

Re-examining Local Government fertilizer distribution in Kaduna and Katsina States Nigeria.

By

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Abstract

Nigeria is an agricultural state with more than seventy percent of its population depends on agriculture as a means of subsistence and contribute to forty two percent to the country's economy, yet majority of farmers have no access to fertilizer despite series of efforts to make it available to local farmers. The work is set to examine how LGs in Kaduna state deliver fertilizer to farmers and the challenges associated with the distribution. The results indicated that in adequate fertilizer at the local level is largely due to the politicization of the distribution and suggested adequate support of local fertilizer companies in the country, prudent fertilizer distribution and the need for government at all level to increase their support on fertilizer supply.

Key words: Local Government; Fertilizer Distribution.

Introduction: To what extent do the Local Governments in Nigeria deliver fertilizer service to local people? How well has fertilizer been delivered? What challenges do they experience in the delivering fertilizer to local populace? These problematic questions will serve as centre base for this research.

Nigeria is an agricultural state with more than 70% of its populace engaged in agriculture and contributes to 42 percent of the country's \$357 billion economy - considerably higher than the 16 percent derived from petroleum and natural gas production, which dominate the country's export revenue (NBS, 2008; Banful, 2010). In spite of this contribution, Nigeria's promising agricultural potential has yet to be realized. For instance, between 1960 and 2005, Nigeria's cereal yield per hectare has only grown by about 40 percent compared to India and Pakistan with

a 150 and 200 percent increase respectively. These countries had similar levels of productivity at the beginning of that period (Enselem et-el, 2010)

Although fertilizer is not a panacea for agricultural development, evidence revealed that there has always been a remarkable increase in the use of chemical fertilizer in countries that have successfully improved agricultural productivity. Increased fertilizer usage in Latin America and Asia has increased agricultural productivity and farmer's income by 50 percent; it also led to the success of green revolution (Enselem et-el, 2010; Tasié, 2010). Despite this evidence, chemical fertilizer in Nigeria is still insufficient (Rabiu, 2012; Banful et-el, 2010).

Fertilizer consumption in Nigeria was only 7 kilograms per hectare (kg/ha) of arable land in 2005 compared to India and Pakistan with about 121 kg/ha and 184 kg/ha respectively (World Resources Institute 2010). Similarly, fertilizer use in Nigeria is estimated at 13kg/ha (FMARD, 2010) far below 86kg/ha in Latin America and 104kg/ha in South Asia and 142kg/ha in Eastern Asia. This low fertilizer application rate persists despite the government involvement in procuring and distributing fertilizer since the early 1970s (Enselem et-el, 2010).

While LGs in Nigeria are saddled with responsibility of distribution of chemical fertilizer at the grassroots level, LG distribution of subsidized fertilizer in Nigeria is often characterized by politics, expensive administrative processes as well as diversion and hoarding of the product from the proclaimed beneficiaries; thus, limited quantities of fertilizer often reaches farmers at the grassroots level long after they are needed (Tasié, 2010).

Local Governments are responsible for fertilizer provision at the grassroots level, yet this service is often inadequate in spite of increased LGs revenue from the federation account from N19.9b in 1993 to 1.06trn in 2009(CBN,2010), and the reform measures taken to ensure adequate

services at the grassroots level. The study seek to determine the extent to which fertilizer is been delivered to local communities. The work will also evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of such service delivered in Kaduna and Katsina states as well as to examine the challenges experiences in delivering of such service and develop an alternative strategies for improving the level and quality of service delivery at the local level.

Literature Review: Though there are studies (Okojie, 2009; Mario et-el, 2010; Rabi, 2012; Bonnal, 2012) on fertilizer distribution in Nigeria, most of these studies are too general, there is little or no evidence of empirical and comparative study on the case study (Katsina and Kaduna states); apart from contributing to the existing knowledge, the work will provide an in depth and empirical analysis of fertilizer service delivery in the study area so as to avoid over generalization. The work will assist government and stakeholders to develop a policy to alleviate constraints for adequate fertilizer service delivery service at the Local level.

Empirical study of the contribution of agriculture and petroleum to the growth of the Nigerian economy revealed that, agricultural sector contribution is higher than the petroleum sector. The study further indicated that though both the two sectors possessed positive impact on the economic growth and development (Umar et-el, 2012). The study highlighted the importance of agriculture to the Nigerian economy indicated the neglect of the agricultural sector as the main problem of the present low economic development.

