

Assessment of Public and Private Extension Administration in Southwestern Nigeria

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Abstract

The delivery of agricultural extension and programme administration vis-à-vis their effectiveness has been of great concern in Nigeria. This study is evolved to evaluate the determinants of public and private extension delivery process in southwestern Nigeria. A multi stage random sampling technique was used to select thirty (30) respondents among the beneficiaries of each of the three selected organizations in the three purposively selected states in the study area. In all, two hundred and seventy (270) respondents were finally selected but two hundred and sixty four (264) interview schedules were returned. Descriptive and inferential statistics were employed to analyze the data collected. Descriptive tools include frequency counts and percentages, while Kruskal Wallis one-way analyses of variance were utilized to test the hypotheses of the study. Results revealed that Kruskal Wallis Ranking ($X^2=0.709$, assyp.sig.of. 0.702) indicates that the attitude of farmers under the public and private extension administration were not significantly difference. Summary of correlation results of relationship between attitude and level of patronage of extension programme in public and private organizations also reveals negative r-value in public extension (-0.078, $p<0.05$) and the two private extension organizations, JDPM-RUDEP (-0.056, $P<0.05$) and FADU (-0.075, $p<0.05$) which imply inverse and non-significant relationships between the attitude and level of patronage of extension programmes of any organization. Extension works are more result efficient in private organizations than in public outfit, synthesis of public and private sectors is recommended in order to obtain durable, functional and result oriented extension works in Nigeria. Public and private organizations are also enjoined to be more up and doing and as well be flexible in their programme approach and working objectives in order to address the basic needs of their registered beneficiaries.

Key Words:- Administration, Determinants, Public and Private Extension,

1. Introduction

The deficiency of Nigeria Government in the administration of agricultural extension was the factor responsible for her inability to cater for the development of agriculture and rural areas. Strengthening of national agricultural support system has been advocated as a strategy for increasing agricultural production in Sub-Saharan Africa by governments in the region and by international development agencies (Bindlish and Evenson, 1997). The T & V system (training and visit) system of agricultural extension has been central to this strategy. World Bank-supported agricultural extension programmes, based on the T&V system which has been implemented in some thirty Sub-Saharan countries or in about three-fifths of African countries. A substantial amount of resources has been committed to this system, both by national governments and international development agencies (Bindlish and Evenson, 1993). There is however an emerging controversy as to cost-effectiveness and productivity of a national system of agricultural extension, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa where governments' ability to meet a large recurrent cost that the system entails is limited (Purcell and Anderson, 1997 and Gautam, 1998).. The fact is well acknowledged in Nigeria government circles, academics and among the citizenry. It was this awareness that led to the involvement of some private individual and organizations in the provision of extension and rural development process. Non-governmental organizations or private extension outfit are referred to as a wide range of organized people, groups, system or services that are not directly set up, funded, controlled and operated by government or any of its agencies. (Adedoyin and Omolafe, 1995). It is further described as any national or international private non-profit making institutions with development objectives (bebington, et al, 1993).

Government or public extension in other hand is described as the extension activities provided by government under the authority of Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) in all states of Nigeria to cater for the needs of farmers. Agricultural extension administration is expected to foster a sustainable and dynamic approach to agricultural development and which has remained of great concern to the government and priority for discourse in policy arena (Agwu *et al.*, 2008).

It is the realization of this fact that has made the successive Nigerian government to make effort towards raising the productivity level of rural people. The country has therefore, over the years, tried many agricultural extension

systems which include Agricultural Development Project (ADP). Agricultural Development Project was initiated in 1975 at the pilot project level, the success of which resulted into many designs which prominently include the statewide project. The statewide ADPs, are extension of the enclave project to other local government areas (LGA) not covered by the initial ADPs. Presently, all the states in the country are implementing the programme.

The programme focuses on rural integrated development strategy for agricultural and rural transformation. The establishment of these statewide ADPs raised the hope of farmers in genuine commitment to the eliminations of the socio political and economic problems that kept them in cycle of poverty (Akinbode, 1989). The ADPs across the country adopted the training and visit system (T&V) in order to boost production, solve the prevailing extension problem, foster self-reliance and sustain the problem, foster self-reliance and sustain the agricultural sector. In Nigeria, it is observed that ADP has weaknesses, these include excessive cost of input delivery, bureaucratic inefficiencies that here led to poor formulation and implementation of extension programmes and failure to address the peculiar needs of farmers

Other problems are poor staff training, inadequate coordination with university and research centre, inadequate content of extension message, inconsistent government regulations, inadequate farmers' involvement, national policy and sustainability. All these have caused much bureaucratic inefficiencies in public extension. In variance with the above, some empirically conducted studies and expert observations established it as fact that extension services offered by the private companies are better in quality and more effective than public system (Al-Rimawi and Al-kaabileh 2001). Success of some private extension providers among small scale farmers in Nigeria is also documented. Such studies include those conducted by: Kuponiyi, Ogunwale and Oladosu (1998), and Adefarasin (2000).

