

## THE PRACTICE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA

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or

### **Abstract**

*Rural development in Nigeria has undergone several modifications in both ideology and practice. However, successive governments have used the mobilization approach. The community development model of rural development has for long been applied to Nigeria before the colonial masters and after their departure and even up to today. Adequate literature was reviewed covering wide range of issues on rural development. Despite, the huge investments on rural development and strategies many Nigerian rural communities are not yet fully developed. The problem was in the implementation of these strategies. The Capital Maximization Economic Strategy which ensures top-down approach has never had a sustainable impact on beneficiary's living conditions. Using descriptive and analytical approach with anecdotal evidence gleaned from a qualitative and historical literature on rural development, self-help development strategy. The study revealed that control over decision and resources eluded the agents of change in rural community. Since the rural people real agents of change were not involved in the decision making their priority were not known. Therefore, they had little or no commitment to the project implementation. If the rural people were involved at the decision stage, they will see the project as theirs and even continue where the government stopped if they could not finish the project. Moreover, in many rural communities, women are discriminated against in inheritance right, decision making mostly at the village level and non-empowerment of women were among the factors that led to underdevelopment of rural communities. Based on the finding, the study recommended amongst others that Community-Driving Development (CDD) gives control over decisions and resources to the true agents of change in rural*

*communities, i.e. traditional organizations; peer groups, women's groups, producers' unions organized by co-operatives etc. This approach allows stakeholders to freely decide what action to take, and take responsibility for initiatives that affect their lives. CDD has taught communities how to set infrastructural priorities (drinking water supply, health care centers, roads and schools) and how to achieve these goals in a cost-effective, transparent and sustainable way with little or no government support.*

**Keywords:** Rural Development, Self Help, Mobilization, Empowerment and Underdevelopment

### **Introduction**

In Nigeria, there have been a variety of modifications to both the theory and the practice of rural development. As a result, several administrations have employed the mobilization approach. Obanure (1998) defined the mobilization strategy as a process wherein people are made aware of the resources at their disposal as well as inspired and motivated to collectively use such resources for the enrichment of their material and spiritual well-being. Before the coming of colonial masters to Nigeria, successful development programs relied on the premise that the local people themselves were the greatest assets available for development (Onodugo et al, 2017). The idea that individuals couldn't contribute to rural development because they were ignorant and underprivileged was a grave mistake. Investment in people contributed to greater development in the long run. In Nigeria, the community development model of rural development has been employed for many years. Community development is now generally acknowledged in the nation as a crucial component of the change-oriented mainstream of development administration to achieve sustainable rural development, (Onokorhoraye and Okafor, 1994). It is well known that social movements for welfare and development have made significant contributions to rural development in their respective areas. They are ways to raise the living conditions of the vast

majority of the poor people who live in rural regions and make the growth of such areas self-sustaining before, during, and even after the colonial rule. Rural development initiatives have frequently been mobilized by welfare movements.

Citizen participation promotes growth and development in any community. Ukwu (2004) noted that: in Nigeria, self-help programs are a revered tradition for fostering community development. Whether they belonged to an extended family, an age group, or a guild, every member of the community in ancient society had a part to play in the growth of the community. Individual involvement is now a question of voluntary effort as the government has taken on official responsibility for providing public services. It is carried out through a number of volunteer organisations, the most prevalent of which are the town unions or community development associations. Others include commercial groups, cooperative societies, social clubs, youth organizations, women's organizations, and clubs (Ukwu, 2004; Onodugo et al, 2013).

Age Grade and other local leaders describe their self-help initiatives for the growth of their diverse communities. Age groups comprise persons who, according to society, are regarded as being of the same age. The exact year varies and might range from one to three or even five. It is easy to tell one group apart from another. They serve as reminders of initiation rites. According to Okonkwo (2013),

In pre-colonial and colonial eras, they were concerned with upholding customary duties like law and order, mediating conflicts between warring members, building and maintaining marketplaces and roads, keeping local streams clean, and defending their communities from external aggression. Meanwhile, in recent years, the age groups have changed their functions to incorporate more contemporary tasks that support modernization. So, in recent years, they have significantly contributed to the political, social, economic, and educational advancement of their respective communities (Mabonguna, 1989).

