)	9 (9)	369	3.08	6 th
7	The Local Facilitators showed good commitment.	30 (120)	55 (165)	35 (70)	0 (0)	355	2.96	7 th
8	The project witnessed slight improvements in living conditions by farmers because of participation.	30 (120)	48 (144)	22 (44)	20 (20)	328	2.73	8 th
9	There has been rapid response to farmers' problems by Fadama III officers.	15 (60)	17 (51)	78 (156)	10 (10)	277	2.31	9 th
10	Fadama III officers conducted quarterly monitoring and evaluation activities.	10 (40)	40 (120)	43 (86)	27 (27)	273	2.28	10 th
11	Provision of variable and fixed Inputs in terms of quantity has been satisfactory.	0 (0)	51 (153)	47 (94)	22 (22)	269	2.24	11 th
12	The Service Providers are competent in their operations.	0 (0)	1 (3)	63 (126)	56 (56)	185	1.54	12 th
13	Provision of variable and fixed Inputs in terms of quality has been satisfactory.	0 (0)	1(3)	63 (126)	56 (56)	185	1.54	12 th
14	Regular field days activities have been operational.	0 (0)	0 (0)	62 (124)	58 (58)	182	1.52	14 th
Pooled Mean							2.63	

Table 4: Distribution of Farmers' Perception of Performance of the Fadama III programme in Delta State (n = 120)

S/N	Project's objectives /activities	Responses				Total Score	Mean Score	Rank
		Strongly agree (4)	Agree (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly disagree (1)			
1	The Fadama III Operation is gender inclusive.	65 (260)	55 (165)	0 (10)	0 (0)	425	3.55	1 st
2	Farmers' incomes have over the last 3 years increased by about 40%.	59 (236)	49 (147)	12 (24)	0 (0)	407	3.39	2 nd
3	The Local Facilitators showed good commitment.	60 (240)	44 (132)	16 (32)	0 (0)	404	3.37	3 rd
4	Fadama III officers conducted good training sessions.	35 (140)	85 (255)	0 (0)	0 (0)	395	3.29	4 th
5	FUGs actively participated in project activities.	20 (80)	88 (264)	12 (24)	0 (0)	368	3.06	5 th
6	The project witnessed slight improvements in living conditions by farmers because of participation.	26 (104)	72 (216)	15 (30)	7 (7)	359	2.99	6 th
7	Farmers' increased farm harvest over the last 3 years has been due to Fadama III assistance.	6 (24)	101 (303)	13 (26)	0 (0)	353	2.94	7 th
8	Local facilitators have been able to galvanize FUGs to ensure high utilization rate of farm inputs provided.	30 (120)	41 (123)	44 (8)	5 (5)	336	2.80	8 th
9	There has been rapid response to farmers' problems by Fadama III officers.	0 (0)	58 (174)	52 (104)	10 (10)	288	2.40	9 th
10	Fadama III officers conducted quarterly monitoring and evaluation activities.	0 (0)	52 (156)	53 (106)	15 (15)	277	2.31	10 th
11	Provision of variable and fixed Inputs in terms of quantity has been satisfactory.	0 (0)	44 (132)	62 (124)	14 (14)	270	2.25	11 th
12	The Service Providers are competent in their operations.	0 (0)	31 (93)	61 (122)	28 (28)	243	2.03	12 th
13	Provision of variable and fixed Inputs in terms of quality has been satisfactory.	0 (0)	16 (48)	72 (144)	16 (16)	208	1.73	13 th
14	Regular field days activities have been operational.	0 (0)	2 (6)	72 (144)	46 (46)	196	1.63	14 th
Pooled Mean						2.70		

Note: Figures in parentheses are scores from Likert-type scale. Mean cut-off point of 2.5 and above implies satisfactory, while a value below 2.5 implies unsatisfactory perception.

Table 5: Summary of Farmers' Perception of the Performance of Fadama III Programme/Activities using mean computation across the Niger Delta Region

S/N	Parameters	Akwa Ibom	Bayelsa	Delta	Total	Pooled mean	Rank	Remark
1	The Fadama III Operation is gender inclusive.	3.37	3.33	3.55	10.25	3.42	1 st	Satisfactory
2	Fadama III officers conducted good training sessions.	3.42	3.38	3.29	10.09	3.36	2 nd	Satisfactory
3	Farmers' incomes have over the last 3 years increased by about 40%.	3.32	3.24	3.39	9.95	3.32	3 rd	Satisfactory
4	Farmers' increased farm harvest over the last 3 years has been due to Fadama III assistance.	3.40	3.34	2.94	9.68	3.23	4 th	Satisfactory
5	FUGs actively participated in project activities.	3.14	3.28	3.06	9.48	3.16	5 th	Satisfactory
6	The Local Facilitators showed good commitment.	2.90	2.96	3.37	9.23	3.08	6 th	Satisfactory
7	The project witnessed slight improvements in living conditions by farmers because of participation.	3.43	2.73	2.99	9.15	3.05	7 th	Satisfactory
8	Local facilitators have been able to galvanize FUGs to ensure high utilization rate of farm inputs provided.	2.65	3.08	2.80	8.53	2.84	8 th	Satisfactory
9	Provision of variable and fixed Inputs in terms of quantity has been satisfactory.	3.19	2.24	2.25	7.68	2.56	9 th	Satisfactory
10	Fadama III officers conducted quarterly monitoring and evaluation activities.	2.43	2.28	2.31	7.02	2.34	10 th	Unsatisfactory
11	There has been rapid response to farmers' problems by Fadama III officers.	1.78	2.31	2.40	6.49	2.16	11 th	Unsatisfactory
12	Provision of variable and fixed Inputs in terms of quality has been satisfactory.	2.94	1.54	1.73	6.21	2.07	12 th	Unsatisfactory
13	The Service Providers are competent in their operations.	1.80	1.54	2.03	5.37	1.79	13 th	Unsatisfactory
14	Regular field days activities have been operational.	1.66	1.52	1.63	4.81	1.60	14 th	Unsatisfactory
Pooled Mean for each State		2.82	2.63	2.70	8.15			
Pooled Mean for Niger Delta						2.72		Satisfactory

