EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The third National Fadama Mission engages CSOs as an independent observer of the mission to have an independent assessment of the project. The Mission team includes staff from, World Bank, Federal Government and CSOs. The Mission visited six states, one each from the six geo political zones and six zonal and two national CSOs were involved in the mission.

The CSOs, like other Mission team members had access to all the relevant project documents both at national, state and community levels. We visited the communities, together with the team, supervised the projects, and interviewed the beneficiaries in group, sample numbers and on one on one using local languages. The table below shows our findings using the common checklist developed for all CSOs involved in the Mission;

![Graph showing findings of the mission](image)

The findings used a scale of 0% – 100% (Minimum-Maximum) to assess the project. Transparency and Positive impact of the project ranked highest with 80% -75% while youth participation is the lowest due to challenges of positive list of the project. We equally observed few challenges which are listed in the report. We recommend more Fadama structure like projects that will be managed by qualified team just like Fadama.
team for developing countries as it gives the communities, vulnerable and the poorest of
the poor a more structured voice to the government and the world.

INTRODUCTION

The Fadama III project (simply means Irrigable Land) is a community driven
development project of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
jointly funded by The Federal Government of Nigeria and the World Bank with
component funding by state and local governments. The project is basically agricultural
based that aims at increasing the income of FADAMA users through FADAMA
Community Associations and FADAMA Users Group in a sustainable and
environmentally friendly manner. As a community-driven intervention, projects are
initiated by communities, though with supervision from the State and National
FADAMA Office

The FADAMA III is targeted at the 36 states of the federation, including the Federal
Capital Territory, with strategic engagement using the unit structure of the local
governments, to directly impact on the grassroots. Only Bornu state is yet to be part of
the FADAMA project. Though the primary focus of the project is targeted at involvement
in food production, there is a tangential part, involving social and economic support to
vulnerable groups such as widows, physically handicapped, orphans based on identified
needs (demand-driven) in line with the principles of Positive list of the project design.

This 3rd National FADAMA Development Project in conjunction with the 3rd joint World
Bank/ FGN Supervision Mission aims at assessing the progress made by the different
states implementing the FADAMA III projects. The supervising team comprising key
departmental personnel of the FADAMA office under the Ministry of Agriculture, the
World Bank representatives, Federal Ministry of Finance, Federal ministry of
Environment, State Programme Officers from each of the Zones and National/Zonal NGO
representatives visited the 6 geo political zones of the Federation. The Mission was held
at the following states in the six geo-political zones, viz. Bauchi (North-East), Kaduna
(North West), Kogi (North Central), Ondo (South West), Imo (South East) and Delta
(South South).
As a development initiative circumscribed by demand-driven and counterpart-funding processes, the FADAMA III Supervision Mission was an integrated approach to transparently understand the nature of the projects executed and determine the level of people involvement and ownership. Given the externalization of development provisioning in the country, either in terms of donor-funded interventions or government-designed initiatives, a critical challenge has been to actually see or encounter development as the targets see and encounter it. Beneficiaries’ view of a project is paramount to assess impact and ensure sustainability. The Supervision Mission, therefore, deliberately mediated this need and the challenge which such efforts usually face.

The main objective of CSOs engagement in the mission was to provide third party assessment of the project performance as well as technical guidance in areas requiring improvement, where necessary. This was to enable stakeholders to appreciate the overall project issues for the purpose of factoring sustainability and communal ownership. Engagement of CSOs as an independent monitor and observer of the Mission team gave the beneficiaries the opportunity to share their encounter, challenges and impact of the project on them. In addition, it remains a necessary means of ensuring transparent, constructive and inclusive assessment. In fact, this is the first most strategic CSOs engagement on the FADAMA III project Mission as an Independent observer.

The underlying principle of the Supervision Mission was to provide a framework for the participation of CSOs at the national, state and community levels. Towards this end, a common format was developed for carrying out field work across the zones. This format covered the following specific indicators.

i. Access and participation
ii. Good governance and transparency
iii. Gender participation
iv. Environmental impact
v. Risks of conflict and mechanisms for mitigation

The centrality of these indicators within the mainstream of the FADAMA III project cannot be over-emphasized. It is an assumption of the project that addressing these issues
will accelerate the pace of development. Based on fieldwork experience, these key indicators are fundamental to delivering the possible impacts on CCD projects.