According to Otite (1994), the majority of town unions assessed their perceived needs while working with their traditional leaders. Many of the town unions organized their members and started projects, including installing water pipes. Others started erecting post offices, civic centers, recreational parks, access roads, and rural electrification projects. Several town unions have passed laws governing marital customs. Nsukka and Igbukwu town unions are two examples of these kinds of towns. A traditional ruler is a person who has been recognized by the government or appointed to an office by the citizens of a particular community in line with the ancestral chieftaincy laws, customs, and traditions of that society. For fear of abuse of office, most Igbo people did not have traditional rulers and relied heavily on a delegated legislature. When colonial masters came they introduced the idea of warrant chiefs to ease the administration of the rural people. The functions of a clan head as noted by section 15(1) of the Traditional Rulers law in Cross River State outline the functions of the clan head as follows:

1. To preserve his clan's culture,
2. To preside over rituals that have an impact on his tribe, To serve as a co-coordinating force within the clan
3. To act as a co-ordinating force within the clan
4. To encourage goodwill toward his neighboring clans.
5. To disseminate among his people information emanating from the local government and the government, as well as to provide information about his people's problems and aspirations to the local government and the government.
6. To arbitrate civil disputes referred to him by all parties involved, in accordance with tradition and custom.
7. To act as a morale booster in the planning of neighborhood initiatives impacting the clan.
8. To assist in organizing his people in order to carry out social welfare programs for the benefit of his people.
9. To preform customary and ceremonial obligations
10. To perform other tasks imposed by or required by any other written legislation.

Rural development in Nigeria has assumed several patterns. These, according to Igboeli,(1982), area.

- a. A whole sector, such as agriculture, or a small number of initiatives within it were addressed by the sector approach.
- b. A coordinated approach addressed the economic development of all sectors within a given area and
- c. A community-driven strategy created to help residents set local economic and social objectives before pursuing them with some help from the government. As asserted by Chigbu, (2012).

Rural development is the process of improving the standard of living and financial security of those residing in remote and sparsely inhabited places. Agriculture and forestry are two land-intensive natural commodities that have historically been the focus of rural development. The nature of rural regions has changed, nevertheless, as a result of altered global industrial networks, growing urbanization, and other factors. Resource extraction and agriculture have been supplanted as the main economic drivers by growing tourism, specialized manufacturing, and leisure. Instead of just offering incentives for agricultural or resource-based enterprises, a wide variety of development goals are now being prioritized since rural areas must approach development from a larger viewpoint. Rural areas must develop through business, education, physical infrastructure, and social infrastructure, among other factors (Chigbu,2012).

There are several ways to raise the money needed for the project(s) of community development. Some options to consider or use while trying to raise money for community development initiatives are as follows:

- i. Payment of levies by community members and groups
- ii. Donations
- iii. Project launching
- iv. Conferment of chieftaincy titles
- v. Sale of community resources

- vi. Grants from government
- vii. Grants from local and international donor agencies
- viii. Payment of royalties
- ix. Sons and daughters abroad (Town Unions)
- x. Loans
- xi. Payments by property developers
- xii. Returns on community investments (Adepoju, 1976)

### Statement of the Problem

The widespread prevalence of poverty, especially in rural regions, poses a challenge to both the public's acceptance of continuous economic adjustment and to growth itself. The problem lies not only in the unintended consequences of the prevailing development paradigm but on the viability of the paradigm itself.

Because the community members are not consulted and their basic needs are not known, this top-down approach to community development has not yielded many promising benefits. When the government begins a project but is unable to complete it, the project is considered completed. The project is not seen as belonging to the community; rather, they regard it as a government initiative. The current approach is to completely incorporate the rural people, through local town unions, age groups, and other organizations that are similar, in the creation and implementation of programs intended to better their economic, social, political, and cultural life. This direct involvement of the local people will not only help to harness their potential resources for development purposes but will also result in leadership training, an active civic culture, and patriotism (Onyeishi, 2010).

It was the rejection of the capital maximization approach that led to the basic needs strategy and the social network approach that followed it. Despite all of its benefits, the basic Requirements Strategy and the Social Net Approach that emerged after it essentially underlined that the consumption needs of the poor are not always their capacity for surplus production. They require some resource transfer

from more productive and vibrant areas of accumulation. That frees the rural poor from the chains of poverty.

