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ASSESSING BENEFICIARIES' PARTICIPATION IN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (NGO)-LED FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMMES IN BO DISTRICT, SOUTHERN SIERRA LEONE

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ABSTRACT
The start of food self-security programme in Sierra Leone since 2002, government and her donors have contracted several implementing partners, such as NGOs. But the roles of NGOs have often come under scrutiny despite their pronouncements of reaching the rural need more than any other institution including government and their numerous agencies. Beneficiaries' participation in developmental programmes like NGO-led food security programmes is an important component for successful implementations. This study investigated the level of beneficiaries' participation and identified problems they envisaged in their involvement in NGO-led food security programmes in Bo district, Southern Sierra Leone. The study used a descriptive cross-sectional research design. The sampling procedure was a combination of purposive, stratified and simple random sampling. Questionnaire comprising of four sections with three to four scales was employed to collect data from 120 (80 farmers and 40 NGO Officers) from 40 communities and three NGOs –WVSL, CARE, and BPDA/GTZ in Boama Chiefdom, Bo District. The findings of the research revealed that there are more men(60.0%) than women(40.0%) participating in NGO-led programmes, 25.0%, highly participated in pre-project and planning stages, 50.0% in implementation and 33.3% in monitoring and evaluation stages. It further revealed too much bureaucracy (74.7%) in taking actions, and misappropriation of funds (50.0%). It is concluded that though NGOs involved beneficiaries in some project implementation stages, women forks were neglected; and funds misappropriated. It was therefore suggested that in future, more women be encouraged to participate in NGO-led programmes as they perform most domestic and farm activities in rural settings. Finally, NGOs should either give special community development trainings to their extension agents or recruit trained and qualified extension agents that display high degree of honesty, commitment to work, and having communication skills that connect effectively with adults.

KEY WORDS: Non-Governmental Organizations, Participation, Food Self- Security, Programmes.

INTRODUCTION

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have grown in number over the years and also widen their scope of work in all aspects of human needs. NGOs can be more flexible, in their programme than the state extension system due to their size and philosophy. They are close to the ground in rural communities and usually have established credibility with them (Anderson & Crowder, 2000). This has influenced the status quo in favour of the people-centred approaches to development (Bennett, 1997). In turn, this has encouraged greater participation of beneficiaries in NGO-led programmes. Similarly, Pattnaik and Panda (2005) attempt to look at the role of grass-roots NGOs from the new social movement perspective. NGOs have also developed a reputation for the ability to elicit participation from the communities they serve (Carroll, 1992). Experience shows that NGOs have a propensity to work in small locations, achieving impact on the ground, as compared to the Government services that usually address the needs of a majority with little attention given to members of the civil society, who have no voice. They assert that NGOs have contributed toward new social movements through their intense campaigns, people's mobilization programs and effective networks. In the light of these, NGOs as a social force, facilitates collective action and people's mobilization (Sharan, 2006). NGOs have now rapidly expanded to fill the void left by the state and have had increased demand for their extension services (Omolo *et al*., 2001). They now play important role in supporting women to challenge customs, ideas, and beliefs which perpetuate unequal gender relations. In this relation, Desai (2005) referred to some activities and programs for NGOs that are: counseling and support services, awareness raising and advocacy, legal aid and microfinance services. Their proven accountability together with their facilities, transport and personnel makes them an important partner in the development process.

In almost every developing country, agriculture is the basis of economic development. Agriculture provides food, clothing and shelter for the growing population. Equally so, it supplies the capital and raw materials for the non-

agricultural production/sectors; and agriculture continues to absorb a large number of growing labour potential. This in turn calls for intensive technologies and appropriate institutions such as NGOs, for organizing groups and harnessing resources for agricultural development and food security. These organizations help to avoid the deterioration of rural regions and as far as possible the rural exodus to the teeming slums in the urban centres.

