Article title: Effects Of Farmers Empowerment Programmes On Agricultural Productivity In Kwande LGA Of Benue State, Nigeria

Authors: Shadrach Nguuma Boko[1], Andrew Chikaodi Iheanacho[2]

Affiliations: Department of Agribusiness, Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Nigeria.[1], Professor, Department of Agribusiness, Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Nigeria.[2]

Orcid ids: 0000-0002-4075-2472[1]

Contact e-mail: shadrachboko8@gmail.com

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Preprint statement: This article is a preprint and has not been peer-reviewed, under consideration and submitted to ScienceOpen Preprints for open peer review.

DOI: 10.14293/S2199-1006.1.SOR-.PPF40OU.v1

Preprint first posted online: 19 September 2021

Keywords: Farmers Empowerment Programmes, Agricultural Productivity, Effects, Kwande, Farmers, The Knowledge Gap Theory, Theory of Planned Behavior/Reasoned Action, National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP), National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), River Basin Development Authority (RBDA)

**EFFECTS OF FARMERS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES ON
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN KWANDE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
OF BENUE STATE, NIGERIA.**

BY

BOKO, NGUUMA SHADRACH

UE/30348/14

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS,
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, MAKURDI.**

SEPTEMBER, 2018

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**A Project Submitted to the Department of Agribusiness, Federal University of
Agriculture, Makurdi in Partial Fulfillment of the Award of Bachelor of Science Degree
B.Sc Agribusiness Management, University of Agriculture, Makudi.**

SEPTEMBER, 2018

APPROVAL PAGE

This project has been approved by the undersigned personalities as meeting the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Science Degree in Agribusiness Management, of the Department of Agribusiness, Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi.

Prof. A.C. Iheanacho
Project Supervisor

Date

Dr. F.T.G. Ashiko
Head of Department

Date

External Examiner

Date

DECLARATION PAGE

I declare that work described in this project represents my original work and has not been previously submitted for any degree to the university of agriculture, Makurdi or similar institutions.

DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to Almighty God and my Father, Mr. Moses Boko, who contributed everything greatly towards my academic success. May Almighty God grant you your heart desires.

CERTIFICATION PAGE

This is to certify that Boko, Nguuma Shadrach of the Department of Agribusiness with Registration Number UE/30348/14 has Satisfactory completed the requirements for the award of the Bachelor of Science Degree in Agribusiness Management. The work embodied in the project is original and has not been submitted in part or full for any other Degree of this or any other university.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I thank Almighty God for his wonderful work in my life, for giving me strength and knowledge which enable me to scale through my academic journey.

My special thanks goes to the valuable and immeasurable guidance rendered to me by my tireless and affectionate project supervisor, Prof. A.C. Iheanacho who help this work to become a reality and has been able to give his time and attention to read my work patiently and made the necessary corrections. I am grateful to the Dean, Collage of Management Science, Prof. F.A. Ayatse, the HOD of Agribusiness Department, Dr. F.T.G. Ashiko, my lecturers like Dr. Zachariah Nyiatagher, Dr. A.O. Ocholi, Dr. O.A.Olotu, Dr. Mrs. Atagher, Dr. Chris Ogbanje, Mr. Okeke, Mrs. Evelyn Oraka, Miss. Evelyn Tor and many of my other lecturers.

I want to say a very big thanks to my father, Mr. Moses Boko, who is the sponsor of my academics, may his parental love and care for me not go unrewarded. My profound thanks goes to my family members; Sir, Fedelis Terseer Boko, Hon. Joseph Hemen Boko, Mr. Dickson Boko, Iorkose Boko, Msughter Millers Boko, Uncle Ephraim Ternenge Boko and the entire family of Boko Be whose efforts and supports formed a platform for this height. May the good lord work wonders in your vineyards too. My heartfelt thanks goes to my step-mother, Mrs. Esther Kwaghkuma Boko, My Brothers; Luper, Jacob Boko, Menenge Emmanuel Boko and my sisters; Mzuami Vivian Boko, Mngule Boko, Msendoo Boko, Ahemen Boko for thier love for me. It will be out of place if I did not acknowledge my only and one grand-mother, Mama Nancy Mbakaan Boko, who has been a true mother to me. God bless you and age gracefully.

Finally, I want to say a very big thanks to my friends; Iorshar Victor Terhemen, Kendeikyo Mark Tertsca, Azenda Shadrach Terhemen, Abua Gerrad Akiga, Iorshagher Emmanuel Tarvershima, Abah Daniel, Shaibu Napoleon, Ogbe Okoh Bright, Ekwu Patience Onyeche, Otsai Theresa Ene and all my friends who have been so good to me. May your prayer point be given preferential treatment in heaven.

I acknowledge my entire course mates and other students of the department of

agribusiness for the love, care and trust they have on me and many other people that I cannot be able to acknowledge her, may the good lord meet you at your different points of needs.

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the effect of farmers' empowerment programmes on agricultural productivity in Kwande local Government Area of Benue State. The specific objectives were to; examine the socio-economic characteristics of the farmers; determine the effect of farmers empowerment programme on farm inputs accessibility; determine the effect of farmers empowerment programme on productive asset acquisition; determine the effects of farmers empowerment programme on income of the farmers; and examine the problems encountered by farmers in farmers empowerment programmes. Data for the study were collected using questionnaire administered to farmers. Frequency distribution, percentage and chi-square statistics were used for data analysis. The major findings of the study showed that the male gender participated in the programme more than the females (59.1%), and most of the farmers were above 40 years (59.5%). Majority (59.1%) had a household size of more than six persons, cultivating 3-4.99 hectares of land (50%) and had farming experience of more than 7 years (59.1%). There was discrimination in distribution of agricultural incentives, subsidies and credit facilities (59.1%). Poor awareness of the scheme was an obstacle to capturing farmers on the scheme (59.1%). There were high positive effect of farmer's empowerment programmes on farm inputs accessibility (t-tab.0.995; t-cal.4.585), productive asset acquisition (t-tab.0.479; t-cal.8557) and income of farmers (t-tab.0.349; t-cal.16.515). The study recommended that the government, individuals and non-governmental organizations should join hands to adequately finance farmer's empowerment programmes of the rural dwellers. The agencies and government officials' in-charge of the empowerment programmes should avoid discrimination against farmers in the distribution of agricultural empowerment programme packages. The government and empowerment agencies should ensure that awareness is created about the existence of the programmes so that more farmers will be captured on the scheme through frequent seminars, workshops and enlightenment campaigns.

Key words: Farmers empowerment programmes, Agricultural productivity, Effects, Kwande, Farmers.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Agriculture is an important sector of the economy with high potentials for employments generation, food security, and poverty reduction. Agriculture remains a key component of Nigeria's economy, and currently contributes about 40% of the GDP and employing about 70.0% of the active population. The agricultural sector, notwithstanding its contribution to the nation, significantly, underperformed its potential (Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) 2008). This has been clearly manifested in the very high food prices nationwide, food insecurity both at the house hold and national level and malnutrition especially in children. According to Dethier and Effenberger (2012), there are among various challenges, two basic challenges related to agriculture. The first is the need to increase food productivity and production in developing countries especially in sub-Saharan African and with smallholders (subsistence) farmers. To achieve this, a number of problems need to address: property rights, research and development (R & D) for seeds and inputs, irrigation, fertilizer, agricultural extension, credit, rural infrastructure, storage and connection to markets. The second problem is the volatility of food prices often because of events outside the control of poor countries. Dethier and Effenberger (2012) further stated, however, that an interconnected combination of steps could help ensure that the most vulnerable countries and people get the nutrition they need.

In an effort to tackle these serious problems, the Nigeria government initiated a number of agricultural polices, programmes and projects, largely within the framework of three successive national development panels from 1970 to 1974, 1975 to 1980 and 1981 to 1985. There has been the 1962 to 1968 development plan.

Over the years, several agricultural programmes have been introduced to reduced objects poverty among rural dwellers, mostly farmers, in Nigeria. Some of these programmes include Agricultural Development Programmes (ADP) launched in 1972, National Economic Empowerment and Development (NEED) established (2004), The

Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DIFRRI), National Accelerated Food Production Programmes (NAFPP) (1972), Green Revolution (GR) inaugurated (1979), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) (1976), River Basin and Rural Development Authorities(1976) and other World Bank funded Agricultural Development Projects. However, these efforts have yielded little or no impact on the rural population. Consequently, the rate of poverty in rural Areas keeps increasing steadily, (Omonijo, Toluwase, Oludayo & Uche, 2014).

The dissatisfaction derived from the performance of the agricultural sector, the failure of some agricultural programmes and the need to provide a well articulated domestic agricultural policy to serve as a key for the development Nigeria's agriculture had made the government of Nigeria in 2011 to launch a policy document known as Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) (FMARD, 2011). The launching of this policy document was expected to be a roadmap in solving fundamental problems associated with the agricultural sector (Akinwumi, 2011). The vision in the transformation strategy is to archive a hunger-free Nigeria through an agricultural sector that drives income growth, accelerated achievement of food and nutritional security, generates employment and transforms Nigeria into a leading player in global food markets to grow wealth for millions of farmers.