The infrastructure and social services in many rural communities are poor. It has been challenging to reach certain rural communities and persuade them that they are integral parts of the current administration since they are the arteries and channels of rural growth. Without a doubt, the majority of rural areas lack numerous essential amenities. This is in large part because government agencies tasked with meeting these needs have neglected rural communities. Urban places receive infrastructure in a nearly extravagant and ritualistic manner, whereas rural regions are completely ignored. These oversights have both immediate and long-term effects on rural development. Rural productivity is impacted by insufficient infrastructure, which slows development. A less obvious cog in the wheel of rural development is that the lack of infrastructure in rural areas encourages migration, which results in depopulation of such areas (Onokerhboarye and Okafor, 1994).

The process of enhancing women's resourcefulness and abilities in order to prepare them for leadership roles and meaningful engagement in all spheres of society is known as "women's empowerment" (Erinosho, 2005). But other studies, like those by the World Bank (2000) and Chinonye (2010), have demonstrated that poverty is a disease that renders its victims economically helpless and unintentionally imprisons them in a condition of despair, helplessness, and even violence. Unfortunately, women and children are the group and sex most negatively impacted by the aforementioned incapacity. Women are more likely to be poor than males, according to statistics. For instance, the UNDP (1995) estimated that over 65% of the world's poor are women. Women are more economically susceptible than males, which makes them poorer (Women's Entrepreneurship in Nigeria, 2011:61). Women have historically been marginalized and subject to discrimination, particularly in the country's economic sector, according to relationships between women and their male counterparts in many different nations.

The marginalization of women in Nigeria's political economy has allowed males to take advantage of their power and use the state to manipulate the means of production against the interests of women (Otite, 2008).

### **Objectives of the Study**

The general objective is to examine why despite the huge investments in rural development in Nigeria much have not been achieved.

The specific objectives include:

- a) To examine the influence of top-down development strategy
- b) To examine the role of gender inequality in underdevelopment of rural communities.
- c) To examine the impact of government not providing incentives for rural development.

### **Research Questions**

- a) Has the top-down rural development approach been useful in rural development in Nigeria?
- b) Has gender inequality reduced the acceptance and participation of women in rural development?
- c) Has government not providing incentives for rural development affected rural development negatively?

### **Methodology**

#### **Study design**

The study design was largely descriptive and analytical with anecdotal evidence gleaned from qualitative and historical literature on rural development strategies, gender inequality and equality and the role of government in rural development.

#### **Data**

Data for the study were gathered from textbooks, journal articles library materials and internet materials. These were complemented by oral traditions, interviews, group discussion and folklores participant observation interview of key informants etc.

## **Findings and discussion**

### **Findings**

Women in Enugu State participate poorly in rural development due to a lack of gender justice. Due to gender bias, which occurs when cultural norms and institutional structures favor males over women, Nigerian culture lacks gender equity (Akpochofo, 2008). Thus, Women are therefore cast aside, which makes it exceedingly difficult for them to realize their full potential and make their fair share of contributions to rural development. As the third tier of government, the local government system has never been very useful in rural development, which is the essence of its existence. This is due to the fact that state governments, rather than the federation account, provide them with the funding for local government administration. This has created a problem of transparency in the handling of the local government fund. Another issue is godfatherism in the election or appointment of local government area chairman since, in most cases, these decisions are made on the basis of patronage with a financial or in-kind interest rather than merit. The government's inclusive approach to community development has been significantly hampered by gender imbalance in the pursuit of sustainable rural development.

The majority of the factors causing poverty are mostly social. They reflect systems of resource allocations that are made by societies, and as such, they can be reversed. Gender discrimination, unfair pricing practices, credit systems, and social and productive services are not inherent, universal, or unavoidable truths, and neither is the poverty they cause (Aguene, 1998). Due to a lack of institutionalized support and the ability for sustainable community development engagement, women often fare poorly.