In Sierra Leone the high death rate during the war was not only as a result of carnage, but hunger and disease as well. There were food shortages in all war-affected areas. Refugee camps were under incessant rebel carnage obstructing all farming activities and the displaced people were left to languish and fend for themselves.

These resulted in:

- decline in life expectancy;
- increase in outbreak of disease;
- increase in high death rates; and
- decline in human development index.

It was in the government's bid to redress the above that the food self-sufficiency programme was commissioned in Sierra Leone; albeit the year targeted was short for the government to achieve its plans for food self-sufficiency. Government therefore contracted many implementing partners to affect the food self-security programme, among which were the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

The main food security implementing Non-Governmental Organizations contracted by the government of Sierra Leone to implement the food security programmes are: Christian Assistance Relief Everywhere (CARE), ACTION AID, German Agro-Action (GAA), WORLD VISION-Sierra Leone (WVSL), Bo-Pujehun Development Association (BPDA) /Deutsche Gesellshaft Für Technische Zusanmm-enarbeit (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 involved 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. Whether it was because these NGOs were better equipped, more mobile, more flexible, reasonable, and commune with rural populace than the government, that most food self-security programmes implementations were contracted to them, is beyond the scope of this study. Therefore, beneficiaries' participation in the NGOs programmes could be a measure of involvement of beneficiaries at different stages of planning, budgeting, implementation, and evaluations. Participation of beneficiaries assures ownerships, gives confidence and maintains sustainability. However, for such an important programme to take a hold, Sierra Leoneans need to be adequately and appropriately informed about how successful their ambitious food self-security programmes are going on. More importantly, a focus on information flow must be made on how effective the implementing partners are effecting the food self-security programmes.

Assessment of the satisfaction of farmers with the NGO–led food security programmes would be effected only by a research of this nature. On the other hand, NGOs depend on donors for support, making sustainability an issue. The time frame of NGO programmes is often too short-lived, being independent on findings and donor timetables. NGOs, all, have, diverse philosophies behind services they provide, leading to different values and emphases in their services. It was also found that some NGOs were not good at giving feedback on the new technologies introduced (Omolo *et al*., 2001). Assessment of the level of farmers' participation in NGO–led food security programmes in Bo District, southern Sierra Leone would be affected only by a research of this nature. It is hoped that the findings of this study will be useful to government, donors and other NGOs who are implementing other development programmes not only in Sierra Leone but in the rest of the sub-Sahara Africa as and globally. The purpose of this study was to investigate the level of beneficiaries' participation in NGO-led food security programmes in Bo district, Sothern Sierra Leone. Three objectives guided the study: 1) identify the NGOs-Led food security programmes implementation stages in which beneficiaries participated; 2) describe beneficiaries' perception of the level of their participation in the NGO-led food security programmes implementation; 3)Determine the problems NGOs-led food security programme staff when implementing NGO-led food security programmes.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design: A descriptive cross-sectional research design was employed in the study with an aim of describing the beneficiaries' involvement in NGO-led food security programmes in Bo district in southern Sierra Leone.

Study Area: The study was conducted in Bo District in the Southern Region of Sierra Leone. Bo District is 152 miles south of Freetown located 8o00/N11o40W. It has a total area of land area of 5,473.6 km^2 (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 miming 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.