It is against this backdrop that this study is set to achieve the following objectives.

1. To identify the extension delivery administration of public and private extension organizations.
2. To determine the factors/ reasons influencing the participants' involvement in the extension programmes of the organizations in the study.

1.1 Study Hypotheses

- 1 Significant difference does not exist between the attitudes of beneficiaries of public and private extension organization to their organizations' extension delivery administration.
- 2 Beneficiaries attitudes and participation in the extension delivery programmes of public and private organizations are not significantly difference

2. Methodology

The study was undertaken in Ogun, Osun and Oyo States of the southwestern part of Nigeria. The area was chosen purposively due to the concentration of the activities of the selected private organization in the place (Olujide, 2000).

Multi stage random sampling technique was used to selected respondents in the three selected states. The study focused on the beneficiaries of the public extension i.e. agricultural development programme (ADP) and Private Extension Organizations such as Justice Development and Peace Movement- Rural Development (JDPM-RUDEP) and Farmers' Development Union (FADU). Equal number of respondents, thirty (30) were selected from each organization in each of the three states of the study. At the final selection stage, two hundred and seventy (270) respondents were sampled to provide data for the study. Interview schedules were used to collect relevant information from the sampled beneficiaries.

Descriptive and inferential statistics were employed to analyze the data collected. The descriptive tools such as frequency counts and percentages were used to present the data on personal and socio economic characteristics while inferential statistics such as Kruskal Wallis one-way analysis of variances (ANOVA) by ranks and Pearson Product Moment Correlation were used to test the study hypotheses.

The order for estimating the ranks is outlined thus; the equation for extracting the rank is outlined as:

$$H = \frac{12}{(NCN+1)} \sum_{i=1}^{75} 1/ni \left[Ri - \frac{ni(N+1)}{2} \right]^2 \dots\dots\dots(iv)$$

Where R is the sum of the ranks assigned to
Observation in the ith sample and ni (n+1)2

is the expected sum of rank for the *i*th treatment.

PPMC model specified as:

$$r = \frac{n \sum XY - (\sum X)(\sum Y)}{\left[N \sum X^2 - (\sum X)^2 \right] - \left[N \sum Y^2 - (\sum Y)^2 \right]}$$

where *r* = correlation coefficient as established between *n* and *y*

3. Results and Discussions

3.1 Extension Delivery Administration:

As reveals in table 1, extension delivery services administered by each of the selected organizations under the study were examined. According to the table, fertilizer application was the only extension service with average participation among the beneficiaries of public extension organization. In JOPM-RUDEP, participation was higher than average in credit administration (88.50%), training on crop utilization (70/3%), workshop/seminar (71.2%), improved livestock procurement (87.3%), processing management (59.7%) and new farming technique (55.1%). On the same table, FADU beneficiaries recorded higher percentage in training of crop utilization (86.2%), credit utilization / administration (73.5%), supervision/advisory (70.1%) while workshop/seminar information dissemination and fertilizer supply accounted for 66.6%, 52.8% and 51.7% respectively.

The varieties of activities and projects stimulate participation of the beneficiaries and also determine farmer's level of participation. The findings show that beneficiaries recorded higher participations in private organizations programme than in public extension outfit. The results corroborate the assertion of Rivera et al, (2006) who recommended the merger of public and private organizations if lots of the farmers are to be better.

3.2 Reasons/factors determining choice of organizations programme

Information on factors determining the beneficiaries' choice of extension organization were sought. The three factors that are prominent among others in all organizations were financial input, input supply and supervisory/advisory work. According to the table, the proportion of beneficiaries indicated each of the above services as reasons for the choice of the organization were higher in FADU and JDPM-RUDEP than in the public extension organization. Other reasons with significant proportion among beneficiaries of JDPM-RUDEP were staff efficiency 78.1%, general donation (70.1% financial improvement (57.4%) education and training (56.3%) and regular workshop/seminar (51.7%). FADU beneficiaries recorded other important programmes affecting them, these include financial improvement (78.1%) and innovation procurement and demonstration (58.6%). It is revealed that qualities of extension delivery administration serve as the determinants for the choice of organization's programme. The result is in agreement with Ogunwale and Oladosu (1998) who declared the extension works qualities as a good determinant of beneficiaries preference for such an organization.

3.3 Tested Hypotheses

In order to establish the relationships among the variables of the study, Kruskal Walls one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to analyze the relationship between the attitude of the beneficiaries of the public and private organizations to their extension delivery administrations. As shown on table 3, the results of Kruskal walls ranking ($X^2=0.709$, assyp sig. of 0.702) indicates that the attitude of farmers under the public and private extension administration were not significantly difference. This implies that irrespective of extension organization, attitude of beneficiaries remains same but can only discriminate along the gender line, which may only be associated with factors such as academic qualification among women making them unqualified for extension work, unwillingness of some qualified women to work in rural areas and unacceptable means of transport to some women extension agents (van den ban 1996).

