



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**EXPERIENCES OF BENEFICIARIES' PARTICIPATING
IN COMMUNITY BASED AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN GUBA, NIGERIA**

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IN GUBA, NIGERIA**

By

SULE AHMADU

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, In
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Abstract of Thesis Presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in Fulfillment of
the Requirement for the Degree of Master of Science

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Faculty: Human Ecology

This study explored beneficiaries' experiences on participation in Community-based Agriculture and Rural Development program. Nigeria had from 1977-1999 implemented no fewer than five (5) anti poverty programs. In spite of the series of programs and huge expenditure, the scourge of poverty is increasing. Although, previous studies in Tanzania, Mongolia and Ghana have attributed lack of beneficiaries' participation in the development process as one of the major causes of failure of development programs to empower people, none has yet focused on Nigeria. In order to gain insights on beneficiaries' participation in the International Fund for Agriculture Development assisted Community-Based Agriculture and Rural Development Program (IFAD/CBARDP) this study explored the past experiences of beneficiaries in development process, how beneficiaries perceived and interpreted participation, how

beneficiaries have participated in the program and what motivated them into participation.

Using qualitative approach with a single case study focusing on Guba farmers, primary data for the study was mainly collected through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions; semi-structured questions were used with the aid of interview guide. Eleven (11) farmers participating in the program as beneficiaries participated in the study as key informants. The desire to capture in-depth information on beneficiaries' experiences on participation in the program, not only informed the purposive selection of informants but the study methodology as well.

The major findings of the study have been categorized to reflect the four research objectives. It was found that beneficiaries lacked previous experiences of participation in development process. Although there were different interpretations of participation among beneficiaries, the notion of participation as a process in which beneficiaries contribute labor and other resources in return for tangible material benefits appears dominant. Similarly, beneficiaries understood their participation in terms of consultations with development officials and beneficiaries' contributions in the development process. Moreover, beneficiaries were found to have been motivated into participation by several factors, but the desire to meet tangible material benefits stood above all other considerations.

The study concluded that whilst participation was conceived and interpreted by beneficiaries to mean the process of meeting tangible material benefits, sharply contrasted the objective of the program to empower rural communities to manage their own future development. Beneficiary participation turns out to be 'passive' which does not ensure sustained empowerment. The need for involving beneficiaries at all the stages of future development process therefore, becomes imperative in order to empower beneficiaries to manage their own development. The study also suggested that policy-makers and program designers should ensure the incorporation of contexts and histories when designing future development programs in order to achieve sustained empowerment of communities.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**PENGALAMAN PENGLIBATAN PESERTA DALAM PROGRAM PERTANIAN
BERASASKAN KOMUNITI DAN PEMBANGUNAN LUAR BANDAR DI GUBA,
NIGERIA**

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Kajian ini meneroka pengalaman peserta aktiviti Pertanian Berasaskan Komuniti dan Program Pembangunan Luar Bandar (IFAD/CBARDP). Nigeria mempunyai tidak kurang daripada lima program pembasmian kemiskinan dari tahun 1977-1999. Walaupun beberapa siri program dan perbelanjaan besar telah dilaksanakan, masalah kemiskinan di Nigeria semakin meningkat. Kajian lepas yang pernah dilakukan di Tanzania, Mongolia dan Ghana telah menunjukkan kurangnya penglibatan peserta dalam proses pembangunan sebagai salah satu punca utama kegagalan program pendayaupayaan komuniti. Walau bagaimanapun, tiada satupun kajian pernah dilakukan di Nigeria. Dalam usaha untuk mengenalpasti pandangan peserta terhadap penyertaan mereka dalam IFAD / CBARDP, kajian ini telah meneroka pengalaman peserta dalam proses pembangunan, bagaimana mereka mempersepsi dan mentafsirkan penyertaan

mereka, bagaimana mereka mengambil bahagian dalam program dan apakah faktor-faktor yang mendorong mereka untuk menyertainya.

Kajian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan kajian kes yang memberi tumpuan kepada petani di Guba yang terpilih. Data utama kajian ini dikumpulkan melalui temu bual mendalam dan perbincangan berfokus berkumpulan; soalan separa berstruktur telah digunakan sebagai panduan dalam sesi temu bual tersebut. Seramai sebelas (11) orang petani yang telah mengambil bahagian dalam program ini sebagai peserta telah terlibat dalam kajian sebagai informan utama. Bagi memperoleh maklumat yang mendalam mengenai pengalaman penglibatan peserta dalam program ini, mereka dimaklumkan tujuan pemilihan mereka dan juga kaedah kajian ini dijalankan.

Penemuan utama kajian telah dikategorikan mengikut empat soalan kajian. Hasil kajian menunjukkan peserta tidak mempunyai pengalaman penglibatan dalam proses pembangunan. Walaupun terdapat tafsiran yang berbeza mengenai penyertaan dalam kalangan peserta, tanggapan penyertaan sebagai satu proses di mana peserta menyumbang sumber buruh dan sumber lain untuk memperoleh pulangan faedah adalah merupakan unsur yang dominan. Begitu juga, peserta memahami bahawa penyertaan mereka dari segi sumbangan yang mereka lakukan dalam proses pembangunan. Selain itu, kajian ini juga mendapati bahawa peserta mengutamakan keinginan dalam memenuhi faedah bersifat material sebagai sumber utama yang mendorong penglibatan mereka dalam program ini. Gaya kepimpinan kumpulan, bengkel dan seminar, pendekatan program, peserta / hubungan rasmi dan publisiti didapati menjadi faktor yang berpengaruh dalam penglibatan mereka terhadap program yang disertai.

Kajian ini menyimpulkan bahawa penglibatan yang difikirkan dan ditafsirkan oleh peserta terarah kepada memperoleh manfaat berbentuk material, berbeza dengan objektif program untuk mendayaupayakan masyarakat luar bandar untuk menguruskan pembangunan masa depan mereka sendiri. Penglibatan peserta ternyata menjadi 'pasif' yang tidak dapat mengekalkan pendayaupayaan. Keperluan untuk melibatkan peserta di semua peringkat dalam proses pembangunan masa depan menjadi penting dalam usaha mendayaupayakan peserta untuk mengurus pembangunan mereka sendiri. Kajian ini juga mencadangkan agar pembuat dasar dan pembentuk program harus mengambil kira konteks dan sejarah apabila merancang program pembangunan pada masa hadapan untuk memastikannya mampu mendayaupayakan komuniti secara berterusan.

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APPROVAL SHEETS

I certify that an examination committee has met on 2nd March, 2012 to conduct the final examination of Sule Ahmadu on his (or her) Master of Science thesis entitled “Experiences on Beneficiaries’ Participation in Community-Based Agriculture and Rural Development Program in Guba, Nigeria” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for the quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.



SULE AHMADU

Date

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