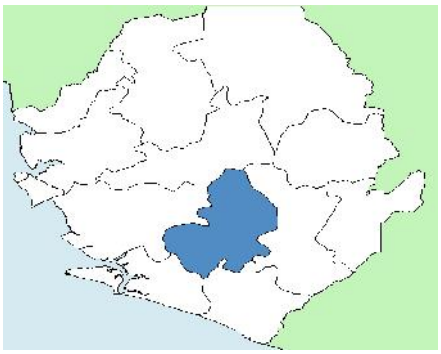

FIGURE 1: Map of Sierra Leone Showing Bo District

Study Population: The target population of the study consists of all farmers and not all farmer 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 the Boama Chiefdom. 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 Boama Chiefdom. The sample consisted of 80 farmers and 40 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. Sample was selected from Boama Chiefdom. 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 based on several reasons. The selection of this region was made on several grounds. First, the researcher has long lived in this region and it is with those people that he is best acquainted. He has experience and has gained some knowledge over a long period about the community. Thus, the problem of an outside investigator was virtually non-existent. Secondly, the region is typically an agricultural area where the local farmers have long been in contact with agricultural extension and research personnel. Thirdly, the area contains large number of NGOs that have been implementing food self-security and rural development programmes over the past decades. In view of these considerations, the region provides excellent field laboratory to study the effectiveness of NGO-led food security programmes in one of the rural areas of Sierra Leone.

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 assigned numbers, and these numbers were written on pieces of papers, folded and placed in black plastic bags in each of the chiefdoms. A little child aged five years was allowed to pick up a piece of wrapped paper repeatedly until the required number of farmers and NGOs Fieldworkers per community were obtained. Lastly, two extension workers were selected from each of the chiefdoms giving a total of 10 extension workers. The number of community selected from each of the chiefdoms was determined by the size of chiefdom and number of communities engaged in vegetable production there. The fourth stage was a purposive selection of individual farmers to be considered as participants in the study. The fifth stage involved the selection of extension agents using simple random sampling technique.

Instrument for Data Collection: A structured questionnaire consisting of both open and close-ended questions was administered to sampled farmers through the use of face to face personal interviews. The questionnaire consisted of four sections based on the purpose and objectives of the study. Section **A** sought information on beneficiaries' level of participation in NGO-led food security programmes; section **B** collected data on beneficiaries' perception of their level of participation in NGO-led food security programmes. Interview and discussions were conducted with the farmers, marketer and extension agents respectively in order to find out their own opinion about NGOs involvement of their beneficiaries in the programmes they implement in the chiefdom. Section **C** solicited for information on the livelihood status of the vegetable farmers, while section **D** solicited information on the problems beneficiaries encounter in participating in NGO-led food security programmes in Bo district. As such, the questionnaire consisted of several categories of questions. The responses of sections B of the questionnaire had a three –point response options of: Not Participated (NP), Minimally Participated(MP), Highly Participated(HP) with responding values of 3,2, and 1; while those for section C were categorized using five point Likert-like scales: Highly agreed=1, Agreed =2, Highly disagree =3, Disagree =4, Can't tell=5.The instrument for data collection was subjected to pre-test in Diang Chiefdom, which was not part of the sample, while validity and reliability tests were carried out. Validity test included face validity and content validity.

i)**Face validity**: In validating the instrument, face and construct methods were used. 20 items were constructed; these were presented to a panel of five experts. The panel included extension Education Officers, Market Experts, Agricultural Economists, Food and Nutritionists and Food value chain Expert and other related fields. The face validity of the instrument was measured. The experts confirmed that the questionnaire contained items that would solicit the intended response on impact of vegetable production. Also, the experts reviewed the items of clarity and ensured all that could confuse respondents and research assistants were removed. The construct validity was ensured by correlating the score of test administration of the instrument with that of another one with high level of construct using Pearson Product Movement Correlation. A correlation of the test scores of the two instruments on the 20 farmers gave a correlation coefficient of 0.76. This was significant at $p<0.05$. This indicated that the instrument clearly measures appropriately the same construct measured with other instrument. Only vegetable farmers who would not constitute part of the final study were used in this construct.

ii) Reliability of the instrument: To determine the internal consistency of the instrument, a single test was given at a single setting. The odd numbers in the test came from one alternate of the test and even numbers from the other alternate form. Two scores were obtained from each test; one set from the old, and the other from the even numbered items. Using Pearson Correlation, the two sets of scores provided a measure of reliability of each half of the test. Spearman- Brown Formula was then used to get the reliability of length of the test. The internal consistency was 0.85 at (0.05) level of significance.