The CDD approach breaks from the traditional "top-down" approach, which has never had a long-lasting effect on recipients' living conditions. Instead, it evolved a "bottom-up" strategy that was more democratic and inclusive. The genuine agents of change in rural communities, i.e., traditional organizations like peer groups, women's groups, producers' unions run by cooperatives, etc., are given authority over choices and resources under CDD. This strategy enables participants to freely choose their course of action and assume accountability for policies that have an impact on their daily lives.

### **Rural Development in Nigeria**

Women in Nigeria come from a variety of ethnic and cultural origins. The term "kin and affines" refers to the way that people of opposite sexes interact in all cultures. Women have basic needs, and cultures have ways of addressing those needs. Women's growth is determined by their capacity to overcome all cultural hurdles and accomplish their goals in every culture. Women must better their situation for themselves because that is where progress truly begins. Fortunately, recent development has been described in terms of the population's quality of life (Ukaegbu, 2007). According to some scholars, the women's organization must continually satisfy its demands in order to be viewed as growing. Kapour (1981), argues that the goal of development is to guarantee that people's basic needs—including those for food, shelter, health, education, water, and transportation—are supplied by their own active involvement. According to Lee (1981), the basic needs approach to development places a strong emphasis on human qualities like independence, mobility, the eradication of poverty and inequality, as well as the efficient and effective utilization of all available and qualified human resources regardless of age or gender. To improve women's roles in our society, they must be able to satisfy their fundamental human needs (Modo, 2007).

In Nigeria, there have been a number of modifications to both the theory and the practice of rural development. Various governments have

employed the mobilization strategy. Levi (1986) defined the mobilization approach as a process wherein people are made aware of the resources at their disposal as well as inspired and motivated to jointly use such resources for the enhancement of their material and spiritual well-being. Among the Nigerian government's mobilization strategies are:

1. The National Accelerated Food Production Program (NAFPP), created in 1973 with a focus on boosting production of staple foods.
2. The River Basin Development Authority (RBDA) Following the drought of 1972–1973, the federal government decided to give irrigated farming first attention. This was recommended by the Food and Agricultural Organization in 1976. (FAO).
3. In 1993, the World Bank, the Federal Government, and a few Northern Governors signed an agreement that launched the Agricultural Development Project (ADP). The initial locations for the projects were Funtua, Gombe, and Gusau.
4. The former President Obasanjo started Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) in 1976. Nigeria was falling behind in terms of food production for both local consumption and export when the initiative was implemented.
5. The Green Revolution: It was launched by then-President Shehu Shagari in 1980. The goal was to promote rural agriculture while simultaneously ensuring integrated rural development.
6. The Directorate of Food Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFFRI), formed by President Ibrahim Babangida in 1986, it was created to enhance rural communities by providing the required technical and financial assistance for the projects throughout the project development stages.

7. Mass mobilization for social justice, self-reliance, and economic recovery, founded in 1987 by President Ibrahim Babangida. Self-reliance, self-sufficiency, economic recovery, and social fairness were the major principles of MAMSER.

Notable initiatives in Nigeria include the Better Life for Rural Women (BLFRW), Family Economic and Advancement Programme (FEAP), National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Agricultural Development Programme (ADP), and the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), all of which have either been completed or are still in operation. The Nigeria Agricultural and Cooperative Bank, later renamed the Bank of Agriculture (BOA), Community Banks, now known as Microfinance Banks (MF) These government-led initiatives to reduce rural poverty have not proven effective (CBN, 2005). Despite these initiatives and Nigeria's abundant resources, the country is still considered to be extremely poor. Nigeria exhibits a classic instance of systemic inequality and poverty, notably among the rural poor, who account for 65% of poverty incidence, according to UNDP (2009).

The need for a well-articulated education program to mobilize the rural population for development cannot be overemphasized. Public enlightenment schemes, including well-chosen slogans, are sine qua non to the realization of their objectives, which aim at educating and mobilizing the people towards: achieving joint community-government policies and programs on rural development; and highlighting the capability of the people to improve their well-being. To achieve these enlightenment goals, the government must effectively utilize all existing mass media resources as well as traditional methods of mass communication. In this regard, the assistance of our traditional institution has to be enlisted (Onyishi, 2010).

