

ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ON RURAL FARMING COMMUNITIES. A CASE OF *FADAMA II* IN ADAMAWA STATE, NIGERIA

Madu Umar Adamu

**Faculty of Social Sciences
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK**

Key Words: Fadama II, Effect, Community-driven development, Poor, Vulnerable groups, Beneficiaries, Non-beneficiaries.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The quest for proper development model emerged as a result of strong criticisms of neo-classical development models and theories due to latter's failure to address issues such as poverty, human welfare, income distribution, unemployment, environmental health, security, popular participation and equitable distribution of growth benefits (Eboh et al, 1999; Dennis, 2007). After several decades of emphasis on rapid economic growth, there is a growing awareness that development is not just higher growth of national income, but a means of achieving basic human needs and development particularly those related to individual and collective wellbeing (Helleiner, 1992). This is debated to be made possible through self-reliance and with the use of the community or society's own resources (Sweindell et al, 1981; Nwanesi, 2007). In this context, a community that discusses its needs, plans to meet these needs, organizes its resources for action and carries out that action and continues its efforts to meet these needs or solve new problems will, through its efforts improve itself. This is what is regarded as community-driven development (CDD) or people oriented development.

Community-driven development was borned out of the need to correct the conventional "top-down" syndrome which never had any

sustainable impact on the living conditions of community members especially in rural Nigeria. The model (CDD) is currently the most widely used method by both government and development assistance programmes (Gillespie, 2004; Mansuri and Rao, 2004; Platteau, 2004). This is due to its impending ability to develop programmes and projects that empowers the local communities to take charge and manage their development agenda and moreover, sustainable and conforms to local demand. And above all, consider the poor and vulnerable groups above and over all other groups of the society (Dongier et al., 2001; Gillespie, 2004).

The importance of rural community development can better be appreciated by noting that 75 percent of the total population of developing countries lives in the rural areas, and these rural majorities are small scale farmers who produce about 90 percent of the total food requirement of the nations (Olusegun, 1991; Igboeli, 1992). Thus, policy makers in Nigeria face the challenge of reversing the cycle of rural poverty. Since over 75 percent of the rural populations are small scale farmers, rural community development for a country like Nigeria whose population is mainly farmers cannot be achieved without sustained growth in rural income and living standard primarily from agriculture (Illesanmi, 2002). It was based on this principle that Fadama II was introduced in 2004.

Fadama II project which is the largest agricultural and rural development project in Nigeria was designed to reduce poverty by providing support to the communities to acquire infrastructure and productive assets, providing demand-driven advisory services and enhancing the capacity of communities to manage economic activities, and reducing conflicts among resource users (Nkonya & Davis, 2008). These laudable objectives were to be achieved by adopting people centered development approach as set against the mandate of the project. It is important to note here that this CDD project is first of its kind in the study area. The focus of this study therefore is to assess the effect of this CDD project on the benefiting rural farming communities in Adamawa State, Nigeria,