
Assessment of Rural Development in Nasarawa State: A Study of the State Community and Rural Development Agency

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Abstract: *The study assessed the contributions of the Nasarawa State Community and Social Development agency to the development of rural areas in the state between 2011 and 2014. The main objective of the study is to assess the performance of the new approach to rural development as introduced by the World Bank in conjunction with the federal and Nasarawa State government. The survey research method was deployed in this study. Six local government areas were selected in which 18 rural communities out of 40 selected for the project participated. Questionnaires were administered on 524 respondents out of a sample of 540 selected from the rural communities. The study concluded that the Agency has contributed significantly to the development of rural areas in the State. It recommended among others that the project should be extended to cover more rural communities and that communities should be mobilised to fully participate in the implementation of the projects.*

Keywords: *Agency, Community Development, Infrastructure, Projects, Rural Development*

1. Introduction

Rural development has witnessed increasing attention globally, especially in the last three decades. The renewed global interest was due to the setting of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the year 2000 by the United Nations. Most of MDGs'goals was rural development oriented. Rural development is about organizing human and natural resources in such a way that it will provide solutions to the persistent problems of poverty, disease, illiteracy, unemployment, poor infrastructure, environmental degradation in rural areas and deprivation of the rural folks. Since the last three decades, there has been a continuous and desperate search for solutions to development problems of rural areas in developing countries. "The solutions so far proffered have remained practically elusive and unrealistic" (Abass, 1993). Although there are no simple universally accepted approaches to rural development, it has always been assumed that rural people could not ascertain what their needs are. Thus, direct approaches in rural development programme have been employed from time to time. Rural development has been seen as a strategy to overall development in both advanced and developing countries. In Nigeria, rural development synergies had been highlighted in relevant literatures. Tenuche and Ogwo, in Omale (2005) are of the opinion that the institutional framework for the implementation of rural development in Nigeria empowers the bureaucracy to design and control resources for rural development and deploys the resources to its discretion. Akpomovie (2010) observes that Nigeria's neglect of rural majority is a by-product of both pre-colonial and post-colonial governments.

According to the National Population Commission 53.1% of Nigerians live in the rural areas. In Nasarawa State 53.2% of the population reside in the rural areas. Attempts at curbing problems of poverty, disease, illiteracy, unemployment, poor infrastructure, environmental degradation and deprivation of the rural folks that confront the rural areas prompted the initiation of various rural development strategies or policies by successive governments in Nigeria. Among these policies and programmes are: The Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), Green Revolution (GR), Better Life for Rural Women (BLRW), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP), National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), National Directorate of Employment (NDE) etc. All the programmes and policies had their objectives geared towards rural development but have yet to achieve their goals. Donor organizations, nations and development theorists have over the years been searching for strategies that would not only accelerate growth but also spread the benefits of development to the rural areas.

It is on this ground that the World Bank, in partnership with the Federal Government of Nigeria, evolved the Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) under the Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) to harmonize World Bank-funded Community Driven Development (CDD) projects in the country. This

led to the merger of Community-Based Poverty Reduction Project (CPRP) and Local Empowerment and Environmental Management Project (LEEMP) to create Community and rural Development agencies in 26 states (World Bank, 2011). The 26 participating States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) are: Abia, Adamawa, Akwa-Ibom, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Benue, Cross River, Edo, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Enugu, Gombe, Imo, Kastina, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, Ondo, Oyo, Plateau, Taraba, Yobe, Zamfara and FCT. The Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency was established by Law No. 78 in 2009, the mandate is to implement the World Bank Assisted Project. The implementation is to improve access to Rural Development. The mandate of the agency include to identify project for each community in collaboration with them, to assist the community to contribute 10 percent of the project cost; to set up community project management committee and ensure that the community is satisfied with the project in terms of quality and functions. In spite of these policies and the laudable objectives, the rural areas are still experiencing development deficit. The study intends to fill the existing gap that sees a serious development deficit in rural development programmes and projects. The main motivation for this study is to find out the performance of the new approach to rural development introduced by the World Bank in conjunction with the federal and Nasarawa state governments being the first initiative under a state government agency.

