

An evaluation of the community-based participatory extension approach (pea) in okehi local government area, of kogi, state nigeria

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ABSTRACT: *This study was carried out to evaluate the community-based participatory extension approach in Okehi Local Government Area of Kogi State. The specific objectives were to examine the socio-economic profile of the farmers, level of participation, effectiveness of the PEA model in addressing farmers technological needs and problems militating against effective operation. Data were collected using structured interview schedule from 60 respondents who were randomly selected. The data collected were analyzed by the use of descriptive statistics such as tables, percentages frequencies and means. The Result from the analysis showed that 60 percent were within (40-59years) which could be considered to be the age bracket for economically active population. The level of participation was found to be (65 percent). The study shows that the community-based participatory extension approach has positive effects in the area because production was higher after the intervention of PEA model. The major problem identified with the PEA model in the area include, illiteracy, inputs not readily available, approach is time consuming, lack of credit as well as inadequate extension contact. The study concluded by recommending that efforts should be intensified on provision of adequate rural infrastructure like school, feeder roads and marketing outlet for the farmers produce. This would help improve and sustain the gains accruable from participating in this project.*

Keywords: Participatory, Extension, Approach, Kogi state

INTRODUCTION

Project experience over the last twenty years has fueled debate concerning the role of public sector agricultural extension strategies to increase agricultural productivity and alleviate rural poverty. The dominant approach in World Bank supported projects since the early 80's is the training and visit (T and V) system. This approach had some note worthy successes and some failures, although the system is intended to incorporate feedback from farmers, this is not always accomplished and the role of farmers as receivers of instruction is often passive. Consequently, the results of investment in training and visit have sometimes been disappointing and unsatisfactory regarding sustainability (Burkey, 1993).

Perhaps a quite revolution has also been launched in agricultural extension approach model by the National Agricultural Extension Research and Liaison Service of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria who has a national mandate to co-ordinate agricultural extension in Nigeria. In making extension more demand driven and more accountable to farmers, the participatory approaches is being recognised as possible options of ensuring that services are relevant and responsive to local condition as well meet the real needs of users (Eremie, 2001).

Participatory method makes the distribution of extension service more equitable and putting responsibility in the hands of farmers to determine agricultural extension programmes.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The broad objective of this study is to evaluate the community-based farmers' participatory extension approach in Okehi Local Government Area of Kogi State. The specific objectives are as follows:

- i. to describe the socio-economic profile of the farmers been studied
- ii. to assess the level of participation of local farmers to the PEA model
- iii. to identify the effectiveness of the PEA model in addressing farmers technological needs.
- iv. to examine those problems militating against effective operation.

METHODOLOGY

Kogi State is bordered by nine other States and is the most centrally located State in Nigeria. Kogi State has an average maximum temperature of 33.2°C and average minimum of 22.8°C. (Kogi State Government, 2007). The State has two distinct weathers – dry season, which lasts from November to February and the raining season that lasts from March to October. Annual rainfall ranges from 1016 to 1524 mm. The study was undertaken in okehi local government areas of kogi state.

A total of 60 respondents were selected using stratified random sampling technique. The farmers are drawn from three different communities in okehi local government. These were Ihima, Obangede and Eika. In each community, 20 farmers were randomly selected for the study. For collecting relevant data from the respondents, an interview schedule was prepared considering the objectives in view. Personal Interview was conducted with all the 60 respondents using interview schedule.

Data were analyzed using simple description statistical tools, which include the use of tables, mean and percentages.

Simple descriptive statistic is calculated as follows:

$$\text{I Mean} = \frac{\sum X}{n} \quad \text{where } \sum = \text{summation}$$

X = individual observation
n = total observation

$$\text{II Percentage} = \frac{\text{Number of observations}}{\text{Total number of observations}} \times 100$$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results are presented and discussed in line with the objectives of the study

Socio Economic Profile of the Respondents

The socioeconomic characteristics of the respondent, namely age of respondents, educational qualification, marital status, the major and minor occupation of individuals and land ownership pattern may have a pattern effect on organizational activities, including establishment of association or groups.

Age Distribution of the Respondents

Data in table below show that the respondent age fall into three categories , the lower age (20-39) years, the middle age (40-59) years and the older age. The mean age of the farmers is 47 years. From the result, about 60percent of the respondent belongs to the middle age, this category of farmers could be considered to be the most economically active and such productive population(Oluwasami,1986).