Furthermore, summary of correlation results of relationship between the attitude and level of patronage of extension programmes in public and private organization was also investigated as shown on table 4. The table indicates negative *r*-value in public extension (-0.078, *p*<0.05) and the two private organizations, JDPM-RUDEP (-0.056, *P*<0.05) and FADU (-0.075, *p*<0.05) this imply an inverse relationships. These non significant values reveals that patronage of the extension programme of any organizations were not a function of their attitudinal disposition to such an organization's programmes.

In this regard, it is established that irrespective of the attitude of the farmers, it has no effect on their patronage of any extension programme. The result is contrary to Olujide (1999) and Ajayi (2004) who found attitude to be positively and significantly related to the farmers participation in the extension programmes of the organizations.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

The increasing level of private involvement in agricultural extension administration is an indication of inability of government alone to cope with the required level of agricultural development and the rural development in the region. It is the acknowledgement of this fact in government circle and in the midst of the citizenry that stimulate the quest to investigate other factors inhibiting the functional and result oriented extension administration.

This study however, revealed higher qualities and patronage of extension programmes as documented in private organizations. Beneficiaries' attitudes to public and private extension outfits were not significantly different while the level of patronage of the two types of the extension organizations in the study were never related to their attitudinal dispositions. The quality of private extension administration is thus an outstanding fact in that it was able to live above the weakness of public extension such as excessive cost of input delivery, poor formulation and implementations of extension programmes, poor staff training and inadequate farmers' involvement among others. It is therefore recommended that, the two types of extension organizations be progressive in their working operations and as well flexible in their approach and working objectives in order to address the basic needs of their registered farmers. Synthesis (merger) of public and private extension sectors is also recommend in order to obtain durable, functional and result oriented extension works in Nigeria.

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TABLE 1: Distribution of Respondent's participation level in selected extension services.

EXTENSION SERVICE	PUBLIC EXTENSION		JDPM-RUDEP		FADU	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
New farming techniques	33	36.7	48	55.1	31	35.6
Workshop	21	34.4	62	71.2	58	66.6
Supervision /advisory services	38	42.2	51	58.6	61	70.1
Information dissemination	28	31.1	41	47.1	46	52.8
Training on record keeping	13	14.4	39	44.8	33	37.9
Training on crop utilization	45	50.0	76	87.3	75	86.2
Credit admin/utilization	12	13.33	77	88.50	64	73.5
Processing/mgt tech.	32	35.5	52	59.7	51	58.6
Veterinary services	37	41.1	33	37.9	22	25.2
Input support services e.g. Fertilizer supply	50	55.5	40	45.9	45	51.7
Improved crop varieties	36	40.0	31	35.6	36	41.3
Improved livestock	41	45.5	61	70.1	41	47.1

Multiple responses
 Source: Field survey

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents on reasons for the choice of benefactors organizations programme

REASONS*	OVERALL RESPONSES		PUBLIC EXTENSION		JDPM-RUDEP		FADU	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Regular Input Supply	169	64.0	47	52.2	59	67.8	63	72.4
Financial Input	172	65.1	35	38.8	57	65.5	80	91.9
Supervisory / Advisory services	150	56.8	33	36.6	69	79.3	48	55.1
Financial Improvement	154	58.3	36	40.0	50	57.4	68	78.1
Farm Business Management	111	42.0	34	37.7	32	36.7	45	51.7
Innovation, Procurement and Demonstration	89	33.7	25	27.7	13	14.9	51	58.6
Education & Training	114	43.1	32	12.1	49	56.3	33	37.9
Donation Generally	138	52.2	32	12.1	61	70.1	45	51.7
Regular Workshop/Seminar	109	41.2	31	11.7	45	51.7	33	37.9
Staff Efficiency	127	48.1	21	7.9	68	78.1	38	43.6

Source: Field Survey
 *Multiple Responses

TABLE 3: Kruskal Wallis Ranking of Beneficiates Attitudes under Public and Private Extension Organizations.

EXTENSION ORGANIZATION	ATTITUDE RANK
Public Extension	137.33
JDPM-RUDEP	137.33
FADU	131.83

TEST STATISTICS	VALUES	DECISION
Chi-Square X^2	0.709	Not significant
df	2	
Asyp: Sig	0.702	

Source: Data Analysis 2008 * Significant

Table 4 Summary of correlation result of relationship between attitude and level of patronage of extension programmes in public and the selected private extension organizations.

Organization	r-value	Significance
Public Extension	-0.078	Not Significant
JDPM-RUDEP	-0.056	Not Significant
FADU	-0.075	Not Significant

Source: Data Analysis
 *Significance at 0.05** Significance at 0.10

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