In other words, the study is interested in finding an answer to the question- What is the performance of the Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency in rural development of the State? It is against this background that this study considered it necessary to assess the Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency and rural development performance in respect of the project. It will be of valuable benefit to the World Bank, the 25 other states implementing the same project, developing countries, policy makers, development scholars as well as donor agencies.

The study found that the Agency has performed well in its mandate of rural development. To the knowledge of the authors, this is the first time a study was carried out on the contributions of the agency to the development of rural areas in the state, but there are several isolated studies about rural development focusing on particular communities or local governments with strong disagreements with the findings of this study. These include (Bridle 1990, Akintola 2007, Fakayode 2008 & Odonye 2010).

1.2 Research Question

To what extent has the Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency contributed to the development of rural areas in the State?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to assess the performance of the new approach to rural development as introduced by the World Bank in conjunction with the Federal and Nasarawa State governments. The specific objective is to determine the extent to which Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency contributed to the development of rural areas in the State.

1.4 Statement of the Hypothesis

H₀: Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency do not contribute to the development of rural areas in the State.

2. Literature Review and Conceptual issues

2.1 Development

Development is variously conceptualized by different people. Some consider it to mean change while some see it as an advancement, improvement or progress. To others yet, development entails modernization or westernization (Ele, 2006). For instance, development, in the view of Porters (1975), entails transformation, advancement to a better and desired state. Similarly, Okoli and Onah (2002) assert that development involves progression, movement and advancement towards something better. They emphasized further that the movement should be on both the material and non-material aspects of life. In essence, development goes beyond economic and social indicators to include the improvement of human resources and positive change in their behaviour. In any case, the prevailing conception of development connotes essentially enhancement in the well-being of people (Okoye, 2000). Therefore, development

conceived in human terms is the maximum satisfaction of basic human needs of adequate and descent food, water, electricity, shelter, education, modern social and infrastructural facilities. Indeed, basic to any development process is man's desire to a better life and better environment (Oyevbaire & Odagunja, 1992). So development is perhaps one social phenomenon that is desired and craved for by every society, group or community. Development generally is concerned with the enhancement of individuals' ability to shape their lives. According to Stiglitz (1999), development can be regarded as a transformation of society, a movement from traditional ways of thinking and traditional methods of production to more modern ways. In other words, development must improve all aspects of peoples' lives. This follows Todaro's (1977) multi-facetted definition of development.

2.2 Rural Development

The term rural development connotes overall development to improve the quality of life of the rural people. This means a comprehensive and multidimensional concept, and encompasses the development of socio-economic infrastructure, community services and facilities and above all, human resources in rural areas. As a phenomenon, rural development is the end result of interactions among various physical, technological, economic, social, cultural and institutional factors. Bello-Imam (1998), in this vein, defined rural development as spatially sectional but determined and conscious attempt to focus on the general upliftment of the living conditions of men in the rural areas. So, rural development in Nigeria entails the process of making life more satisfying and fulfilling to the millions of Nigerians who live in the rural areas. Emphasizing the aspect of human development as an essential part of rural development, Mustapha (1989) notes that rural development implies a broad-based re-organization and mobilization of the rural masses so as to enhance their capacity to cope effectively with daily tasks of their lives with it consequent changes. It is perhaps, in this direction, that Ele (2006) posits that it is not enough to provide for the rural people; they should be enabled to develop themselves and their environment.

Integrated rural development involves integrating all efforts on rural development to ensure effective and speedy attainment of stated objectives. It has to do with putting the entire act together, with clarifying objectives and bringing all the agencies, facilities and programmes involved into a common framework of action in attainment of the objectives. It is the process of combining multiple development services into a coherent delivery system with the aim of improving the well-being of the rural population (Brinkerhoff, 1981). Integrated rural development is an ongoing process involving outside intervention and local aspirations; aiming to attain the betterment of group of people living in rural areas and to sustain and improve rural values; through the redistribution of central resources. Experience has shown that ignoring this complexity or selectively intervening on narrow front rarely produces the desired development performance (Brinkerhoff, 1981).

