



FEED THE FUTURE

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

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Recounting the Successes of the 2022 Agricultural Inputs Fair

USAID-funded Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity had its second annual Agricultural Inputs Fair between May 9 and 20, 2022. As an improvement on the maiden edition at 3 locations, the Fair was held at Yola (9 & 10), Song (11 & 12) and Demsa (13 & 14) LGAs in Adamawa State while in Borno, Biu (16, 17, & 18) and Shani (19 & 20) LGAs hosted the event, a total of 5 locations.

Unlike 2021, the Fair had more people in attendance. A total of 4, 272 people graced the occasion in both states compared with last year's attendance of about 1, 796 people. The opening ceremonies at the different venues had people from different walks of life. The increase in the number of dignitaries at the Fair was evident.

Also, more community-based seed producers were present. 4, 091 of them made it to the Fair.

More important to note is the increase in sales. During the 2021 Agricultural Inputs Fair, 6,002 kilograms of seeds were sold. In 2022, the number increased of kilograms sold increased to 8, 721. These seeds include rice, maize, millet, sorghum, groundnut, cowpea, and soybeans.

Ultimately, the aim of making improved seeds available to smallholder farmers in these vicinities was achieved. Most farmers who patronized vendors at the Fair admitted that IAA brought to their doorstep inputs they would travel far to purchase.



2022
**QUICK
FACTS
AGRICULTURAL
STATS**



Number of Participants

4,272



Seeds Sold (Kilogram)

8,721



Pesticides Sold (Liter)

786



Fertilizers Sold (Kilogram)

33,650



Herbicides Sold (Liter)

7,119



Participants at the 2022 Agricultural Inputs Fair



"I bought rice, maize and soybean seeds...and at an affordable prize too."

**- MALLAM ISA ADAMU,
BIU, BORNO STATE.**

"My company made it to all the venues of the Fair. We engaged a lot of customers and smiled to the bank"

**- REPRESENTATIVE,
ALBIT & AGRO CONSULT LTD**



"It's usually difficult to get this kind of fertilizer in my community. So happy to find it here"

**- ZAINAB MUSA,
SONG, ADAMAWA STATE.**



"I didn't mind the distance. I came for the seeds "

**- LAWAN MOHAMMED,
SHANI, BORNO STATE.**





“IAA helped increase my popularity”

– Community Headmaster

54-year-old Ibrahim Ali-Diwar is the headmaster of a primary school in the Maina-Hari suburb in Biu, Borno State. Beyond being an experienced village teacher, Ibrahim is popular for his amazing yield during the last planting season.

“They spied on my lush vegetation and encouraged others to come to see how plenteous the plants were. Their farms were nothing close to mine in terms of the yield. They were already booking for seeds before harvest”, recounted Ibrahim proudly.

Prior to this farming success, Ibrahim had been exposed to training in good agricultural practices (GAP) in 2020. Also, he had access to quality improved maize seeds courtesy of the Activity. He planted 10-12 bowls (mudu) and harvested almost 45 bags compared to the 25 bags of maize he used to harvest. Proceeds from the harvest have been directed at training his children and completing his three bedroom apartments.

Ibrahim, the husband of 4 wives and father of 25 children admitted that he can conveniently feed his family now. He says

his family consumes three bags of maize monthly and thirty-six bags yearly.

“During Iftar, people usually bring food to my family because they know I have several mouths to feed. The story is different now. I am the one giving out food to the less privileged in the community.”

Ibrahim is a community-based seed producer with Integrated Agriculture Activity. Members of his community depend on him for improved and high-yielding seeds. He participated in the 2021 and 2022 IAA Inputs Fairs as a seed vendor.



Ibrahim in his maize store



Vala SILC Group: Taking Saving for the Rainy Day Seriously

Integrated Agriculture Activity (IAA) beneficiaries in the intervention local government areas of Adamawa and Borno are usually not just grateful for the impactful agriculture, nutrition, and entrepreneurial interventions that the Activity has brought their way. They are also grateful for SILC – Savings and Internal Lending Communities.

This cluster of 8-25 individuals encourages saving and borrowing from a common purse in order to attend to their personal needs. After several rounds of contributions, a share-out is done. The share-out marks the completion of the saving cycle. Profit made by the group is then shared.



Members of the Vala SILC group during their meeting.

Under IAA, there are about 130 SILCs in Adamawa and Borno States. Amazingly, each group is breaking new grounds in terms of the kind of help they render to their members. The Vala SILC group in Kala Community, Hong LGA, Adamawa State is taking the concept of saving to a whole new level. Formed in August 2021, the group had an initial membership of 15 people majorly smallholder farmers and traders. The group's membership soon increased to 25. As their membership grew, so did their contribution. They contributed a whopping N7, 730, 500.

With the amazing contribution, Vala SILC group agreed to invest part of the money.

“The wisest thing to do at that time was to buy maize grains and store them up for sale during the off-season when the price must have probably doubled.

Good enough, I have very supportive members so they bought the idea especially when they realized that it will help increase our share-out before the next planting season”, says the group’s chairman, Mr. Maxwell Hensley.

The group bought N255,000 worth of maize grains at N17,000 per bag. They also brought Miafuron 75 Wg (Herbicide) 40 liters for the members in preparation of the 2022 rainy season. A total sum of N830,000 was given to Vala SILC members as loan facilities for farming and petty trading.

“I am happy I joined the group. Big thanks to IAA. They encouraged my saving culture a lot. My ‘kosai’ business has expanded. I am willing to go over the processes again and again”, says member, Christy Yaduma.



Vala SILC group members display the maize they bought for storage and later sale



"How IAA opened my door to success". – Borno Farmer

Saidu Adamu, 47, owns an agrochemical shop in Biu, Borno State. This business is one of his many achievements since he encountered the USAID-funded Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity in 2020.

"People thought IAA was giving me a salary. I opened my shop and bought a house about a year after. They were so surprised. They wanted to know the source of my success", said Saidu.

Saidu got his first training in good agricultural practices (GAP) in 2020 and subsequently, in 2021. According to Saidu, he learned about proper spacing for crops, a technique he was not used to. He was also exposed to improved seeds. Ordinarily, he would plant just any kind of seeds not knowing the difference.

On a hectare of land, Saidu planted 20kg of Soybeans. He harvested 14 bags compared to the previous 7 bags he got from the land. Sales were so good (he sold each bag for N41,000); he was tempted to sell everything. However, he reserved a bag for the following planting season.

With such profit, Saidu rented a shop and started trading in agrochemicals. The rest is history. Paying school fees for his 11 children has become much easier. His societal status has also changed.

"Even if IAA leaves Borno State, the knowledge they impacted will remain with me forever. I am fully equipped with the knowledge of farming soybeans, maize, and rice. All thanks to them", Saidu said.



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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