While Bonnal (2012) research on the other hand focused on reasons why governments decentralized agricultural services (including fertilizer distribution), these include growing declined of efficiency of the central government on delivering services to local communities, complexity of local issues; and the inability of the state to continue financing of the whole range of service. The study further identified insufficient funding and staff management as the main

problem of decentralization of agricultural service delivery in many developing countries. Yes of course there are certain services that LGs would be in a better and efficient position to deliver them because of their importance, efficiency, cost comparative advantage, and are much consumed by local populace. Fertilizer is among these services.

Morris et-al (2010) study indicated gap between agricultural performance and available research information. The study related poor performance of LG in agricultural productivity to poor extension service delivery and limited interaction between researchers and extension workers rather than in adequacy of fertilizer. Yes indeed, agricultural extension service is important for increase agricultural productivity as well as adequacy of fertilizer. However, where one is lacking productivity will suffer.

Tasie et-al (2010) study related low agricultural productivity in Nigeria to low fertilizer application; this is because according to the study the 13kg estimated fertilizer application in the Country was far below the recommendation by the United Nation and Food Agricultural organization (FAO). The study focusing on the demand and supply environment and the role of subsidies, regulatory environment and vouchers fertilizer distribution system found that, heavy emphasis on price subsidization to the detriment of other approaches such as complementary actions to improve farmers fertilizer-use-techniques has hampered market development. The study recommended the review of government involvement in fertilizer production and distribution in Nigeria to full private sector involvement in production and distribution. The findings though rational, but did not take market failure, ineffective competitive market, poverty among farmers and low quality products.

Similar study on constraints to fertilizer use in Nigeria using sample of eight states indicated that fertilizer consumption in the country is among the lowest in the world despite decades of

aggressive subsidization. The study further revealed that extension service in Nigeria has substantial impact on fertilizer use in the country, and also increased farmers' demand of fertilizer. The study indicated the major constraint for fertilizer use in Nigeria to include physical absence of the product at the time needed rather than lack of affordability or lack of knowledge about the benefits or the use of fertilizer. The findings though cogent, but concentrated in the north- central zone of the country (Banfal etel, 2010). The study left us with a gap of similar study in other parts of the country.

Oladipo (2009) study examined the utilization of organic mineral fertilizer among farmers in Afijio Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria using sampling technique to select 120 farmers from 4 communities in the study area. The result of the chi-square value showed a significant relationship (between age, gender, marital status, income level, farm size, educational level, farming experience of respondents and the level of use of organic mineral fertilizer. The study recommended the extension of agents and increase their contact or visits to the farmers so as to create more awareness on the utilization of organic mineral fertilizer; more access to farmland and education among famers. Though the study relevant, it only restricted itself to the use of organic fertilizer in Afijio LG of Oyo state, however it left us with huge gap of study on use of chemical fertilizer in the Kaduna and Katsina states.

Rabiu (2012) study opined that, fertilizer distribution in Nigeria passed through various test since the liberalisation of the fertilizer industry in 1997. The results according to the investigation were mixed, the first is positive due to private sector participation, while the second is the opposite due to inconsistency in government policies, government subsidies, inadequate infrastructures and high cost of fertilizer can be resolved according to the research through public-private sector

partnership and emphasizes toward closer tie and ensuring the subsidy reached local citizens. The study nevertheless relevant but too general and lack empirical evidence to support its arguments.

Charles study (2011) reviewed the past and existing fertilizer subsidy policies and programs in Nigeria looking at the key issues, problems of demand and supply, the performance in terms of its intended or expected outcome, and how effective has been the targeting of the subsidy. The study shows that fertilizer if properly distributed can be use to achieve a range of broad development goal including stimulating rapid economic growth, alleviating poverty and protecting the rural poor. The study recommended the need for legislation on fertilizer policy to promote favourable environment for investment without fear of undue interventions due to frequent policy changes by government. The report also suggested the abolishment of the present dual fertilizer markets so as to enhance favourable investment atmosphere which would form basis for the emergence of an efficient and economically sustained private sector driven fertilizer market, and the need for the establishment of an effective national framework on monitoring and tracking of fertilizer distribution in the country. The study explored some of the problems of fertilizer distribution in Nigeria and prospers solution.

