

Assessment of the Benefits of National Fadama III Agricultural Project among Participants through her Activities (Indicators) in Bayelsa State

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Abstract— The study assessed the benefits of national fadama III agricultural project among participants through her activities in bayelsa state. Objective one (1) assessed the benefits of National Fadama III agricultural project through her activities, while objective two (2) Identified problems encountered by the participants in the cause of participation in the study area. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 150 farmers that participated, and 150 staff from the delivery agency. Data were collected with a structured questionnaire. Both objectives were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency count, percentage, and mean (\bar{X}). The finding showed that Farmers did not benefit commendably from Fadama III Project. No access to Fadama project personnel's when the need arise, lack of fund, non-regular training, poor communication channel and delays in being attended to by the delivery agency were the top constraints faced by farmers in National Fadama III Project. The study therefore recommended that National Fadama III Project should be properly funded and its activities should be reorganized to be of great benefit to the farmers, the study recommends that proper training in all the activities should be made available for effective participation, empower the participants to improve their income level, and to move them away from poverty by improving their standard of living.

Keywords— Activities, Agricultural, Bayelsa State, Benefits, Fadama III, Participants.

I. INTRODUCTION

One of the major problems confronting Nigeria today is how to improve the quality of life in the rural areas, reduce the level of poverty and contribute to economic growth. Fadama III Development Project through Agriculture contributes immensely to the Nigerian economy in many

ways, namely; in the provision of food for the increasing population; supply of adequate raw materials to a growing industrial sector; a major source of employment generation, foreign exchange earnings; and, provision of a market for the products of the industrial sector [1], [2], [3].

The inability of this sector to expand was due to inadequate financing to improve on the situation that is, facilitating Agricultural credit. Also, the problem of rapid Agricultural Development in Nigeria indicates that efforts directed at achieving expanded economic base of the rural farmers were frustrated by the scarcity of and restrictive access to loan fund. One of the reasons for the decline in the contribution of agriculture to the economy is lack of formal National credit policy and paucity of credit institutions which can assist farmers, [4].

Fadama III project provides rural finance through the Nigerian Agricultural Co-operative and Rural Development Bank and as well develops the interests of the private sector in Agriculture by contracting private organizations to support farmers with advisory and technical services.

II. THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES WERE:

- i.) assess the benefits of the National Fadama III agricultural project among empowering participants through her activities in the study area;
- ii.) Identify problems encountered by the participants in the study area.

III. METHODOLOGY

The study was carried-out in Bayelsa State; the State is made up of eight Local Government Areas, namely: Brass, Ekeremor, Kolokuma/Opokuma, Nembe, Ogbia, Sagbama, Southern Ijaw and Yenagoa Local Government Areas respectively. Each of this L.G.As is known as Agricultural districts. The major occupation of the people are farming

and fishing [5]. Purposive sampling technique was used to select the communities that participated in Fadama III Project; one (1) Local Government Area was used to represent each of the three (3) Agricultural zones, five Fadama communities were used to represent each of the selected Local Government Areas, the Local Government Areas were Kolokuma/Opokuma, Ogbia and Sagbama respectively, ten (10) participants belonging to a Fadama

User Group were selected from each of the communities which gave us a sample size of One-Hundred and fifty (150) respondents.

3.1 Method of data analysis

Data collected from the survey for both objectives were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as: mean frequency and percentages.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Benefits of national fadama III agricultural project among participants through her activities in bayelsa state

TABLE.1: Benefits of National Fadama III Agricultural Project among Participants through Her Activities in Bayelsa State

