

SECOND NATIONAL FORESTRY PROJECT AND ITS CONTRIBUTIONS IN ADDRESSING LAND DEGRADATION IN KANO STATE

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ABSTRACT

The Second Forestry Project was an intervention project jointly financed by the World Bank and partner funding from the federal Government of Nigeria. It was aimed at re-focusing forestry programmes to better address land degradation in the participating states in Nigeria. This paper reviewed the impact of these programmes in addressing land degradation problems with particular reference to Kano State. Aggressive seedling production programme, farm forestry, shelterbelt and woodlot establishment, schools programme and others are the programmes vigorously pursued by the project. Inadequate funding, farmers' apathy, inadequate extension and out dated forest laws are major hindrances to combating land degradation in Kano. Sustained funding of the project ,review and enforcement of existing forest laws in addition to aggressive advocacy on the benefits of afforestation should be encouraged.

Keywords: Forestry, Project, Contribution, Land, Degradation, Contribution, Kano.

I. INTRODUCTION

The second National forestry project which is a joint intervention by the world Bank counterpart funding from the federal Government was formally launched in Kano in March 1987. The state was one of the initial six benefiting states which later to become nine. Namely, Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Bauchi, Borno, Sokoto ,Plateau, Kebbi, and Jigawa states.

The Kano State Afforestation programme was the main body that handled the project in Kano. Other collaborating agencies are KNARDA (Kano Agricultural and Rural Development agency) and local Governments' council forestry units. The Kano State Forestry project came into being by an edict of the Military Government of Kano State of March 1987.

II. THE AFFORESTATION COMMITTEE

An afforestation committee was formed to ensure that there is no duplication in the role of all the agencies that were involved in the afforestation efforts. Similarly, a project management committee was set to act as the policy implementation body to fast track policy decisions. Similarly, a project management committee was set to act as the policy implementation body to fast track policy decisions.

III. THE INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES

The project made a remarkable achievement through the various programmers introduced to encourage participatory approach to afforestation which made it community based.

Schools programmes

A catch them young programmed, where students were encouraged to form conservation and forestry clubs. Inputs like gardening tools and seedlings were provided free. A total of 922 schools were registered for the duration of the programme

Group participation

Project interacted with a group of farmers and cooperative societies, fadama groups , private and individual farmers woodlot farmers and commercial farmers.

This is with a view to restoring the socio economic standard of rural dwellers and by extension checking rural urban migration

This was done through giving assistance (technical and material) to the farmers to establish standard orchards and woodlots and by encouraging gardening and landscaping.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL FORESTRY PROGRAMMES

Wind Breaks

This is a model designed to determine wind control, social enrichment, and yield/hectre adaptability of species. It involves two to three rows of trees in a farmer's land it attracts no compensation and the farmer handles the management of the model.

Research

The adaptive research programmes of the project included field trials of various indigenous and introduced spp , also on regeneration option.

Total Forest cover

The social forestry aspect of the programme recorded 47,456 of farm families that participated in the programmed, also 964.9 hectares of woodlots and orchards were established, 833 hectares of natural regeneration plots ,1162 hectares of self help group participation, 10hectres of wind breaks 32 hectares of women in forestry plots etc.

Similarly 10 hectares of windbreak and 535.5 hectares of shelterbelt were established.

V. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

Seedlings production

The project nurseries raised a total of 65 million seedlings while the non project nurseries raised 22 million seedlings making a total of 87 million seedlings. These seedlings were consumed by the three major programmes namely shelterbelt, farm forestry, and research. However, effective utilization is another question.

Shelterbelts establishment.

Shelterbelt establishment was undertaken almost exclusively by the project with compensated community land.

The farmers were taught the methodology of shelterbelt establishment.

