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Case Study

Impact of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) on Beneficiaries: A Case Study of Adopted Villages and Secondary Schools in Edo State, Nigeria

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The West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) is a sub-regional agricultural programme of ECOWAS funded mostly by the World Bank. The development objective of the WAAPP is to strengthen the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) in Nigeria to contribute to technology development, dissemination and adoption to boost agricultural productivity. This programme was implemented in some villages and secondary schools in Edo state, Nigeria. This paper examined the impact of this programme as it affected the community and the students. The programme established a number of poultry projects, cassava processing mills and demonstrative fish ponds. It was discovered that each of these projects are self-sustainable by generating income for the participating communities and schools. It was however recommended that WAAPP should sustain her level of funding to ensure continuity.

Key words: Impact, West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme, adopted

INTRODUCTION

In pursuit of meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Africa Union (AU) New Partnerships for Africa's Development (NEPAD) had called for 3 % annual agricultural total factor productivity growth and 6 % growth in agricultural GDP to reach the MDGs by 2015 (Ikani, 2012). In response to this, the World Bank designed the African Action Plan (AAP) as a centre piece of its strategy to help Africa and its regional groups such as ECOWAS reach the MDGs. ECOWAS in response to the AAP formulated the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) as the implementing instrument for achieving the objectives of increased agricultural productivity and sustainability and to support regional integration (Kolo, 2012). In Nigeria, WAAPP came on stream in January 2012. It is a sub-regional agricultural programme of ECOWAS, funded mostly by the World Bank and currently being operated in 13 out of the 15 ECOWAS countries (WAAPP-NIGERIA 2013a). The development objectives of the WAAPP is to strengthen the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) in Nigeria to contribute to technology development, dissemination and adoption to boost agricultural productivity increases in Nigeria's top commodity sub-sectors that are aligned with sub-regional priorities. These top priority commodities include rice, cassava, maize, poultry and aquaculture among other agricultural priority products that constitute the

primary activity in the Nigerian Agro-industry and to provide farmers with the technologies to increase productivity and improve competitiveness of their production (WAAPP-NIGERIA, 2013b).The Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria Benin (RRIN) is one of the institutes under the Nigeria Agricultural Research Institutes currently receiving support from the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP-NIGERIA). Before the inception of WAAPP in August 2012, there was virtually nothing on ground to show for activities at the adopted villages and secondary schools (NARP, 1996). RRIN had only one adopted village project site and two secondary schools. Presently, with funding from WAAPP and dedication from the staff working in the Adopted village project, RRIN now have four adopted village sites and they are Iguovbiobo, Iyanomo, Uhie and Ogbekpen. The secondary schools are RRIN secondary school Iyanomo, Ozolua grammar school, Ologbo and Itohan Girls' Grammar School, Sapele Road, Benin city with presence of full activities on the ground at these sites. The approved activities for RRIN is the cultivation of Hybrid maize (SUWAN -1 and QPM), raising of Layers for egg production and Broilers for meat production. Approval was also given for fish farming using plastic tanks (Auta, 2012).

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The choice of adopted villages and secondary schools is based on a directive from WAAPP that the locations must not be more than 20 km radius from the Headquarters' of the Institute. This directive makes it easier for WAAPP Personnel from the Institute to monitor and evaluate progress of WAAPP activities established in the locations (Abdullahi, 2012). Implementations of activities are carried out through four different groups in the villages (Omokore, 2012). These groups are an all-male, all female, all youth and a mixed group. The mixed group is a composition of the male, female and youth. Implementation at the secondary school is through the young farmers' club (Ilu, 2012). WAAPP activities at the villages commenced with sensitization meeting to the traditional rulers, community leaders and opinion leaders while the sensitization meetings at the secondary schools is with the school management. The highlight of the meeting is to enlighten the people and students on the activities of WAAPP and benefits of embracing the programme (Atala, 2012).

WAAPP ACTIVITIES AT IGUOVBIOBO AND IYANOMO PROJECT LOCATIONS

WAAPP distributed 460 kg and 420 kg of SUWAN 1 Maize variety to farmers in the above-named communities in 2014 at no cost and they were equally trained on best practices so as to achieve optimum yield from the farm. The programme also established poultry demonstration plots at Iguovbiobo and Iyanomo in February, 2014. The poultry units were established as demonstration units for farmers to train them on the handling and management of the birds for egg production (Figure 5). The poultry was equipped with cages for feeding, providing water and the gathering of eggs (Figures 2 and 3).

The poultry had been producing eggs since April, 2014 till December when the production of eggs dropped significantly and the birds were subsequently sold during the Christmas sales as old layers. Initially, WAAPP-RRIN had been providing Feed for the birds but since June 2014, the poultry had been self-sustainable with the proceeds from the sale of eggs being used to buy Layer mash for the birds. Additional funds were also kept aside to replace the present stock of Layers. Additionally, A cassava processing mill was each established in the communities on November 20th, 2014 (Figure 1).