In recent years, the human element has been recognized as significant. Getting over this obsession, development experts have argued that the involvement of people in the process is the only way to ensure sustainable rural development. Empowerment, information and sustainability go hand in hand; without information, no development can take firm root. There must be real opportunities for participative decision making for the target groups and those decisions must relate to their future development (Sadiulla, 2006). According to the advocates of participatory rural development (Mansoori & Rao, 2004), the aim of participatory rural development is for the community to accomplish the following functions; to identify and implement projects for themselves for need based development; to improve the capacity of the rural people to organize themselves as community and to enable community organizations to work together for common purpose.

In any nation, growth and development depends on the availability of the infrastructures necessary for improved standard of living. In many parts of rural Nigeria, infrastructural facilities and services are poorly developed (Okoli *et al*, 2001). Abumere (2002) sees rural infrastructure to include the system of physical, human and institutional forms of capital which enables rural residents to better their activities, as well as help to improve the overall quality of life. Idachaba (1985) opined that rural infrastructures are those forms of physical, social and institutional capital which enable rural residents to better their activities and improve the overall quality of life. Rural physical infrastructures include these components: Transportation facilities (feeder roads and bridges), storage facilities (silos and warehouse), and flood

control (drainage systems). Rural social infrastructures include these components: Health facilities (hospitals, dispensaries, maternities and health centres etc), Education facilities (primary and secondary schools, Adult educational facilities), rural utilities (electricity and water supplies) and recreational facilities. Rural institutional infrastructures include these components: financial institutions (credit societies and institutions, saving banks etc) Idachaba (1985).

Several studies such as that of Ose (2014) concentrated the role of government on community development, while Hamza (2014) on the provision of amenities, the kinds of amenities and the satisfaction derived by rural dwellers from such facilities. Odonye (2010) laid emphasis on the relationship between community development and rural development. The authors did not come across literature specifically on the performance of rural development agencies. This study is assessing the performance of an agency in rural development. The problems of the past studies is that they had concentrated on finding the provision of amenities, the qualities, maintenance culture and the impact they make on rural areas.

2.3 Theoretical Framework of the Study

The theoretical framework of this study is the **Jacobs and Cleveland (1999)** Social Development theory. This is because the theory focuses on two interrelated aspects; learning and application. That society discovers better ways to fulfil its aspirations and it develops organizational mechanisms to express that knowledge to achieve its social and economic goals. The process of discovery expands human consciousness. The process of application enhances social organization.

This theory has as its basic assumptions that the society develops in response to the contact and interaction between human beings and their material, social and intellectual environment. The pressure of physical and social conditions, the mysteries of physical nature and complexities of human behaviour prompt humanity to experiment, create and innovate. The experience resulting from these contacts leads to learning on three different levels of existence (Vygotsky, 1978). At the physical level, it enhances control over physiological needs. At the social level, it enhances capacity for effective interaction between people at greater and greater speeds and distances. At the mental level, it enhances knowledge.

In applying this theory to Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency, it would be observed that the Agency is an organisational mechanism for the fulfilment of the learning process that takes place simultaneously on all the planes of the rural communities. The agency has no direct means to give conscious expression to rural areas. That essential role is played by rural-individuals who are inspired to express and achieve what the collective rural areas aspire and are prepared for. Where the aspiration and action of the rural-individuals do not reflect the will of the collective rural area, it is ignored or rejected by the Agency. Where it gives expression to deeply felt collective needs, it is systematically endorsed and supported and converted into projects and programmes.

Physically, this process leads to the acquisition of new skills in the rural areas that enable individuals to utilize their energies more efficiently and effectively (**Jacobs & Cleveland, 1999**). Socially, it leads to the learning and mastery of organizational skills, vital attitudes, systems and institutions that enable rural dwellers to manage their interactions with other people and other societies more effectively. Mentally, it leads to organization of facts as information and interpretation of information as thought.