It was an innovative approach to seeds, fertilizer subsidy and other inputs administration through an electronic system that ensures that only registered farmers would benefit from the scheme. It is meant to change the mentality of Nigerian to agricultural activities. It is expected that the scheme will boost food production, the income of farmers as well as the value accorded to locally produce agricultural products. It was targeted to produce 20 million tones of food by 2015 (Akinwumi, 2011), which was to help reduce government spending on importation.

The aims and objective of these programmes, however, have not been fully achieved, thus failed to engineer a sustainable agricultural productivity that would have ensured both national and household food security, improved rural livelihoods and indeed, make Nigeria's agriculture competitive in the world agricultural market today. According to Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) (2011),

the current situation of food security, rural poverty, and un-competiveness of Nigeria in the world global market is not acceptable to the Nigerian government.

1.2 Statement of the Problem.

Agricultural policy in Nigeria has witness several changes since the colonial and post independence years (Yusuf, 2004). Agricultural polices programmes were usually centered on stimulating great activities in certain specific aspects of agricultural productivity. Before independence, emphasis was on the production of cash crops, such as rubber, cotton, groundnut, palm and cocoa, but after independence, the rising food shortages shifted focus to food crops production.

However, despite various efforts geared towards agricultural productivity, It has been estimated that 65% of Nigerians are living with hunger as food production growth is still as low as 2.5% per annum, while food demands as been growing at the rate of 2.8% per annum (Ogundari and Ojo, 2007). As observed by Olajide et al. (2012) only less than 50% of the Nigerian arable land is under cultivation. There is high incidence of poverty among participant in agriculture, who are mostly rural based. In relation with GDP, the share of the agricultural sector has been less than 45% since 1986 (CBN, 2003). This is because the sector is dominated by small scale farmers who rely mainly on traditional method of farming and crude implements for cultivation (Nji Forti, 2008). Hence, there is evident stagnation in the growth and productivity of the agricultural sector in Nigeria. Analyst identify inconsistencies and too much emphasis on production without due consideration to other value chain requirement as the cause of low productivity in Nigeria's agricultural sector (Iorliam, 2017).

Successive governments have come up with new programmes, schemes and institutions which in most cases do not represent continuity and are not complementary to the existing ones. Policies are, therefore, abandoned half way, before their efforts become manifest. It has been identified that the bulk of food production in Nigeria is being undertaken by smallholder farmers who rely on muscles rather than equipment thereby resulting in low output (Iorliam, 2017). In some cases, less than 11% of subsistence farmers have been accounted as having access to subsidized seeds and

fertilizers procured and distributed by the government. Also, lack of continuity associated with government programmes, poor level of extension service to average farmers, uncoordinated manner in which agricultural programmes and scheme have been handle have contributed to the poor implementation of agricultural policies.

This has necessitated the quest to carry out an investigation of the effects of farmer's empowerment programmes on agricultural productivity in Kwade Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria. It is against these various farmers' empowerment programmes and challenges thereof that this work seeks to investigate farmer's empowerment programmes vis-à-vis the effect on agricultural productivity.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study was to determine the effects of farmers' empowerment programmes on agricultural productivity in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria.

Specifically, the objectives of this study were to:

- i. Examine the socio-economic characteristic of the farmers' empowerment programmes on agricultural productivity in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria;
- ii. Determine the effects of farmers' empowerment programmes on farm inputs accessibility;
- iii. Determine the effects of farmers' empowerment programmes on productive asset acquisition;
- iv. Determine the effects of farmers' empowerments programmes on income of the farmers;
- v. Examine the problems encountered by farmers in farmers' empowerment programme.

1.4 Research Questions

The following questions were raised and answered.

- i. What are the socio-economic characteristic of the farmers in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State?
- ii. What are the effects of farmers' empowerment programmes on farm inputs accessibility?
- iii. What are the effects of farmers' empowerment programmes on productive asset acquisition?
- iv. What are the effects of farmers' empowerment programmes on income of farmers?
- v. What are problems encountered by farmers in farmers' empowerment programmes?

1.5. Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were postulated and tested.

- i. Farmers' empowerment programmes have no significant effects on farm inputs accessibility in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State.
- ii. Farmers' empowerment programmes have no significant effects on productive asset acquisition.
- iii. Farmers' empowerment programmes have no significant effects on income of the farmers.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study is significant in a number of ways. It will help the government discovered the shortcomings of the programme. The study will be beneficial to the farmers as it may create awareness about government policies and empowerment programmes on agriculture targeted towards them. To students and researchers who may want to conducts researches on related topics, it will serve as reference tool or baseline information for literature review.

1.7 Scope and Limitations of the Study

The study focused on Kwande Local Government Area due to the facts that a study of such nature has not been undertaken in Kwande, and its rich contribution to agricultural productivity in Benue State.

1.9 Operational Definition of Terms

The following concept are defined in the context and used in this study

Agricultural Productivity: the ratio of agriculture outputs to agricultural inputs

Effects: short term outcome or result of farmers' empowerment programmes on agricultural productivity

Farmer: a person engaged in agriculture, producing field crops, orchards, vineyards, poultry, or other livestock.

Famers' empowerment programmes: programmes instituted by the government and world agencies to facilitate agricultural output.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter presents theoretical and conceptual frame work, empirical studies as well as summary. The theoretical frame work of this study comprises; the Knowledge Gap Theory and Theory Of Planned Behavior/Reasoned Action.

The key concepts under study are Farmers' Empowerment, Agriculture: The backbone of rural development, Policy Based Intervention Programmes, National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), Green Revolution Programme (GR), Agency Based Intervention Programmes, National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), River Basin Development Authority (RBDA), Agriculture Development Programmes (ADPS), Directorate of Food, Road and Rural Infrastructure (DIFRRI), Implications of Farmers Empowerment Programmes, Limitations of Past Agricultural And Rural Development and Empowerment Strategies.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of the study comprises the Knowledge Gap Theory and Theory of Planned Behavior/Reasoned Action.

2.1.1 The Knowledge Gap Theory (1970)

The knowledge gap theory was first propounded by Tichenor, Donohue and Olien in 1970. The theory states that the increase of information in society is not evenly acquired by every member of society as people with higher socio-economic status tends to have better ability to acquired information than others with lower socio-economic status. This theory assumes that attempts to improved people's life with information through invention of Technologies might result in an unwanted outcome such as a further increase in the gap between a group of better educated people who know more about most things, and those with low education who know less. While the knowledge gap theory has its shortcoming among which is the assumption that knowledge automatically translate to behavior change without much consideration for

the role played by individuals attitude, however, it provides the basis for a probe into extension workers knowledge of goals of extension in this study. This is anticipated to reveal whether access to and use of modern Information and Communication Technologies for farmers services delivery in Nigeria has any link with their background characteristics and their awareness of public affairs issues.

The relevance of this theory to current study is hinged on the fact that the Farmers Empowerment Programmes was dependent on information dissemination and how knowledgeable and informed the farmers were. The literate farmers are more likely in the position of getting information on government policies as it affects farmers. So being knowledgeable and informed in the use of information and technology systems such as internet, phones and computers is relevant for a farmer willing to be enrolled into any of the programmes.

2.1.2 Theory of Planned Behavior/Reasoned Action (1980)

Ajzen and Fishbein formulated in 1980 the theory of reasoned action (TRA). The theory states that behavioral outcome of individuals is a function of his/her intention to perform the behavior and that this intention is, in turn, determined by his/her attitude towards the behavior and subjective evaluation of the risks and benefits of that outcome. The assumption of the theory of reasoned action (TRA) is that behavior achievement depends on both motivation (intention) and ability (behavioural control).

As it relates to this study, planning is vital for success, failure to plan is planning to fail. Right from the onset, some farmers perceive empowerment programmes as another failed programme. Thus certain farmers from the very beginning were not interested to join. Prior experiences served as de-motivating factors. Thus the farmers' evaluation of risks and benefits (behaviour) saw them pessimistic rather than optimistic. They are often unprepared for the empowerment programmes.

2.2 Conceptual Framework

Literature is reviewed under the following subheadings: Farmers' Empowerment, Agriculture: The backbone of rural development, Policy Based Intervention programmes,

National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), Green Revolution Programme (GR), Agency Based Intervention programmes, National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), River Basin Development Authority (RBDA), Agricultural Development Programmes (ADPs), Directorate of Food, Road and Rural Infrastructure (DIFFRI), Implications of Farmers Empowerment Programmes, Limitations of Agricultural and Rural Development and Empowerment Strategies.

2.2.1 Farmers' Empowerment

Farmers' Empowerment is an integral part of national development. It is that aspect of development that is related to agrarian reforms. Considering the contribution of agriculture to socio-economic development of many countries, several scholars have postulated theories linking agriculture with national development. Within the context of development paradigms postulated in the field of agriculture, communication, sociology and economics there are evidences to show that changes are taking place in the agricultural sector across the globe. Therefore, such changes can be viewed from contributions of agriculture to the national economies of various countries in form of gross domestic product (GDP). However, the general goal of development initiatives is total transformation in the quality of the life of the people or target beneficiaries of development programmes.