The non-directive approach to community development is when a community or groups within it decide to improve their neighborhoods on their own, without aid from the government, international organizations, or charitable organizations. The non-directive method is used in the sense that attempts are undertaken in various communities to encourage better living for the members of such areas by some sort of self-effort or collective action. The construction of schools and colleges, feeder roads connecting different villages or districts, rural bridges and culverts, town or village council halls, markets and market stalls and sheds, recreational facilities, community group farms, farmer's cooperatives, maternity homes, and post offices are examples of projects that could be carried out using this strategy.

To encourage self-help initiatives, chiefs and traditional leaders in Benue State's Ankpa Local Government Authority were appointed honorary chairman of development areas. Self-help groups prioritized economic and social welfare projects, according to a study conducted between 1968 and 1978. Based on donations, levies, community labor, and matching grants from the local government, primary and post-primary schools, clinics, maternity homes, roads, bridges, postal agencies, market stalls, and town halls were built (Onyeozo, 2007).

### **National Development Plans and Nigerian Rural Sector**

The first comprehensive development plan in Nigeria was the 1962–1968 National Development Plan. The Nigerian Civil War forced an extension of the plan to 1967–1970. Agriculture, industry, and the education of highly and moderately skilled individuals were given top emphasis. During the plan period, a number of significant projects were finished, including the Kainji Dam, the Niger Bridge, the oil refinery, and other highways and industries (First National Development Plan, 1962). Nine months after the conclusion of the civil war, in September 1970, the Second National Development Plan (1970–74) was officially inaugurated. Agriculture, manufacturing, and transportation were given the

greatest priority throughout the implementation period, which lasted for more than a year (1974–1975). This meant that the government would devote a significant portion of its resources to these industries in order to stimulate economic growth (Second National Development Plan, 1970).

In the agricultural sector, defunct farms and plantations in the war-affected regions were repaired and put back into operation, extension services and the provision of farm inputs were steadily increased, and the marketing board system was altered to guarantee that farmers received higher prices for their produce. The government set up food production firms to cultivate more than 60,000 acres (18,000 hectares) for the production of significant amounts of food commodities like rice, maize, cassava, etc. in order to assure that the country could feed itself. To increase food production, the National Accelerated Food Production Program (NAFPP) was established in 1972. A prominent example of significant progress in irrigation facility provision is the building of the Tiger Dam by the administration of Kano State.

The Fourth National Development Plan (1981–1985) gave agricultural production and processing top priority in order to feed the rapidly expanding population without relying heavily on food imports, to produce the essential raw materials for our agro-based industries, and as a means of fostering rural development and reducing rural–urban migration (Fourth National Development Plan, 1981). The approach to rural development saw several significant alterations during this time. The recent re-conceptualization of rural development by organizations like the World Bank, the International Labor Organization, and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) is responsible for such developments in and of itself (UN, 1977; FAO, 1978). Since 1975, Nigeria has used four main strategies to mobilize resources for rural development, all of which may be attributed in significant part to the redefinition. These strategies include (a) Integrated Rural Development (IRD), (b) River Basin Development Approach (RBDA), (c) The Basic

Needs Approach (BNA), and (d) The Instrument of Local Government (ILG).

In practice, the use of self-help as a community development method has remained a contentious topic. Because of the negligence of the government, Nnoli (1980) saw it as their last resort. He claims that the community development process results from the rural population's desperate need for social welfare services, the ruling class's unwillingness to provide these amenities, the ruling class's exploitation of community competition for social artifacts thought to reflect social progress, and the ruling class's exploitation of Nigerians' propensity to spend more time, energy, and resources on certain tasks.

In the same vein, Graf (1980) argued that the British colonialists in Nigeria developed the community development philosophy in order to underdevelop the populace by using this deceptive manipulative technique. He said that native leaders and local governments had a role in making this happen. He said that indigenous leaders in the post-colonial state use a similar tactic. Thus, he argues that this strategy—which is based on the colonial policy of economic exploitation of the local areas—is a tool employed to uphold the interests of the ruling classes, while rural inhabitants endure deplorable, hard, and stagnant conditions.

The Directorate of Food, Roads, and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) was founded on the belief that rural development would shift from the past limited sectoral focus on producing surpluses of food and fiber to the formation of a comprehensive national rural development strategy with a focus on reducing rural poverty and improving the quality of rural life (National Concord 1986:20). Based on this, the President expanded the goals of rural development in his budget address to cover the following through DFRRI:

1. To embark on education and manpower development for rural communities.
2. To improve the standard of living for those who reside in rural areas.

