



FEED THE FUTURE

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



NIGERIA INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE ACTIVITY
NEWSLETTER
FIRST EDITION
30 JUNE 2021



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

IITA
Transforming African Agriculture



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Entrepreneurs selling their products during fair at Biu



Certified Seeds on Sale by Community based Seed Producers at Yola Fair



Chief of Party-IAA with Seed Producer group members



Demonstration of Nutritious Meal for Children in South Yola, Adamawa



10 tailoring trainees with Master Trainer Mrs. Amina Abdul in Biu LGA, Borno



Selling Certified Seeds: Community Based Seed Producers at Biu



Varieties of Certified Seeds for Training purpose; at Yola Field office of IAA



MESSAGE



Prakash Kant Silwal
Chief of Party
Feed the Future
Nigeria Integrated
Agriculture Activity

In the last 11 years in North-East Nigeria, the ongoing insurgency led to devastation and displacement of the local population, impeding overall agriculture and economic development. The agriculture sector is dwindling with several constraints from climatic variability, droughts, pests, diseases, and inadequate policy provisions and support. This has resulted in poor agricultural productivity and infrastructure, limited livelihood and employment opportunities, nutritional insecurity, malnutrition, and the high price of agri-commodities. However, improved technologies, knowledge, and innovative means are available to address these constraints.

The three and half year 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 economic recovery in North-East Nigeria. It supports vulnerable populations in 12 Local Government Areas-LGAs of Adamawa and Borno states by engaging in basic farming activities to improve food security, increase agricultural incomes and improve resilience among smallholder farmers. In addition, it facilitates improved agricultural inputs and extension advisory services to serve vulnerable populations, strengthen the institutions and market networks by engaging smallholder farmers, youth, and women in agribusiness activities.

It is my pleasure to introduce the first edition of the newsletter highlighting a few key achievements and impacts of IAA. It focuses on the recently concluded Agriculture Input Fair organized with key stakeholders like Ministry of Agriculture, National Agricultural Seeds Council-NASC, Private sector input companies, Community-Based Seed Producers, and other development partners in Adamawa and Borno states. The fair provided a much-needed opportunity for local farmers to interact with key agro-input dealers and community-based seed producers while understanding the need for certified seeds and the importance of agriculture inputs.

Please stay tuned as we continue to roll out such a newsletter regularly, showcasing our efforts in improving livelihoods, ensuring food security, and supporting communities in North-East Nigeria towards economic recovery and journey to self-reliance. In the subsequent editions, we hope to bring to you case studies and success stories of the impacts.

RESILIENCE THROUGH REFORMS

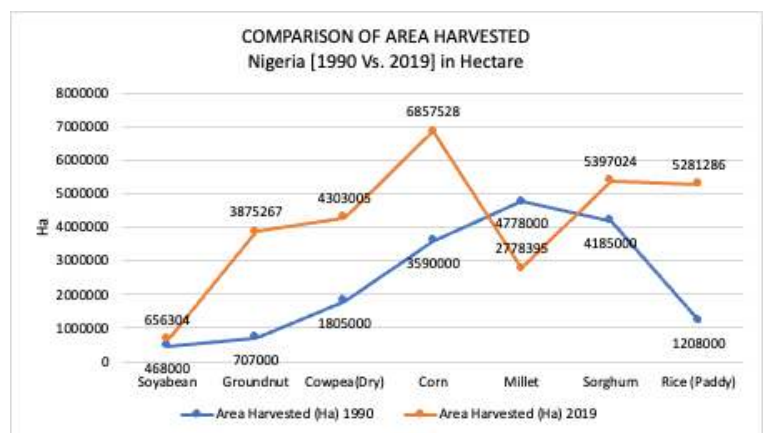
Numerous World Bank analyses have highlighted Nigeria's potential to accelerate growth through increased private investment in agribusiness in conflict-afflicted areas like NE. Agriculture continued to be the most resilient sector during COVID-19, which grew by 2.3 per cent in the last quarter [First Qtr of 2021] with expansion in staple foods like rice, maize, beans, and cassava for domestic consumption. It suggests that to reduce inflation, protect the poor, and support recovery as a medium-term priority, Nigeria needs subsidized CBN lending schemes for the agriculture sector. (WB, June 2021)

Considered as a food deficit country 72 per cent Nigerian population is employed in the agriculture sector, which is the mainstay of its economy. As an economic growth driver government of Nigeria envisions transforming agriculture as a sustainable and profitable sector by working on technology transfer and food security (ICF 2014).