In the empowerment process, people are not only the most important means but also ultimate end. Therefore, empowerment can be viewed as another arm of development, which connotes improvements in the principles and practices of agriculture given both human and material resources that will result in maximum output from combination of minimum inputs (Daneji, 2011).

In general, Farmers' Empowerment has been viewed from a multi dimensional perspective. These are related to political, economical, social, psychological, cultural and ecological phenomena at almost all levels of human activity. Consequently, several schools of thought have continued to view empowerment from the economic, social or modernization and technological perspective (Chauvin and Daneji, 2011). Thus,

development should be defined in relation to sustainability and of course its relevance to the socio-cultural circumstance of the people affected by changes inherent in the process.

In other words, farmers' empowerment should be those developmental changes with a "human face" or that are human centred. This implies that empowering farmers entails that conscious effort aimed at bringing about total transformation in the quality of their lives. Therefore, empowerment can only take place if the factors related to it have a positive impact on the circumstance surrounding human existence that brings about improvement in human lives. Long and healthy living and access to knowledge and availability of sufficient resources for decent living standard, a conducive social, political, economic and cultural atmosphere needed for peaceful coexistence or national stability.

2.2.2 Agriculture: The backbone of rural development

Over 70% of Nigerian population reside and earn their living in rural areas. Majority of these realities are actively involved in agriculture and agriculture related enterprise especially women, youths and children. It is sad to note that in Nigeria, the rural sector suffers more neglect and under development with ever increasing cases of population growth, unabated rural migration of able bodied youths, malnutrition, lack of basic necessities of life (health care centres, schools, good roads, portable and safe drinking water, electricity, irrigation) total marginalization, etc. Consequently, what were left are multiple negative forces in the social system such as armed robbery, advanced fee fraud (419) and general dishonesty, cheating and stealing. This justifies the need for urgent actions and interventions to address the myriads of problems of the rural areas and set the nation on the path to glory and excuse a large proportion of the nation's population from inhuman living circumstances in order to achieve greatness.

It is probably as a result of the aforementioned that successive governments in Nigeria have executed several farmers' empowerment programmes aimed at improving or elevating the level of agricultural production that will ensure self-sufficiency in food production. These interventions can be viewed from two perspectives that are based on

Policy and Nature of the Agency. An attempt is made in this paper to review some intervention programmes of successive governments in Nigeria.

2.2.3 Policy Based Intervention Programmes

2.2.3.1 National Accelerated Food Production Programmes (NAFPP)

This programme was designed in the early 60s by both the Federal and State governments to accelerate the production of grains (maize, rice, guinea corn, millet, beat, cassava and cowpeas). It was the opinion of the initiators of this programmes that target crops for accelerated production are major staple foods of Nigerians and if produced in abundance, hunger and related food crisis will be put to check.

This was achieved through the introduction of high yielding varieties, use of appropriate fertilizers, agrochemicals, good storage and processing facilities, provision of credit as well as marketing outlets. In addition, several research institutes were mandated to develop improved crop varieties and were made popular through extension agents and the use of mass media.

2.2.3.2 Operation Feed the Nation (OFN)

In 1976, Operation Feed the Nation was launched to address the problem of rising food crisis, rural-urban migration and escalating food import bills. The OFN programme attempted to mobilize the general public to participate actively in agricultural production and ensure self-sufficiency in food production. The programme stimulated Nigerians to farming through the strategy used. Some of these strategies included subsidized production inputs, increased bank credit to farmers, establishment of commodity boards and fixing of attractive prices for agricultural produce.

2.2.3.3 Green Revolution Programme (GR)

The Green Revolution Programme replaced the Operation Feed the Nation of the Federal Military Government by the civilian government in 1979. This was an attempt to bring about radical changes in Nigerian Agricultural production and eliminate inherent food problems of successive governments. Large, medium and small-scale farmers received a number of incentives to boost their production level during the implementation of the programme. Livestock and crop components were introduced

while the research institutes were re-organized to make them more responsive to the need of the programme (Daneji, 2011).

2.2.4 Agency Based Intervention Programmes

2.2.4.1 National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA)

This development authority executed a national agricultural land development programme aimed at moderating the problems of low utilization of abundant farm land, thereby increasing food production level of farmers through expansion of farmers' farm lands. A survey conducted by the central Bank of Nigeria in 1998 indicated that the agency was able to develop 16,000 hectares of land. Out of this, 12,984 (81.1%) was cultivated with various crops. It also provided extension services to farmers at project sites. The overall goal of NALDA was to encourage farmers to plant above what they can consume, so that the surplus can be sold at the local markets or exported to other countries for foreign exchange earnings.

2.2.4.2 River Basin Development Authority (RBDA)

The existing abundant water resource in the country and its potential for increasing Agricultural production prompted the establishment of River Basin Development Authority (RBDA). The scheme became necessary because of persistent short rainy seasons in many parts of the country which has continued to restrict cultivation to single cropping pattern the year round. However, the establishment of various large-scale irrigation facilities the country witnessed unprecedented multiple cropping patterns. In addition, larger areas were put into cultivation, while livestock and fisheries production were intensified. Available statistics from eight River basin Development Authorities showed that there was an increase in the tempo of activities in 1998 when the total land area developed by the authorities rose from 30.3 thousand ha in 1994 to 47.7 thousand ha in 1998. William (1981) had earlier reported that the Hadejia-Jama' are River Basin and Tiga and Challawa dams located in former Kano State could conserve enough water to irrigated land that can produce over 50% of the nations need for wheat, 30% of its need for rice, cotton and sugar cane. In addition, it could produce several thousand tons of fish; develop livestock, poultry and hydroelectric

power generation.

2.2.4.3 Agricultural Development Programmes (ADPs)

The idea of Agricultural Development Programmes is an offshoot of the concept of integrated agricultural and rural development. It started in 1972 in Northern Nigerian towns of Gombe and Gusau with two pilot projects assisted by the World Bank. This became necessary because of the need for the application of knowledge and skills in the relevant areas of agriculture. This concept involves the provision of infrastructure facilities such as roads, schools, water supply in the rural areas at the right times required quantity to farmers. The ADP is the implementation organ of the state ministry of agriculture and natural resources. It is semi autonomous and focuses on the small farmer. It adopts the integrated rural development strategy in its operations (Jibowo, 2005).

The success of the Gombe and Gusau projects encouraged other state governments to embark on more of such projects with the assistance of the World Bank. Since then, Nigeria has continued to witness agricultural development programmes of various dimensions. It is against this background that effective extension services have been established. The closest assistance ever realized by farmers in Nigeria have come from contact with various Agricultural Development programmes (ADPs) and the extension agents working under the Training and Visit (T and V) system. The activities of ADPs in Nigeria spread over three thematic areas; provision of infrastructural rural facilities, conducting worthwhile trainings on improved agricultural technologies and supply of farm inputs.

2.2.4.4 Directorate of Food, Road and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI)

Trends in the transformation of the rural sector shows that despite the huge investment in the agricultural sector, which was assumed will automatically bring about eradication of rural poverty and isolation has not been achieved. This is partly due to the deplorable conditions of rural areas, enormous size and dwindling economic resources to address the problem of rural under development in Nigeria. In 1987, the Babangida administration established the Directorate of Foods, Road and Rural infrastructure

(DFRRI).

On establishment, DFRRI attempted to open the rural areas through the construction of access roads, and provision of basic amenities of modern living. This is inevitable because it has long been realized according to Otubanjo in Daneji (2011), the economic future of Nigeria depends on the development of rural areas. Therefore, the potentials of rural areas were seen to be both immediate and long term. The idea of opening up of rural areas with feeder roads and integrating it with other parts of the country provide basis for food that could be evacuated to enhance the quantity of food and raw materials consumption. Consequently, there will be more food at cheaper rate. On the other hand, improved rural condition will stem the rate of rural-urban migration; improve quality of rural life and by implications, its productive capacity that would ensure a greater exploitation of the potentials of rural areas. The problem of DFRRI was hardly one of enthusiasm and relevance but of variation between enormity of rural under development and the quantum of resources available to subdue the problem.

2.2.5 Implications of Farmers' Empowerment Programmes

All these Farmers' Empowerment Programmes have affected agricultural production level in Nigeria. Daneji (2011) reported that annual production of sorghum has continued to increase, even though it is grown only in the savannah ecological zones of Nigeria. This is as a result of improved varieties developed by researchers for its popularization. Furthermore, the area under sorghum production has increased from 0.5 million ha in 1959 to over 3 million hectares in 1989 with a total production of over 3 million tones.