The modality of engagement was such that eight CSOs were drawn into the team, six from the six geo-political zones and two at the national level. In each state CSOs were treated as part of the key personnel of the team. They joined the key team members in visits to the State governors and L.G.A. chairmen, where applicable. The CSOs had access to all the project documents (especially the Implementation Progress Report) prior to the commencement of field visits to provide intellectual familiarity with the projects and their related activities. During the field visits, the CSOs interviewed the beneficiaries in groups and on one-on-one, employing the aid of language interpreters and utilizing national questionnaires. In addition, they also benchmarked activity timelines on implementation progress report as provided by the State Project Team to authenticate the reports.

In terms of coverage, the time allowed for the Mission could only permit visits to sampled states, basically one state per geo-political zone. The Mission visited the 6 geo-political zones of the Federation. The Mission was held at the following states in the six geo-political zones, viz. Bauchi (North-East), Kaduna (North West), Kogi (North Central), Ondo (South West), Imo (South East) and Delta (South South).

The key findings from the mission were summarized as positive results/Impacts, challenges and recommendations:

**POSITIVE RESULTS/IMPACTS**

i. **FADAMA 111 project has a systematic structure that gives voice to the communities and connects them to the government.** It is empowering the grassroots, creating employment and reducing poverty using the bottom-top and CDD approach.

ii. **The project shows a high level of transparency through availability of information by the government (the project team) and the World Bank**

iii. **The project is giving hope to the poor and vulnerable, especially the disabled.**
iv. The project has been accepted and embraced by the participating communities and LGAs which ensures sustainability.

CHALLENGES

I. Non prompt payment of counterpart funding at state and LGA levels slows down project implementation.

II. Some beneficiaries were yet to understand the project design as they kept asking for support not in the positive list of the project.

III. Low communication between the state project implementing unit and the project sites/communities.

IV. Low level of youth involvement in the project.

V. Inadequate Civil Society Organization involvement at state and community level.

VI. Noticeable erosion, sanitation and hygiene challenges in some communities

VII. More investments on Infrastructure than income generating activities.

VIII. High bureaucratic process in releasing fund

IX. Inadequate time during Mission for CSOs for detailed assessment of the project

X. Some project team are yet to understand the need for CSOs partnership

RECOMMENDATIONS

i. Engagement of CSOs during project design to represent beneficiaries voice and to sensitize them before implementation will rightly inform the beneficiaries about the project and ensures prompt acceptability of the project by the communities.

ii. The assistance of the project to the vulnerable if highly recommended and should continue.

iii. More CSOs should be involved in the project at National and state level and for continuous assessment of the project as the Mission Logistics did not permit.

iv. Fadama FCAs should be increased to broaden mobilization and effective utilization of human and material resources in the states towards improved
business investments, mechanized agriculture, and better living standards of the people. (Government should broaden Fadama project to all communities)

v. Environmental issues should be addressed as integral part of Fadama. For examples, the following environmental challenges must be tackled holistically; sanitation, waste management, deforestation, erosion, etc.

vi. Youth programmes should be organized to involve youths for sustainable agricultural productivity as a career. This is a sustainability strategy.

vii. Prompt release of funds in a manner that circuits around the bureaucratic bottlenecks will help timely intervention.

viii. Engendered Fadama Project is key to poverty reduction. Women are close actors in community/Environmental governance and should be involved through capacity building, awareness raising, monitoring and evaluation to tap their abundant local talents and competences in communities.

ix. We recommend a workshop for the project team and CSOs for capacity building and to explore better ways of structured partnership between the parties.

We finally commend the National FADAMA 111 and the World Bank for success recorded so far and must mention that the strategy adopted for this project is very effective and should be adopted for other development initiatives targeting the grassroots in Nigeria.

Signed

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