While Okojie's (2009) empirical study revealed that, agricultural production in Nigeria declined drastically in the last decade due to inability of government to extend infrastructural facilities to rural areas, inadequate credit facility to modernize rural agriculture and lack of commitment by the political leaders at the grassroots level to develop agriculture and finally the collapse of the agricultural products. The study further discovered that, 82.1% use fertilizer, 19% used insecticides, while 13.4% used improved seedlings, whereas 0.7% used fingerlings. The findings indicated that fertilizer remains the main input for both rural and urban farmers in Nigeria. While

all zones in the country use high fertilizer except south west and south-south. The study again proved that, majority of the households used agricultural inputs purchased from open market (82.8%), while only 0.1% and 0.8% got them from a donor agency and cooperative respectively. The study of course provided a clear analysis of agricultural production in Nigeria and areas that need proper attention. Though the study is too broad, it did not give us a clear picture of the case study.

Rabiu (2012) study on fertilizer supply and distribution in Nigeria opined that, the country has passed through various degree of test on the quest for better approach for adequate fertilizer supply. The result according to him were mixed, the first approach is the liberalization policy which led to the coming up of many private entrepreneurs and the second on the other hand was the inconsistency in government policies which include subsidy on fertilizer. The findings of the research further indicated that inadequate infrastructure and capital are the main constraints limiting the success of full privatization of fertilizer supply in the country. The work recommended public-private sector partnerships and review of the role of private sector participation through closer tie and more market friendly.

Findings Conclusion and Recommendations: The aim of this section is to present results of the research findings based on the questionnaires administered and the interviews conducted, the findings are divided into the following headings; adequacy of fertilizer, quality of personnel and service quality. Daura, Dutsen Ma and Danja in Katsina state while Sabon Gari, Giwa and Kajuru Local Governments Kaduna state respectively were selected from the three senatorial districts in the state. Yamane's (1967) formula as expressed by Israel (1992) was used to obtain reasonable sample as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where n = Sample size,

N = Total population,

e = Level of significance (9%),

$$n = 1505.466 / 1 + 1505.466 (0.0025)$$

$$n = 1505.466 / 1506.466 (0.0025)$$

$$1505.466 / 3.766165$$

$$= 399.73$$

= 400. Total of 85 respondents were administered with questionnaires mainly farmers to elicit their views on recent fertilizer distribution in their Local Governments. We utilized half of the sample size to obtain accurate data.

Table 1: Composition of respondents according to the age distribution

Age range	Kaduna Farmers	Katsina Farmers
13-19	3 (3.5%)	4 (6.1%)
20-29	12 (14%)	21(32.3%)
30-39	37 (43.5%)	37(56.9)
40 and above	33(38.8%)	21(32.3%)
Total	85 (100%)	83(100%)

The table above represents the composition of respondents according to age distribution. In the case of farmers in both the two states (Kaduna and Katsina), age bracket 30-39 constitute the highest number of respondents administered with questionnaires with 37 representing 43.5% each, followed by age bracket 40 and above with total number of 54 respondents in the two states; whereas age bracket 13-19 and 20-29 constitute the least with total of 7 and 33

respondents in the two states respectively. The table composition shows that majority of the farmers in both the two states are youths within the age bracket 30-39 years.

Table 2: Farmers’ responses on adequacy of fertilizer for 2013 farming season in Kaduna State

LG	Responses and percentage					
	SA %	A %	U %	D %	SD %	Total %
Kaduna	3(3.5)	4 (4.7)	2 (2.3)	12(14.1)	9(10.5)	30(35.2)
Sabon Gari	2 (2.3)	3(3.5)	0 (0)	13(15.2)	9(10.5)	27(31.7)
Giwa	3 (3.5)	4(4.7)	1(1.1)	9(10.5)	11(12.9)	28(32.9)
Kajuru	8 (9.4)	11(12.9)	3(3.5)	34(40.)	29(34.1)	85(100)
Total						

Researcher’s survey, 2013.