S/N	Activities farmers benefited from in Fadama III agricultural projects in Bayelsa state.	So much	Much	Moderate	Little	Almost nothing	Mean Score \bar{X}
1	Adequate and timely supply of agro chemicals	-	-	139(92.7)	6(4.0)	5(3.3)	2.9
2	Access to improved planting materials	-	-	132(88.0)	6(4.0)	12(8.0)	2.8
3	Access to improved stock livestock, fisheries	-	-	122(81.3)	17(11.3)	11(7.3)	2.7
4	Provision of essential farm (hoes, cutlass etc)	-	-	133(88.7)	9(6.0)	8(5.3)	2.9
5	Support for provision of high quality livestock/fish feed	-	1(0.7)	127(84.7)	13(8.7)	9(6.0)	2.8
6	Procurement of irrigation equipment (pump, pipes)	-	1(0.7)	135(90.0)	6(4.0)	8(5.3)	2.9
7	Training on modern farming techniques	2(1.3)	-	86(57.3)	51(34.0)	11(7.3)	2.5
8	Advisory services on various farm enterprises	1(0.7)	-	74(49.3)	69(46.0)	6(4.0)	2.5
9	Provision of loans/credits	-	-	113(75.3)	33(22.0)	4(2.7)	2.7
10	Marketing for my produce	-	-	129(86.0)	16(10.7)	5(3.3)	2.8
11	Income for my enterprise	-	-	124(82.7)	19(12.7)	7(4.7)	2.8
12	Procurement of agro-processing equipment	-	-	132(88.0)	7(4.7)	11(7.3)	2.8
13	Infrastructure facilities	-	-	126(84.0)	17(11.3)	7(4.7)	2.8
14	Acquisition of farm management skills	-	-	117(78.0)	30(20.0)	3(2.0)	2.8
15	Availability of food for my household	-	-	93(62.0)	51(34.0)	7(4.7)	2.6
16	Employment opportunities for household members	-	-	76(50.7)	70(46.7)	4(2.7)	2.5
17	Improved living standard	-	-	100(66.7)	44(29.3)	6(4.0)	2.6
	Overall mean score						2.7
	Bench mark mean score						3.00
	Number of respondents						150

Source: Computed by the author from field survey data, 2016

The result in Table 1 showed that all the farmers had pooled mean rating of below the mean cut off point of 3.0 in all the seventeen (17) items bordering on the benefits of national fadama III agricultural project among participants through

her activities in Bayelsa state. The pooled mean score of the responses of the respondents was 2.7.

This implies that the respondents do not think that they benefited that much from Fadama III Agricultural project in

Bayelsa state. The result showed that in terms of adequate and timely supplies of agrochemicals, majority of the respondents (139 participants) representing 92.7% of the entire sampled farmers for the study benefited moderately from these activities of Fadama III Agricultural project in the study area. This implies that farmers do not benefit commendably from Fadama III Agricultural project in Bayelsa state in terms of adequate and timely supply of agrochemicals. This will hamper the ability of farmers to cope with the intricacies of pest and disease outbreak in their farmers which may translate to low output.

In terms of access to improved planting materials, the result in Table 1 showed that larger proportion (132 farmers representing 88% of the entire sampled farmers) had only but a moderate level of access to improved planting materials under Fadama III Agricultural projects in the study area. This implies also that access to improve planting materials in Fadama III Agricultural project in Bayelsa is relatively low. This suggest that most of the participants of Fadama III Agricultural project in the study area still uses the unimproved planting materials in planting in the study area. This will affect production and ability to easily transform the farmers from subsistence orientation to market orientation in the study area. [6] Suggested that the fastest means of transforming rural farmers from subsistence orientation to market orientation is by provision of improved planting materials and production technologies. Furthermore, larger proportion of the respondents (122 farmers representing 81.3% of the entire farmers) had moderate access to improved stock (livestock fisheries). This implies that access to improved breeding stock for livestock and fisheries production is poor in Bayelsa state under Fadama III Agricultural project. This will discourage sustainable livestock and fisheries production in the study area.