Wudir in Daneji(2011) reported that rice is the most popular of all cereals grown in the country. It is grown in all the states of the federation. In 1989, there were over 1 million hectares of rice under cultivation with a total production level at about 2 million tones. It accounts for nearly 12% of Nigeria's food consumption. Maize forms major component of poultry and piggery feeds. It is also part of the concentrate ration of dairy and beef cattle, sheep and goats. In all these, maize is a major raw material for several industries. For instance, the ban on importation of malted barley used mainly in the

brewing industries, the industries in Nigeria automatically resorted to the use of maize as alternative. Cassava is one of the most staple food crops in many households in Nigeria. Nigeria is the largest producer of cassava in the world. It has overtaken Brazil and Thailand; there are more than 400 varieties of cassava species in Nigeria now (IITA, 1992). And the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) has made tremendous contribution to the improvement of cassava production in Nigeria (IITA, 1992 in Daneji 2011). About 13.2 million tones of cassava tubers were produced in 1989 and the most common food from cassava is garri. Some by-products of cassava include starch and cassava flour.

All these aforementioned are traceable to the policy and agency based development initiatives of successive governments in Nigeria over the last decades. While it cannot be said that these policies are not vibrant enough for rural and agricultural transformation, lack of continuity and eagerness to be identified with a named policy intervention of successive government in our country has been the bane of the much desired rural and agricultural development and transformation to guarantee self- sufficiency in food and fibre.

2.2.6 Limitations of Past Agricultural and Rural Development and Empowerment Strategies

It is obvious that in spite of the positive impact of some of the rural/agricultural development and empowerment strategies adopted in Nigeria. Several noticeable limitations were evident. However, some of these are common to all the programmes. These include the following:

Top-down approach in project design and implementation

In many of the programmes, development planners assumed both the problem and solutions and forced them on the target beneficiaries whose programmes are often times at variance with the needs of the people. This often results in conflicts, wasting of scarce, resources, time and energy and sad enough the affected people at the end of it all are worse off.

Bureaucratic bottlenecks

In Nigeria, development agencies erroneously subjected to the civil service rules and regulations level of development achieved. It is very important to stress the sustainability at the onset of the development initiatives. There are however, a lot of office protocols to be followed in order to implement these programmes.

2.3 Review of Related Empirical Studies

This section comprises empirical works related to farmers' empowerment programmes.

Bature, Sanni and Adebayo (2013) in their study on analysis of Impact of National Fadama Development Projects on Beneficiaries Income and Wealth in FCT, Nigeria found out that the value of productive assets of fadama beneficiaries increases from ~~₦~~81,240.97 before fadama III to ~~₦~~84,957.5 after Fadama III project. Conversely, there was a decrease in the net farm income of fadama beneficiaries from ~~₦~~19,8261.5 to ~~₦~~17,0180.4 during Fadama III project. This study evaluated the impact of Fadama III project on income and wealth of beneficiary farmers in FCT. Gwagwalada Area Council was selected for the study. The methodology adopted includes descriptive and analytical methods using primary data. Data were obtained from two hundred (200) Fadama users and non-fadama users respectively. The researcher further deduced that the reduction in income despite the acquisition of productive assets could be due to limitations encountered by the farmers. They found out that some of the beneficiaries were just acquiring the productive assets, and the payment of the beneficiary contribution (30%) for pilot asset acquisition could have crowded out investment in short-term activities that could have increase income. It is expected that the increase in income will come significantly after starting to benefit from their investment in productive assets. The study recommended among others that strategies such as rotating saving and credit associations that can help the poor to access productive assets should be promoted, the low capacity of the poor and the vulnerable in managing productive assets efficiently could be addressed through training and development of complementary services.

Nkonya, Dayo, Tewodaj, Pender and Kato (2012) in a study on impacts of Community-driven development Programs on Income and Asset Acquisition in Africa: The Case of Nigeria. This study evaluated the impacts of a community-driven development (CDD) project on household income and acquisition of productive assets in Nigeria. Using recall data, difference-in-differences, and propensity score matching approaches, the study finds that the project succeeded in targeting the poor and women farmers in its productive asset acquisition component. The study also found out that participation in the project also increased the mean income of beneficiaries by about 40-60% but the impact of the project on income of the poorest beneficiaries was not statistically significant. Additionally, sustainability of this achievement is uncertain since the project did not involve rural credit services. The large cash transfer through its productive asset acquisition component is also unsustainable.

Izuogu (2015) undertook a study on assessment of Rural Infrastructures and Productive Assets Provided by Fadama development Project in Okigwe Agricultural zone of Iwo State, Nigeria. The study was designed to assess the rural infrastructure and productive assets provided by Fadama development projects in Okigwe agricultural zone of Imo State, Nigeria. Two sets of interview schedules were used. One was administered on Fadama user and the other on Non-Fadama users. One hundred and eighty respondents made up the sample size for the study. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics. The results from the socio-economic characteristics of the farmers show that majority of the respondents were educated and had appreciable experience in farming which enhances their activities. The provision of pump-water, fish ponds, and cold rooms among other essential infrastructure by Fadama Development Project reduced the high incidence of drudgery that characterized subsistent system of farming in the Okigwe agricultural zone. It recommended imperative that more enlightenment should be done to encourage more farmers in the study area to join Fadama user groups in order to be part of the benefits accruable from the project.

Nwaobiala and Ubor (2015) undertook a study titled: 'Effect of Growth Enhancement Scheme of Agricultural Transformation Agenda on Arable Crop Farmers'

Production in Imo State, Nigeria.” The study analyzed effect of Growth enhancement Scheme (GESS) of Agricultural Transformation Agenda on arable crop farmers’ production in Imo State, Nigeria. Simple random sampling techniques were used to select one hundred and twenty (120) registered Growth Enhancement Support Scheme (GESS) farmers. Data for the study were collected through a structured questionnaire and analyzed with descriptive statistics such as: frequency counts, mean scores and percentages and Z-test analysis. The result revealed that a high proportion (60%) of the respondents were males, with mean ages of 49.8 years, 35.50% acquired secondary education, mean farming experience of 16.50 years, mean farm size and household size of 1.1 hectares and 9.5 persons respectively. The result showed that farmers had positive attitude ($x=2.8$) towards the scheme and agreed that government meant well in establishing the scheme ($x=3.7$) and message were sent to farmers very late ($x=3.3$), quantity of farm inputs distributed were in short supply and satisfied with the schemes activities/practices and spent considerable time at redemption centre’s before redeeming inputs ($x=3.2$), showed interest in the scheme ($x=3.1$) and the scheme has increase their crop yield ($x=3.0$). The results of Z-test analysis showed that, the scheme had increased farm size income and farm output of beneficiaries at 1% levels of probability after participating in the scheme. Close location of the redemption centres, formation of cooperatives, timely distribution of farm inputs and access to arable land for farmers were advocated for increased arable crop production in the study area.

The main purpose of the reviewed study was to assess the attitude of the farmers towards the scheme. This current work however, seeks the impact on the subsistence farmers. Unlike the reviewed study, carried out in Imo State; the current study is carried out in a different geographical locale (Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State). Also time has passed since the reviewed study was done hence it is no longer novel.

Ovharhe and Gbigbi (2016) in a study on Socio-Economic Determinants of Youth Empowerment by Fadama III Project in Delta State, Nigeria: Implications for Agricultural transformation. This study was conducted in Delta State. It assessed the contributions of Fadama III empowerment activities towards youth development. The specific objectives were to: describe the socio-economic characteristics of the participants,

ascertain the participation level of youths in the project, and examine the determinants of youth empowerment by Fadama III, and identify the issues militating against youth empowerment in Fadama III. The multistage sampling procedure was used to gather data from 105 youths. Descriptive statistics and multiple regressions were used to analyze collected data. The study found out that the socio-economic characteristics result showed that youth from 28-32 years were highest (41.9%) in the project. Most of the youths (78.1%) involved in Fadama III were males, high proportions (55.2 %) of the youths were married, 61.9% possessed secondary education and 88.6% cultivated less than a hectare. The level of youths participation was moderate ($x=2.53$). The major constraints militating against the youth participation in Fadama III were poor capital base ($x = 3.34$), inefficient training session ($x=3.30$), poor project finance ($x=3.29$) and poor communication ideas in fanning technology ($x=3.26$). the regression result ($R^2 = 0.840$) showed that the determinants of youth empowerment by Fadama III were sex which was significant at 1% while marital status and educational level were inversely proportional to youth empowerment at 1% and 5% level of probability respectively. The study concluded that marriage and high educational status reduce the tendency of active involvement in Fadama III agricultural activities. It was recommended that training should be given to the married and educated youths.

Yodit (2013) in his study on Prospects of Transforming Subsistence Agriculture into Sustainable Livelihood: A case study of the Ribb sub-Catchment, Ethiopia examined interactions between the socio-economic and bio-physical components of the rural livelihood typologies. The study was undertaken in view of examining the importance of agricultural transformation to achieve sustainable livelihood in rural Ethiopia. Both female headed and male headed households were selected and interviewed. In order to generate an honest answer and data from the respondents, the questionnaire was designed to include consistent information. The questions included in the final survey covered household and farm characteristics of physical, socio-cultural/economic and institutional aspects based on the sustainable rural livelihood framework, linkage between livelihood resources available for farmers and the outcome generated was analyzed. The result indicated the existence of four types of farming typology named below-subsistence, constant improving and commercial level farm typologies.

