



FEED THE FUTURE

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

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IAA Trains 147 Livestock Farmers in Agro-Veterinary Products/Vaccines Handling, Storage and Inoculation in Livestock and Livestock Management

USAID through its Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity continue to support smallholder farmers in Adamawa and Borno States. On the 8th and 9th of December 2021, the Activity through one of the implementing partners, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) trained 147 livestock farmers in agro-veterinary products/vaccines handling, storage and inoculation in livestock and livestock management. The training took place in Fufore, Yola South LGA of Adamawa; and Bayo and Shani LGA of Borno state.

Participants, under the facilitation of Veterinary Technologist, Sa'adu Usman, learnt the classification of drugs based on their functions in livestock management - antibiotics, antifungal, antiprotozoans, antihelmintic drugs, analgesics, poison antidotes, disinfectant and antiseptics drug resistance as well as factors influencing drug-resistance. They were also taught general rules of drug administration in livestock management, precaution on drug administration in livestock management, inoculation in livestock



Classroom sessions at the Livestock Management Training in Yola South Local Government Area, Adamawa State



Participants asking questions during the interactive sessions in Fufore Local Government Area, Adamawa State.

management alongside common antibiotic drugs of veterinary importance. Also, the attendees were exposed to vaccines and vaccination in livestock, routes of vaccines administration and type of vaccines, worm-expellers, thermometers, needles, and syringe usage.

The classroom sessions provided participants with the opportunity to ask the facilitators varied questions on the rearing and caring for domesticated animals. The training concluded with practical sessions wherein participants worked on live animals.



Lead Veterinary Technologist, Sa'adu Usman explains to participants signs and symptoms of some livestock diseases during the practicals.

of her plants to flooding. She recovered just 1½ bags on a 50x50m plot of land and moved into dry season farming. Again, she lost her crops to drought but narrowly redeemed her 25kilogrammes of seed to the Activity.

Regardless of her losses, the Activity remained supportive by providing the determined farmer with seeds again in 2021! By the end of the dry season harvest in 2021, Ms. Teneke had multiplied her seeds on two hectares of land. While the expectation was 60-100bags, she harvested 240 bags of rice. She has become a renowned seed producer in her local government and beyond, especially

with the preferred variety. Ms. Teneke admits that the Activity's efforts at providing increased access to quality agricultural inputs for farmers in Nigeria's northeast have brought changes into her life and family. Not only has she become a better rice farmer, but the 7-figure income realized from rice farming has also enabled her to erect a 2-bedroom apartment in her village. Her resilience and remarkable support from the Activity have spurred her husband and children into owning and benefitting from their rice farmlands. She looks forward to more partnerships with the Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity in the coming years.



Mrs. Teneke gladly shows off her full rice barn

IAA's Support for a Farmer's Resilience



Mrs. Vastina Nashe Teneke is not a stranger to farming. At 7-years-old, Grandma Teneke had her portion on her father's farmland with which she grew vegetables. As a 58-year-old with a master's degree in Wildlife Conservation, Mrs. Teneke understands that farming is a seasonal business that requires enormous tenacity to have a great harvest.

In 2020, when Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity visited her community in Demsa Local Government Area of Adamawa State to conduct training on rice farming, she decided to focus majorly on the crop.

She was fortunate to be selected among the few community-based seed producers trained by the Activity and the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC) in improved seed production and marketing techniques. Ms. Teneke was particularly attracted to the Faro 61 variety which the Activity supplied to all the Community-Based Seed Producers. She described the variety as not just rare but also unique in terms of its length and how much it tillers. That same year, she was given 25kilogrammes of rice seeds for multiplication. Despite following all the stipulated agronomic practices for cultivating the crop, she lost most

Multiplying IAA's Opportunities: Voro's Maize Story

Not everyone understands the process of transforming a seed of maize into a cob. As an experienced maize farmer, Nathaniel Voro, 38, seems to have mastered the art of multiplying maize seeds as well as opportunities. Voro was privileged to attend two Feed the Future Integrated Agriculture Activity training on improved agricultural practices. Afterwards, as a lead farmer, he received two 5kg seed bags (Sammaz 15 and 27) to plant on the demonstration plot (demo-plot) being managed by him. With other kinds of maize seeds, Voro would normally harvest 7-8 bags but with strict compliance to the practices learnt, he got 17 bags.



Voro's family and some of the bags of maize harvested



Voro's newly acquired thresher and water pump

Like other farmers, Voro's story did not terminate in having a bountiful harvest. From the money realized by selling some of his harvest produce, Voro purchased a water pump in preparation for the dry season rice farming. Ultimately, he bought a new maize threshing machine which he leases out to other farmers at N300 per bag. Now, farmers in Lawaru, a suburb in Demsa Local Government Area of Adamawa State knock on his door for his thresher.

Voro's greatest joy lies in the enrolment of his first child in a private school in a nearby city. This happened because he had enough income from his harvest to invest in his child. He hopes that he makes more money next farming season so that he can enroll his other two children in private schools. More importantly, he wishes his connection with the Activity stays strong.

Becoming More Economically Relevant

The many efforts of Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity in assisting smallholder farmers to achieve increased agriculture production and productivity has been quite remarkable since July 2019 when the Activity made its debut in Adamawa and the Borno States. However, the Activity's performance is not limited to smallholder farmers alone, as it has also contributed to supporting increased income and improved nutritional status of farmers along with encouraging participation of youth, women and other vulnerable actors in commercial agribusiness and other non-farm enterprises.

As a result of the Activity's numerous interventions, 30-year-old Mohammed Bashir was privileged to benefit from the non-farm enterprises' scheme. An indigene of Gudun-Miya village in Song LGA of Adamawa State, Mohammed works as Vulcanizer. Before getting trained by the Activity, Mohammed earned about N700 - N1,000 on daily basis and up to N2,000 on market days; money that could barely sustain the secondary school certificate holder.

Between March and May 2021, Mohammed along with 24 other young people from his LGA enrolled in a vocational skills apprenticeship training under a Mechanic Master Trainer who specializes in repairing motorcycles, water pumps and power generators. With a lot of hard work, Mohammed acquired the technical skills to fix power generators, motorcycles as well as water pumps.

Unlike before, Mohammed's source of income is no longer limited to his vulcanizer job where he earns a meagre income. Apart from vulcanizing, he is highly sought after for his ability to repair motorcycles, water pumps and generators. Interestingly, his average daily income now stands at between N3,000 and N6,000. This amount increases on market days and festive periods. Not only does he make more now, but Mohammed is also able to save between N18,000 to N20,000 monthly. According to Mohammed, Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity has helped him to be more economically relevant to society and more responsible for the needs of his family.



Mohammed at his generator workshop

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

CONTACT

Prakash Kant Silwal

Principal Specialist/Chief of Party

Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity

IITA-Abuja, Beside Old Water Works, Kubwa

PMB 82 901101, Abuja FCT, Nigeria

Mobile: +234-9062927839

Email: P.Silwal@cgiar.org

www.iita.org

www.feedthefuture.gov

