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

Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity Newsletter,
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IAA, CADL Partnership: Second Phase of Input Financing for Farmers Begins

In continuation of input financing for 259 maize and rice farmers in Gombi and Song Local Government Areas of Adamawa State, USAID-funded Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity and Capital Agricultural Development Limited (CADL) commenced the second phase of the exercise in the month of July.



Some beneficiaries of the partnership in Song Local Government, Adamawa State.



Women beneficiaries in Gombi, Adamawa State.

During the first phase, the farmers received certified rice and maize seeds and some herbicides to aid their 2022 wet season farming. For the second phase, each farmer received 4bags of fertilizers, 4 liters of post-emergence herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide suited for their rice and maize plants. The farmers are expected to remit 4 bags of grains after harvest.

Input financing is one of the ways through which the Activity supports over 60,000 smallholder farmers trained in Climate Smart and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in both Adamawa and Borno States.



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"I got a New Beginning." - IAA Beneficiary

35-year-old Aishatu Muhammed is a resident of New Demsa, Demsa Local Government Area, Adamawa State. She is a widow and mother of 4. Like most widows, her life took a turn when her husband died.

“My husband was a responsible man. He tried his best to provide for his family. Although he wasn’t a rich man, he would go the extra mile for us. When he died, my whole life crumbled. I didn’t know where to start until I became part of the Integrated Agriculture Family.

Aishatu was trained on micro processing of legumes and cereals by the Activity in 2021 and has been a nutrition promoter for the Activity since then. Aishatu attended a step-down training in 2021 where she was taught the micro-processing of legumes and cereals. She was particularly interested in the production of soybean tofu (Awara). Immediately after the training, she commenced the commercial production of tofu in her neighborhood with a start-up capital of N1,100.



On a daily basis, Aishatu makes N400 to N500 profit. On market days, she makes between N700 and N800; approximately, N3,500 a week.

“Before now, I couldn’t feed my children twice a day but now, I cook two to three quality meals for my children. I can also take care of some medical bills. I really appreciate IAA for bringing such an opportunity my way”, Aisha said.



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How Integrated Agriculture Activity is helping to support my children's education - Farmer

John Zakariah, 55, cultivates maize, sorghum, groundnut, and rice. He was trained by the USAID-funded Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training. John, a resident of Song (Song Local Government Area of Adamawa State), particularly loved the emphasis on genuine and improved seeds during the training conducted by the Activity.

“They helped change my orientation about seeds. I thought it was okay to purchase just any kind of seeds at the market. I didn't know buying just any kind of seeds would impact on the quality of crops produced”, admitted John.

John received some improved rice and soybean seeds from his extension agent courtesy of the Activity and planted them during the last rainy season. For the rice, he didn't make much harvest due to the heavy rains and attacks by insurgents.

He expected about 60 bags from 2 hectares but got 16 bags. However, the soybeans yielded much. He harvested 8 bags which he sold at N37,000 each.

“The money came at the right time. I needed to pay my children's fees. One of my children had just gained admission into Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria to study Chemistry. I didn't need to borrow money from anywhere for her to settle down in school. It was like a miracle. Thanks to IAA”, recounted John.



John and some of his children



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Tomapepo: WOMEN WORKING WONDERS

The journey of a thousand miles starts with a step. In 2020, 14 selected groups of women were engaged in Borno State, NorthEast Nigeria by the USAID-funded Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Activity. Their journey to impact started with different training from the Activity. These training included Business Plan Writing, poultry farming, and crop production among others. Ultimately, these women were the first set of persons to receive training on Tomapepo production. Tomapepo is a bottled blend of tomatoes, pepper, and onions. To support the Tomapepo initiative,

the Activity facilitated the provision of a grinding machine for each group. This is in conformity with the objectives of the USAID/USG Women Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment (WEEE) Act, 2018 which “strengthens USAID's programming to promote gender equality and women's empowerment; builds upon the success of our work in financing microenterprises; and expands the universe of our potential partners”.

Most of these recipients have indeed put to good use the machines they received with amazing results to show.