This study constituted part of a large research project on Blue Nile/Lake Tana Nexus project in Ethiopia undertaken under the auspices of Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), aimed at studying the food, energy and water nexus issues in the region. This study was based on a survey conducted during April and May 2012, in the Ribb Sub-Catchment area of the Fogera woreda, which is part of the South Gonder Zone of the Amhara Regional State. The Fogera woreda was selected purposely to include the new irrigation development scheme in the Ribb, River. This study used both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection from both natural and social characteristics of the rural livelihoods system. A combination of primary and secondary data collection is used to identify the different variables that are considered to be key thresholds for farmer's livelihood strategy. The procedure of collecting household level data from selected participants was done in two phases. The first phase included qualitative studies that involved key informant interviews and individual farmer's interviews. This process helped in identifying the key farm typologies definition used by the WOREDA Agricultural Office and was helpful in guiding the development of the formal questionnaires. Based on this informal survey, a representative seven Peasant Association (PA), which is the smallest administrative unit, were purposely selected since those areas are part of an irrigation project conducted by the WOREDA Agricultural Office funded by the World Bank. From the chosen seven peasant associations (Weji, Alemba, Addis Betekrstian, Wetenb, AvuaKokit, Zenge and Nabega), 15 farmers were randomly selected, making a total number of 102 households interviewed. The randomly selected households are categorized as those that use irrigation and those with out in order to evaluate the impact of irrigation access in agricultural system transformation. The second phase of data collection included the individual interview conducted with the selected 102 households from the seven PA's. These randomly selected households were individually interviewed using a semi-structured questionnaire and ranking questions. An estimated 1.30 - 2.00 hours were spent in interviewing the informants. The interviews and discussions were held in Amharic, which is the main language spoken in the area. Secondary data was collected through different literature studies. Those comprised investment and policy briefs, laws, reports, articles, atlases etc; that are relevant to the study area and in addressing rural

livelihood strategies have been included and analyzed. The methods of data analysis used in the study included a descriptive statistics and econometric regression modeling. The generated results looked at the different agricultural transformation components provided by PASDEP and their impact in transforming smallholder households across the identified farm typologies. From the components provided by PASDEP for smallholder agricultural transformation, irrigation had a significant effect in transforming subsistence smallholder farming system to the level of better welfare status in the study area. Supporting small-scale irrigation and introducing area irrigation through multipurpose dam proved to be an enabling factor in smallholder agricultural commercialization. In the Ribb sub catchment, difference in the topography of farm land has a significant effect in smallholder agricultural transformation. Households belonging to better welfare status were mainly located in the lowlands of the catchment where the soil is fertile and less prone to degradation. In the highland topography, households had to exert extra effort in order to transform from subsistence agricultural system to improved and commercial level. Specialized extension services such as providing access to adequate agricultural input service, irrigation water, harvesting and land management is important in achieving small-scale farm efficiency. It was also found that Agricultural transformation has resulted in farm income increases where households allocate the surplus income to invest in household's member wellbeing improvement (health, education, assets building, etc) and provide a gateway to achieve sustainable livelihood. Livestock ownership has a significant effect in smallholder commercialization.

The main purpose of the reviewed study was to assess the impact of Agricultural Transformation on sustainable livelihood in Ethiopia. The scheme in Ethiopia though related was just a similarity to one of the various empowerment programmes under the scope of this study. The locales for the two studies are different. Also time has passed since the reviewed study was done hence it is no longer novel.

Ogunsumi, Ajayi, Amire and Williams (2013) undertook a study on Sustainability of Agricultural Transformation Agenda: The Place of Rice Farmers in Ogun State, Nigeria. The study was carried out in ObafemiOwode Local government Area (LGA) of

Ogun State with the Headquarters in Owode. Twelve (12) communities were selected by simple random sampling technique out of the 22 major rice producing communities of the LGA. The randomly selected communities are: Ajura, Owode, Mokoloiki, Onidundu and OFADA from Owode cluster and Moloko-Ashipa, Egbeda, Ayiwere, Iyana, Ogbe-Ita, Oba and Ogbe-Inu from Oba cluster. Using systematic random sampling, a respondent was selected from every third rice farmer in each village until 12 respondents were selected from each of the village. A total number of 144 respondents were selected and these were on whom a well-structured questionnaire were administered for the study. This ensured that an element of the projected population was given equal chance of being included in the sample. The data for the study were collected through the use of these questionnaire coupled with personal interview administered on the respondents. Information collected included both demographic and non-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The additional data collected with the use of personal interview were written and recorded to validate the data collected with use of questionnaire. This enhanced the correlation between the personal information collected from other source and the structured questionnaire responses by the respondents. Secondary data were also collected from the internet, for relevant information on rice production and Agricultural Transformation Agenda. It was concluded from this study that most of the rice farmers in the study area had the potentials needed for sustainable rice production, processing, packaging and marketing of domestic rice. Most of the rice farmers in the study were not familiar with policy in place on Agricultural Transformation Agenda. They are familiar with previous policies and programmes like the Fadama and OGADEP which had helped them in one way or the other in their domestic production of rice. The level of awareness, impact and acceptability of other Government initiatives like Fadama and OGADEP were well received by the rice farmers in the study area. This was seen as an indication that Agriculture transformation Agenda could also make an impact on the rice farmers if the awareness is positively created among the respondents. However, scarcity of Agro-inputs and Agro-chemicals as well as agricultural equipment that would lead to farm mechanization is needed. The inability of the respondents to access ATA information was observed as constraints to optimize rice production in the study area. Addressing at least most of these problems using the Agricultural Transformation

Agenda was a good first step towards attaining the goals of ATA for rice self-sufficiency in the country. Factors that determined the respondents' productivity level included: farm size, knowledge on improved practices of rice cultivation, the quantity of labour they use (especially as the occurrence of birds infestation of fanny is a serious problem) as well as the education level attainment by the respondents. The small farm plot sizes resulted in the current low productivity level attained by the respondents. It was recommended that among other things workshops and seminars should be organized to disseminate the information on the importance of ATA to rice farmers in the study area. This process will result in increase awareness that would lead to increase in production for self-sufficiency through rice industry. The resultant effect might also lead to the possibility of increased supply and marketing of rice to neighboring states as planned by ATA. Rice farmers should be encouraged in the study area to open up new areas of land for enhance mechanization of rice production and through the understanding of ATA, more rice farmers should be made to benefit from strengthening human and institutional capacities to produce, process and package and market rice competitively in the study area.

The reviewed study differs from the current study. It was only concerned with the rice farmers under the Agricultural Transformation Agenda in the study area. This current work is concerned with the impact of farmers' empowerment programmes on all farmers in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State. Also time has passed since the reviewed study was done hence it is no longer novel.

Ogunmefun and Achike (2015) carried out a research on Socio-economic characteristics of Rural Farmers and Problems associated with the use of Informal Insurance measures in Odogbolu Local Government Area, Ogun State, Nigeria. This study analyzed the socio-economic characteristics of rural farmers and problems associated with the use of Informal insurance measures in Odogbolu Local Government Area of Ogun State, Nigeria. To give effect to the study, eighty farmers were randomly selected from the study area. A two-stage sampling procedure was used in the collection of primary data in Odogbolu Local Government Area. The first stage involved a random selection of five (5) communities from amongst the communities in Odogbolu

LGA of Ogun state. The second stage involved the selection of respondents/farmers from each of the communities using the same insurance practices from the already listed informal insurance practices with probability proportionate to the size of each farming communities selected. Data collected through structured questionnaires and interview schedules were analyzed using frequency distribution such as mean and percentage. Results showed all the measures used had factors that limited their effectiveness. Majority of the farmers (61%) identified their major problems with the use of informal insurance measures as entry constraints which was grouped into lack of credit facilities, lack of working capital (assets like land) and lack of skills (education). Recommendation for this study was that farmers should be encouraged to invest more and increase their input in agriculture as to improve their output revenue. Also, the government should give concessions to the rural farmers in various aspects which include provision of credit facilities, provision of infrastructures and inputs for rural farmers to enable them perform most of the informal insurance measures.

Tiri, Ojoko and Aruwayo (2014) in their research on Growth enhancement Support Scheme and challenges to food security in Nigeria highlighted resistance of bureaucrats to change, over dependence on foreign institutions, low technical capacity of farmers and downgrading of National Research Institutes and universities research findings are the major challenges of the scheme. Obiora and Emodi (2013) highlighted the problems as including: the absence of a well defined extension policy; poor staffing, poor funding, and weak research/extension/farmer linkage. Other researchers identified official corruption, inconsistency in agricultural policies and poor motivation as bottleneck (Chukwuemeka and Nzewi, 2011).

2.4 Summary of Literature Review

This review provides good evidence on the investigation of the impacts of Agricultural Transformation Programmes. It delved into theoretical and conceptual framework. This was done by reviewing the Knowledge Gap Theory of Planned Behavior/Reasoned Action.

