

LINKING THE PARADIGMS IN PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT: ANALYSIS OF FADAMA III BENEFICIARY PARTICIPATION IN KADUNA AND SOKOTO STATES, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study examines the level of beneficiaries' participation in anti-poverty programme. There is empirical evidence that the poorest of the poor, are hardly ever reached or left out in most of the intervention programmes. The major concerns of this study therefore, are to what extent has the implementation strategy adopted by NFDP III promoted the level of beneficiary participation in the reduction of rural poverty in Kaduna and Sokoto States, Nigeria? The study made use of questionnaire to generate primary data from 245 respondents. Results indicate that, the implementation strategy i.e. CDD approach adopted by NFDP III has significantly promoted the level of beneficiary participation in the reduction of rural poverty with $r=0.616$, $p=0.000$. Participation in NFDP III offered the beneficiaries' opportunities to gain access to the project-supported activities which significantly reduced the extent and severity of human deprivations. Consequently, the magnitude of beneficiary participation was higher amongst beneficiaries from Kaduna State than those from Sokoto State. Kaduna State had (38, 321) number of beneficiaries whilst Sokoto State had (22, 883). The study recommended for the establishment of Farmers' Skill Acquisition Centres and inclusion of Credit Service Providers as mechanisms for sustaining the impacts of the project.

Keywords: Participatory development, Beneficiary participation, Poverty reduction and Development Project