Concerning the farmers’ responses on adequacy of fertilizer, farmers in Kaduna state were asked to express their opinion whether fertilizer distributed by the LG was adequate or not, based from the above 34 (40%) and 29 (34.1%) of the respondents indicated their dissatisfaction with the adequacy of fertilizer distributed for 2013 farming season in their LGs. While 8(9.4%) and 11(12.9%) out of 85(100%) farmers contacted have satisfied with the adequacy of the fertilizer distributed at the LG level; While 3(3.5) of the respondents have not decided at all. This indicates farmers’ dissatisfaction with adequacy of fertilizer at their LGs.

Table 3 : Composition of Questionnaires Administered and Returned

Farmers		
State and LGCs	Questionnaires Administered	Questionnaires Duly completed and Returned
Kajuru	33	28
Giwa	33	27
Sabon Gari	33	30

Dutsen Ma	33	28
Danja	33	29
Daura	33	26
Total	198	168

Source: Researchers Survey: 2013

From the table above, out of the total 399 questionnaires administered, 302 were dully completed and returned representing 76%. This indicates that 76% of the number of questionnaires retuned is considered to be reasonably enough for analyses and generalization.

Table 4: Fertilizer distribution in Giwa LG for 2013 farming season

Ward	N0 of poling/ward	Allocation/poling unit
Giwa	13	1600
Gangara	15	1800
Shika	15	1800
Kidandan	16	2000
Kadage	10	1300
Yakawada	18	2220
Idasu	14	1750
Panhauya	9	1100
Kakangi	10	1280
Galadimawa	8	1000
Dan Mahawayi	8	1000
Total	136	16800 71%

Source: Agriculture and Natural Resources Dept., Giwa Local Government, 2013.

The above provides the result of fertilizer distribution in Giwa LG, based on the distribution each of the 136 poling unit in the LG received a total of 89 bags making a total of 16800. It indicates that Danja A has the highest allocation of 15513 bags across 17 wards and Kahutu A and B with 1068 across 12 wards each. Therefore the distribution implies that, the higher the number of poling units; the higher the allocation and vis-a-vis. However, each bag of fertilizer is sold at

official price of N1730 per Bag. The distribution indicates that, Yakawada received the highest allocation with 2220 followed by Kidandan with 2000 bags, while distribution shows that Galadimawa and Danmahawayi wards received the least allocation with 1000 bags each. This completed the total of 79% of the total allocation to farmers, staff of the LG and other staff of federal and state governments working in the LG. The remaining of 29% of the allocation was distributed among the prominent politicians in the Local Government.

Table 5: Fertilizer distribution in Danja LG

Ward	N0 of poling/ward	Allocation/poling unit
Danja A	17	15513
Danja B	15	1335
Dabai	16	1424
Tsangamawa	16	1424
Kahutu A	12	1068
Kahutu B	12	1068
Yakaji A	15	1335
Yakaji B	15	1335
Jiba	16	1424
Tandama	16	1424

Total

Source: Researcher's Survey, Agriculture and Natural Resources Dept. Danja Local Govt. 2013

The table above represent pattern of fertilizer distribution in Danja LG, from the distribution, it indicated that Danja 'A' ward received the highest allocation with 15513 bags of fertilizer, followed by Dabai, Tsangamawa, Tandama and Jiba with 1424 bags each; whereas Kahutu "A" and "B" received the lowest allocation with 1068 bags each.

Chairman of the LG	Chairman central committee	M.Sc
Director of Agric	General overseer	PGD
Deputy Director Extension	Bulk overseer	B.Sc
Store officer	Accountant and in charge of fertilizer store	ND
11 Staff of Agric department	Secretaries	4HND and 7 OND

Researchers' Survey, 2013.

Table 7: Composition of the members of the fertilizer distribution Committee for the year 2013 in Danja LG.

Ward Committee

Councilor	Chairman
Police	Member
A representative from State Security Service (SSS)	Member
Lead farmer	Member
Extension	Member
Youth leader (male)	Member
Youth leader (female)	Member
Ward Head	Member

Researchers' Survey, 2013.