This theory generates a framework around which all knowledge of the factors, instruments, conditions and processes of rural development can be integrated. This implies that people in the rural areas take responsibility for the creation of their own future in interdependence with their social (which is the interaction between them and Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency) and physical environment (which are the felt-needs they want to solve).

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Study Approach

In this study, survey research design was adopted to gather the data for this study. Randomized systematic-stratified sampling technique was applied in the selection of the local governments and the rural

communities. Since Nasarawa State has thirteen Local Government Areas politically divided into three senatorial districts of Lafia, Akwanga and Keffi, each senatorial district was taken as a stratum in the stratified sampling frame.

3.2 Population of the Study

The study is not interested in the features of the population, because, there is no parameter of interest rather than the fact that members of the population belong to the areas of study- male and female adult are of concern to us. Children are excluded from the sample. It is based on local governments and rural communities where projects are located. The study covered the three senatorial districts (2011 to 2014), the average of four local governments in two districts. Six out of the 13 local governments and 18 rural communities out of 40 being attended to by the agency as well 524 respondents out of the population of 540. The spread of the project was the main concern rather than the whole 13 local governments. The sample is more than 40 percent and the spread of the projects in the sample areas is also more than 50 percent.

To select the sample, the Local Government Areas were selected randomly. The result of the exercise was the selection of six Local Government Areas out of the 13 for the purpose of administering the questionnaire. Within each sampled Local Government Area, three communities were randomly selected using purposive sampling process. In all, 18 communities were covered by the survey out of the forty (40) rural communities covered by Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency in the State. In each rural area that was selected in the sample, fifteen households were through systematic sampling technique picked. In each selected households, two respondents were selected through the simple random sampling technique. The questionnaires were administered on the basis of thirty (30) to each rural community for the study. As such, a total of 540 people were selected from the rural areas as sample size for the study.

The primary source of data is the questionnaires. They were administered to all respondents. The questionnaire consisted of open and close ended items. Interviews were conducted on some selected officials of the Community and Social Development Agency and other key informants in order to clarify which formed the background information in the study. Secondary information was also sourced from journals, articles, official records and publications especially the Nasarawa State Community Social Development Agency. The study used simple descriptive statistical tools such as simple frequencies tables and percentages in presenting the findings of the study. This made scores assigned in frequency distribution table for easy conversion of the respondents to percentages (i.e. using percentage method). The data were analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 17. The hypotheses were tested using Chi-square (χ^2) at 0.05 percent level of significance.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Response Rate

Table 4.1 shows the details of questionnaires distributed and retrieved. From the table it can be seen that 30 questionnaires were distributed to each of the 18 rural areas within Akwanga, Wamba, Awe and Obi, as well as Kokona and Toto Local Government areas of the state. In all, 540 questionnaires were distributed out of which 524 were retrieved constituting 97% response rate which was used for the analysis.

Table 4.1: Questionnaires Distributed and Retrieved.

| Senatorial Zones | Local Govt. Areas | Rural Areas | Questionnaires Distributed | Questionnaires Retrieved | Percent (%) |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Northern zone | Akwanga | Ningo | 30 | 29 | 5.53 |
| | | Risha | 30 | 30 | 5.73 |
| | | Mochu | 30 | 27 | 5.15 |
| | Wamba | Jidda | 30 | 30 | 5.73 |
| | | Kwarra | 30 | 29 | 5.53 |
| | | Wude | 30 | 30 | 5.73 |
| Southern zone | Awe | Azara | 30 | 28 | 5.34 |
| | | Abuni | 30 | 30 | 5.73 |
| | | Awe | 30 | 30 | 5.73 |
| | Obi | Agwatashi | 30 | 28 | 5.34 |
| | | Obi | 30 | 29 | 5.53 |
| | | Agaza | 30 | 30 | 5.73 |
| Western zone | Kokona | Dari | 30 | 28 | 5.34 |
| | | Kama-madaki | 30 | 29 | 5.53 |
| | | Garaku | 30 | 30 | 5.73 |
| | Toto | Shafa-Abakpa | 30 | 30 | 5.73 |
| | | Umaisha | 30 | 29 | 5.53 |
| | | Yelwa | 30 | 28 | 5.34 |
| Total | <i>Computed by the Author</i> | | 540 | 524 | 100 |