3. To establish connections between communities and local governments, between local governments and states, and between states and the country; to mobilize rural residents on a sociocultural and political level for the implementation of rural programs in the areas of roads, housing, water, industrial and agricultural development, rural sanitation, the national market program, rural electrification, and the addition of 30,000 km of rural roads to the 60,000 km target set in 1986. (Guardian, 1987). The DFRRI was established to balance regional differences in the allocation of rural infrastructure as well as to address the general gross insufficiency of rural infrastructure in Nigeria.

In Nigeria, DFRRI has done a lot, especially in the area of rural road construction. Despite its successes, it does have some pitfalls. For instance, the lack of knowledgeable and skilled manpower necessitated its use of members of the National Youth Service Corps, who are also inexperienced. The rural people were not involved in the decision-making process; hence their priorities were not known. Therefore, they had little or no commitment to the project's implementation. If the rural people were involved at the decision-making stage, they would see the project as theirs and would even continue where the government stopped if they could not finish the project.

### **The Impact of Nigeria's Partnership with International Organizations for Rural Development**

**National Fadama Development Projects:** The Hausa term for irrigable low-lying plains occurring along significant river systems and underlain by "shallow" aquifers is "fadama." In the Hausa culture, flooded ground is utilized for a variety of crops and for small-scale irrigation systems. This practice is known as "Fadama." The terrain can support irrigation, fishing, and animal feeding and watering (Ajayi and Nwalieji, 2010).

Fadama I Despite having started in 1990, lasted from 1993 until 1999. Following the widespread use of simple and affordable upgraded irrigation



technology, farmers' revenue from a variety of crops rose by up to 65%. These crops, however, lost quality as a result of the post-harvest treatment of the product and were unable to command the highest market rates. Six (6) states have completed the full implementation of Fadama, however other states are still in the pilot phase.

In 2001, the Federal Government adopted a new rural development strategy that addressed the constraints in Fadama I, which resulted in the Fadama II project. Fadama II aimed to contribute to food security and increase access to rural infrastructural facilities. Consequentially, the banks found it worthy to agree to the government's request for financing Fadama II as a follow-up to Fadama I. The new strategy was in line with the African Development Bank's strategic plan in its focus on poverty reduction, private sector promotion, and a participatory approach to rural development. Fadama II stressed the principles of non-intervention, consistency, sustainability, and greater equity in access to the land benefits of resources (Ezemie, 2000).

After Fadama II, the federal government desired to assist farmers and other stakeholders in organizing into an economically viable Fadama, which is how Fadama III came to be. Increased farmer income, decreased rural poverty, improved food security, and support for rural development goals were the main goals of Fadama III. The National Fadama Development Project III consisted of six parts, including:

- a. Local governance and communication
- b. Small-scale community owned infrastructure
- c. Advisory service and input support development
- d. Support to the agricultural development programs
- e. Asset acquisition for individual Fadama users or groups
- f. Project management, monitoring and evaluation (Ezike, 2012).

Agbarevo, (2017) asserts that the community members who manage, plan, and carry out the project are the NFDP's biggest drivers. Empowerment, skill development, enhanced livelihoods, and income production are all intended outcomes of the benefits. Local governments then developed development plans, including those for building wells, small roads, storage facilities, and other projects. Farmer income has increased even further, and they have also purchased equipment. Fadama projects incorporated a shift in development strategy from public sector dominance to a community-driven development (CDD) approach. The private sector led the provision of production, marketing, process financing, and advisory services to project clients under these projects. Farmers and other stakeholders were assisted to organize into an economically sustainable Fadama, in which they were better off (Eze, 2014).

