



PROBLEMS FACED BY BENEFICIARIES PARTICIPATING IN, AND NGOs IMPLEMENTING NGO-LED FOOD SECURITY IN BO DISTRICT, SOUTHERN SIERRA LEONE

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ABSTRACT

Farmer's participation plays a vital role in economic development and in poverty alleviation. Without participation there would be no program or development. Lack of participation in decision-making to implement agricultural policies can lead to failure in agricultural development. This paper examines reports on a study that investigated the problems faced by beneficiaries participating in, and NGOs implementing NGO-led food security programmes in Bo District, Sierra Leone. The study was conducted in all fifteen Chiefdoms in Bo District Southern Sierra Leone. A stratified random sampling was used to select the District, while purposive and simple random sampling technique was used for selecting the farmers and the NGO Executive Officers from the Chiefdoms. Two sets of questionnaires divided into four sections and comprising of structure and semi-structured questions was administered to 100(85 farmers and 15 extension executive officers) respondents. The findings of the study revealed that the dominant problems faced by beneficiaries in participating in the NGO-led food security programmes included poor communication (20.0%), uneven and inadequate supply of inputs(18.7%), unfulfilled promises by NGOs (17.0%), while NGOs are constrained by lack of familiarity(14.0%), destructive competition between rival NGOs(13.0%). These problems caused NGOs not to achieve their goals (22.0%). There was low level of available food (20.0%), and uneasy accessibility of food (18.0%). It was concluded that NGOs did not achieve their goals because of the numerous problems they and their beneficiaries encounter which also led to high undernourishments. It was recommended that NGOs foster agricultural extension communications and encourage network of providers from all sectors to be well coordinated to combat food insecurity. Also, a strategy be developed that not only enhance programmes clientele participation in all phases of development, but also promote cost effective delivery methods.

KEY WORDS: Problems, Beneficiaries, Participating, NGOs, Implementing, Food Security.

INTRODUCTION

According to World Bank (2001), participation is a rich concept that means different things in different settings. For some, it is a matter of principle; for others, a practice; and for still others, an end in itself. Participation is a process, through which stakeholders influence and share control over development initiatives and the decisions and resources, which affect them. Braithwaite (1996) described participation as a process, which deals with practical values of involving farmers in the development taking place in the community. Participation happens when people contribute towards the solution of problems affecting their organization and their jobs. Individual participation should take place in an atmosphere of trust and respect. It will occur in a wide variety of settings and will involve managers and individual subordinates to contribute ideas to decision-making and planning. The manager who likes to delegate ground level decision-making to subordinates effectively encourages them to participate in an on-going manner. Encouraging individuals to participate is likely to be a good motivator, but will not generate, as many ideas as group participation. Formal approaches to creating more participation include: committees, quality circles, suggestion plans, joint consultation, and work councils (Needhan *et al.*, 1995).

Experience has shown that any meaningful initiative towards poverty alleviation must motivate and involve the very people it seeks to assist. People at grassroots levels should be involved in decisions that affect their own lives and should be put in charge of their own development. People should be motivated to share in the work that the community is involved in (UNDP, 1989). Evaluation of development efforts in the early 1970s up to this time had shown that rural poor neither shared in the benefits of development nor participated in decision-making concerning their development. Furthermore, evidence in the literature shows that, better results were expected from a bottom-top approach for the rural poor, who are seldom reached by existing government institutions. The programmes should be based on two assumptions. First, development institutions needed to be organized adequately to reach the rural poor and secondly, the rural organizations of the poor themselves needed to provide for people's participation (FAO, 1989). The participation of the rural poor or clientele in agricultural and rural development programmes has been long standing fundamental guiding principles which represent the very essence of non-formal popular nature of effective extension work. Participation can be broadly classified into planning and implementation; decision-making and