Source: *Computed by the Author*

4.2 Analysis of Responses in Line With the Objectives of the Study

Table 4.2 shows the projects executed by the agency. These Rural areas receive support from the agency on meeting the ten percent (10%) resource contributions, (contributions which may be in cash, kind, material or any combination). These are demand-driven projects that are eligible and were assisted under NSCSDP. The table shows that of the 73 projects in the sample 18 rural areas, six roads and bridges; 12 were educational projects; two civic centre projects; two market stores; 41 water projects; five health projects, two skill centres and three electricity projects. The projects reflected the felt needs of the people, hence the emphasis on them.

Table 4.2: List of Projects Executed By the Agency in the Selected Local Government Areas (2011-2014)

| Senatorial Zones | L/Govt. A | Projects/ Areas | Education | Health | Water | Road | Electricity | Others |
|------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Northern Zone | Akhwanga | Ningo | | A Clinic | 5 boreholes | | | |
| | | Risha | | A Clinic | 3 boreholes | | | Skill Acq. centre |
| | Wamba | Mochu | Sch. Furniture | | 2 boreholes | | Electricity | |
| | | Jidda | | | | Brdg & Rd rehabilitation | | |
| Southern Zone | Awe | Kwarra | | | 2 boreholes | Road rehabilitation | | |
| | | Wude | | | 4 boreholes | | | |
| | | Azara | A block of 3 classes/Lab equipment | | 2 boreholes | | | Skill acquisition centre |
| | Obi | Abuni | Sch. Furniture | | 1 borehole | | | Electricity |
| | | Awe | | | 2 boreholes | Const. of bye pass road | | |
| | | Agwatashi | | 10 beds space ward/fencing of the Clinic | 3 boreholes | | | |
| | | Obi | | | 4 boreholes | | | A town hall |
| Western Zone | Kokona | Agaza | 2 blocks of 5classes with office furnished | | 3 boreholes | | | |
| | | Dari | Rehabilitation of 2 blocks of 5 classes/ a lodge. | | | | | |
| | Toto | Garaku | 2 blocks of 4classes with office & toilet | | 4 boreholes | | | |
| | | Kama-madaki | | A clinic | 4 boreholes | | Electricity | |
| | Toto | Shafa-Abakpa | Built a Lab/Library | | | | | 40 unit of mkt. Stores |
| | | Yelwa | | | 2 boreholes | | | Mkt. stores/town hall |
| | | Umaisha | | | | Const. of Bridge/ Drainage | | |

Source: Computed by the Author

The communities' preferences in the selection of the projects are presented in Table 4.3, which provides further insight into the contents of Table 4.2. It has been elucidated more on Table 4.4, which contains all the 19 issues raised under the study which are the mandate of the implementing agency.

Table 4.3: Projects Executed By Agency

| Projects | Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Skill acquisition centres | 36 | 6.8 |
| School furniture and class rooms | 83 | 15.8 |
| Clinics/maternity | 64 | 12.2 |
| Rural electrification | 48 | 9.2 |
| Roads, Drainages& Bridges | 42 | 8.0 |
| Water (boreholes) | 237 | 45.2 |
| Markets stores | 14 | 7.6 |
| Total | 524 | 100.0 |

Source: Computed by the Author

4.3 Test of Hypothesis

H_{0i} : *Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency do not contribute to the development of rural areas in the State.*

Table 4.4 is the chi-Square analysis which shows the analysis of the items (1-19) measured. The table shows the degree of freedom of each of the questions raised in the questionnaire. This compares the observed count in each table cell to the count which would be expected under the assumption of no association between the row and column classified as degree of freedom.

