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**THE IMPACT OF THE SECOND NATIONAL FADAMA DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT ON POVERTY REDUCTION IN THE GEIDAM LOCAL
GOVERNMENT OF YOBE STATE, NIGERIA**

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The major challenges facing by developing countries, such as Nigeria, are food insecurity (insufficient food) and poverty (DFID, 2006). More than a billion people in the developing world live in the rural area on less than a dollar per day, without enough money to buy food. It is estimated that of the 1.2 billion hungry and poor of the world, over 800 million suffer from chronic under-nourishment. Out of this, 34 million live in Asia, while 186 million live in sub-Saharan Africa (DFID, 2006).

Poverty is one of the gravest challenges facing the world today, with a staggering 40 per cent of the world's population living with the reality or the threat of extreme poverty, and one in five persons living in a state of poverty so abject that it threatens survival (Tokunbo, 2003). Globally, extreme poverty continues to be a rural phenomenon despite increasing urbanization. And out of the world's 1.2 billion extremely poor people, 75 percent live in rural areas and, they largely depend on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and related activities for survival (Tokunbo, 2003).

Poverty is a multi-faceted affliction as well as a raging economic and social phenomenon that manifests in the inability of the victims to acquire the basic necessities of life. Poverty goes beyond material deprivation to include insecurity, vulnerability and exposure to risks, shocks and stress. It specifically includes not having enough to eat, poor drinking water, poor nutrition, unfit housing, a high rate of infant mortality, low life expectancy, low level of energy consumption, low education opportunity, low employment opportunities, inadequate health care, lack of active participation in decision making process (Ajayi, 2008).

Poverty in Nigeria has been described as "widespread and severe" (World Bank, 2015). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Nigerian as the 137th among the 174 countries listed with HDI of 0.384 in 1996; by 1997, the country slipped to 142nd position and ranked among the 44 poorest countries. In 2018, Nigeria ranked number 158 out of 189 countries on the Global Human Development Index³. Nigeria's basic indicators now placed the country among the 26 poorest countries in the world. The proportion of Nigerians living below the poverty line of one dollar a day has increased dramatically during the last two decades. In the year 2018, about more than 65% of

³ (<http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/NGA.html>).

Nigerians were estimated to be living below the internationally defined poverty line. In the same year, in terms of GDP-PPP (in \$) Nigeria placed on 55 rank with 6,098\$ out of 191 countries (UNDP)⁴. About two-thirds of the Nigerian people are poor, despite living in a country with vast potential wealth (National Planning Commission, 2017).

The links between poverty and hunger are unambiguous, which means that poverty alleviation must play a major role in food security for all considerations (Franz, Achi, Nyangito, Martine, Gérard and Le Vallée, 2004). Food security is now defined as the situation when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for a healthy and active life (FAO 1996; Franz, et. al., 2004).

However, this term has gone through stages of definition and redefinition. Approaches to its definition have ranged from an emphasis on self-sufficiency to an emphasis on coping with vulnerability and risk in food and nutrition access. In the 1970s, food security was equated to adequate food production. In the 1980s, food security was considered to refer to the security of food access and availability. In the 1990s, the importance of nutrition was recognized, and hence the concept of food security was combined with that of nutrition security. In the 2000s, the concepts of food and nutrition security were integrated with vulnerability, risk coping, and risk management (Franz, et. al. 2004).

In order to deal with the problems of food insecurity and high incidence of poverty among the rural poor in Nigeria, it is very imperative that agricultural productivity should be rejuvenated. It has been empirically established that low productivity in agriculture is the cause of high incidence of food insecurity and poverty in Nigeria (World Bank, 1996). This is because agriculture is the mainstay of Nigeria's economy, contributing about 42% to total GDP and employing about 77% of the working population. It is therefore obvious that any policy measure aimed at alleviating poverty must take agriculture and rural development into consideration. Adeolu and Taiwo (2014), analyzed the poverty trend in Nigeria and noted that poor families are in higher proportion in farming households that are mainly in the rural area. Therefore, it is very important to raise food production, create employment, and improve the institutional and policy framework for agriculture, as well as to rehabilitate and expand physical and social infrastructure in rural areas; all of which require increased and sustained investment and support for agriculture (Franz et. al., 2004).

This study aims to examine the economic impact of the National Fadama-II Development Project (NFDP-II) on poverty reduction and food security among farmers in Geidam local government of Yobe State, Nigeria. For this purpose, four communities have been identified and selected through random sampling in it and

⁴ United Nations Development Programs Report, 2018.

these four, cultivated crops like rice, millet, maize, vegetables and okra. A total of one hundred respondents have been interviewed via questionnaire. For the analysis of this study, a descriptive statistic like frequency and simple percentage were used. After careful evaluation of collected data, one can find out that the majority of the farmers (78.9%) were male and their mean age was 44 years. The out of 95 respondents 75 (78.9%) were associated with the Fadama and remained 20 (21%) have no association with the project and 60 (63.2%) respondents have been replied that it is having positive impact on poverty reduction. Out of 95 respondents, 48 (50.5%) are doing farming as their occupation and the result of the study further revealed that all the Fadama-II farmers share similar opinion on ten identified constraints. These constraints were grouped into three that are technical problems, institutional problems and economic problems. After the careful analysis of the collected data one can reach on conclusion for the successfulness of any project like Fadama is to provision of the credit facilities for land preparation to farmers, the supply of subsidized farm inputs and farmers' training by the Fadama facilitators. Therefore, this study provides strong suggestion to create more awareness about the programme among the people of so that they may come forward to participate actively in it. Therefore, it enhances their income level and they may be able to utilize it for the betterment of their active and health life.

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