benefit distribution (Compton, 1984; Modi, 1993). Deshler and Shock (1985) and Bangura (1985) have emphasized the means of an empowerment of rural farmers. For them, there is the need to accept the truism that the farmers know their situation best, have their image of the world and their own comprehension of social reality. Thus, to promote any kind of meaningful development, especially that based on popular participation, the beneficiaries or the rural farmers should be involved in the process of enquiring, investigation and research particularly about their situation. UN and other development agencies have not only concerned themselves with popular participation as a basic human right, but also as a practical matter of development policy. Popular participation is now receiving priority attention in these agencies as a way of actively involving people in development programmes (UN, 1974; UNDP, 1991). Arusha (1990) therefore suggested that government should “adopt popular participation as a basic policy measure in national development strategy”, encouraging the widest possible active participation of all individuals, and NGOs such as community-based organizations, in the developmental process, setting goals, formulating policies, and implementing phases. Literature on participation of clientele groups in agricultural and rural development programmes has indicated that people’s participation is the most effective and efficient strategy, which leads to achievement of benefits. Community involvement and active participation create situations for development programmes, which involves the widest possible participation, through use of appropriate technology. This will help local people service and repair faults without the need for complicated and expensive parts (Colin and Mogbal, 1990). The success and failure of development programmes is significantly dependent on participation. In fact, the concept of participation is becoming increasingly influential in planning of agricultural development (Lele, 1986).

For participation to take place, the commitment of the organization to the principles of recipient participation is necessary (FAO, 1986; Sowonie, 1998). Many agricultural and rural development agencies have claimed success as a result of active involvement of the rural people in a variety of programme activities. Ashby (1990) postulated that working with farmers groups rather than with individuals, increases farmers’ participation and reduces cost. He also mentioned that working with groups of ten stimulates better discussions and increases farmers’ commitment. Organizing farmers’ participation through groups can also improve efficiency in resource use. He further stated, working with farmers groups rather than individuals increases beneficiaries’ enthusiasm to participate in decision-making, implementation of programmes and sharing of benefits. SLANGO (1998) defined participatory development as a process, through which stakeholders influence and have control over development initiatives and resources, which affect them. It is about facilitating individuals and their decisions, resources, and their own futures. Participation has been conceptualized by development practitioners, especially non-governmental organizations as being an ongoing process of capacity building, which requires ongoing changes (social

learning). Participation is an initiative and should be repeated at every stage of a programme. Participation is not a thing it is a process. Therefore, we need to consider what kind of participation is under consideration; who is participating in it; how is participation occurring or contended to occur (passive or active, voluntary or coerced) (SLANGO, 1998).

Considering the concept of facilitating participation and agricultural development, many factors have been observed to affect the effectiveness of associations in facilitating beneficiaries’ participation in agricultural development programmes. These factors include organizational and managerial factors of the associations, personal characteristics, cultural factors, and gender roles differences (FAO, 1987; Sowonie, 1998). According to Bangura (1983), factors that affect participation are relationships between members; rural organization education; regular meetings; developing a feeling of membership; encouraging full participation by the members in the business; and ownership and control. He also emphasized the importance of the provision of accurate and freely available information and the role of the manager in relation to the Board of Directors and the members. For John (1987) specific attitudes influence farmers’ general attitudes and expectations from an organization. Such factors include amount of information, schooling age, religion, size of family, number of organizations in which membership is held; mobility; and size of farm which were positively correlated with favourable attitudes to their organizations. Additionally, use of certain technologies in farming and rural development requires educational advantages gained either through formal or informal schooling. Lakoh (1986) and Bangura (1989) found a relationship between education and the increase in the adoption of technologies and effective participation. In addition, others such as socio-economic factors like income and type of employment should be considered.

The use of the two-step approach that emphasized working with selected farmers who have adequate resources is found to affect popular participation. This approach makes field level personnel most often concentrate their efforts on large and wealthy recipients who, according to Rogers (1983), are not interested in conveying innovations to change agency. This approach tends to be more bureaucratic and cost intensive. Konteh (1997) cited problems affecting the local organizations in Sierra Leone. He stated that these problems are largely rooted in structures and policies, both within Sierra Leone and externally. These include state structures, policies, rural settings, and external factors. He mentioned that state structures are often centralized, bureaucratic, formal and rigid with a top-down mode of development. They lack the apparatus to guarantee efficiency and effectiveness in the formulating and executing policies for development. This creates a situation in which the government is incapable of monitoring and harmonizing sectoral operations in development. In the rural sector, there is an acute shortage of infrastructure for development and lacks of skilled staff for local organizations. There is poor access to credit, lack of sufficient funds for input supply and banks are few, and those that exist are not easily accessible to rural illiterates.