Table 8: Responses of the farmers' sources of fertilizer service in Kaduna State
Major source of farmers' fertilizer

Source	Kaduna State			Total
	S/Gari	Giwa	Kajuru	
LG	7(23.3)	7(18.9)	7(18.9)	21(24.7)
GES	5(16.6)	4(14.8)	4(13.7)	13(15.2)
Market	17(56.6)	14(51.8)	14(48.2)	45(52.9)
Other source	1(3.3)	2(7.4)	3(10.3)	6(7.0)
Total	30	27(100)	28 (100)	85(100)

Katsina State

	Katsina State			Total
	Danja	Dutsin Ma	Daura	
LG	10(31.4)	9 (32.1)	9(34.6)	28(32.9)
GES	5(17.2)	5(17.8)	6(23)	16(18.8)
Market	12(41.3)	11(39.2)	11(42.3)	34(40)
Other source	2(6.8)	4(13.2)	1(26.9)	7(8.2)
Total	29(100)	28(100)	26(100)	85(100)

Source: Researcher's Survey, 2013

The table above shows farmers' responses of the major source(s) of their fertilizer. Respondents were asked to mention their major source(s) of fertilizer, 45 of the respondents mentioned market as their main source, this means that they have purchased most of their fertilizer at the market, followed by 24 respondents out of 86 farmers contacted identified LG as the main source of fertilizer, while 13 identified GES and other sources carrying 6 farmers. Similarly, the responses above in table 4.17 shows that majority of the respondents (34) purchased their fertilizer at the markets, while 28 purchased their fertilizer from their LG, whereas 16 got it from GES program,

finally 6 of our respondents got theirs through other sources (including politicians and farmers union respectively). This indicates insufficient fertilizer to satisfy farmers' demands. This also implies that farmers in both the two states obtained their fertilizer from LG through decentralization process. Therefore the need for strengthening LG and private sector provision or collaborate them together through public-private partnership provision since majority of the respondents identified market as the major source of their fertilizer as exposed in the table above.

Table 9: Efficiency responses on average waiting period before receiving fertilizer at the distribution centre

Period	Kaduna			Total
	S/Gari	Giwa	Kajuru	
1-14minutes	1(3.3)	2(7.1)	3(10.7)	6(7)
15-29	3(10)	4(14.8)	4(14.2)	11(12.9)
30-44	5(16.6)	5(18.5)	5(17.8)	15(17.6)
45-60	5(16.6)	6(22.2)	9(32.1)	20(23.5)
1 hour and above	16 (83.3)	10(37.0)	7(25.9)	33(38.8)
Total	30(100)	27(100)	28(100)	85(100)

Source: Researcher's Survey, 2013

	Katsina			Total
	Danja	Dutsin Ma	Daura	
1-14minutes	0(0)	4(14.2)	2(7.6)	6(7.2)
15-29	4 (13.7)	2(7.1)	3(11.5)	9(10.8)
30-44	6 (20.6)	5(17.8)	3(11.5)	14(16.8)
45-60	8(27.9)	7(25)	8(30.7)	23(27.7)
1 hour and above	11(37.9)	10(35.7)	10(38.4)	31(37.3)
Total	29(100)	28(100)	26(100)	83(100)

Source: Researcher's Survey, 2013

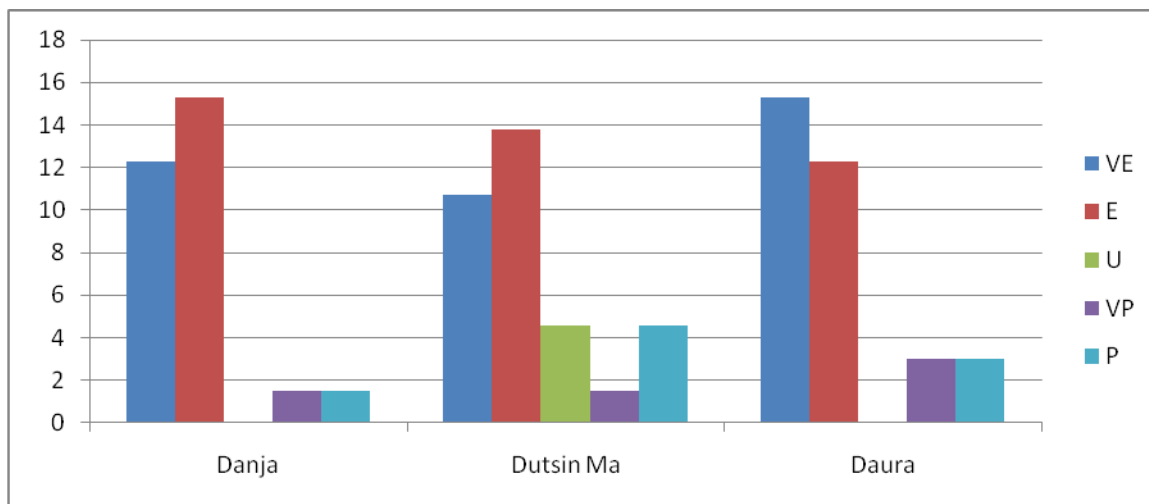
To determine the respondents' views in Kaduna state on service quality particularly average waiting period before they were serviced, farmers were asked to indicate the minimum waiting period waited before service, 33 of the farmers waited for at least one hour and above before they were serviced followed by 20 farmers with average waiting period of 45 minutes to 1hour, whereas those with waiting period of 1 to 14 minutes being the least with 5 farmers out of 85. Likewise in Katsina state 31 of the farmers contacted out of 85 have expressed that they have