Data Collection

The data for this study was collected between 20th and 30th June 2015. Both primary and secondary data were collected. Secondary data were information from the literature, official documents, library materials, internet, and textbooks. Primary data was solicited through administration of questionnaire, direct observation, focus group discussion, and key informant interviews. Prior to the fieldwork, researchers made several visits to the study area to: i) acquaint themselves with the farmers and the situation on the ground. ii) To have an informed consent of the vegetable farmers and also inform the community people about the purpose of the study. Before the start of the field exercise, three research assistants, who were very familiar with the culture of the study area and who well understands and speak the language of the farmers, were trained on how to administer the questionnaire. Each research assistant was given a field notebook, pencil, pen, and eraser. They were also instructed to write down any information and observation made that will be very essential for the accuracy of the study. Forty questionnaires were entrusted to each of the research assistants. These were coded and assistant researchers were asked to write the name of the community, and the respondents on each questionnaire. Interviews lasted between 45-50 minutes. In addition to interviews, direct observations were made during the administration questionnaires. Focus group discussions too were held with key stakeholders including local leaders, extension officers, marketers, transporters, youth leaders, women leaders, etc. Two focus group discussions and key informant interviews were held in three communities to collect qualitative information for the study and to verify responses from questionnaires. The author supervised assistant researchers and collected all completed questionnaire very day. At the end of the data collection, all the questionnaires were put together and checked for uncompleted or not properly completed forms. During data collection, informed verbal consent was directly asked from respondents before interview. All data collected from the study area as in the questionnaire, focus group discussion, in-depth interviews and observation reports, were verified, coded and then analysed. Quantitative data was processed, coded and analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) program version 20. The results were presented by the use of descriptive statistics namely frequencies and percentages frequencies. Qualitative data were transcribed and subsequently theme and sub-themes derived. The themes and sub-themes were then presented as they emerged.

RESULTS & DISCUSSIONS

1. Selected demographic characteristics farmers

Table 1 revealed that 60.0% of the NGOs beneficiaries participating in the NGO-led food security programmes were males, while the rest were females (40.0%). This picture depicts that female farmers still lag behind their counterpart male farmers. Most of the beneficiaries of the NGOs –led food security programmes are under 40 years. This is not surprising as all successful agricultural activities require energetic and able-bodied young men. The result of this study falls within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) (2003) farm family that the age range of rural farmers is 21 – 44 years. FAO (2003) stated that women perform 75% of farm activities, most domestic works- fetching fire wood and water and taking care of the children. It is not therefore surprise to see that farmers marrying more than one wife, because they can use them as labour. However, the high percentage of widows (30.0%) in the study area would be attributed to the eleven years civil strife in which most rural men and children were forcefully recruited, or killed by the different combatants. Majority of the beneficiaries had some form of education, even though the level attained remained very low – primary, secondary, and adult literacy education. Nevertheless, the high percentage of those who had not had formal education (40.0%) is an alarming situation that requires more attention for its impact on development programmes. Almost half of the beneficiaries (49.0%) were Muslims, 44% were Christians, and 3% practise African Traditional religion. This result is in agreement with (Dispatch, 2000; and Meckler, 2001) findings that most recipients of community development services do not belong to one region and are rarely asked about their religious affiliation. However people oppose or support sex educations in school based partly on their religious beliefs (Hinsliff, 2002). Most of the beneficiaries have household sizes of less than five children (54.0%) and other dependants (52.0%). Ngebeh (2003) also reported the minimum number of persons per household was 2 and the maximum household size was 30 in Kambia in the Koinadugu district. These figures suggest that majority of the community farmers have the labour potential to participate in intensive subsistence farming and NGO-led food security programmes. The result also showed that 54% of the beneficiaries are not position holders, while 46% are position holders. The reflection of non- position holding is also seen in the level of education, where large proportion of the beneficiaries is either illiterates or attained lower levels of education.