The chapter critically examined the concepts of Farmers' Empowerment,

Agriculture: The backbone of rural development, Policy Based Intervention Programmes, National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP), and Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), Green Revolution Programme (GR), Agency Based Intervention Programmes, National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), River Basin Development Authority (RBDA), Agricultural Development Programmes (ADPs), Directorate of Food, Road and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), Implications of Farmers' Empowerment Programmes, Limitations of Past Agricultural and Rural Development and Empowerment Strategies. The chapter ended by taking into account relevant empirical studies as related to the concept of this research. From the review, special implications of Agricultural Transformation Agenda and the Growth Enhancement Schemes (GES) were also spotted.

The review demonstrated that there are gaps that necessitate the current research: First, most of the empirical studies were undertaken in geographical locations different from Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State. Also, time has passed since the reviewed empirical studies were conducted (that is the studies are no longer novel or current) hence findings in the past do not necessarily reflect the current situation. Moreover, most of the studies focused on variables different from those in the current study. It is clear that where variables matched, the geographical locations varied. It is thus imperative to investigate the effects of farmers' empowerment programmes on agricultural productivity in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the research design, area of study, sample and sampling technique, instrument for data collection, method of data collection and method of data analysis.

3.1 Research Design

Descriptive survey research design was used for this study. The descriptive survey research design is one aimed at collecting data and describing in a systematic manner the characteristics, features or facts about a given population. This method is, therefore, appropriate for this study because it helps in providing a relatively cheap means of collecting large amount of data concerning the problem.

3.2 Study Area

This study was conducted in Kwande Local Government Area (LGA) of Benue State, Nigeria. Kwande Local Government Area is one of the 23 Local Government Areas in Benue State with its Headquarters in Adikpo town. The LGA is made up of eleven principal districts. They include; Barakur, Mkomon, Kumakwagh, Mbadura, Agba-ikyan and Mbayoo, Menev, Liev, Mbaketsa, Tondov and Usar. Kwande Local Government Area shares boundaries with Vandeikya Local Government Area of Benue State to the West, Cross-River State in the South, in the East with the Republic of Cameroon and in the North and North-East with Katsina-Ala and Ushongo Local Government Areas of Benue State. It also shares boundaries with Taraba State to the North-East. The people of Kwande Local Government Area speak Tiv although slight dialectical variations exist in each of the noted wards. The people are predominantly small-scale farmers growing various types of food crops.

The economy of the people in Kwande Local Government Area is heavily dependent on agriculture, however, few people engage in other commercial activities like petty trading while others are public servants serving in government offices and parastatals, some of which are under the educational sector and specifically in

institutions of leaning. There are several farmers in Kwande Local Government Area.

Most households in Kwande are involved in farming especially the rural dwellers. The crops and livestock produced in the LGA include Yam, Cassava, Potatoes, Groundnut, Rice, Bambara nuts, Guinea Corn, Maize, Cowpea and Goat, sheep, Chickens.

3.3 Population of the Study

The study population comprises all the subsistence farmers in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State. The number of registered farmers in Kwande Local Government Area is 1,439 (Nigerian Best Forum (NBF), 2013).

3.4 Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample for the study was 110 respondents, comprising subsistence farmers from Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State. The sampling technique adopted for this study was the purposive sampling method. The choice of the researcher for purposive sampling arose from the fact that these farmers are the direct beneficiaries of the farmers' empowerment programmes.

3.5 Instrument for Data Collection

Structured questionnaire was used for the study for data collection. The questionnaire was structured into 4 responses of 'Strongly Agree (SA)', 'Agree (A)', 'Disagree (D)', and 'Strongly Disagree (SD)'. The instrument had two sections: A and B. Section A covered information on bio-data, while section B covered the questions on farmers' empowerment programmes. The questionnaire had 40 items. For the purpose of mean analysis, the questionnaire was coded; SA= 4, A = 3, D = 2 and SD = 1.

3.6 Validation of Instrument

Face validity was ascertained by consulting the research supervisor and other experts. It was thereafter restructured in accordance with the corrections

3.7 Reliability of Instrument

To ensure the reliability of the instrument used for the study, the questionnaire used was pilot tested. The Cronbach-Alpha method was used. The reliability of the instrument was determined using Cronbach's Alpha coefficient.

3.8 Method of Data Collection

The researcher personally administered the questionnaire to the respondents with the District head's assistance. One hundred percent (100%) of the 110 questionnaire issued out were returned. Primary data were collected on Impact of Farmers' Empowerment Programmes on Farm Inputs Accessibility, Impact of Farmers' Empowerment Programmes on Productive Assets Acquisition, Impact of Farmers' Empowerment Programmes on Income of Farmers and the Challenges of Farmers' Empowerment Programmes.

3.9 Method of Data Analyses

Data were analyzed using descriptive analysis such as frequency, percentages and means, while chi-square statistic was used to test the hypothesis. The hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance. It is expressed as follows:-

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O_f - E_f)^2}{E_f}$$

Where;

O = observed frequency

E = expected frequency

Σ = summation

X^2 = chi-square value

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

The socio-economic characteristics of the respondents such as, gender, age, level of education, household size, farm size, farming experience and farm income are presented in Table 1.

The gender analysis shows that 59.1% of the respondents were males while 40.9% were females. This means that there was more male participation in the programme than females. The reason is because most of the farming activities in the study area are controlled by the male gender. The age distribution shows that 17.3% of the respondents were between 21-30 years, 28.2% from 31-40, while 54.5 were greater than 40 years. This means that most of the farmers that participated in the programme were more than 40 years. The level of education shows that 19.1% of the respondents attained primary education, 56.4% attained secondary education, 22.7% attained tertiary education while 1.8% attained post-tertiary education. Most of the farmers that participated in the programme acquired secondary education. The reason is because secondary education is the easily affordable education of the respondents in the study area. The household size shows that 9.1% of the respondents had 1-3 persons, 31.8 % had 4-6 persons and 59.1% had greater than 6 persons. Majority of the farmers that participated in the programme had a household size of more than 6 persons in number. Farm size analysis shows that 45.5% of the respondents cultivated 1-2.99 hectares of land, 50.0 % cultivated 3-4.99 hectares and 4.5% cultivated 5-6.99 hectares. This implies that most of the farmers that participated in the programme were cultivating 3-4.99 hectares of land. Analysis of the farming experience shows that 17.3% of the respondents had been farming for 4-6years, 23.6 for 7-9 years and 59.1% for greater than 9 years. This means that most of the farmers that participated in the programme had a farming experience of more than 9 years. The annual farm income analysis indicates that 9.1% of the respondents earned less than ₦200,000, 36.4% earned ₦200,000 - ₦300,000, 45-5% earned ₦400,000 - ₦500,000, 4.5% earned ₦600,000 -

~~₦~~700,000 and 4.5% still earned greater than ~~₦~~700,000. This implies that most of the farmers that participated in the programme earned ~~₦~~400, 000 – ~~₦~~500,000 from their farms.

Table 1: Socio-Economic Characteristic Of The Respondents (n=110)

socio-economic variable	frequency	percentage
Gender		
Male	65	59.1
Female	45	40.9
Age (years)		
21-30	19	17.3
31-40	31	28.2
>40	60	54.5
Level of Education		
Primary	21	19.1
Secondary	62	56.4
Tertiary	25	22.7
Post-Tertiary	2	1.8
Household size: Number		
1-3	10	9.1
4-6	36	31.8
>6	65	59.1
Farm size (Ha)		
1-2.99	50	45.5
3-4.99	55	50.0
5-6.99	5	4.5
Farming Experience (years)		
4-6	19	17.3
7-9	26	23.6
>9	65	59.1
Annual income (₦)		
a. Farm Income (₦)		
<200,000	10	9.1
200,000 - 300,000	40	36.4
400,000 - 500,000	50	45.5
600,000 - 700,000	5	4.5
>700,000	5	4.5
b. Non-Farm Income (₦)		
>200,000	30	27.3
200,000 - 300,000	6	5.5
400,000 - 500,000	7	6.4
600,000 - 700,000	18	16.4
>700,000	4	3.6

Source:Field survey data, 2018

4.2 Impact of Programme on Farm Input Accessibility

The impacts of farmer's empowerment programmes on farm input accessibility are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Impact of Programme on Farm Input Accessibility (n = 110)

	Effects of Programme on Farm Input Accessibility	SA	A	D	SD
a.	Seed distribution under agricultural empowerment programme has brought about increase in yield	9.1	68.2	18.2	4.5
b.	Agricultural empowerment programmes guaranteed access to improved fertilizer brands	8.2	69.1	19.1	3.6
c.	Agricultural empowerment programmes have enabled the provision of herbicides to farmers.	8.2	69.1	19.1	3.6
d.	Agricultural empowerment programmes has enabled the provision of pesticides to farmers.	7.3	70.0	19.1	3.6
e.	Farmers derive satisfaction from the agricultural empowerment programme activities on input supply.	4.5	72.7	17.7	5.5
f.	Agricultural empowerment programmes have brought efficient and timely delivery of farm input to farmers	4.5	72.7	17.3	5.5

