



## IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF MAIZE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ON RURAL FARMERS IN NIGERIA (A CASE STUDY OF KADUNA STATE)

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### ABSTRACT

This study assessed the impact of maize enterprise development project on rural farmers in Kaduna State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study ascertained the socio economic characteristics of the beneficiaries and their welfare situation. 110 beneficiaries were randomly selected from the study area. Data were collected using structured questionnaire, focus group discussion guide (FGD) and key informant interview (KII) technique. FGD and KII revealed that the inputs supplied to them (beneficiaries) helped in solving problems of inputs unavailability and poor quality inputs. From regression analysis, findings revealed that 85.0%, 65.0% of the beneficiaries were males and had primary education respectively. 45% of them were involved in farming of other agricultural commodity, 58.2% of them were into sales of maize for direct consumption and pop corn production as a major source of income from maize value chain. 61.9% them were trained before the project commenced, 57.3% of them were exposed to land preparation training, 50.0%, 57.1%, 64.3%, 87.0% of them had good food situation, clothing situation, housing situation and paid their children school fees from maize processing income respectively. The study concluded that the project increased the production capacity of farmers and their welfare. It was recommended that project this type should be spread across other farmers in need of such so as to positively increase the welfare of farmers in developing countries.

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### INTRODUCTION

From Wikipedia (2015), as of 2010 about 30% of Nigerians are employed in agriculture. Agriculture used to be the principal foreign exchange earner of Nigeria. Major crops grown in Nigeria include; beans, sesame, cashew nuts, cassava, groundnuts, kolanut, maize (corn), melon, millet, palm kernels, palm oil, plantains, rice, rubber, sorghum, soybeans and yams. Prior to the Nigerian civil war, Nigeria was self-sufficient in food. Increased agriculture productivity is one of the strong options for stimulating economic growth, reducing poverty, and improving food security. In Nigeria for instance, agriculture is still the backbone of the economy despite her oil revenue. Agriculture contributes over 40% of Nigeria's GDP, employs over 70% of the population, and produces about 80% of the food needs Aye, (2013).

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Although, agriculture still accounts for about 88% of non-oil export earnings, its contribution has seriously declined over the decade falling from about 75% of total export earnings in the 1960s to less than 3% currently Oji-Okoro, (2011). The majority of the rural populace in Nigeria either depends entirely on farming and farming activities for survival and generation of income, or depends on these activities to supplement their main sources of income. The validity of this statement becomes evident when it is realized that over 90% of the country's local food production comes from farms, which are usually not more than 10 ha in size, with at least 60% of the population earn their living from these small farms Olawepo, (2010). The significance of rural farming can thus, not be over emphasized as rural areas form the food basket of the nation, and a major source of export materials. The fortunes of poor rural farmers can be determined by a number of factors. The initial distribution of income accruing to the rural farmer stands out as the most accessible determinant of the rural standard of living, since it is most quantifiable factor

and the most reliable as majority of the people in the rural areas are predominantly farmers. Territorial social indicators provide a means of measuring the extent to which various human needs are met. The determinants of income among the target population therefore serve as social indicators of their standard of living Olawepo, (2010). One of the main cereals cultivated, consumed, and marketed in Nigeria is maize. Maize is grown in all parts of Nigeria and it now forms part of the staple food in Nigeria. It contributes about 33% to the total household food consumption Minot, (2010). Its importance has increased recently because of the federal governments' restriction on imported flour. Maize requires adequate rainfall for optimum yield Audu and Aye, (2014). According to Adejumo, (2014) sustainable development is defined as "development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising future generations to meet their own needs. The environment should be seen as an asset, a stock of available wealth but if the present generation spends this wealth without investment for the future then the world will run out of resources. If, however, we use this capital to research and develop new resources for the future, we can build machines that will substitute for the environmental resource (resource substitution). There has been some sustainable development project made available for agrarian farmers in Nigeria to enhance the productivity of maize and also impact positively on the welfare of the farmers involved. Some of the projects have recorded success stories while some have not achieved desired and impactful results in the welfare situations of rural farmers.

### Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are to;

- Ascertain the socio economic characteristics of the beneficiaries and
- Check the impact of the project on the welfare (food, clothing, housing, source of income from processing maize and payment of children school fees from processing maize) situation of the beneficiaries.

### Research Questions

The question this study seeks to answer in the evaluation of cassava cottage industries is:

- Does the maize enterprise development project function adequately; and can they generate deliverables that are in consonance with the overall objective of improved welfare of the beneficiaries?