TABLE 1: Beneficiaries' Characteristics by percentages

Variables	f	%		
Age				
Below 25Years	15	12.0		
26-30	25	21.0		
31-35	34	29.0		
36-40	20	17.0		
41-45	12	10.0		
46 -50	9	7.0		
Above 50 years	5	4.0		
Sex				
Male	72	60.0		
Female	48	40.0		
Marital Status				
Married	47	39.0		
Single	23	19.0		
Divorced	14	12.0		
Widowed	36	30.0		
Educational Status				
No formal School	48	40.0		
Primary	20	17.0		
Secondary	16	13.0		
Adult literacy	12	10.0		
Vocational	11	9.0		
Teachers' Training College	9	8.0		
University	4	3.0		
Religion:				
Christian	53	44.0		
Muslim	59	49.0		
African Traditional	8	3.0		
Region				
Household Size				
	Children		Other Dependants	
	f	%	f	%
	65	54.0	75	62.0
Less than 5	35	29.0	26	22.0
6 – 10	12	10.0	12	10.0
11- 15	5	4.0	6	5.0
16 -20	3	3.0	2	2.0
Above 20				
Position Holding				
Hold Position			65	54.0
Not hold Position			75	65.80

2. Beneficiaries' Level of Participation in the NGO-led Food Security Programmes

Table 2 shows the perception of beneficiaries' level of participation in the NGOs-led food security programmes in Bo district. In the pre-project stage it noted that only few beneficiaries (8.3%) participated in the formulation of programme objectives. Similar results were obtained in case of participations in baseline survey, and budget formulation. This shows that NGOS did according to Mwangi &Rutatola (2002) who agreed that needs assessment is an important factor in the process of initiating and implanting extension programmes. Exactly half of the beneficiaries (50.0%) minimally participation in resource mapping for the operation of NGOs-led food security programmes. This was in accordance with Düvel (2002), who pointed out that a development focus based only on felt needs can be problematic, and therefore in the choice of priority identification and selection both felt needs and unfelt needs should be considered

In the Planning stage, it is observed that only 18.3% of the beneficiaries participated in identifying problems existing in the communities. However, the percentage of those who minimally participated (40.0%) is reasonably high. The percentage of those who did not participate in meetings to

explain objectives (50.0%) is very high. This is an indication that most beneficiaries may not be aware of the existence of the NGOs-led food programmes in the various communities. One of the basic indications of successful services is that clients are aware of it (Düvel, 2002). One would expect the community to know their extension workers are, and what their functions are. The result revealed that only few beneficiaries (4.2%) did not participate in development of Memorandum of Understanding (MU). However, the high percentage of beneficiaries who moderately participated (62.5%) is encouraging, indicating that the NGOs encouraged beneficiaries' participation to some degree. The data about implementation stage, showed that half of the beneficiaries (50.0%0), and (58.3%) moderately participated in the contribution of resources, which is an indication that NGOs made some effort to motivate their beneficiaries in the implementation stages of the NGOs-led food security programmes. This result is in consistence with Panda (2007) who noted that mobilizing people to participate in projects is a major strategy adopted by NGOs. Only a small proportion of the beneficiaries (12.5%) participated in identifying strengths and weaknesses of the NGOs –led food security programmes in the monitoring and evaluation stage. These are similar for distribution of farm inputs and work progress, determining success indicators, identifying factors influencing people's participation, and suggesting solutions /alternative approaches. On the whole, NGOs encouraged beneficiaries to moderately participate in all the monitoring and evaluation activities. The result of this study is in line with Branach and Gregory (2001) who stated that movement towards sustainability demands appropriate decisions be made at each stage of programme development.