Table 1 showed that 133 participants representing 88.7% of the entire participants; 127 participants representing 84.7% of the entire sampled respondents; 135 participants representing 90% of the participants; 86 participants representing 57.3% of the entire respondents; 74 participants representing 49.3% of the entire respondents; 113 participants representing 49.3% of the entire respondents; 113 participants representing 75.3% of the entire respondents; 129 participants representing 86% of the entire respondents; 124 participants representing 82.7% of

the entire respondents; 132 farmers representing 88% of the entire respondents; 126 farmers representing 84%; 117 farmers representing 78%; 93 farmers representing 62%; 76 farmers representing 50.7% and 100 farmers representing 66.7% of the entire sampled farmers had moderate provision of essential farm implements, support for provision of high quality livestock/fish feed, procurement of irrigation equipment, training on modern farming techniques, advisory services on various farm enterprises, provision of loan/credits, marketing for their produce, income for their enterprise, procurement of agro-processing equipment, infrastructural facilities, acquisition of farming management skills, availability of food for their household, employment opportunity for household members and improve living standard respectively.

This implies that provision of essential farm implements, support for provision of high quality livestock/fish feed, procurement of irrigation equipment, training on modern farming techniques, advisory services on various farm enterprises, provision of loans/credits, marketing produce, income for enterprises, procurement of agro-processing equipment, infrastructural facilities, acquisition of farm management skills, availability of food for farmer's household, employment opportunity for household members and improved living standard is poor under Fadama III Agricultural projects in Bayelsa state. Such conditions is expected to affect the performance of the farmers (participants) and may not be able to create a shard difference between their farming activities and that of non-participants in Fadama III Agricultural projects in the area of income generation and welfare of the farmers. [7].

Figure 1 below shows a bar chart representation of the variations in the mean ratings of the responses of the respondent the benefits of the National Fadama III Agricultural project in empowering the participants in Bayelsa state. The bar chart showed that the various responses of the respondents were below the cut point of 3.00. This suggested that the farmers (participants) seem not to benefit from Fadama III Agricultural project in Bayelsa state. The bar charts were presented alongside the error bar with standard deviation. The error bar with standard deviation displays the extent of deviation from the mean scores of the responses of the respondents with one standard deviation.