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

One hundred and ten beneficiaries were randomly selected from the study area. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire, focus group discussion guide (FGD) and key informant interview (KII) technique. Data obtained were analyzed using regression.

**Findings from FGD and KII:** Findings from FGD and KII revealed that the inputs supplied to them are of great benefits helping them to solve problems of inputs unavailability and poor quality inputs.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1 shows the socio-economic characteristics of the beneficiaries which include; sex, level of education, source of income aside cassava processing. Majority (85.0%) of the beneficiaries were male, majority (65.0%) of the beneficiaries had primary education. Findings further revealed that few (45.0%, 43.0%) of the beneficiaries are involved in farming of other agricultural commodities as source of income aside maize farming and were below 30 years of age respectively. Findings also revealed that majority (61.3%, 66.7%) were married and had the household size ranging between 5 and 9 respectively. Few (48.0%) of the beneficiaries had 0-5 years farming experience.

**Table 1. Socio-economic characteristics of beneficiaries (N=110)**

Socio-economic Variable	Frequency (%)
Sex	
Male	93(85.0)
Female	17(15.0)
Age	
Below 30	47(43.0)
30-39	21(19.0)
40-49	17(15.0)
50-59	19(17.0)
Above 60	6(6.0)
Marital Status	
Single	41(37.3)
Married	67(61.3)
Divorced	0(0)
Widow	2(1.3)
Household Size	
Less than 4	21(18.7)
5-9	73(66.7)
10-15	13(12.0)
Above 15	3(2.7)
Farming Experience	
0-5 Years	53(48.0)
6-10 Years	21(18.7)
11-15 Years	10(9.3)
Above 15 Years	26(24.0)
Level of Education	
Primary Education	71(65.0)
Secondary Education	28(25.0)
Tertiary Education	11(10.0)
Source of Income Aside Cassava Processing	
Soap Making	7(6.0)
Tailoring	3(3.0)
Petty Trading	47(43.0)
Hair dressing	3(3.0)
Farming of other commodities	50(45.0)

Source: Field Survey, 2016.

**Table 2. Training Before Commencement of Maize Enterprise Development Project (N=110)**

Training and Development	Frequency (%)
Training before commencement of Maize Enterprise Development Project	
No	68(38.1)
Yes	42(61.9)
Types of Training Undergone	
Land Preparation	60(54.5)
Agro Chemical Handling	10(9.1)
Processing Techniques	20(18.2)
Maize Value Addition	10(9.1)
Advance Scale	10(9.1)

Source: Field Survey, 2016

**Training and Development:** Table 2 revealed that majority (61.9%) of the beneficiaries were trained before the commencement of maize enterprise development project,

majority (54.5%) of the beneficiaries were engaged in land preparation training before the commencement of the project.

**Table 3. Welfare Situation of the Beneficiaries Before and After The Project**

Food Situation	Frequency (%)
Before	
Poor	63(57.1)
Good	47(42.9)
After	
Good	55(50.0)
Excellent	55(50.0)
Clothing Situation	
Before	
Poor	47(42.9)
Good	63(57.1)
After	
Good	26(42.9)
Excellent	5(57.1)
Housing Situation	
Before	
Poor	47(42.9)
Good	63(57.1)
After	
Good	39(35.7)
Excellent	71(64.3)
Source of Income From Maize Processing Chain	
Pap Production only	27(24.5)
Maize Consumption and Pop Corn production	64(58.2)
Maize sales only	19(17.3)
Payment of Children School fees from processing cassava	
No	14(13.0)
Yes	96(87.0)

Source: Field Survey, 2016.

**Welfare Situation of the Beneficiaries:** Table 3 shows the welfare situation of the beneficiaries which include food situation, clothing situation and housing situation. Findings revealed that majority(50.0%, 57.1% and 64.3%) of the beneficiaries had good food, clothing and housing situation respectively after the project. Majority (87.0%) of the beneficiaries payed their children school fees from income generated in cassava processing, majority (58.2%) of the beneficiaries were into sales of maize for direct consumption and pop corn production as a major source of income from maize value chain.

## Conclusion

Based on the findings, the study concluded that the project is impactful in the welfare of the beneficiaries and has increased the production capacity of maize farmers.

## Recommendation

It was recommended that maize enterprise developmental project should be spread across other maize farmers in need so as to positively increase the welfare of farmers in developing countries like Nigeria.

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