waited for a minimum of 1 hour and above before they were serviced, this followed by 23 farmers whose waiting period was between 45 and 1 hour; whereas only 6 farmers waited below 15 minutes before they were serviced. This scenario proved that many farmers spent a very long period on a cue before they were serviced. This also shows that fertilizer distribution service delivery lacks quality in both two states if we are to use waiting period as an indicator for measurement of service quality.

Table 10: showing farmers responses on the effectiveness of fertilizer distribution in Katsina state

		Katsina State					
Rating of LG	LG	VE	E	U	VP	P	Total
Fertilizer distribution							
	Danja	8(12.3)	10(15.3)	0(0)	1(1.5)	1(1.5)	20(30.7)
	Dustin Ma	7(10.7)	9(13.8)	3(4.6)	1(1.5)	3(4.6)	23(35.3)
	Daura	10(15.3)	8(12.3)	0(0)	2(3.0)	2(3.0)	22(33.8)
	Total	25(38.4)	27(41.5)	3(4.6)	4(6.1)	6(9.2)	65(100)

Source: Researchers' Survey 2013.

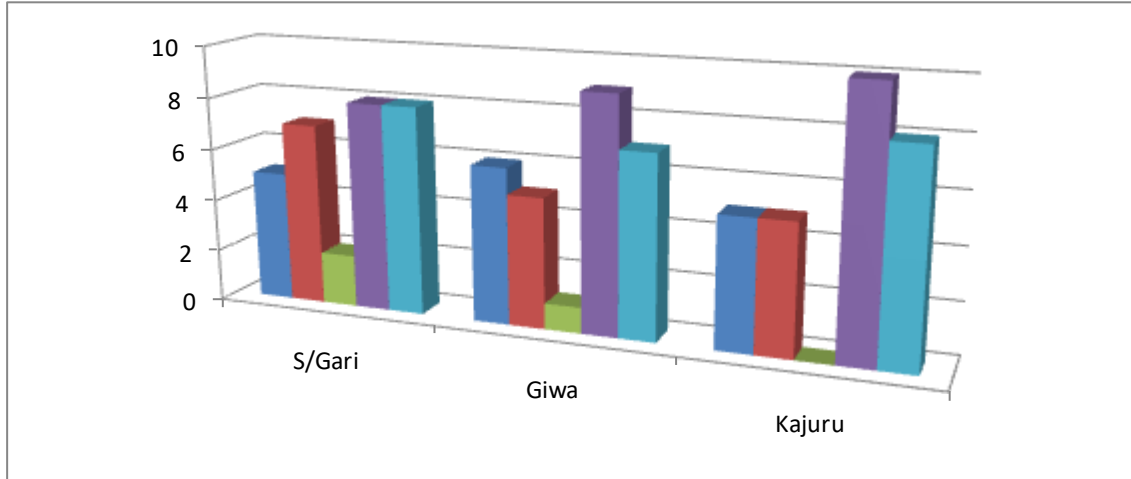


Respondents in Katsina state were asked to indicate their views on effectiveness of fertilizer distribution, the responses are as follows: 25 and 24 of the respondents rated the distribution very effective and effective respectively, while 4 and 6 rated the service as very poor and poor, whereas 3 undecided.

