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

New Year Edition

Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity Newsletter, 8th Edition, January 2022



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NIGERIA INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE ACTIVITY

newsletter

8TH EDITION, JANUARY 2022

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Delivering On NIAA's Objectives

In 2021, under the no-cost extension period, USAID funded Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity engaged in a lot of interventions for smallholder farmers in Adamawa and Borno States. The Activity continue to deliver on its objectives 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 mallholder farmers disenfranchised by conflict.
- Facilitate the engagement of youth and women in economic and entrepreneurial activities.

In facilitating improved agro-input and extension advisory services to serve vulnerable populations, the Activity in collaboration with the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC) extended training in seed production and marketing techniques as well as connection with research institutes to 120 Community-Based Seed Producers (CBSPs). This is in addition to the 1,065 CBSPs trained in the previous years. These CBSPs are certified by the National Agricultural Seed Council as seed entrepreneurs. Ultimately, certified seeds are more available in the farming communities at affordable prices and the practice of using grains as seeds is gradually phasing out in these communities.

Also, the Activity has trained 52,734 (35,516 Male and 17,218 Female) Smallholder farmers in climate-smart and improved agronomic practices which later increased to 54,894 (35,516 Male and 19,378 Female) smallholder farmers in year 2 including practical exposure to demonstration plots (539 in year 1 and 480 in year 2) through green and brown field days.

As a result, the adoption rate of GAP is now 90% (from 67% in Year 1) including significant Increased yield from baseline of promoted crops between 52% (Cowpea) and 115% (Maize) as of year 2.



Vendors at the June 2021 Agricultural Input Fair organized by the Activity to support small holder farmers in Adamawa and Borno States.

To strengthen the institutions that form the market system and the network that serve small-holder farmers disenfranchised by conflict, over 3,600 women have been trained in homestead farming, goat rearing, bee keeping and micro processing of legumes and cereal.



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About 40,000 children under 5 years have been reached with various nutrition interventions in an attempt to reduce malnutrition.



Micro-processing training for nutrition promoters in Sakwa community of Hawul Local Government Area of Borno State.

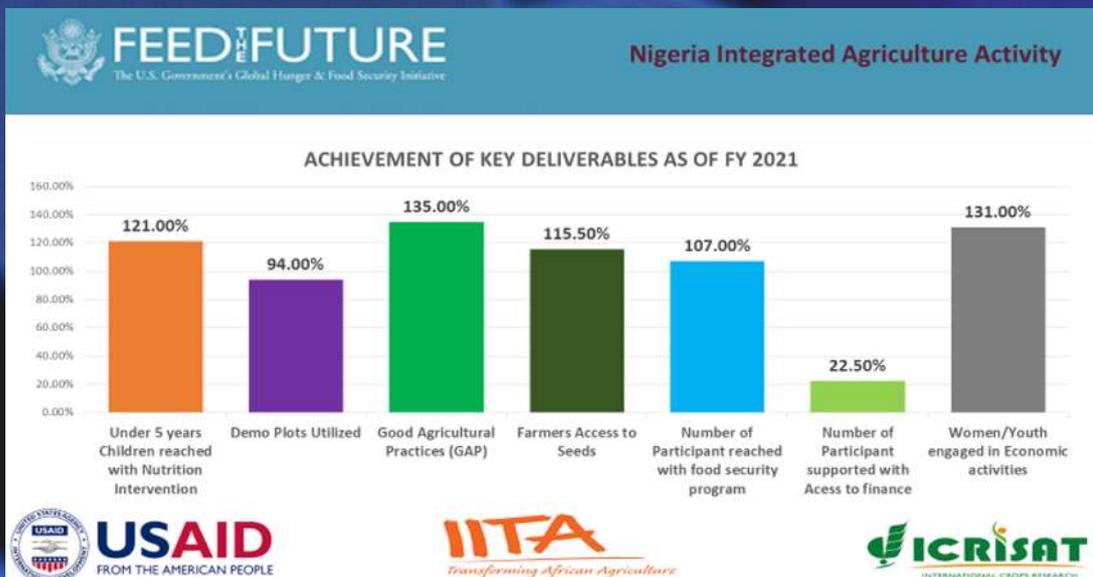
The support for these entrepreneurs extends to the registration of their business names with relevant government agencies (SMEDAN and CAC alongside the facilitation of a COVID 19 mitigation fund for micro-enterprises being managed by Rural Resilience Activity.

In less than one year to conclude the Activity, there are still more grounds to cover and many more lives to touch!



Crop production and enterprise training for women in Yola South Local Government, Adamawa State.

For the third objective, a total of 6,241 women and youths have been trained in farm and non-farm enterprises which include crop production, poultry, animal fattening, fish farming, honey production, tomatoes blending and packaging (TOMAPEPO), as well as vocational skills like barbing, tailoring, telephone repairs, screen printing etc.



Achievement of Key Deliverables as of FY 2021





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2021 Dry Season Rice Farming: IITA/NIAA, Fadhila sign MoU

On the 25th of January 2022, the Activity kicked-off the 2021 dry season rice farming. During the kick-off session, the Chief of Party for the Activity, Prakash Kant Silwal and Chief Executive Officer for Fadhila Crop Science Ltd. (FCSL), Ms. Naona Usoro exchange the signed MoU which cemented a two-year partnership between the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and FCSL. The partnership will provide 200 rice farmers with seeds and other agricultural inputs for the 2021 dry season farming.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the Chief of Party, Prakash Kant Silwal stated the Activity has several interventions through which they are supporting

smallholder farmers in Adamawa and Borno States with seeds and tested agronomic practices.