Nigeria has almost 50 per cent of the female population, and most under 30, one in five households is headed by a woman, with prevalent inequalities and poverty in North East (ICF 2014). Nigerian farmers face frequent problems related to low agriculture productivity and inadequate access to; technology, financial capital, transportation, storage, and processing facilities. Poor maternal nutrition, suboptimal infant feeding practices, and poor access to nutritious food are the major underlying causes of child undernutrition and death.

A total of 37% of Nigerian children <5 years age are stunted, 17.8 million people are severely food insecure, and 24.6 million undernourished (2017-2019 avg), 50% of women of reproductive age (15-49 yrs) are anaemic (FAOSTAT, 2019).

Nigeria's agriculture input usage rates remain among the lowest in the world, which was 50 per cent of the agricultural households (NBS, 2016). Key challenges are the outreach of marginalized farmers in getting agricultural extension services. The important interventions should be related to agri-infrastructure, transportation, financial support and better agriculture education. The inclusive role of women is crucial in agriculture production as they generally are devoid of extension services, land rights, and credit facilities. (Journal of IAEE Volume 27, Issue 4, Dec 2020).



For instance above FAO data (2019) shows that the millet production in Nigeria has gone down substantially in the last few decades, which is a climate-resilient crop. Therefore, millet has been one of the key focus crops of the programme.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF NIGERIA INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE ACTIVITY

- ▶ 104,054 participants registered in on-line database of 62,666 farming households in 12 LGAs of Adamawa and Borno.
- ▶ 1,065 Community-Based Seed Producers-CBSP trained with National Agricultural Seed Council-NASC, on seed production, linked to key research institutes, now producing certified seeds.
- ▶ 52,734 smallholder farmers, 48 Extension Agents, 43 agro-input dealers trained on improved crop production & management practice post soil analysis and crop model simulations (DSSAT) resulted in a 39 per cent average annual increase in farmers' yield.
- ▶ 539 demonstration plots developed on 7 focus crops across 12 implementing LGAs, used for practical demonstration to farmers.
- ▶ 1,200 women trained in homestead garden, and 34 cooking demonstration sessions on complementary food for children 6-23 months carried out.
- ▶ 4,896 youth and women trained in production and enterprise activities in the priority crops and livestock value chains, non-farm enterprises, farm machine operations, farm machinery repairs, farm equipment fabrication, etc.
- ▶ 25,472 smallholder farmers under the process of registration in Anchor's Borrowers Programme with CBN to get farm credit.
- ▶ 161 Savings and Internal Lending Community-SILCs have been formed and mobilized \$23,275 loan among group members.
- ▶ 36,000 children under 5 age measured for mid-upper circumference on nutrition status.
- ▶ 243 women trained in goat-rearing in pilot LGA, Gombi in Adamawa.

[July 2019-May 2021]





AGRICULTURAL INPUTS FAIR IN BORNO & ADAMAWA NIGERIA

In its effort to encourage farmers to adopt improved agriculture technologies, promote the use of certified seeds for better yield, and develop a network between farmers and agricultural inputs dealers, USAID, through the Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity, organized Agricultural Inputs Fair in Adamawa and Borno states of Nigeria. The fair was organized in collaboration with the Adamawa and Borno states' Ministry of Agriculture, National Agricultural Seed Council NASC, and other development partners like OXFAM and FAO.