TABLE 2: Beneficiaries' Perception of their Level of Participation in NGOs-led Food Security Programmes Implementation stages (N =120)

Different Stages	Level of Participation			
	Responses			
Stages	Not Participated	Minimally Participated	Moderately Participated	Highly Participated
a) *Pre-Project Stage*	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)
Formulation of Programme Objectives	50(41.7)	40(33.3)	20(16.7)	10(8.3)
Base- line Survey	60(50.0)	15(12.5)	25(20.8	20(16.7)
Budget formulation	55(45.8)	15(12.5)	30(25.0)	20(16.7)
Resource mapping	10(8.3	60(50.0)	20(16.7)	30(25.0)
(b) *Planning Stage*				
Identifying problems in the communities	20(16.7)	48(40.0)	30(25.0)	22(18.3)
Meeting to approve programme objectives	60(50.0)	20(16.7)	12(10.0)	28(23.3)
Developing Memorandum of Understanding	5(4.2)	10(8.3)	75(62.5)	30(25.0)
(c) *Implementation Stages*				
Contribution of resource	10(8.3)	30(25.0)	60(50.0)	30(25.0)
Attending meetings to explain objectives	5(4.2)	40(33.3	60(50.0)	15(12.5)
Supervising on-going projects	2(1.7)	20(16.7)	48(40.0)	50(41.6)
Sharing benefits of programmes	5(4.2)	30(25.0)	25(20.8)	60(50.0)
Dissemination of innovations/technologies	8(6.7)	12(10.0)	70(58.3	30(25.0)
(d) Monitoring and Evaluation stages				
Identifying strengths and weakness	15(12.5)	30(25.0)	35(29.2)	40(33.3)
Distribution of farm inputs work progress	20(16.7)	40(33.3)	35(29.2)	25(20.8)
Determining successes indicators	5(4.2)	70(58.3)	25(20.8)	20(16.7)
Identifying factors influencing participation	15(12.5)	55(45.8)	30(25.0)	20(16.7)
Suggesting solutions/alternative strategies	20(16.7)	40(33.3)	35(29.2)	25(20.8)

3. Problems beneficiaries' encountered in participating in NGO-led food security

Table 3 shows the problems beneficiaries encountered in participating in the NGO-led food security programmes. It reveals that 74.4%, 62.5%, 54.2, 50.0%, 46.7%, and 45.8% of the beneficiaries highly agreed that there too much bureaucracy in NGO deciding on actions, workers are hired from outside the communities, lack of respect for beneficiaries, some executive members misappropriate funds, field agents not committed to their work, and most NGO communications are geared towards men respectively. This indication shows that gender issues are less considered in the NGOs operations in this part of the country. Percy (2000) opined that if extension staff were trained in gender and gender analysis together with participatory rural appraisal (PRA), they would be able to learn how female as well as male farmers contribute to agricultural production and appreciate the particular constraints faced by female farmers. Rivera and Corning (1990) argued that extension is an important vehicle for integrating women into official development efforts throughout the world and for empowering them as human beings. Lahai *et al.* (2000) observed that women farmers, who are supervised by female agents, have more access to extension services than women who work with male agents. Gillespie *et al.* (2000) supported that community workshops are particularly

important in establishing trust. This is an indication that beneficiaries encountered varying problems in their participation in the NGO-led food security programmes. Pretty and Uphoff (2002) suggested that it is important for outsiders working with local groups to first foster an environment where dialogue, negotiation, humility, patience and respect for local norms are critical preconditions for facilitating learning in participative and democratic way. Studies have also shown that where such social capital indicators are evident, local people are more likely to be motivated to participate with genuine commitment to innovation processes (Kroma & Flora, 2001; Ison, 2001). Furthermore, 54.2% of the beneficiaries affirmed that there was always leadership struggle and in NGOs, some field-level personnel lacking mobility, field agents lacking technical training (45.0%), training/communication equipment (40.0%), and field agents performing many different tasks 37.5%). This confirmed Lodhi's (2003) finding in which he identified organizational staff of the Department of Agriculture (extension), Government of Punjab, Pakistan lacked knowledge and skills regarding extension functions. The extension was weak and extension workers were considered not fully competent to perform their jobs. Next to this Sharma *et al.* (1999) maintained that access to information and improved communication is a crucial requirement for sustainable agricultural development. Modern communication technologies when applied to conditions in rural areas can help improve communication, increase participation, and disseminate information and share knowledge and skills.