Note: Cut off mean = 2.5 (≥ 2.5 = satisfactory perception; < 2.5 = unsatisfactory perception)

Farmers' Perception of the Performance of Fadama III Programme/Activities in Niger Delta Region

Results in Table 5: showed that of the fourteen selected activities of Fadama III in Niger Delta, the farmers perceived three activities with highest satisfaction. They are gender inclusiveness of the programme ($\bar{x} = 3.42$), good commitment of facilitators ($\bar{x} = 3.36$), and 40% increase in farmers' incomes over the last 3 years ($\bar{x} = 3.32$) respectively. Among the lowest in the order of ranking were the incompetence noticed in service providers operations ($\bar{x} = 1.79$) and poor regular field days activities by Fadama III officers ($\bar{x} = 1.6$). The specific States attained the following perception pooled means respectively: Akwa Ibom, 2.83; Delta, 2.68 and Bayelsa, 2.66. In general, the project evaluation on beneficiaries' perceptions on project objectives/activities achieved a grand mean of 2.72, which was satisfactory since it was above the earmarked point for assessment of the beneficiaries' perception scale designed for the study in the Niger Delta Area.

These results obtained using the method of pooled means and categorization of means were deduced from a similar work by Agbamu and Esegbue (2007) on farmers' perception on improved and local cassava cultivars in Isoko North Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria. Ofuoku (2011) found that beneficiaries of water project executed by Micro Project Programme in Delta Central Agricultural Zone had similar level of satisfaction initially, but they could not sustain such water projects despite the fact that they participated meaningfully in the project.

The implications of this study where programmes are satisfactory demand farmers to sustain the best practices; while items with unsatisfactory activities require training, capacity building to boost the programme in due course.

Test of Hypothesis

The ANOVA was computed using the values in the summary of the perceptions of performance for the three States (Table 6). Since the F_{cal} (-0.008) is less

than the F_{tab} (3.23) at $p = 0.05$, the null hypothesis should be accepted that there is no significant variation in the perception of farmers on the performance of the *Fadama III* agricultural programmes among the three Niger Delta States (Table 6). This implies that there is no significant variation in the level of satisfaction on programmes achievement as perceived by the farmers of *Fadama III* agricultural project in the Niger Delta. Arubayi (2010) obtained a similar finding on appraising the course objectives and contents in four tertiary institutions on the teaching of clothing and textiles using analysis of variance to compare means.

Table 6: Summary of ANOVA results on farmers' perception of performance of Fadama III programme in the Niger Delta Area

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	Degree of Freedom	Mean Squares	F_{cal}	F_{tab}
Between Groups	0.07	2	0.035	0.08NS	3.23
Within Groups	171.42	39	0.447		
Total	171.49				

NS= Not Significant @ 0.05; $p > 0.05$

Conclusion

The *Fadama III* programme/activities have witnessed satisfactory performance among farmers in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. Despite the successful position in beneficiaries' perception of the project activities, some minor noticeable pitfalls need crucial policy formulation to attain the sustainability of the project. It is therefore suggested that *Fadama III* officers should conducted regular quarterly monitoring and evaluation activities to meet beneficiaries' needs. The policy implication here is that achievable goals, tasks and targets should be given to *Fadama III* Officer for effective execution.

Prompt responses should be given to farmers' problems by *Fadama III* officers. A policy of time management and intervention to farmers' needs is crucial. There should be more provision of variable and fixed inputs in terms of quality to ensure durability. Penalty should be placed on provision of substandard farm inputs and assets. The evident incompetent level of some service providers should



attract thorough scrutiny and train-the-trainer workshop for them before service engagement. On the basis of policy, failure of certified service providers should be sanctioned so that others will be more careful in contract implementation. Finally, there should be programmed farmers' field days' exhibition as coordinated by local facilitator to enhance healthy competition among project beneficiaries. Enforcement of field day observance, projects the visibility and capability of the Fadama III project thus creating more awareness to other farmers.

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