Table11: Showing service quality using efficiency and effectiveness as indicators

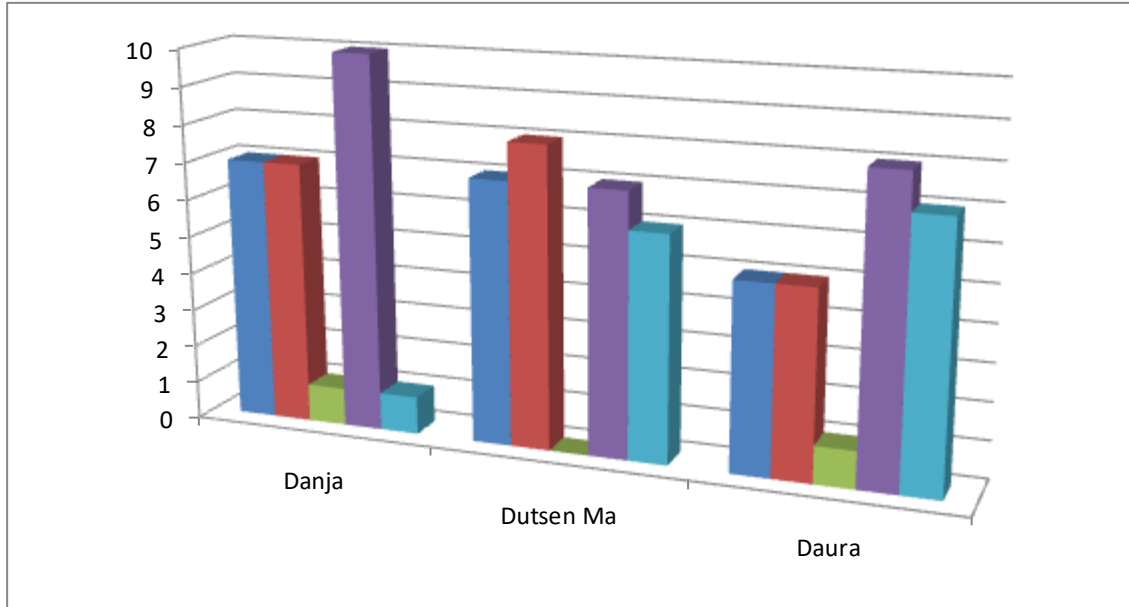
**Service quality as
Efficient and effective**

	SA	A	U	SD	D	Total
S/Gari	5(5.8)	7(8.2)	2(2.3)	8(9.5)	8(9.5)	30(35.2)
Giwa	6(7)	5(5.8)	1(1.7)	9(10.5)	7(8.2)	27(31.7)
Kajuru	5(5.8)	5(5.8)	0(0)	10(11.7)	8(9.5)	28(32.9)
Total	16(18.8)	17(20)	3(3.5)	27(31.7)	23(27)	85(100)



Katsina State

LG	SA	A	U	SD	D	Total
Danja	7(8.4)	7(8.4)	1(1.2)	10(12)	1(1.2)	29(34.9)
Dutsen Ma	7(8.4)	8(9.6)	0(0)	7(8.4)	6(7.2)	28(33.7)
Daura	5(6.0)	5(6.0)	1(1.2)	8(9.6)	7(8.4)	26(31.3)
Total	19(22.8)	20(24)	2(2.4)	25(30.1)	14(16.8)	83(100)



To measure service quality respondents were asked to describe whether the service (fertilizer distribution) was efficient and effective, 27 and 23 of the respondents in Kaduna state strongly disagree and disagree respectively while 16 and 17 strongly agree and agree respectively, whereas 3 undecided. This implies majority of the respondents described the fertilizer service provision as ineffective and inefficient. Whereas the result of Katsina on whether the quality of fertilizer provision was efficient and effective, 25 and 14 of the respondents strongly disagree and disagree respectively, while 19 and 20 strongly agree and agree respectively, while 2 out of 85 undecided. This shows that majority of the respondents are not satisfied with the service quality based on efficiency and effectiveness of the fertilizer distribution (i.e reaching a farmer safely).

Service (fertilizer distribution) Quality

The aim of every service delivery is to achieve service quality, so also fertilizer distribution in Kaduna and Katsina states was planned to achieve the same. This can be assessed on how and when the service (fertilizer) reached beneficiaries (farmers). To achieve, this we quantified the service quality based on the quantity (number) of fertilizer reached a farmer (whether enough or not), how he/she got it whether at ease or not; or whether it reached farmer safely or not.