**Fadama III Additional Financing:** The Nigerian government wished to extend the success of the finished Fadama projects I, II, and III to the Agricultural Transformation Agenda, which is what prompted the additional funding. The extra finance for Fadama III, which began in 2015, was aimed at assisting the cassava, rice, sorghum, and horticultural value chains in six states: Kogi, Niger, Kano, Lagos, Anambra, and Enugu. The six states functioned as the focal points of the staple crop processing zones (SCPZs), and the neighboring states served as their catchment regions. The majority of Nigerian states are now controlled by Fadama development projects while other states want to participate in the development process (Egwu, 2015). Farmers were required to join cluster groups through Fadama offices in the participating states in order to take part in the scheme. About 317,000 direct beneficiary families and 1.4 million indirect beneficiary households are anticipated to be reached by the programme.

**Annual Income of Fadama Farmers:** Access to loans and agricultural information was highlighted as additional benefits of participating in Fadama projects by 50.0% and 33.1% of the respondents, respectively, according

to the benefits and restrictions of Fadama. Because of this, participants in the Fadama program may have registered better levels of productivity than non-participants. For high agricultural output, especially among women Fadama producers, agricultural information and financing are the most crucial requirements. On the other side, limited money (43.8%) and limited awareness (43.1%) are also seen as important barriers to involvement in Fadama programs. This indicates that all stakeholders should be dependable with their financial contributions to the initiatives and that farmers should be made more aware of the project, particularly in areas where Fadama programs have not been implemented. Fadama programs have contributed to the communities' participation in the rural development of their women via experience and financial gain (Akinbamowo and Atenda, 2014).

**Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):**

These goals unite international leaders to combat poverty, hunger, sickness, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women. The millennium development goals were:

1. To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger,
2. To achieve universal primary education,
3. To promote gender equality and empower women,
4. to reduce child mortality;
5. to improve maternal health;
6. To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases;
7. to ensure environmental sustainability; and
8. to develop a global partnership for development (United Nations Millennium Summit, 2000).

In order to raise living standards, the MDGs placed special emphasis on three areas: human capital, infrastructure, and human rights (social, economic, and political). Nutrition, healthcare (including child mortality, HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, and reproductive health), and education are all human capital objectives. In addition to increasing farm outputs using sustainable

practices, transportation, and gender equality—which includes empowering women, reducing violence, increasing political voice, ensuring equal access to public services, and enhancing the security of property rights—were among the Millennium Development Goals. The goals were intended to increase an individual's human capabilities and "advance the means to a productive life." The Millennium Development Goals enabled women to realize their true worth and be in a better position to contribute to rural development through their various associations (Commitment to Development, 2017). Enugu State Government, like other state governments, pays counterpart funds regularly and is represented in the state by a focal person who coordinates the activities of beneficiaries. The MDGs were attacked for placing insufficient emphasis on environmental sustainability. For example, they did not include all of the elements required to achieve the millennium declaration's ideals. Agricultural development was not specifically mentioned in the MDGs, even though most of the world's poor are farmers.

**Enugu State Rural Development Strategy:** The government is committed to its inclusive rural development approach. This made the Enugu State Ministry of Rural Development borrow the idea of counterpart funding to develop the rural areas. This involves a community identifying and paying some percentage of the total cost as a community fee to the ministry of rural development. Many communities have taken advantage of this golden opportunity to develop their own communities. The problem with this type of development system is that only organized communities can benefit. This is why the government adopted the idea that the person who wears the shoe knows where it pinches him. The government gave communities the sum of ten million naira each through the ministry of rural development to solve their immediate needs in 2018. This is to achieve the inclusive rural development approach adopted by the state government. The idea is one community, one project. The idea is to get the government and self-help projects closer to the people. To achieve the all-inclusive development strategy of the state government, traditional communities have been

divided into autonomous communities. For instance, the Umuabi community is now divided into two autonomous communities, like some others.

With Counterpart Funding, a community can only come up with the best political and economic answers to problems when all of its organizations, networks, and individuals, regardless of their status or circumstance, work together to co-create and execute solutions. Additionally, it is thought that through strengthening networks, organizations, and leaders' abilities to recognize problems and efficiently execute solutions, this process may be sped up (Enugu State Blue Print, 2016). The government frequently arranges seminars and training for community leaders who are supposed to oversee community development initiatives in their various localities since individuals cannot offer what they do not have, according to the Ministry of Rural Development of the government. Women must participate in the training and serve as community leaders, the government has long stressed.