He highlighted the fact that the central government lacks a sound and consistent participatory development programme to encourage development. Government policies are urban bias and top-down, so development agencies working in the field are generally minimal. The concept of people's participation is not a new phenomenon as far as rural development is concerned; it has been talked and written about since the 1950s or even before (Guijt and Shah, 1998; Nelson and Wright, 1995). In recent years, however, there has been a convergence of opinion as to the importance of participation in rural development and there now exists a widely shared set of participatory approaches and methods. Participatory approaches have been widely incorporated into policies of organizations from multilateral agencies like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), bilateral agencies, to the smallest people's organizations (Blackburn and Holland, 1998; Dalal-Clayton *et al.*, 2003; Barnes-Holmes, 2005; Kumar, 2002; White, 1996). Indeed, some observers have argued that, in terms of thinking and practice about development, we are currently in the 'age of participation' and it is the 'paradigm of people' (Muraleedharan, 2005; Oakley, 1991). The issue prompted this analysis is that while many authors and development agencies argue that genuine people's participation can increase the efficiency, effectiveness, self-reliance, coverage and sustainability of development projects and programmes (Kumar, 2002; Oakley, 1991), there is a wide spectrum of views on the concept of participation and the ways of achieving it. One example is given by Ngujiri (1998) who comments that, "despite the increase in the number of NGOs, participatory methodologies, and after many years of poverty alleviation, poverty continues to be rife and communities continue to languish in it".

In Sierra Leone, most of the main food security implementing NGOs are Christian Assistance Relief Everywhere (CARE), ACTION AID, German Agro-Action (GAA), WORLD VISION-Sierra Leone (WVSL), Bo-Pujehun Development Association (BPDA) /Deutsche Gesellschaft Für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), European Union (EU), Archdioceses Development Office (ADDO), Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD), One Blood International (OBI), Food and Agricultural Organizations (FAO), and Medicine Sam Frontiere (MSF). The strategies used in the implementation involves teaching and training of farmers on the use of innovations, supply of farm inputs, making farm visits, control of pest and diseases, cultivation of crops, harvesting, processing, construction of dry floors, stores, toilets, water wells, and marketing of crops. Yet for the past decades those NGOs have been with the rural people there is no farmer that can boast of household food security in any of the NGO-led food Security programmes implemented communities. Obviously there is no doubt then, that something is wrong. It must either be that NGOs and/or participatory approaches, the 'tools of their trade' are ineffective, or that NGOs use participatory approaches wrongly. It is also clear that majority of the beneficiaries of NGO-led programmes face problems in participating in the implemented programmes. Therefore, the thrust of this study is to assess the problems that militate against the full participation of the beneficiaries in the Ngo-led food security programmes in Bo District. Specifically, this

study aims to investigate the barriers to engaging people in implementations of rural development programs NGO-led food self-security programmes. It is hoped that the findings of this study will throw light on obstacles that NGOs would clear for the full engagement of their beneficiaries in the NGO-led food security programmes. It would also be useful to government, donor agencies and the international body that always advocate for the involvement of the grass root people for development programmes. The main purpose of this study is to investigate and analyse the problems farmers face in participating in NGO-led food security programmes implemented in the school. To achieve this, the study was guided by the following research questions:

1. What are the Problems Encountered by Beneficiaries participating in, and NGOs implementing NGO-led Food Security Programmes?
2. What effect do the problems encountered have on the food security situation in the study area?
3. How acute is the effect on the programme implementation of the NGO-led food Security programmes
4. What are the effects of the problems on NGO-led food security programmes?