Source; Field survey data, 2018

On seed distribution under agricultural empowerment programmes, 9.1% of the respondents strongly agreed, 68.2% agreed, 18.2 % disagreed and 4.5% strongly disagreed, that seed distribution under agricultural empowerment programmes brought about increase in yield. Analysis of farmers' access to improved fertilizer brands shows that 8.2 % of the respondents strongly agreed, 69.1% agreed, 19.1% disagreed and 3.6% strongly disagreed that agricultural empowerment programme guaranteed access to improved fertilizer brands. Also, 8.2 % of the respondents strongly agreed, 69.1% agreed, 19.1% disagreed and 3.6% strongly disagreed that agricultural empowerment programmes have enabled the provision of herbicides to farmers, while 7.3% of the respondents strongly agreed, 7.0% agreed, 19.1% disagreed and 3.6% strongly disagreed that participation in agricultural empowerment programme has enabled the provision of pesticides to farmers. On farmers satisfaction on input supply shows that 4.5% of the respondents strongly agreed, 72.7% agreed, 17.3 % disagreed, 5.5 % strongly disagreed that farmers who participated in the programme derive satisfaction from the agricultural empowerment programme activities on input supply, while 4.5% of the respondents strongly agreed, 72.7% agreed, 17.3 % disagreed and 5.5% strongly disagreed that agricultural empowerment programme have brought efficient and timely delivery of farm input to farmers.

4.3 Impact of Programme on Productive Asset Acquisition

Results of farmers' empowerment programme on productive asset acquisition shows that it reduced bureaucratic bottlenecks associated with acquisition of productive farm asset, Brought about timely and efficient delivery of productive assets, while land for farming activities is readily available under the programmes. Farmer's empowerment programmes Ensures stress free acquisition of infrastructure and assets (Table 3).

Table 3: Impact of Programme on Productive Asset Acquisition (n=110)

Effects of Programme on Productive Asset Acquisition	SA	A	D	SD.
a. Farmers' empowerment programmes have reduced 4.5 bureaucratic bottlenecks associated with acquisition of productive farm assets.	50.0	27.3	18.2	
b. Farmers' empowerment programmes have brought about 2.7 timely and efficient delivery of productive assets.	47.3	30.0	20.0	
c. Land for farming activities is readily available under farmers' Empowerment programmes.	1.0	41.9	27.6	29.5
d. Farmers empowerment programmes ensures stress free acquisition of infrastructure and assets like water pumps, boreholes, ovens, farm machineries, generators, etc at subsidized rate.	4.5.	50.0.	27.3.	18

Source: Field survey data, 2018

Analysis of the results indicates that 4.5% of the respondents strongly agreed, 50.0% agreed, 27.3% disagreed and 18.2% strongly disagreed that farmers' empowerment programmes have reduced bureaucratic bottlenecks associated with acquisition of productive farm assets. On timely and efficient delivery of productive assets, the result shows that 2.7% of the respondents strongly agreed, 47.3% agreed, 30.0% disagreed, 20.0% strongly disagreed that farmers' empowerment Programmes have brought about timely and efficient delivery of productive assets to farmers, and land for farming activities is readily available, as indicated by 1.0% of the respondents who strongly agreed, 41.9% agreed, 27.6% disagreed and 29.5% strongly disagreed this means that more of the farmers who participated in the programme have agreed that land for farming activities is readily available under farmers' empowerment programmes. Also, 4.5% of the respondents strongly agreed, 50.0% agreed, 27.3% disagreed, and 18.2% strongly disagreed that farmers' empowerment programmes ensures stress free acquisition of infrastructure and assets like water pumps, boreholes, ovens, farm machines, generators, etc at subsidized rate to farmers.

4.4 Impact of Programme on Income of Farmers

The impact of farmers' empowerment programme on income of farmers is presented on Table 4

Table 4: Impact of Programme on Income of Farmers (n = 110)

Effects of Programme on Income of Farmers		SA	A	D	SD
a.	Agricultural empowerment programmes have brought about increase in the income of the farmers.	10.9	75.5	13.6	0.0
b.	Subsidized farm inputs for farmers under agricultural empowerment programmes guaranteed less expenses hence more income.	10.0	76.4	10.0	3.6
c.	I earn more income with participation in agricultural empowerment programmes than was the case when I had not.	10.9	75.5	12.7	0.9
d.	Farmers feel provision of farm assets under agricultural empowerment programmes would reduce cost of labour and earn higher net income.	9.1	77.3	9.1	4.5
e.	Farmers are satisfied with their income derived from the agricultural empowerment programmes.	8.2	78.2	8.2	5.5
f.	Incomes of farmers are likely to be higher in the future since beneficiaries acquired productive assets	5.5	80.9	7.3	6.4

Source; Field survey data, 2018

Analysis of table 4 shows that 10.9% of the respondents strongly agreed, 75.5% agreed, 13.6% disagreed that agricultural empowerment programmes have brought about increase in the income of farmers. Also, 10.0% of the respondents strongly agreed, 76.9% agreed, 10.0% disagreed and 3.6% strongly disagreed that subsidized farm inputs for farmers under agricultural farmers empowerment programme guaranteed less expenses hence more income. The result also shows that 10.9% of the respondents strongly agreed, 75.5% agreed, 12.7% disagreed and 0.9% strongly disagreed that they earn more income with participation in agricultural empowerment programme than was the case when they had not. Impact of the programme on farmers feeling concerning provision of farm assets reducing cost of labour and earning higher net income was analyzed. The result shows that 9.1 % of the respondents strongly agreed, 77.3% agreed, 9.1% disagreed and 4.5% strongly disagreed that provision of farm assets under agricultural empowerment programme reduced cost of labour and earned higher net income. Analysis of farmers satisfaction with their income derived from the programme shows that 8.2 % of the respondents strongly agreed, 78.2% agreed, 8.2% disagreed and 5.5% strongly disagreed that they are satisfied with their income derived from the agricultural empowerment programmes. The result also indicates that 5.5% of the respondents strongly agreed, 80.9% agreed, 7.3 % disagreed and 6.4 % strongly disagreed that income of farmers are likely to be higher in the future, since beneficiaries acquired productive assets through the programmes.

4.5 Challenges of Farmers Empowerment Programme

The challenges faced by farmers under the empowerment programme are presented in le 5.

Table 5: Challenges of farmers under the empowerment programme (n = 110)

	Frequency	Percentage
a. Discrimination against farmers	65	59.1
b. Insufficient quantity of inputs provided	25	22.7
c. Farmers illiteracy	10	9.1
d. Bureaucratic bottlenecks	50	45.5
e. Poor awareness of scheme	65	59.1
f. Poor quality of input supplied	5	4.5
g. Hectic registration process	45	40.9
h. Proximity to redemption centre's	40	36.4
i. Misplacement of registered identities	10	9.1
j. Late supply of agro-inputs	5	4.5
k. Corruption among government officials	10	9.1
L Costly agro-inputs	15	13.6
m. Communication lapses	45	40.9
n. Harsh weather conditions	25	22.7
o. Inadequacy of capital such as land	25	31.8

Source; Field survey data, 2018

Multiple responses were recorded. Out of the 110 farmers that participated in the programme, 59.1% indicated that there was discrimination against farmers in the distribution of agricultural incentives loans and subsidies and credit facilities, while 22.7 % observed that the quantity of inputs provided were insufficient for farmers farming activities. Only 9.1% complained that illiteracy on the part of farmers hindered the success of farmers' empowerment programme, while 45.5 % were of the view that activities of the programme were not designed for farmer's easy access due to bureaucratic bottlenecks. Most of the respondents observed (59.1%) that poor awareness of the scheme is an obstacle to capturing farmers on the scheme, as farmers were not well informed about the existence of the programme; while 4.5% complain of poor qualities of input supplied. About 41% observed that the registration process for the programme was hectic, while 36.4 % noted that there was no proximity to redemption centres. Only 9.1% of the respondents observed that there was difficulty in identifying registered farmers due to misplacement of identities, while 4.5 % observed that there was late supply of agro-inputs as inputs were supplied when farming season was almost over. Other challenges were corruption on the part of government officials which hinders early access to inputs by farmers (9.1%) Costly agro-inputs given to the farmers (13.6%), communication lapses (40.9%), harsh weather conditions (22.7%). and lastly inadequacy of capital (31.8%).

4.6 Hypotheses Testing

H_{01} : farmers' empowerment programmes have no significant effects on farm inputs, accessibility in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue state.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson chi square	4.585	15	.995
Likelihood ratio	4.747	15	.994
Linear-by-linear associates	802	1	.370
No. of valid cases	660		

The calculated chi-square value is 4.585 while the tabulated or table value is 0.995. Since the value of the calculated chi-square exceeds the tabulated or table value, the null hypotheses are rejected in favour of the alternative hypotheses. With a value of 4.585 and 15 degree of freedom, we find that the mean difference is significant above 5% level. Based on this decision, we conclude that farmers empowerment programme have a significant effect on farm inputs accessibility.