He encouraged the farmers to be good recipients of the support provided by FCSL, grow more and pay back the inputs provided. "The onus is on the current farmers who have been supported to perform well and pay back so that more and more small-holder farmers are able to benefit from such supports in the coming years from FCSL", he said.

In her presentation, the Chief Executive Officer of FCSL, Ms. Naona Usoro, said her organization agreed to the partnership due to IITA's recognition and the achievements



(From far left) Commissioner for Reconstruction, Rehab, Reintegration Humanitarian Service, Adamawa State, Mr. Elijah Tumba; (second from left) Commissioner for Livestock & Aquaculture Development, Mr. Usman Yahaya Diyajo; (third from left) District Head of Yola, Alhaji Mohammed Mustapha; (fourth from left) Commissioner for Agriculture, Hon Umar Iya Daware; (fifth from left) Commissioner for Women Affairs & Social Development, Mrs. Lami Ahmed; (centre) Chief Executive Officer, Fadhila Crop Science Ltd., Ms. Naona Usoro; (second from right) Chief of Party, Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity (NIAA), Dr. Prakash Kant Silwal and Deputy Chief of Party (NIAA), Mr. Olukayode Faleti (right) after exchange signing the MoU.



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of the Activity in promoting improved seeds. She is hopeful that the partnership will transcend rice farming to the cultivation of other grains such as maize in subsequent seasons.

The Commissioner for Agriculture, Adamawa State, Hon Umar Iya Daware who witnessed the event commended the partnership. According to him, the state government is willing to support any initiative that will benefit its citizens.

The event was also attended by the Commissioner for Aquaculture Development, Mr. Usman Yahaya Diyajo; Commissioner for Women Affairs & Social Development, Mrs. Lami Ahmed; Commissioner for Reconstruction, Rehab, Reintegration Humanitarian Service, Mr. Elijah Tumba and other dignitaries who participated in the input distribution to some selected farmers.



The first set of farmers receiving agricultural inputs from the Commissioner for Agriculture, Adamawa State, Hon. Umar Iya Daware (third from left) and Chief of Party of the Activity, Prakash Kant Silwal (third from right) at the 2021 dry season farming kick-off.



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“NIAA Opened my Eyes to Business Opportunities” -Training Beneficiary

When Aisha Jalaludeen, 26, attended the first Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity training in Yola, Adamawa state, she never realized how very profitable the journey will turn out. Between 2020 and 2021, Aisha attended training on poultry farming, business plan writing, ‘Tomapepo’ production and enterprise development. Barely two years after the first training, the mother of two is a proud owner of two back-yard poultries where she generates a steady and sufficient income. Ultimately, she is an employer of labour and a mentor to women in her community.



Aisha and her employee.



Aisha and her daughter pose at the small cage where she started her poultry business.

Aisha’s beginning is indeed small. From a jobless diploma graduate to a sachet water (pure water) hawker, Aisha kept her enterprising nature intact. When the opportunity to be trained eventually came, she jumped at it. After the training in poultry farming, the budding entrepreneur obtained a small loan from her husband and started home poultry with about three chickens. She proceeded to buy 50 more chicks. The rest is history. With two more poultry annexes, Aisha employed a young man to whom she pays N3000 monthly. Apart from being a reliable supplier of live chicken in her neighbourhood, Aisha also processes live chicken for those who prefer frozen poultry.



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Good to go! Aisha Poultry Farms' new branch



Aisha's mentee, Hadiza, shows off her poultry. Both received the COVID 19 Mitigation Fund facilitated by NIAA

Due to a glaring testimony, women in Aisha's community approach her often for entrepreneurial guidance. As a beneficiary of the COVID 19 Intervention Fund in December 2021, Aisha also exposed some of these women to the same funding opportunity. They have started their poultry and looking forward to making profit in the next two months.

"NIAA opened my eyes. Now, I can't stop thinking of business opportunities", says Aisha.



Customer is King: Aisha helps customers to de-feather their chickens especially during the festive seasons.



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How SILC is Helping Low-Income Earners

Savings and Internal Lending Communities, otherwise known as SILCs are a type of community-based savings group. As a key component of sustainable livelihood strategy, SILC supports the culture of saving within households even in those with minimal income. Modelled after the traditional rotating savings and credit institution ('Adashe', 'Ajo', 'Esusu'), it provides an avenue to save and borrow money to increase income.

Currently, Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity supports 120 SILC groups in Adamawa and Borno States. A typical SILC group could comprise of up to 30 people with a general assembly and a management committee. These SILC group members gather to contribute and hold share-outs every 8 months where they are privileged to receive credit facilities that may be difficult to secure with modern financial establishments.

These SILC group members gather to contribute and hold share-outs every 8 months where they are privileged to receive credit facilities that may be difficult to secure with modern financial establishments. One reason why a low-income earner like 30-year-old Hadiza Abdulkareem joined Taimako SILC in Shani town, Shani LGA of Borno State.

With five children to cater for, securing a loan for her local pastry business from commercial banks seemed impossible. Her relatives, although not convenient, became her go-to source for urgent bail-outs. Eventually, Taimako SILC provided financial support and much-needed independence. She was able to borrow funds to inject into her small business. Now, she makes N3000 every four days from her Chin-Chin business compared to the precious N600 profit. Also, Hadiza can contribute towards her home's up-keep.

"Before getting the loan, I used to make N600. Now, I make N3000 every four days from my Chin-chin business. This has helped me to contribute to my family's upkeep", declares Hadiza.



A typical SILC during Share-out



Loan from Hadiza's SILC has helped to expand her local pastry business



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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 small holder farmers disenfranchised by conflict; and facilitate the engagement of youth and women in economic and entrepreneurial activities

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