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study design used was descriptive analysis. Fraenkel and Wallen (1993) describe descriptive analysis as that method that involves asking a large group of people questions about a particular issue. Information is obtained from a sample rather than the entire population at one point in time which may range from one day to a few weeks. The study employed descriptive analysis to establish opinions and knowledge about the role of the headteacher in academic achievement. Any research undertaking involves lots of cost implications; hence, this design was deliberately selected for the study because it allows for quick data collection at a comparatively cheap cost (Grinnel, 1993).

Study Area

The study was conducted in Bo District (See Figure 1) in the Southern Region of Sierra Leone. Bo District is 152 miles south of Freetown located 80° 00' N1104W. It has a total area of land area of 5,473.6 km² (2,113.4 sq mi)) with population of 463,668 (SSL, 2004). Bo District is bounded to the North by Tonkolili District, North-Northeast by Kenema District, to the South by Pujehun District, to the Southwest by Bonthe District, and to the West and West-north by Moyamba District. The entire district comprises of fifteen (15) chiefdoms: Badja, Bagbew, Bagbo, Baoma, Bumpeh Ngao, Gbo, Jaiama Bongbor, Kakua, Komboya, Lugbu, Niawalenga, Selenga, Tikonko, Valunia, and Wunde chiefdoms. Trading, gold and diamond mining are major economic activities for the district; as well as agricultural production of rice growing, and tree crops such as coffee, cacao and oil palm. There are many primary and secondary schools, health centres and hospitals in Bo District, with many roads linking Bo District with other parts of the country. Muslims and Christians mutually live across the district tolerating one another's belief. The population of the district constitutes several ethnics and cultural groups such as Mende, Temne,

Limba, Loko, Fullah, Susu, Kono, Creole, Mandingo, Shebro, Kissy and Yaronka. Mende, however, form the bulk of the population

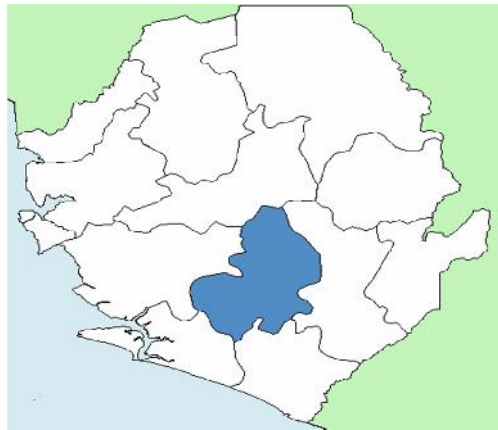


FIGURE 1: Map of Sierra Leone Showing Study Area

Study Population

The target population of the study consists of all farmers and NGOs workers in Bo District.

Sampling Technique and sample size

The sample frame of the study was a list of farmers adopting NGO-led food security programmes in all the Chiefdoms in Bo District. In order to control selection errors, an up –to-date list of these farmers was sought from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security in Bo, the Head Quarter Town of the district, Extension Officers, and NGOs implementing Food security programmes in entire Bo District. The sample consisted of 85 farmers and 15 NGO field workers. The sampling procedure was a combination of purposive, stratified and simple random sampling techniques. The sampling aimed at selecting eligible persons with equal probability and the sample was selected from the entire District-15Chiefdoms. The first step in the multi-stage sampling technique was a purposive selection of Bo District out of the four districts in the south. This district was selected because it contains a large number of NGOs that have been implementing food self-security and rural development programmes over the past decades. The Individual farmers and NGO Field workers were selected using simple random sampling technique. All the names provided by MAFFS, Extension Officers, and NGOs were numbered serially. All names evenly numbered names were then selected until the required sample size of 85 farmers was obtained. Lastly, one extension worker was selected from each of the chiefdoms giving a total of 15 extension workers. This gave total sample of 100 participants for the study.

Research Instrument for data collection

The instrument for data collection for this study consisted of structured questionnaire composed of closed-ended questions. Two types of questionnaires were used. The first type of questionnaire – Survey Form A – was administered to some sample beneficiaries (Farmers). It was structured to illicit information on the beneficiaries’ problems encountered in participating in the NGO-led food security programmes. The second type of questionnaire –Survey Form B – was administered to sample NGOs executives and extension agents. The instrument consisted of four sub-sections based on the

purpose and objectives of the study. The first section included questions on the different programmes the NGOs implement in the study area. The individual responses for these variables were combined to establish the overall effectiveness of NGO-led food security programmes attaining food security.