TABLE 2: Problems Farmers encountered in participation (N= 120)

	Highly Agreed (HA)	Agreed (A)	Highly Disagreed (HD)	Disagreed (D)	Can't Tell (CT)
	No (%)	No (%)	No (%)	No (%)	No (%)
Some executive members misappropriate funds	60(50.0)	45(37.5)	6(5.0)	5(4.2)	4(3.3)
Too much bureaucracy in deciding on actions	89(74.7)	21(17.5)	5(4.2)	3 (2.5)	2 (1.7)
Most NGOs communications are geared toward men	55(45.8)	45(37.5)	12(10.0)	7(5.8)	1(0.8)
Lack of respect for beneficiaries	65(54.2)	45(37.5)	6(5.0)	3 (2.5)	2(1.7)
Worker are hired from outside the community	75(62.5)	25(20.8)	7(5.8)	5 (4.2)	8(6.7)
Most field agents are not committed to their works	56(46.7)	55(45.8)	9(7.5)	8(6.7)	1(0.8)
There is always leadership struggle in the NGOs	53(44.2)	65(54.2)	7(5.8)	3 (2.5)	2(1.7)
Some field-level personnel lack mobility	52(43.3)	65(54.2)	2(1.7)	1(0.8)	- (-)
Most field agents lack technical training	44(36.7)	54(45.0)	14(11.7)	5(4.2)	3(2.4)
Field agents lack training /communication equipments	40(33.3)	48(40.0)	17(14.2)	9 (7.5)	8 (6.7)
Most field agents performs many different tasks	38(31.7)	45(37.5)	9(7.5)	10(8.3)	27(22.5)

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study revealed that male clienteles are still the focus of development programmes, as percentage of male NGO members and beneficiaries participating in the NGO-led food security programmes were higher than women. Beneficiaries are in age group where one would expect them to still be able to carry out the necessary activities associated with farm work. However, data on religious beliefs sends a warning to programme implementer as how their calendar of work should be planned. The time religious activities are performed need to be considered in planning and implementation of development and food security programmes as it may affect the level of participation in the programmes. The educated few, who had attained high level of education, were enjoying special privileges in NGO-led food security and other development programmes that were implemented, dominated in decision-making, discussions, and benefit sharing, as they are looked up to as spoke -persons for the communities. This is particularly true of the position holders in the study area. Nonetheless, the implication of this is that the poor-resource farmers would pledge their loyalty to these elite farmers as they would be their sources of financial assistance- money lenders. From the findings, it can be concluded that the NGOs made great efforts to motivate beneficiaries to participate in all the different stages of their programme execution. Majority of the beneficiaries were either minimally or moderately involved in all aspect of the NGOs food security programmes. Despite all NGOs efforts to improve on the living standard of their target communities, beneficiaries are still facing problems like cheating, lack of proper guidance education. Lack of respect on part of the fieldworker, and lack of trust in some of the extension, most field agents lack technical training, others and training /communication equipments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusion, it is recommended that:

1. More effort is made to improve on the educational status of the beneficiaries through the inclusion of adult education programmes in the food security ones. This will motivate them to be involved in decision –making.

2. Conscious effort should be made to encourage women participation in NGO-led food security programmes as they perform most of domestic and farm activities in the rural setting.
3. NGO should give special community development training to their extension agents or recruit trained and qualified extension agents that may display high degree of honesty, commitment to work and can communicate well with adults. Such persons the beneficiaries would likely trust and work well with.

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