



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Nigeria Integrated  
Agriculture Activity  
Newsletter, 13th  
Edition, June 2022



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*Transforming African Agriculture*



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NIAA NEWSLETTER, 13TH EDITION, JUNE 2022

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## Contents



- 3 Integrated Agriculture Activity Holds Quarterly Meeting with Activity's Extension Agents
- 5 How IAA-Fadhila MoU benefitted me  
– Rice Farmer
- 6 Climate Smart and GAP Training: Making Smallholder Farmers a Priority
- 8 Activity Beneficiary Championing a New Course
- 10 IAA, CADL Partnership Empowers 259 Farmers
- 11 About the Activity/Contact



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2

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## INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE ACTIVITY HOLDS QUARTERLY MEETING WITH ACTIVITY'S EXTENSION AGENTS



Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity has held its quarterly meeting with the Adamawa and Borno States ADP Extension Agents that are supporting the Activity's intervention in the two states. The essence of the meeting is to strengthen the working relationship alongside promoting more synergy between the Activity management and the EAs. For this quarter, the objectives of the meeting include reviewing of FY2022Q3 activities with the Extension Agents, presentation of the FY2022Q4 work plan, updates on Inputs Financing as well as presentation of Q1 PQA report and, collection of community-based seed producers' sales data.

In his opening remarks in Yola, Adamawa State, and Biu, Borno State on the 28th and 30th June 2022, the Chief of Party (CoP), Mr. Prakash Kant Silwal who was represented by the Deputy Chief of Party (DCoP), Mr. Olukayode Faleti welcomed the participants to the important meeting and encouraged the EAs to freely share their successes as well as their challenges. He said this will assist the Activity in assessing the effectiveness of its interventions and making necessary improvements.

The Market System and Livelihood Specialist (MSLS), Mr. Bassey Archibong used the occasion to update the EAs



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NIAA NEWSLETTER, 13TH EDITION, JUNE 2022

on the efforts/achievements of the Activity in terms of inputs financing.

He cited partnerships with Fadhila Crop Science Limited and Capital Agricultural Development Limited (CADL) as major milestones. The FY22 Q1 Program Quality Assessment PQA report was presented by the Monitoring & Evaluation Manager, Mr. Kehinde Oteju. The report showed how well EAs and Community-Based Seed Producers performed.

In response, the EAs appreciated the Activity for the support since 2019 and pleaded those services including the distribution of fertilizers and other input financing modalities should be improved. The DCoP promised that such issues will be resolved in the following quarter. 28 EAs (18 men, 10 women) attended the Adamawa meeting while 22 (16 men and 6 women) EAs were present in Borno State.



*Activity's Monitoring & Evaluation Manager, Mr. Kehinde Oteju during a presentation at the meeting with Extension Agents in Biu, Borno State*



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NIAA NEWSLETTER, 13TH EDITION, JUNE 2022

## How IAA-Fadhila MoU benefitted me – Rice Farmer



Nester Ezban's 2021 dry season farming journey started on a good note. She was one of the beneficiaries of the inputs loan given to farmers in Adamawa state in early February 2022. On January 25, 2022, USAID-funded Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Fadhila Crop Science Ltd. The MoU provided some selected rice farmers in Demsa, Guyuk, and Yola South Local Government Areas of Adamawa State with the much-desired input for necessary yield. Each farmer received 25 kilograms of foundation seeds (Faro 44 variety), water pumps and accessories, 4 bags of NPK fertilizers 20:10:10, and 2 bags of Urea. With an equity contribution of N46,595, loan repayment was set at 800 kilograms of certified rice seeds.

"The first excitement about this inputs loan was the seed for me. Getting quality seeds is usually not easy here. What most people plant as seeds are usually grains presented as seeds. Then, I heard they will be giving water pumps. I thought to myself what more am I looking for. I am ready to take the loan", recounted Nester.

After four months of hard work, Nester repaid her loan with her part first harvest. She is sure of making much profit when the whole farm is harvested. Plus, she may not need to rent a pumping machine for her farmlands anymore, as she now has a water pump and accessories now. "IAA should sign me up for another rewarding loan next time. I am up for it," said Nester.



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NIAA NEWSLETTER, 13TH EDITION, JUNE 2022



## Climate Smart and GAP Training: Making Smallholder Farmers a Priority

Since July 19, 2019, the USAID-funded Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity's major goals have been to improve food security, increase agricultural incomes, and improve resilience among smallholder farmers and their families in Adamawa and Borno States. Working in 7 Local Government Areas of Adamawa State and 5 in Borno State, the Activity has been able to reach about 60,000 smallholder farmers with Climate Smart and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Training.