Validity

The validity of the instrument was validated by 4 experts from Agriculture and Food security, Extension, Economics, and other related disciplines. The experts’ suggestions led to a modification of some items in the questionnaire.

Pilot Study

A pilot study was conducted to validate the questionnaire and to confirm the feasibility of the study. Thus, the questionnaire was subject to a pilot test conducted with 5 NGO-led beneficiaries (farmers) and 3 extension agents in Moyamba district which was not included in the survey. Cronbach’s Alpha test was applied to test the reliability. Only elements with alpha value of 0.72 or above are considered (Nunnally, 1978). For all the variables Cronbach’s Alpha value is 0.836 which shows the internal consistency of the scales. This also elucidates that the statements in the questionnaire were understood by the sample respondents. The quality of the questionnaire was ascertained and the test showed high reliability. Based on the pilot study the questionnaire was reviewed and modified duly to bring out responses from the sample women beneficiaries.

Data Collection

A triangulation of qualitative and quantitative data was collected for this study. The data of this study were therefore collected by employing a number of data collection techniques. The techniques used were meant to reinforce each other and to enhance the reliability of the data. The data collection techniques used in the field survey were questionnaires, oral interviews and formal discussions, Participant Observation, Focus discussion, Desk survey, and Examination of NGOs’ regional as well as national records and other relevant literatures. The fieldwork lasted for five months from August 10th 2011 and September 10th 2012.

There was no ethical Conduct for the Research as the research was born in this district and was very familiar with most authorities in some of the chiefdoms. The fieldwork was supported by 3 local research assistants in each of the chiefdom. The research assistants assisted in organizing the focus groups and individual interviews, as well as in translating sessions and answering questions during participant observation. Lists for both Ngo-led food security beneficiaries (Farmers) and extension agents in Bo District were made available by the District Agricultural Extension Officer and NGO executives in the in the district.

Data analysis techniques

Many tools that offer the framework for the analysis of data survey exist. In order to handle the research questions following analytical methods were used namely: (1) Descriptive statistics and (2) Chi –Squire Test. To answer the first research question, a descriptive statistics was used. The information collected was first summarized to give raw scores. Some of the raw scores were now converted into percentages and presented in tabular forms. The second type of the application of Chi-squire test (Test for independence in contingency Table) Gomez and Gomez,(1976) was utilized in the study. The level of significance chosen for this study was 5 %(0.05). The numbers of classes in the data were tested on two classification criteria, one with row (r) classes and another with columns(c) classes. This non-parametric statistics was used to calculate relationship between variables and effectiveness of NGO-led food security programmes.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

1.Problems Encountered by Beneficiaries participating in and NGOs implementing NGO-led Food Security Programmes

The result indicated that the dominant problems encountered by beneficiaries in participating in NGO-led food security programmes are poor communication (20.0%); uneven and inadequate supply of inputs (18.6%); and unfulfilled promises by NGOs (17.0%). This is followed by behaviour of NGO workers (14.3%); inadequate extension services (11.4%) while, an inadequate fund (10.0%) was mentioned second to last. The last problem encountered was social events (8.0%).

The overall picture is that poor communication; untimely, unevenly and inadequate supply of planting materials; unfulfilled promises by NGOs; behaviour of NGO workers; inadequate extension services; and inadequate funds were the dominant problems encountered by beneficiaries participating in the NGO-led food security Programmes. Organizations that have high degree of participation are more likely to be seen as effective by the intended recipients of the programmes (Price, 1968) as cited by Warner and Christenson, (1984). Oakley and Dilton (1985), however, posited that participation of rural poor in their development programmes does not occur in a vacuum. The authors said it is a process, which is susceptible to a whole range of difficulties or problems. The problems are either clientele and/or organization based.