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PROGRESSIVE WOMEN OF KWAYA-KUSAR

On a weekly basis, the group remits N2000 from grinding. They deduct maintenance and repair fees from this amount.

“One of our members was in dire need of money to buy her ward’s JAMB form, we were able to loan her the money from what is generated from the machine. Other members also come to borrow from time to time and we lend them”.

In January 2022, from the proceeds of the grinding machine, the group first purchased three 100kg bags of maize at N13,000. Then, they bought two more at N13,500. By June, they sold the stored grains at N20,000 per bag and made a profit of N34,000. To aid their farming, the group decided to buy 2 cartons of herbicide. This, they sold to members at subsidized rates.

“We, Progressive Women, have benefitted so much from Integrated Agriculture Activity. There is no doubt about it”, affirmed Fatima.

With 27 members, Progressive Women of Kwaya, Kwaya Kusar Local Government Area of Borno State received their grinding machine on the 14th of August 2020. Meticulous Chairperson, Fatima Gimba, has been keeping all the records of sales.

“We have been using the machine for the production of Tomapepo. One of our members, Mariya Mahmad, recently sold 146 bottles here in Kwaya and also in Abuja. Each bottle costs N1,500. Others are not doing badly in their sales as well. When we are not producing Tomapepo, we are grinding pepper, beans, maize, and millet for people in the community”, Fatima explained.





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MURNA GROUP, JIGWAL COMMUNITY, BIU

The 16 members of Murna Group all received training on the production of Tomapepo in 2020 and received a grinding machine to support production. However, to ensure continuity and accountability, the group decided to empower a young woman with the skills and machinery needed for production.

“We couldn’t find a more dedicated person to handle our group’s Tomapepo production. Vashti Aliyu is just 22 years old. With two children to cater to, she lost her husband about a year ago. Moreso, she was unemployed at that time”, said Anna Sabe, a prominent member of the group.

In February 2022, Vashti made and sold 60 bottles of Tomapepo at N1,200 each. When tomatoes are abundant, she makes for customers on demand.

During the harvest of tomatoes last December, Vashti made the product and sold them around April/May this year. On a weekly basis, Vashti remits between N2000 and N2,500 grinding cereals and legumes for customers. During a certain festive period, Vashti remitted N15,000 to the group to our surprise. She transports the machine to wedding ceremonies to offer grinding services as well.

“God has really used these elderly women to bless me. Apart from the machine and skills I got from them. One of them gave me a plot of land on which I plant crops to feed me and my children. Nobody would believe if I tell people my children are in private school. Ultimately, my dream of going to the College of Education for further studies will be possible by God’s grace”, said Vashti.



Vashti Aliyu, the current operator of the group's grinding machine





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WANDALI YOUTH WOMEN FARMERS MULTIPURPOSE

Wandali Youth Women Farmers Multipurpose, Wandali, Kwaya Kusar LGA, Borno consists of 20 members. Lydia Abdul and Mwada Hassan are Chairperson and Secretary respectively. Established 22 years ago, the group came in contact with Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity in 2020. Like the other groups, they were trained in farm and non-farm enterprises including the production of Tomapepo. They received their machine on July 14, 2020.

In the first year of learning Tomapepo, they sold to customers but halted the commercial sales of the product due to poor sales in the community. But rather than give up on production, they decided that they wanted the product for themselves.

Once tomatoes, pepper, and onions are abundant, they buy the commodities with the money realized from daily commercial grinding (they make between N500 and N700 daily; N5,000 and above during festive seasons). They produce bottles of Tomapepo and distribute them among themselves.

“Producing Tomapepo together helps unite us. In fact, that is not the only thing uniting us. The ability to loan ourselves profit from the grinding machine is a plus for us. Also, our decision to buy two bags of maize (N15,000 each) has brought so much satisfaction to the members. We intend to sell these grains during the peak sales period.... We are seriously considering resuming the commercial production of Tomapepo, now that we are more united”, Lydia said.





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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 smallholder farmers disenfranchised by conflict, and facilitate the engagement of youth and women in economic and entrepreneurial activities



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