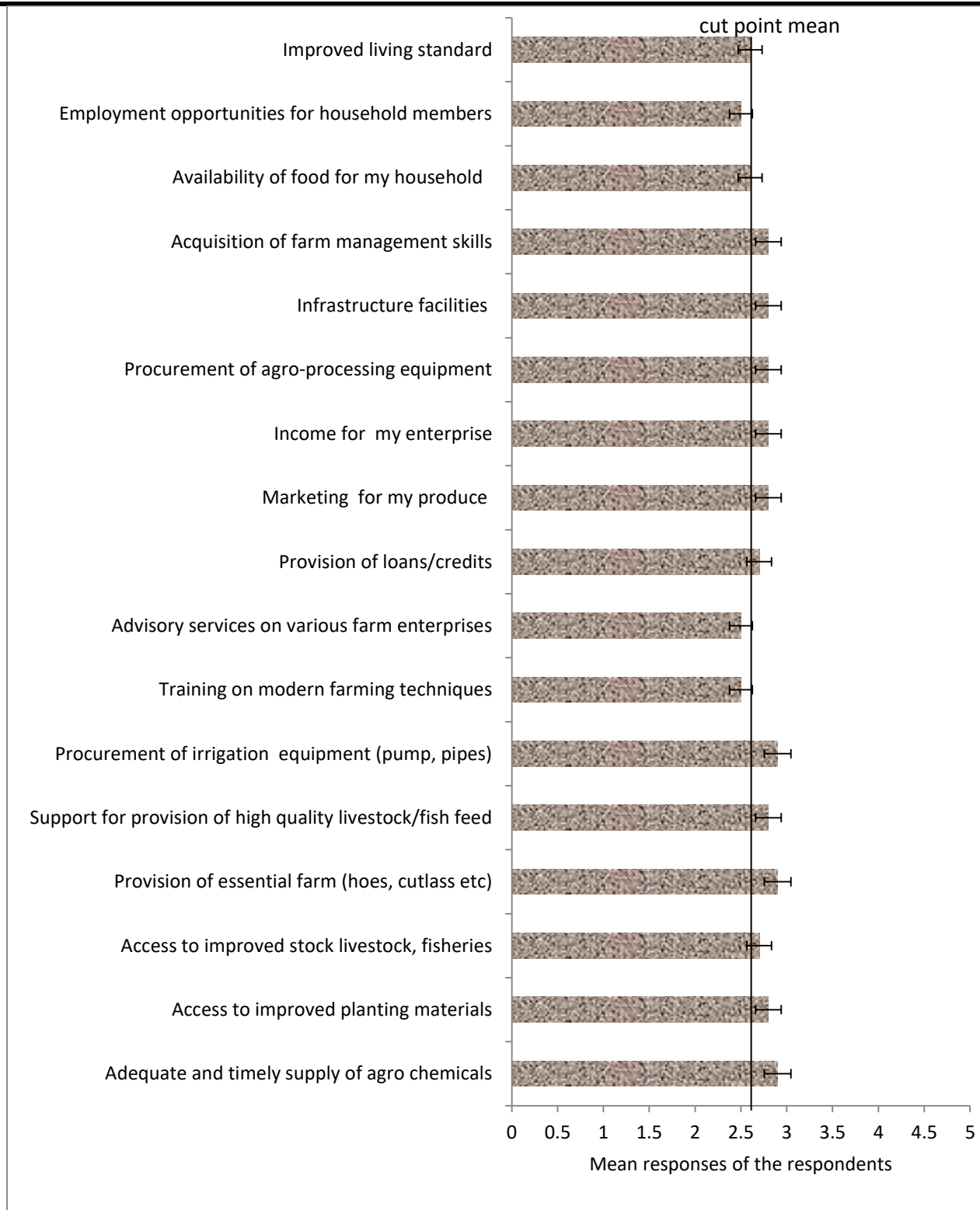


Fig. 1: variations in the mean ratings of the responses of the respondents of the benefits of national fadama iii agricultural project among participants through her activities in bayelsa state.

4.2 Distribution of problems encountered by the participants in national fadama III agricultural project in bayelsa state.

Table.2: Problems Encountered by the Participants in the Study Area

Problems Encountered by the Participants	Frequency	%	Rank
No access to Fadama project personals when the need arise	144	96.0	1 st
Lack of fund	132	88.0	2 nd
Non regular training	129	86.0	3 rd
Poor communication channel	119	79.3	4 th
Delay in being attended to by the delivery agency	105	70.0	5 th
No regular meeting to achieve effective participation	91	60.7	6 th
Lack of farm land	86	57.3	7 th
Poor infrastructure	83	55.3	8 th
Distance to training centre	80	53.3	9 th
Lack of farm input supply	77	51.3	10 th
Lack of storage facilities	77	51.3	10 th
Bad roads	76	50.7	11 th

Source: Computed by the author from field survey data, 2016

The result in table 2 showed that the most challenging problem faced by farmers in National Fadama III Agricultural project in Bayelsa state were the problems of no access to Fadama project personal when the need arises (96%) ranked 1st, lack of fund (88%) ranked 2nd, non regular training (86%) ranked 3rd, poor communication channel (79.3%) ranked 4th and delay in being attended to by the delivery agency (70%) ranked 5th.

This was followed by other problems as no regular meetings to achieve effective participation (60.7%) ranked 6th, lack of farm land (57.3%) ranked 7th, poor infrastructure (55.3%) ranked 8th Distance to training centre (53.3%) ranked 9th, lack of farm input supply (51.3%) and lack of storage facilities (51.3%) ranked 10th, and bad roads (50.7%) ranked 11th. These problems affected farmer's level of commitment and adoption of new technology being presented to them through Fadama III Agricultural project in the study area. This situation would also affect the rate of development of farmers through Fadama III Agricultural project in the study area.