TABLE 1(a): Problems Encountered in Participation in NGO-led Food Security Programmes

Problems of Participation	No.	%
Poor communication	14	20.0
Untimely, uneven and inadequate supply of inputs	13	18.6
Unfulfilled promises by NGOs	12	17.1
Behaviour of NGO workers	10	14.3
Inadequate extension services	8	11.4
Inadequate funds	7	10.0
Social events	6	8.6
Total	70	100.0

TABLE 1(b): Distribution of Respondents by Constraints of NGOs

Constraints	No.	%
Lack of familiarity	14	14.0
Destructive competition between rival NGOs	13	13.0
Diversion of NGO resources to local elites	12	12.0
Lack of experience in working with other personnel	11	11.0
Inadequate donor support	10	10.0
Inadequate and inappropriate inputs	9	9.0
Untimely supply of inputs	8	8.0
Inefficient extension service	7	7.0
Inadequate sensitization	6	6.0
Poor monitoring of programmes	5	5.0
Dishonest Organization workers	5	5.0
Total	100	100.0

1(b): Constraints of NGOs in implementing Food Security Programmes

The data indicated that the constraints faced by NGOs were lack of familiarity (14.0%); destructive competition between rival NGOs (13.0%); diversion of NGO resources

to some local elites (12.0%); lack of experience in working with other personnel (11.0%); inadequate donor support (10.0%),inadequate and inappropriate inputs (9.0%); untimely supply of inputs (8.0%); inefficient extension service (7.0%); and inadequate sensitization

(6.0%). Poor monitoring of programmes and dishonest organization workers were the least constraints the NGOs face. Each of these scored 5 percent. Development programmes mutual respect and trust. Where misappropriation of funds occurs, people will lose that trust in their development partners. This in turn will lead to mal-participation in the programme activities. On the whole, lack of familiarity, destructive competition between rival NGOs, diversion of NGO resources to some elites, lack of experience in working with other personnel, and inadequate donor support are the major constraints face by NGOs in the study area. This finding is similar to that of Oakley and Dilton (1985) that participation in rural development programmes is susceptible to a whole range of difficulties or problem.

2. Effects of Problems on the Food Security Situation in the Study Area

The effects of the problems the beneficial encounter and the constraints of the NGOs were investigated and the results are shown in Table 2. The result showed that these problems have caused NGOs not to achieve their goals (22.0%); low level of available food (20.0%); uneasy accessibility of food (18.0%); and inadequate supply of food (16.0%); food is not affordable by all (13.0%); and high under- nourishment (11.0%). These findings agree with those of Rivera (2005) who stated that existing problems debar organizations from fulfilling their objectives. The overall picture is that food security has not been achieved by NGOs implementing food security programmes in the study area.

TABLE 2: Effects of Problems on the Food Security Situation

Impact of Problems/Constraints	No.	%
NGOs do not fully achieve their goals	22	22.0
Low level of available food	20	20.0
An uneasy accessibility to food	18	18.0
Inadequate supply of food	16	16.0
Food not affordable by all	13	13.0
High under nourishment	11	11.0
Total	100	100.0

3. Acuteness of the Effects of Problems/Constraints

The acuteness of the impact of problems/constraints is presented in Table 2. The Table indicated that slightly above one-fifth of the respondents (22.0%) said that NGOs goals are not achieved. The number which said that the goals are not achieved is highest for people in the very acute and acute categories. Low level of available food was reported by exactly one-fifth (20.0%) and the people that said that are the same categories. Nearly one- fifth of the sample (18.0%) expressed uneasy accessibility to food and the people that said that were in the not acute category. Inadequate supply of food was mentioned by 17

percent of the respondents and this was reported by not acute and acute categories but more so for the not acute category. Also, slightly above one-tenth (13.0%) expressed food not affordable by all. It was reported by not acute and acute but more so for the not acute category. High undernourishment was mentioned by one-tenth (10.0%). and the numbers were higher in the very acute, high in the not acute and low for acute category. The overall picture is that the impacts of these problems are acute in certain parts and very acute in other parts of the study area.