H₀₂: Farmers empowerment programme have no significant effect on productive asset acquisition.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson chi square	8.557	9	.479
Likelihood ratio	8.799	9	.456
Linear-by-linear associates	240	1	.624
No. of valid cases	435		

The calculated chi-square value is 8.557 while the chi-square tabulated or table value is 0.479. Since the value of the calculated chi-square exceeds the tabulated or table value, the null hypotheses is rejected in favour of the alternative hypotheses. With a value of 8.557 and 9 degree of freedom, we find that the mean difference is significant above 5 % level. Based on this decision, we conclude that farmers' empowerment programmes have significant effect on productive asset acquisition.

H₀₃: Farmers empowerment programmes have no significant effect on income of the farmers.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson chi square	16.514	15	.349
Likelihood ratio	20.671	15	.148
Linear-by-linear associates	2.746	1	.098
No. of valid cases	660		

The calculated chi-square value is 16.514 while the chi-square tabulated or table value is 0.349. Since the value of the calculated chi-square exceeds the tabulated or table value, the null hypotheses are rejected in favour of the alternative hypotheses. With a value of 16.514 and 15 degree of freedom we find that the mean difference is significant above 5% level. Based on this decision, we conclude that farmers' empowerment programmes have a significant effect on the income of the farmer. There is a strong correlation between farmers' empowerment programme and increased income of the farmers.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

The study examined the effects of farmers' empowerment programmes on agricultural productivity in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State. The specific objectives were to: examine the socio-economic characteristics of the farmers; determine the effects of farmers' empowerment programme on farm inputs accessibility; determine the effects of farmers' empowerment programme on productive asset acquisition; determine the effects of farmers' empowerment programmes on income of the farmers; and examine the problems encountered by farmers in farmers' empowerment programmes.

The major findings of the study showed that the male gender participated in the programme more than the females (59.1%), and most of the farmers who participated in the programme were above 40 years (54.5%). Majority (59.1%) had a household size of more than 6 persons in number, cultivating 3-4.99 hectares of land (50%) and had farming experience of more than 9 years (59.1%). Farmers had much and better access to farm inputs through the programme and acquired much and better productive assets, and earned more and better income from their farms. There was discrimination against farmers in the distribution of agricultural incentives, subsidies, and credit facilities (59.1%). Poor awareness of the scheme was an obstacle to capturing farmers on the scheme (59.1%), as farmers were not informed about the existence of the programme.

There was high positive effect of farmers' empowerment programmes on farm input accessibility (t-tab.0.995;t-cal.4.585), productive asset acquisition (t-tab.0.479; t-cal.8.557) and income of farmers. (t-tab.0.349; t-cal.16.515)

5.2 Conclusion

The study has shown that there is relationship between agricultural productivity and farmers' empowerment programme, due to roles and functions that farmers and empowerment agencies are expected to flulfill. It is widely recognized among the farmers that empowerment programmes play essential roles in the farming life especially in the areas of input accessibility, productive assets acquisition and increase in farm income. The farmers, however, face a lot of problems under the programme such as discrimination, poor awareness of programmes, communication lapses and bureaucratic bottlenecks, which when solved, portend a brighter future for the programmes.

5.3 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made based on findings of the study.

- i. The government, individuals and non-governmental organizations should join hands to adequately finance farmers' empowerment programmes of the rural dwellers.
- ii. The agencies and government officials in-charge of the empowerment programmes should avoid discrimination against farmers in the distribution of agricultural empowerment

- programmes packages. This can be done by ensuring that packages are distributed to the farmers based on merit.
- iii. The government and empowerment agencies should ensure that awareness is created and farmers are well informed about the existence of the programme so that more farmers will be captured on the scheme. This can also be done through public notice, radio announcements and other means of creating awareness to the farmers.
 - iv. Frequent seminars, workshops and enlightenment campaigns should be organized to enlighten farmers on the need for agricultural empowerment programmes.

5.4 Suggestion for Further Study

This study was limited to Kwande Local Government Area, so further studies should consider other local government areas of the state and probably Nigeria at large.

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APPENDIX A: FARMERS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES QUESTIONNAIRE (FEPROQUE)

Department of agribusiness,
College of Management Science,
Federal University of Agriculture,
Makurdi.

20th March, 2018.

Dear Respondent,

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

I am an undergraduate student in the above stated institution and department undertaking a research work on the topic: **“The Effects of Farmers Empowerment Programmes on Agricultural Productivity in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria”**. This questionnaire is designed to enable me collect data from respondents for the study. You are therefore chosen to be part of this research.

Be honest in giving your response and be rest assured that all the information you give herein will be treated with strict confidentiality.

Thank you in advance for accepting to be cooperative.

Yours faithfully,

Boko, Nguuma Shadrach

SECTION A: BIO DATA OF RESPONDENTS

Instruction: Please tick as appropriate the option(s) which best suits your choice.

1. Gender: Male []

Female []

2. Age

<20 []

21-30 []

31-40 []

>40 []

3. Level of Education

(a) No formal education [] (b) primary [] (c) Secondary [] (d) tertiary [] (e) post tertiary []

4. Household size

1-3 []

4-6 []

>6 []

5. Farm size (Hectares)

1-2.99 []

3-4.99 []

5-6.99 []

>9 []

6. Farming experience:

1-3 []

4-6 []

7-9 []

>9 []

7. Annual Income (~~N~~)

a Farm Income (~~N~~)

<200,000 []

200,000-300,000 []

400,000-500,000 []

600,000 -700,000 []

>700,000 []

b. Non-Farm Income (~~N~~)

<200,000 []

200,000-300,000 []

400,000-500,000

600,000 -700,000 []

>700.000 []

SECTION B: QUESTION ON FARMERS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

Instruction: Please tick as appropriate the option(s) which suits your choice

A. Impact of Farmers Empowerment Programmes on Farm Input accessibility

	Effects on Farm Input Accessibility	SA	A	D	SD
a.	Seed distribution under agricultural empowerment programmes has brought about increase in yield				
b.	Agricultural empowerment programmes guaranteed access to improved fertilizer brands				
c.	Agricultural empowerment programmes has enabled he provision of herbicides to farmers				
d.	Agricultural empowerment programmes has enabled the provision of pesticides to farmers.				
e.	Farmers derive satisfaction from the Agricultural empowerment programmes activities on input supply				
f.	Agricultural empowerment programmes have brought efficient and timely delivery of farm input to farmers				

B. Impact of Farmers Empowerment Programmes on Productive Asset Acquisition

	Effects on Programme on Productive asset acquisition	SA	A	D	SD
a.	Farmers Empowerment Programmes have reduced bureaucratic bottlenecks associated with acquisition of productive farm assets				
b.	Farmers Empowerment Programmes have brought about timely and efficient delivery of productive assets				
c.	Land for farming activities is readily under Farmers Empowerment Programmes				
d.	Farmers Empowerment Programmes ensures stress free acquisition of infrastructure nda ssets like water pumps, boreholes, ovens, farm machineries, generators, etc at subsidized rate.				

C. Impact of Farmers' Empowerment Programmes on Income of Farmers

	Effects of Programme on Farmers Income	SA	A	D	SD
a.	Agricultural Empowerment Programmes have brought about increase in the income of the farmers				
b.	Subsidized farm inputs for farmers under Agricultural Empowerment Programmes guaranteed less expenses hence more income				
c.	I earn more income with participation in Agricultural Empowerment Programmes than was the case when I had not				
d.	Farmers feel provision of farm assets under Agricultural Empowerment Programmes would reduce cost of labour and earn higher net income				
e.	Farmers are satisfied with their income derived from the Agricultural Empowerment Programmes				
f.	Incomes of farmers are likely to be higher in the future since beneficiaries acquired productive assets.				

D. The followings are challenges of farmers' Empowerment Programmes

Instruction: Tick as many as applicable to you

	Challenges	
a.	Discrimination against farmers in the distribution of Agricultural incentives loans and subsidies, credit facilities	☐
b.	The quantities of inputs provided were insufficient for farmers farming activities.	☐
c.	Farmers always feel so reluctant in responding to the scheme's messages	☐
d.	Illiteracy on the part of farmers hindered the success of farmers Empowerment programmes	☐
e.	Activities of the programmes were not designed for farmers easy access due to bureaucratic bottlenecks	☐
f.	Poor awareness of the scheme is an obstacle to capturing farmers on the scheme	☐
g.	Poor quality of input supplied	☐
h.	The registration process was hectic	☐
i.	Proximity to redemption centers	☐
j.	Difficulty in identifying registered farmers due to misplacement of identities	☐
k.	Late supply of Agro-inputs as inputs were supplied when farming season was almost over	☐
l.	Corruption on the part of government officials hinder early access to inputs by farmers	☐
m.	The agro-inputs given to the farmers are costly	☐
n.	There were much communication lapses	☐
o.	Harsh weather conditions	☐
p.	Inadequacy of capital such as land	☐
q.	Others (specify)	☐