A total of 1510 Smallholder farmers (689 from Adamawa and 821 from Borno) 119 community-based seed producers, 6 private sector seed companies, 57 Government staff, 84 local representatives, 12 Agro input suppliers, and 9 mechanical service providers participated during the Agricultural Input Fairs at 3 locations in both the states. The Community Seed Producers sold a total of 6.2 tons of seeds during the Agriculture Input Fair held at Yola, Song and Biu.

The Smallholder Farmers and Community Based Seed Producers from 12 LGAs of Adamawa and Borno participated in the Agricultural Input Fair to showcase and sell their certified seeds. The participating farmers were from 7 LGAs of Adamawa State; Gombi, Hong, Song, Yola South, Fufore, Guyuk and Demsa, and 5 LGAs of Borno State – Biu, Hawul, Kwaya Kusar, Shani and Bayo.





AGRICULTURAL INPUTS FAIR ADAMAWA 1-3 JUNE, 2021



Hon. Commissioner for Agriculture Adamawa with Chief of Party IAA



Community Based Seed Producers



Products of Input and Equipment Supplier Companies and Certified Seeds of Community Based Seed Producers



Women Entrepreneurs

SNAPSHOTS

- 716 Small Holder Farmers
- 60 Community Based Seed Producers
- 40 government officials
- 35 local representatives
- 15 Pvt. sector companies, input dealers
- Mechanical service providers
- 2.2 tons of Improved Certified Seeds of Cowpea, Groundnut, Maize, Millet, Rice Sorghum, Soybean Sold



AGRICULTURAL INPUT FAIR IN: ADAMAWA, NIGERIA

1-2 JUNE 2021, MAHMUD RIBADU SQUARE, YOLA
3 JUNE 2021, SONG PRESIDENTIAL LODGE, SONG LGA

In Yola Agricultural Inputs Fair 1-3 June 2021 was inaugurated by the Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture Adamawa state with the active participation of 716 smallholder farmers, 60 community seed producers, 40 government officials, 35 local representatives, 15 private sector companies, key input dealers and mechanical service providers and attendees from various stakeholder groups. The Community Based Seed Producers from 7 LGAs of Adamawa state sold about 2.2 tons of improved certified seeds of cowpea, groundnut, maize, millet, rice Sorghum, and Soyabean during the fair in Yola.

In his welcome address, the Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity's Chief of Party, Mr Prakash Kant Silwal thanked everyone for their active participation. He stated that "everyone participating is a stakeholder as everyone has a farming background."

He added that about 35,000 farming households had been trained on good agronomic practices, including 1,100 lead farmers in certified seeds production business. This will revolutionize agriculture in the NE region and enable farmers' access to certified seeds within their locality.

In his keynote address, the Adamawa state's Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture said the Agricultural inputs fair aims at bringing improved agricultural inputs to the doorsteps of the local farmers. He added that food insecurity is a key challenge while agriculture is the only solution to food security, employment, and livelihood in the region. Hence, it is one of the engines of economic recovery, hence the Government's collaboration with the private sector in organizing such an event.

YOLA & SONG FAIR



← Input dealers & IAA entrepreneurs selling products during Fair ↑



IAA, Team members with dignitaries



AGRICULTURAL INPUTS FAIR BORNO 8-9 JUNE, 2021

SNAPSHOTS

850 smallholder farmers

72 Community Based Seed Producers

70 Government Officials & Dignitaries

17 Pvt. Sector Companies, Input dealers Mechanical service providers

4 tons of Improved Certified Seeds of Groundnut, Maize, Rice, and Soyabean



Community Based Seed Producers in Biu Fair



HRH Mustafa Umar Mustafa-II Emir of Biu, Borno



Selling Certified Seeds; Community Based Seed Producers at Biu, Borno



Agriculture input seller during Biu Fair



Alhaji Ibrahim Haruna, Chairman Biu LGA with CoP IAA



AGRICULTURAL INPUT FAIR IN: BORNO, NIGERIA

8-9 JUNE 2021, BIU LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUEST LODGE , BIU

Funded under USAID Feed the Future Nigeria program the Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity IAA and its partners organized Agricultural Inputs Fair at Biu, in Borno Nigeria 8-9 June 2021. The fair was attended by HRH Mustafa Umar Mustafa-II Emir of Biu, Alhaji Ibrahim Haruna LGA Chairman (Biu), with Mr Prakash Kant Silwal the Chief of Party CoP for Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity.