TABLE 4: Acuteness of Effects of Problems/Constraints

Impact	Acuteness							
	Not Acute		Acute		Very Acute		Total	
	No	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%
NGOs goals not achieved	5	16.7	8	22.9	9	25.7	22	22.0
Low level of available foods	4	13.3	7	20.0	9	25.7	20	20.0
Uneasy accessibility to food	7	23.3	6	17.1	5	14.3	18	18.0
Inadequate supply of food	6	20.0	6	17.1	5	14.3	17	17.0
Food not affordable by all	5	16.7	5	14.3	3	8.6	13	13.0
High under- nourishment	3	10.0	3	8.6	4	11.4	10	10.0
Total	0	100.0	35	100.0	35	100.0	100	100.0

4. Effects of Problems on the Food Security Programmes

The result indicated that one-fourth of the sample interviewed (25.0%) claimed that problems within the NGOs have caused organizational goals not achieved within specified periods while one-fifth (20.0%) said these problems have slowed down implementation processes. Slightly below one-fifth (17.0%) referred to poor overall performance of field agents as an effect of problems

within NGOs. Over one-tenth (15.0%) of the sample respondents associated the effects of problems within the NGOs with the reluctance of some NGOs field-level personnel. Slightly above one-tenth (13.0%) associated the wrongly or improper delivery of technologies to the existing problems within NGOs and exactly one-tenth (10.0%) blamed donors unwillingness to continue funding programmes.

TABLE 4: Effects of Problems on the NGO-led Food Security Programmes

Effects of Problems	No	%
Goals are not achieved within specified periods	25	25.0
Implementation processes are slowed down	20	20.0
Overall performance of field agents become poor	17	17.0
Field-level personnel become reluctant to work	15	15.0
Technologies are wrongly or improperly delivered	13	13.0
Donors become unwilling to continue funding programmes	10	10.0
Total	100	100.0

CONCLUSION

Many problems militating against participation in the NGO-led food security programmes include: NGO communication geared towards men only, lack of respect for beneficiaries, workers hired from outside the operational communities, field level personnel not qualified, leadership struggle within organization, and beneficiaries not involved in programme planning processes. Beneficiaries also experienced poor communication; untimely, uneven and inadequate supply of inputs; unfulfilled promises by NGOs; unacceptable behaviors of NGO workers to the clientele; inadequate extension services; funds; and social events. Constraints NGOs face in implementing the food security programmes are lack of familiarity, destructive competitions between rival NGOs, diversion of resources to local elites, lack of experience in working with other personnel, inadequate donor support, inadequate and inappropriate inputs, untimely supply of planting materials, inadequate sensitization, poor monitoring of programmes, and dishonesty of some executive members. NGOs did not achieve their goals; there is low level of available food, uneasy accessibility and inadequate supply of food leading to high undernourishments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Timely and adequate supply of appropriate farm inputs; provision of adequate fund; helping clientele access loan; removal of precondition for involvement; adequate donor support; and effective extension services would enhance the effectiveness of beneficiaries in NGO-led food security and other agricultural development programmes.
2. Respondents reported they are unable to afford, access, and acquire food because it is inadequate in supply and unavailable to all. To change this involves more participatory nutrition education in the village and households (not only in health centers); food supplementary at 5-6 months (for babies) with cheaper local multi-mix and a health, agricultural, and nutrition programmes supported by the relevant ministries, to deal with pressing problems of income, water and fuel, which stand in the way of better nutrition.
3. The poor must have a role in consensus decision-making as well as in programmes planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Empowering communities should be a high priority NGOs need. They should help communities to create their own food security and income generation measures. NGOs tasks would be to negotiate mutually acceptable mechanisms for coordinating actions through administration oversight, and quality control feedbacks.

4. Respondents also reported poor communication between them and executive members. In fostering an agricultural extension communication, network of providers from all sectors, coordinated to combat food insecurity, would be to developed and to enhance programmes involving clientele participation in all phases of development and to promote cost effective delivery methods. The ultimate aim is to attain that goal where farmers take responsibility for programmes and thereby create demand-driven development.

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