Table 1 Shelterbelts Established In Various Location In Kano State (1989-1994) Covering 198

Km

S/NO	LOCATION	YEAR OF ESTAB	NO OF BELT	ROWS OF TREES BELT	NO OF KM	TYPE OF SPP
1	YAN KAMAYE	1989	4	8	6	Anarcardium occidentale, eucalyptus camaldulensis, acacia nilotica
2	KORE	1990	5	8	10	Azadirachta indica, eucalyptus camaldulensis
3	KADANI	1991	5	8	10	Eucalyptus camaldulensis
4	RUWAN TSA	1991	5	8	10	Eucalyptus camaldulensis, acacia nilotica
5	TINKI	1992	5	8	5	Azadirachta indica
6	TATTARAWA	1992	5	8	7.5	Azadirachta indica, eucalyptus camaldulensis
8	SAYE	1992	5	8	5	Azadirachta indica
9	MARKE	1992	5	8	5	Azadirachta indica, eucalyptus camaldu
10	GEZAWA	1992	5	8	10	Azadirachta indica , eucalyptus
11	FAGWALAWA	1993	8	8	15	Azadirachta indica eucalyptus camaldulensis
12	YAR GWANDA	1993	5	8	10	Azadirachta indica
13	ZANGON MATA	1993	5	8	5	Azadirachta indica
14	KIYAWA	1993	5	8	5	Azadirachta indica, eucalyptus camaldulensis



15	S/GINZO	1993	5	8	5	Azadirachta indica, eucalyptus camaldulensis
16	GAFASA	1993	5	8	10	Azadirachta indica, eucalyptus camaldulensis
17	BARAYA	1993	5	8	5	Azadirachta indica
18	FARDACHI	1993	5	8	5	Azadirachta indica, eucalyptus camaldulensis
19	FAGWALAWA	1993	5	8	10	Azadirachta indica, eucalyptus camaldulensis
20	DANMADAKI	1993	5	8	10	Azadirachta indica
21	ROMI	1994	5	8	8	Azadirachta indica, eucalyptus camaldulensis
22	KASKI	1994	4	8	12	Azadirachta indica
23	D/MADIGA	1994	5	8	10	Azadirachta indica
						Azadirachta indica
25	DUMMA	1994	5	8	10	

Source: Kano Afforestation programme progress Report (1988-1994)

VI. GENERAL IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

Soil Conservation

The major environmental benefit of afforestation is the area of soil conservation. The planting of Trees is known to reduce the soil loss by the wind and water erosion (harris, 1992) about 63,310 hectares is under vegetation cover reducing the likely hazard of erosion.

Improvement in Soil Fertility Level

Afforestation increases soil fertility level, it has been estimated that without afforestation, soil fertility declines at a rate of 0-2% per annum and as such the decline ceases after eight (8) years of afforestation activities in by the project in Kano.

Climatic Impact

Trees modify the micro climate of the area planted. This modification comes in the form of lower soil temperature and improved soil moisture regimes as compared to unplanted areas.

Biodiversity

Land degradation leads to the loss of the biological potential of the land. Rehabilitation of degraded land is aimed at the restoration of the lost potential not only in terms of numbers but also in biodiversity. Definitely

there was loss of indigenous biodiversity of the flora and fauna and afforestation effort will increase in the biodiversity of the several areas where shelterbelts and marginal lands plantings were established.

VII. PROBLEMS OF THE PROJECT

The issue of land compensation in areas where the projects were sited was a major contentious issue, that took some time to resolve.

Farmers' apathy at the onset of the project, the issue of some forest community based projects that are new to them, it took a lot of grass root advocacy to bring them on board.

The project has a life span and at its expiration there was a discontinuity in the very aggressive afforestation efforts being carried out. As successive governments have not deemed it fit to properly fund the project

Afforestation being a project with a long gestation period has not drawn the required attention of politicians who are eager to make statements.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Government must muster the political will to revive the existing obsolete forest laws and policies and enforce them if only to protect the extensive work done in the area of

The Government has to make a plan to financially sustain these efforts even if not at the level of the World Bank funding so that the project will not die.

The advocacy programmes should be strengthened in several ways to further enlighten the public on the importance of afforestation in their lives.

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