Educational Attainment

Analysis of data on the table below revealed that 50percent indicated they had no formal education, about 30percent had attained adult education, while 5 percent had quranic education , 10percent had primary education while 5percent indicated they had attained secondary education and none of the farmers had attained post-secondary education. The largest proportion of the respondent is 50percent which had no formal education indicating a high illiteracy level among most of the farmers, since farmers participation is a function of educational level(Clark and Akinbode,1986)

Land Ownership Pattern

The result revealed that all respondents indicated a uniform land ownership pattern, that is, land could be either through inheritance, renting or freehold where farmer could be allocated a parcel of land by the community leader for cultivation and subsequent ownership.

Marital Status

The data in table revealed that 3percent of the farmers are single, about 60 percent of the farmers were married, while 37 percent of the farmers were divorced. This means that the population interviewed during the field survey exercise was mature and responsible, saddled with various family responsibilities as a result would naturally engage in viable program that will enhance their economic status and income for the uplift of their livelihood and their dependants

Major and minor Occupation

The data revealed that all the respondents indicates farming to be their main occupation. All takes minor activities like trading and other activities such as blacksmithing , brick layering and basket making to supplement income from their farms. This is mostly done during the relatively idle period of between December and May when the dry season is at its peak. Thus, one can conclude that farming is the bedrock of the economy of those communities in the area of study.

Distribution of Socio Economic Profile of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percentages(%)
Age Ranges in Years		
20-39	16	26.7
40-59	36	60
60 and above	8	13.3
Total	60	100
Members Status		
No formal education	30	50
Adult education	18	30

Quranic education	3	5
Primary education	6	10
Secondary education	3	5
Post secondary education	-	-
Total	60	100
Marital Status		
Single	2	3.3
Married	36	60
Divorce	22	36.7
Total	60	100
Occupation		
Farming	60	100
Others	60	100
Total	120*	200*
*Multiple Response		

Distribution of Respondents based on Participation

The Level of Participation of Local Farmers to the PEA model

The result revealed that 65 percent of the farmers are having regular contact with extension agent while 35 percent of the farmers are not having regular contact with the extension agents. The result shows that majority of the farmers had participated with extension agents since agricultural extension delivery by the way of participatory approach involves problem identification and solution proffering.

Distribution of Respondent based on participation

Contact	Frequency	Percentages(%)
Regularly	39	65
Not regularly	21	35
Total	60	100

The Effectiveness of PEA model in addressing Farmers Technological Needs

Farmers Perception and Rating of PEA Model

The data revealed that 50percent rated the PEA model as good, while 42 percent rated the model to be difficult, 8 percent rated the model to be complementary. This is an indication that with the involvement of the local farmers at all levels of the farming programs, they will be empowered and the model is actually set to increased agricultural production and subsequently income of the rural farmers.

Distribution of Farmers Perception and Rating of the PEA Model

Rating	Frequency	Percentages(%)
Good	30	50
Difficult	25	41.7
Complementary	5	8.3
Total	60	100

Effectiveness of PEA Model on Agricultural Production

To examine the extent of technology transfer the farmers were asked to rate the extent to which technology needs had been attained concerning agricultural production. The data revealed that 62 percent of the farmers had an increase in agricultural production, while 38 percent of the farmer stated that, there was no change in the agricultural production after the intervention of the PEA model.

Agricultural Production	Frequency	Percentages(%)
High	37	61.7
No change	23	38.3
Low	-	-
Total	60	100

Problems Militating Against the Effective Operation of PEA Model

The data revealed that 20 percent of the farmers stated inputs are not readily available, about 10 percent of the farmers stated lack of motor able roads, while 17 percent stated that approach is time consuming, and about 53 percent stated lack of credit. Thus one can conclude that the major problems faced by these farmers in the area to be lack of accessible credits. That is agricultural credit to farmers is universal(Uwe Jens, 1997).

Distribution according to problems faced by farmers

Problem Associated	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Input not readily available	12	20
Lack of good motorable roads to the farm	6	10
Lack of credit	32	53.3
Approach is time consuming	10	16.7
Total	60	100

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were suggested.

1. In order to maximize the opportunity for increased farmers participation in the PEA model, a development of authentic peoples organisations, and empowerment of farmers to take responsibility for extension activities based on their understanding and needs.
2. There should be continuous system of generation and dissemination of technologies, usable by farmers, through monitoring and evaluation in place to track the effectiveness of the model for best performance.
3. Farmers should be influential and responsible clients rather than passive beneficiaries of extension services, to allow effectiveness of the model.
4. Although some very modest progress has been made through the community-based participatory model, much progress will not be made without a policy back up to support this extension delivery system.

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