No access to Fadama project personals when the need arise will limit the ability of a farmer to tackle his immediate challenges so as to increase his level of production. No access to Fadama project personals may be due to poor ratio of Fadama project personals –to- farmers in Bayelsa state. According to [8] shortage of Fadama staff will affect the rate of response of farmers to any challenge they face in trying to adopt new farming technologies introduced to them through Fadama project and will translate into low productivity on the part of the farmers. Lack of fund will hinder most farmers from making huge investment in their farming business or to adopt costly technologies. This will also affect most farmers from purchasing sufficient raw-

materials and to finance their business. [9] Noted that the larger the farm size, the larger the scale of farming operation and hence the higher the demand for funds to meet up with the scale of operation. This assertion was supported by [10] who noted that lack of fund affect the willingness of an individual to make investment and/or set up any enterprise that is much fund demanding. This will hinder the farmers from expanding their business away from subsistence level.

Non regular training will demoralize a farmer from continuous participation in National Fadama III Agricultural project and at times cause them to forget any training they have received. This will also affect the level of participation of farmers in the project in the study area. Poor communication channel will affect the easiness with which a farmer would relate its problems to the project personnel and get expected feedback as timely as possible. The inability of a farmer to communicate his/her problems effectively will translate to low productivity. Delay in being attended to by the delivery agency will discourage the willingness of a farmer to relate his/her problems to the project personnel. This will affect the performance of the farmers and make most Fadama III Agricultural project as not an ideal project for amelioration of their farming challenges.

No regular meeting to achieve effective participation will affect the ability of a farmer to learn new farming technologies and to brainstorm for solution of the most pressing needs of the farmer. This will affect their productivity. According to [7], irregular meeting of farmers with Fadama II project personnel affect the rate of exchange of ideas among the farmers and between the farmers and the

project personnel for increasing the productive aptitude of the farmers.

Lack of farm land will affect the ability of the farmers to acquire production knowledge and to produce beyond their available resources. The quantity of crops planted by a farm firm depends on the quantity of land available to it [10]. According to [11], limited access to land limits the size and scale of the farm business. Crop planted is likely to decrease as the area of land available to a farmer decreases. As the area planted of crop decreased, crop output decreased. Poor infrastructure will affect the level of participation of farmers in National Fadama III Agricultural project especially for those technologies that required electricity. This will affect the level of performance of the farmers.

Distance to training centre when far will discourage most financially incapacitated farmers from participating. Lack of farm input supply will also discourage many farmers from participating actively in National Fadama III Agricultural

project. Farm input supply to the farmers serves as an incentive to the farmers. Farmers will participate more when they are sure of being supplied of farm input after participating in the programme. Lack of storage facilities will affect the ability of the farmers to store their excess products during its peak season for sale during the off season for higher profit will discourage most farmers from participating in Fadama III project that is capable of increasing the output level of the farmers. Bad roads will discourage farmers from participating in Fadama III Agricultural projects as expected since the possibility of going to Fadama III Agricultural project demonstration farm site and exporting their produce is limited by bad nature of roads in Bayelsa state especially in the rural areas. A bar chart representation of the Variations in the percentage responses of the respondent on the problems encountered by the participants of Fadama III project in Bayelsa state,