Table 4.4: Chi-Square Test

| QUESTIONS | Chi-Square | Degree of Freedom | Level Sig. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1. Do you know Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency? | 176.087 ^a | 2 | .005 |
| 2. Which of the Projects by Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency do you know? | 254.695 ^a | 2 | .003 |
| 3. How does the initiative of the project come about? | 267.279 ^b | 4 | .008 |
| Is it the needed project? | 625.538 ^c | 2 | .000 |
| 4. Do the rural areas need the intervention by the Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency in their communities? | 343.103 ^c | 2 | .001 |
| 5. Has any rural development attempts been made on any of this sector by any organisation or the rural area, specify? | 129.111 ^b | 5 | .008 |
| 6. Is Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency a viable tool for rural development? | 330.260 ^a | 2 | .002 |
| 7. Are the projects sustainable? | 516.840 ^b | 2 | .000 |
| 8. Who maintains the completed projects? | 516.534 ^c | 3 | .001 |
| 9. How well are the projects maintained? | 143.275 ^c | 3 | .006 |
| 10. Have projects provided a degree of access to social service due to its proximity? | 52.588 ^b | 4 | .005 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---|------|
| 11. Have the projects influenced community development in terms of quality of work and service provided | 378.427 ^a | 4 | .003 |
| 12. Are projects functioning or completely non functioning? | 112.687 ^b | 4 | .002 |
| 13. How efficient are projects been executed with the cooperation of community and the Agency. | 231.553 ^c | 4 | .000 |
| 14. Is approach used in carrying out the project is relevant to the success of the project in the community? | 513.622 ^c | 4 | .001 |
| 15. Are projects bedevilled in execution by lack of counterpart-fund by both the Government and the rural areas? | 80.985 ^b | 4 | .008 |
| 16. Has poor management by the Community Project Management Committees (CPMC) delayed in the execution of projects? | 159.679 ^a | 4 | .006 |
| 17. Have Conflicting issues on the choice of project in the rural areas delays execution? | 472.992 ^b | 4 | .002 |
| 18. Has nonchalant attitude by the rural communities in complementing the efforts of NSCSDA in carrying out projects? | 244.172 ^c | 4 | .005 |
| 19. Was there political priority on project in consistent with NSCSDA development goals? | 447.187 ^c | 4 | .000 |

Source: Computed by the Author

Decision Rule:

The test statistics table above shows that the activities of the Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency have contributed significantly to the development of rural areas in Nasarawa State. This is because the results shown are below Probability Value (0.05). According to the rule, if the significant value is below 0.05 which is the Probability Value, we reject null hypothesis (Ho) and accept alternative hypothesis (Ha), if the significant value is above 0.05 (P-Value), accept null hypothesis (Ho) and reject alternative hypothesis (Ha). Therefore, we accept the alternative hypothesis which states that Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency contributed to the development of rural areas in the state.

4.4 Major Findings

From the above analysis of data, the study found that there is a relationship between “Observed responses on how the initiative of the projects came about and Observed responses on whether they are the needed projects”. The finding of this study with p-value to questions from 1 to 12 sought to find out whether or not Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency has contributed towards the development of rural areas in the State. Based on the result of the analysis, the probability values (p-value) for most of the items were less than $\alpha = 0.05$. The result showed that most respondents agreed that Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency has contributed significantly to the development of rural areas in the state. The result shows that the agency has performed well under its mandate. The study may differ from others because of their differing emphasis from this study. The result is new and will of valuable importance to policy makers, to existing literatures and donor agencies.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

The study concludes that the Nasarawa State Community and Social Development Agency has performed well in its mandate of rural development. The performance appears to be a general pattern in the state. The finding supports the theoretical base of this study and did not contradict previous findings in this regard, rather it found that an agency saddled with rural development can perform well within a short period of three years as the time frame for this study. Therefore the performance could be the same throughout the state. This conclusion has added to existing literature and body of knowledge in this respect.

5.2 Recommendations

1. There is need to mobilise rural communities where projects are to be executed by the agency to fully participate in its identification and its execution as indicated in the mandate of the agency.
2. There is also the need to allow the Community Project Management Committees to handle the maintenance of the projects and ensure sustainability in the long run as indicated in the mandate of the agency.
3. Government should not wait for the community's 10 percent contribution as indicated in the project guideline before the commencement of the execution of rural projects. Projects can be started while communities are mobilising their resources to contribute their obligation.

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