A demonstrative fish pond was also established on July 28th, 2015 using plastic tanks. The pond was stocked with 500 nos catfish fingerlings (Figure 4).

Figure 1. Cassava processing mill.

WAAPP ACTIVITIES AT UHIE AND OGBEKPEN PROJECT LOCATIONS

The Uhie and Ogbekpen project locations are the latest additions to the WAAPP adopted villages attached to the Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria. This project locations were established in 2015 with sensitization visit to the community and donation of 50 plastic chairs for Training purpose. Demonstrative fish ponds were established in the communities in September 2015 with plastic tanks. The tanks have capacity for 500 catfish fingerlings.

Figure 2. Broiler poultry farm.

Figure 3. Layer poultry farm.

WAAPP ACTIVITIES AND BENEFITS TO THE SCHOOLS

WAAPP activities also extend to the following Secondary schools and these are Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria (RRIN) Secondary school, Itohan Girls' Grammar School and Ozolua Grammar school. Prior to the establishment of the poultry farm at RRIN Secondary school, the school in collaboration with RRIN established a demonstration plot planted to natural rubber, cassava and high value crops such as arvingia. The cassava products were harvested and sold. The proceeds were used to establish a fresh cassava plot. Three training sessions on the management of the

Figure 4. Layer Poultry Farm at Iyanomo.

Figure 5. Demonstrative fish pond.

broilers were organized for the students. The training included application of drugs, observing symptoms of diseases especially the faeces. The students showed much enthusiasm and interest in the activities at the poultry farm. The Broilers were sold during the Easter celebration of 2014 and the proceeds were used to stock 30 Broiler birds for Christmas sales. This present broiler farm is being wholly managed by the young farmers' club with minimum

Figure 6. Display of catfish at Fish Pond.

Figure 7. Commissioning of the cassava processing mill at Iguovbiobo by the Traditional ruler.

supervision by WAAPP-RRIN. The broiler were put up for sale during the Christmas celebration. A demonstrative fish pond with concrete tank was rehabilitated by WAAPP for the young farmers' club. The pond was stocked with 500 catfish fingerlings (Figure 6). The catfish have just been harvested and sales were made to members of the public. WAAPP-RRIN had successfully established a broiler farm with 30 Broiler birds for Ozolua Grammar school, Ologbo in October, 2014.The birds were sold during the Christmas celebration.

The project location at Itohan Girls' Grammar school was also established in 2015 with a sensitization visit to the School authority .In addition, 50 plastic chairs were donated to the school to facilitate ease of training for the young farmers' club. A demonstrative fish pond was established in the school in September 2015 with plastic tanks. The tanks have capacity to have 500 catfish fingerlings stocked in them.

EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT OF THESE ACTIVITES

All the projects are self-sustainable and revenue-generating .Arrangements have been put on ground for monitoring by the WAAPP-RRIN monitoring officer to monitor and assess the development and progress of the projects. Through these projects WAAPP has put measures in place to improve livelihood of the people and creating employment for the indigenes e.g. the cassava mill operators are indigenes of the communities where they are sited and their allowances are provided from the proceeds collected from the grinding and pressing of the cassava. Specifically, the Layer poultry farm presently has 36 nos Layer Birds, producing an average of 30 eggs per day and a crate is sold for N500.00.An average of 30 crates of eggs are produced per month with an average monthly revenue of N15,000.00. The processing cassava mill grinds and press a bag of cassava for N60.00, an average of 10 bags are processed per day (Figure 7).

The broiler poultry farm for the RRIN Secondary school realized the sum of fifty-four thousand naira only (N54,000.00) from the sales of the birds during the Easter celebration. The students also made sales during the Christmas celebration. Through the establishment of the poultry project, it has induced interest in the poultry farming such that the initial trainees on the management of broiler poultry have already trained others thereby increasing the number of trainees. In addition the school was able to successfully manage the broiler farm for Christmas sales with little or no supervision from scientists from WAAPP-RRIN.

Conclusion

The intervention of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) on adopted village and secondary school activities have impacted positively on the participating communities and secondary schools. At interception, there were only two secondary schools and two villages participating in the programme but now two additional villages and one secondary school are now added .Presently, WAAPP has received requests from some villages to be included in the activities for the next phase.

Recommendation

The Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria is immensely grateful to the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN)-WAAPP for the financial intervention. It is however recommended that WAAPP should sustain the present funding level.

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AUTHORS DECLARATION

We declare that this study is an original research by our research team and we agree to publish it in the journal.

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