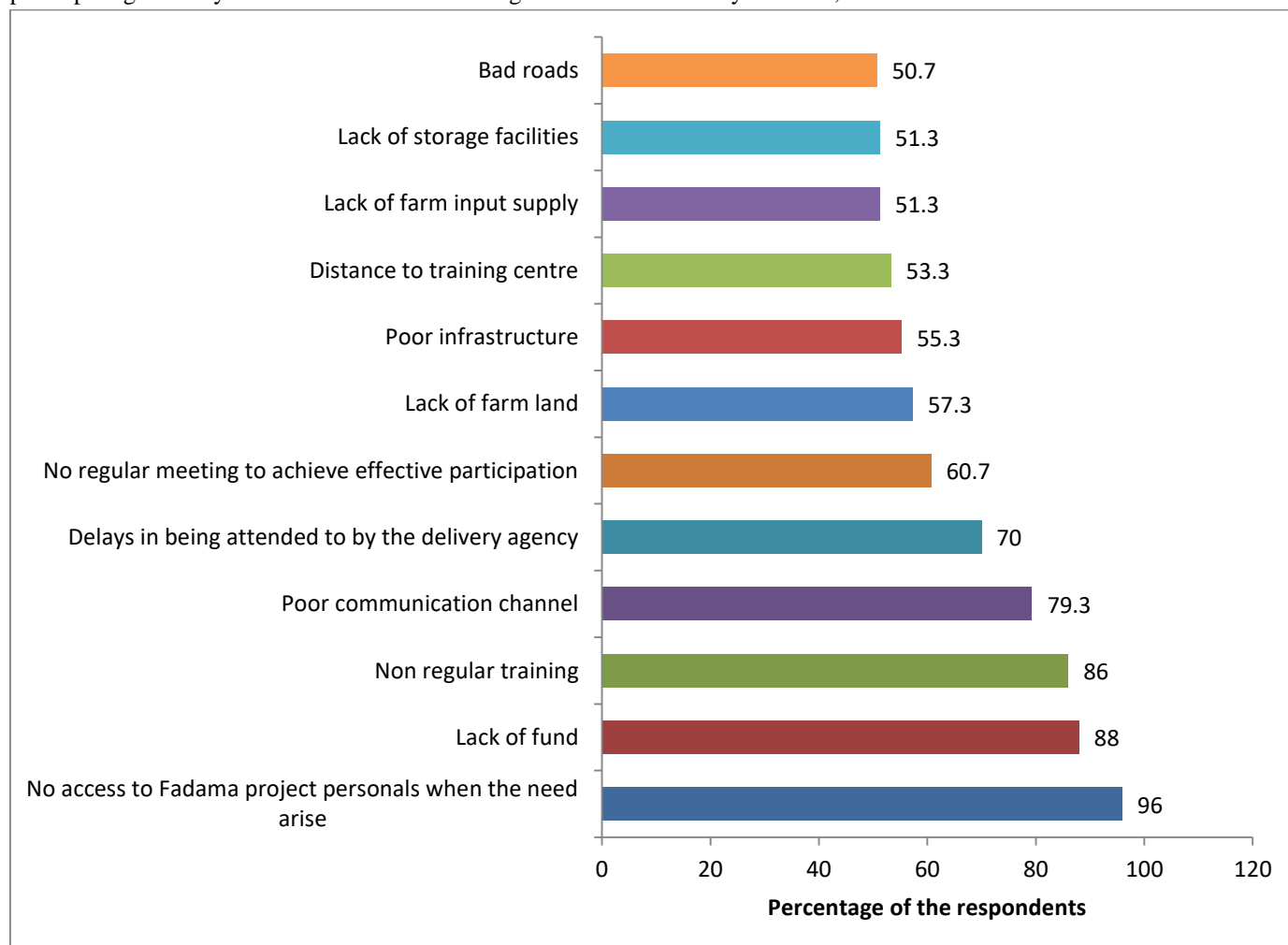


Fig.2: variations in the percentage responses of the respondent on the problems encountered by the participants of fadama III project in the cause of participation in bayelsa state.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

Farmers did not benefit commendably from Fadama III Agricultural Project in Bayelsa State in terms of adequate and timely supply of agrochemicals, access to improved planting materials, access to improved livestock, fisheries, provision of essential farm (hoes, cutlass etc), support for provision of high quality livestock/fish feed, procurement of irrigation equipment (pump, pipes), training on modern farming techniques, advisory services on various farm enterprises, provision of loans/credits, marketing for my produce, income for my enterprise, procurement of agro-processing equipment, infrastructure facilities, acquisition of farm management skills, availability of food for their household, employment opportunities for household members and improved living standard.

5.2 Recommendations

Cordial relationship with project communities and introducing the principles of comparative advantage, by the provision of credit facilities to the comparative group in Bayelsa State, only for those businesses that earned them the highest income should be encouraged.

Problems of no access to Fadama project personals when the need arise, lack of fund, non regular training, poor communication channel and delays in being attended to by the delivery agency etc., which mostly constrained farmers in National Fadama III Agricultural Project in Bayelsa State should be given serious attention and ensure its immediate resolution.

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