Therefore on the Service quality, the results are mixed, farmers in Kaduna state were not satisfied with the quality of service (fertilizer distribution) in terms of the number of people serviced, whereas results of Katsina state shows the contrary, as many farmers expressed their satisfaction on the quality of service based on the number of people serviced. In both the two states, farmers were also satisfied with the quality of service (fertilizer) based on efficiency and effectiveness. (i.e the way service reached them up to their destination or farm safely and affordable). While on the average waiting period, farmers in both the two states have shown their dissatisfaction on the service quality based on the average waiting period as many farmers waited for a long time before they were serviced.

Adequacy of fertilizer for the 2013 farming season

On the adequacy of fertilizer for the 2013 farming season, evidence from the two states proved that, farmers dissatisfied with the adequacy of fertilizer in terms of quantity, this led to many farmers resolved to purchase a large quantity of fertilizer at market so as to meet their demands. The study also opined that, though farmers are aware of the Local Government fertilizer provision, many of them cannot access it due to politicization of the control and distribution of the commodity, at times political party affiliation of the farmer or his “connection” with a politician determines his chance or access to fertilizer. This to a large extent has significant effect on fertilizer distribution and its adequacy to farmers.

Observation

Though fertilizer is not panacea for agricultural development, but it is very important for increasing agricultural productivity. Evidence from the study indicates remarkable increase of agricultural productivity with increase of fertilizer usage. In spite of this evidence Nigeria is classified among the lowest ranking of countries with low fertilizer usage. This low fertilizer usage may be attributed to many factors including politicization of the distribution of the commodity, late distribution of the commodity, high cost of the commodity and lack of capital among farmers.

In fact, the challenge of fertilizer at the grassroots level is among the serious challenge for fight against poverty, unemployment, insecurity, rural urban migration, malnutrition and diseases in Nigeria. In ability of the country to produce adequate food can be attributed to low concern on

fertilizer supply at the grassroots level which resulted to growing poverty, difficulties and unemployment in the country.

One fundamental problem of fertilizer distribution in Nigeria is who distribute, when and how he/she distributes fertilizer particularly at the grassroots level. The study observed that there is nearly complete absence of due process in the distribution of the fertilizer the two states. This is because of the inclusion of the politicians in the distribution process. A time political party affiliation of a farmer is being considered first before he was serviced.

Apart from that, fertilizer in most cases does not reaches farmers when due. A time it does not reach farmers until late, this to a large extent affect farmers production. It is however noted that, farmers are willing to produce and follow advises of extension service officers but lack political will on the government side discourages farmers. This conduct has forced farmers to shift to cultivating other crops that may not require much fertilizer. While others lived the farming venture and resolved to other business or migrated to cities for search another means of survival. In fact, this scenario has negative impact on security and economic development of the country.

Not only that the study also observed that, there is inadequacy of fertilizer service to cater for the farmers demand of the commodity. In almost all the wards visited, almost all the farmers showed their concern over inadequacy of government provision. Where it is available, farmers were also imposed to buy the commodity above government prices. Looking on this scenario, it indicates that the government subsidy on fertilizer do not always reach the targeted beneficiaries (farmers). Instead, the politicians and government officials enjoyed the cake.

The study also observed that cost of fertilizer is very high in Nigeria considering the rising level of poverty incidence among farmers. Fertilizer commodity is sold between N5000 and N7000 per bag. This is a very serious problem to agricultural development in the country. In fact, the subsidized fertilizer is often inadequate, while the one at the market is too exorbitant. This coupled with the growing incidence of poverty among farmers make it very difficult for quite a large number of farmers to buy the required fertilizer at the market.

Conclusion: Nigeria is an agricultural state with its majority of its population defended on agriculture as a means of their subsistence farming, yet most of the farmers are not being

supported by government. Low agricultural productivity in Nigeria has always been related to low fertilizer usage which resulted from pattern of fertilizer distribution particularly at the local level. The study investigates farmers' perception on the adequacy of the commodity (fertilizer) and the best strategy for its distribution in Katsina state, the study revealed that in adequate fertilizer at the local level are largely due to the politicization of the distribution and in proper service delivery strategy. The study concluded that funding is very important for effective service delivery and suggested government adequate support of local fertilizer companies in the country, prudent fertilizer distribution and the need for government at all level to increase their support on fertilizer supply.

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