Among 70 local dignitaries and government representatives, 72 community-based seed producers, 850 smallholder farmers, 17 private sector companies, agro-input dealers, and mechanical service providers participated in the Agricultural Inputs Fair, including 12 partners. Of the total community seed producers, half were women entrepreneurs. The Community Seed Producers from 5 LGAs of Borno sold about 4 tons of certified improved seeds of groundnut, maize, rice, and Soyabean.

Mr Prakash Kant Silwal, Chief of Party IAA, welcomed all dignitaries and participants and explained to them the objective of the fair with key achievements of the IAA program in 5 LGAs of Borno state since Aug 2019. He said, "the objective of the IAA is to bring every stakeholder on board, share knowledge and facilitate partnership through climate-smart agriculture while innovating and integrating agri-extension, technology, and market linkage to smallholder farmers for inclusive food security and economic recovery in the NE Nigeria."

HRH Mustafa Umar Mustafa-II Emir of Biu highly commended the idea of IAA for organizing an Agricultural Inputs Fair by gathering local seed producers and market players at one place in a time when farmers need seeds for their wet season sowing. He also appreciated the role of IITA for floating the knowledge of modern technologies for holistic agriculture development in Borno. He added that farming is the primary occupation of local people, and IAA has helped them do it the right way for increased yield. He recalled IITA's efforts for initiating the first agriculture promotion programme in Biu 20 years back and said that the legacy continues. HRH also highlighted the higher farm production in Biu LGA than any other LGA in Borno state, helping neighbouring states like Yobe and Gombe.

In his goodwill message, Alhaji Ibrahim Haruna LGA Chairman (Biu) thanked the IAA for holding the fair and the positive impact of IITA's work for more than 20 years in the Biu LGA. He encouraged that youth should embrace agriculture as a means of livelihood.



IAA team member during Biu Fair



Community Based Seed Producers at Biu Fair



DEMONSTRATION OF HOMESTEAD GARDEN DEVELOPMENT

Wurojabbe, Yola South LGA, Adamawa, Nigeria



Mbasiti Swede-Nutrition Liaison Officer, IAA Nigeria, explaining the process



35 women group members participated in this one day exercise of homestead garden demonstration at Wurojabbe community.



Seed spacing training



Demonstration plot ready

HOMESTEAD GARDEN

Utilizing space around a house as small-scale production system, supplying vegetables and limited crops for the consumption of the family. It focuses on food crop production near the house, easily manageable and without travelling long distances to buy food and economic gains by selling it to local community people.

Demo Location: Aisha Aminu house



DEMONSTRATION

NUTRITION COUNSELLING

..HEALTHY MEAL PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN



Omolola, Nutrition Manager explaining with a National counselling card, made for the community workers about the importance of healthy children meal



Meal preparation by women group members



Ready to eat nutritious meal



Demonstration on feeding the meal

NUTRITION: Malnutrition is most severe in North-East Nigeria, i.e. double the other parts of Nigeria. Diets are generally poor and inadequate in nutrients with 50 per cent of the children under five are chronically malnourished. The problem is being addressed through this programme.

Demo Location: Wurojabbe Community, Yola South LGA, Adamawa, Nigeria



Through its Feed the Future Nigeria program, the United States Agency for International Development USAID works on inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led economic growth by developing resilience and a well-nourished population of men, women and children in Borno and Adamawa states. Towards economic recovery, it emphasizes smallholder farmers, improving agriculture inputs and extension advisory, strengthening institutions and market system, and involving youth and women in entrepreneurial activities.

FIRST EDITION

30 JUNE 2021

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