**Functions of the Local Government:** Nigeria has seven hundred and seventy-four local government areas. The 1976 local government reform noted the functions of local governments to include the following: According to Dibia (2017), establishment of maintenance and regulations for slaughter houses, slaughter slabs, markets, motor parks, and public conveniences; construction and maintenance of roads, streets, street lighting, drains, and other public highways; parks, gardens, and open spaces (Eze, 2008).

### Conclusion

The village is the center of community life because most of the activities in the community take place at the village level, while the community acts as a co-coordinating agent. Even though most associations cut across the community, they are divided into village groups, which is the basis because it is only there that they are known one-on-one. The government registers associations at the community level, but they are divided into groups (villages) for convenience.

FADAMA, the farmers' cooperative society, and other cooperative societies all cut across the community, but the government gives loans and other incentives at the village level through community associations. The same thing happens with banks and other agencies interested in community development. All associations in the community are interested in community development; any association that is not interested in community development is not relevant to the community. The following initiatives have been undertaken in the chosen communities and have been highlighted most frequently:

1. Women's housing projects that use thrift to meet the specific needs of women or women-headed households.
2. contribution for the purposes of electrification and the purchase of transformers
3. Construction and maintenance of small bridges across towns
4. Pulling resources together and establishing a garri processing industry
5. providing assistance to those in need
6. establishment or maintenance of nurseries, primary, and secondary schools
7. Vocation Centers for Women: Shoes, Bags, Dresses, and Hair Plaiting
8. Construction and maintenance of town halls
9. Construction and maintenance of customary courthouses
10. Construction and maintenance of village roads
11. Building or maintaining maternity homes
12. Building, maintaining, and keeping daycare centers
13. Women's associations are building stores in the local markets.
14. teaching young girls how to take care of their children and husbands.
15. Security of the communities etc.

Poverty is a production issue, and eradicating it just requires investments. The goal is to completely include rural residents in the creation and implementation of programs that are intended

to enhance their economic, social, political, and cultural life through local town unions, age groups, and other similar organizations. The vast rural populace must actively participate in the development process in order for rural development to take place. The rural people must have equal and sufficient access to resources, inputs, loans, and other support services, and they must take part in the creation and execution of initiatives for rural development. In the effort to achieve sustainable rural development, the rural poor and their institutions may be assets and collaborators. Control over investment choices and planning decisions must be provided to them.

The majority of the factors causing poverty are mostly societal. They reflect systems of resource allocations that are made by societies, and as such, they can be reversed. Pricing policies, credit systems, and social and productive services that neglect the poor, as well as gender discrimination, are not natural, universal, and inevitable facts, and neither is the poverty they give rise to (Aguene, 1998). Generally, women are not doing well due to a lack of institutionalized support and enabling capacity for sustainable community development participation.

### Recommendations

In Lagos State, breast-feeding mothers are given six months of maternity leave. Domestic violence is illegal in Lagos State as well. The rule is to beat your wife and receive a jail sentence. Lagos State is an example that other states in the federation should follow. Campaigns to raise awareness should educate women, especially those in rural areas, that having a large family and getting married young no longer fulfills their personal needs. The finest legacy one can leave is one of service to mankind, which includes involvement in community improvement (Osagie, 1998).

White elephant projects should be avoided by state governors interested in community development, and instead, they should focus on community development initiatives that will free the rural poor from the chains of poverty. Any

government-led community development initiative should be centered on the growth and wellbeing of people.

The CDD approach breaks with the conventional "top-down" approach that has never had a sustainable impact on beneficiaries' living conditions. Instead, it developed a more democratic and inclusive "bottom-up" approach. CDD gives control over decisions and resources to the true agents of change in rural communities, i.e., traditional organizations such as peer groups, women's groups, producers' unions organized by co-operatives, etc. This strategy enables participants to freely choose their course of action and assume accountability for policies that have an impact on their daily lives. Given inheritance rights, women should be included in decision-making. Economically empowered women should be encouraged to join organizations. Meetings for rural development should not be held at night or in a lonely place so that women will not fear sexual harassment. This is because sustainable rural development rests on the three pillars of environmental protection, economic well-being, and social equality. Where the initiative for community self-help projects is not coming from the people themselves, the government should stimulate the interest of the people in rural development projects by offering incentives to rural people.\

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