In May/June 2022, the Activity under the facilitation of the National Seeds Council (NASC) organized a refresher training in Climate Smart and GAP in preparation for the 2022 wet season farming. The rounds of training started with a training of trainers for the Extension Agents (EAs) that are supporting the Activity, after which it was stepped down to smallholder farmers in the communities.

During the training, emphasis was laid on the 7 focus crops of the Activity (rice, maize,



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*Stepdown Climate Smart and GAP Training at Njoboliyo, Yola South LGA, Adamawa State.*

groundnut, soybean, millet, cowpea, and sorghum). The topics included differentiating seeds from grains, general and agronomic principles of seed production, harvesting, post-harvest handling, and management.

The training also included important tips on handling various crop pests and diseases such as Fall Army Worm, safe use and storage of pesticides, and Aflasafe (including using only pesticides approved in the Safer Use Action Plan) as well as proper fertilizer application. Overall, a total of 66,742 participants were trained in Adamawa and Borno states.



*Stepdown Climate Smart and GAP Training at Song LGA, Adamawa State.*





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Talk of making the most of every opportunity, Talk of Mary Gombe. Mary Gombe is a young woman who lives in Fufore Local Government Area of Adamawa State. In 2020, Mary got trained by Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity in Tomapepo (a mix of tomatoes, pepper, and onions) production, agriculture production, and poultry farming. However, she needed funding to start her own business.

Through a facilitation process by the Activity, Mary was able to secure a loan of N250,000 without collateral but with a 30% interest rate. Rather than use the money alone, Mary took a big risk. She decided to loan the money to widows in her community who are farmers and petty traders. They received amounts ranging from N10,000 to N30,000 and were expected to repay with interest within a three-month period. And that was how Haske Women Organization started!

## Activity Beneficiary Championing a New Course





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NIAA NEWSLETTER, 13TH EDITION, JUNE 2022



*Haske Women Organization holding a meeting alongside their only male member, Raphael Emmanuel*

“We have grown from 13 members to 30 in two years and more people are asking to join us. If you are not credit-worthy, we don’t give you access to our group. In the beginning, it was meant to be a women-only gathering but we now have a young man who sells noodles and was desperate for a loan”, said Mary.

The group meets every Thursday not just for financial support but also for spiritual and emotional support. Sarah Daniel and her mother have benefitted from these kinds of support. “When I lost my father, I gave up on life. My father’s people abandoned us. This group has become our family. We even got a loan to increase our smoked fish business. We are happy to belong here”, admitted Sarah.



*Grateful for the gift of Mary: The group poses with her*



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NIAA NEWSLETTER, 13TH EDITION, JUNE 2022

## IAA, CADL Partnership Empowers 259 Farmers



Integrated Agriculture Activity (IAA) is partnering with Capital Agricultural Development Limited (CADL) to provide farmers in Adamawa State with agricultural inputs. A total of 1,050 farmers indicated interest but after a process of sensitization, land-profiling, and development of production economics, 259 beneficiaries were selected in Gombi and Song Local Government Areas.

Through the partnership, the selected farmers received certified rice and maize seeds, herbicides (pre-emergence and post-emergence), insecticides, fungicides, and sacks for harvest as well as Urea and NPK 15:15:15 fertilizers for the 2022 wet season farming.

According to IAA's Market Systems

and Livelihood Specialist, Mr. Bassey Archibong, this is one of the many partnerships that will assist the Activity's beneficiaries.

"Integrated Agriculture Activity in collaboration with CADL is giving these beneficiaries all these agricultural inputs with zero equity contribution. This is because the Activity is always seeking ways to benefit the smallholder farmers in this part of the country".

One of the beneficiaries, Zainab Usman, expressed her appreciation for the partnership and more importantly, the inputs. "First, I am happy that I am getting quality seeds. Second, I am getting fertilizers and herbicides. Third, I am only repaying with 4-bags of 100kg as a service charge. I am hopeful that I will achieve this"





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NIAA NEWSLETTER, 13TH EDITION, JUNE 2022

## About the Activity

The Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity (IAA) issued under the US Government's Global Food Security Act was awarded by USAID Nigeria to the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and its partners in July 2019 towards the economic recovery of North-East Nigeria, in the wake of the devastation caused by the ongoing insurgency in the region.

The Activity supports vulnerable populations in 12 Local Government Areas of Adamawa and Borno states to re-engage in basic farming activities and aims to advance the objectives of inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led economic growth, strengthened resilience among people and systems, and a well-nourished population, especially among women and children in targeted locations.

To achieve these objectives, the Activity works with a coalition of public and private sector partners to facilitate improved agro-input and extension advisory services to serve vulnerable populations; strengthen the institutions that form the market system and the networks that serve smallholder farmers disenfranchised by conflict, and facilitate the engagement of youth and women in economic and entrepreneurial activities

## Contact



**Prakash Kant Silwal**

Principal Specialist/Chief of Party

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