



FEED THE FUTURE

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

Nigeria Integrated
Agriculture Activity
Newsletter, August 2022,
15th Edition



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

IITA
Transforming African Agriculture





3

Integrated Agriculture Activity
Establishes Demonstration Plots

4

USAID MELSA Team
Commends IAA

5

Farmers Doing Great Things
Together

6

Beneficiaries of IAA Goat
Management and Para-vet Services
Training Count their Blessings

8

IAA trains SILC Group Members in
Business Plan Writing

9

“IAA taught me a better way
to raise chickens.”- Poultry Farmer

10

About the Activity/
Contact





Integrated Agriculture Activity Establishes Demonstration Plots

A total of 515 demonstration plots (demo plots) have been established by Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity as part of efforts to show practical application of improved farming practices and new technologies as well as encourage adoption of such practices by networked farmers. Situated in the 12 intervention local government areas of Adamawa and Borno States, each demonstration plot measures 20cm X 30cm. The 7 focus crops (cowpea, soybeans, groundnut, rice, maize, millet, and sorghum) of the Activity are cultivated on these pieces of land with the purpose of validating the importance of climate-smart, good agricultural practices on the eventual yield.

Farmers are shown step-by-step procedures such as land preparation, seed cleaning and dressing, soil fertility enhancement, pest and disease control, and other important practices that will promote abundant and quality harvest. These farmers will then duplicate these processes on the farmlands. The demo plots are monitored and supervised by Technical Field Officers and Extension Agents.



IAA's Technical Field Officer, Habibullahi Ibrahim, and Extension Agent, Ahmed Shelleng, inspect a maize-cowpea intercrop demo plot in Kalaa community, Hong LGA, Adamawa State.





USAID MELSA TEAM COMMENDS IAA

During the visit, the delegation conducted desk review and inspection of data collection facilities including registers, devices and the filling system. The team also visited one of the Activity's facilities at Parakuyo community, Guyuk LGA, Adamawa state where they met with Nutrition Promoters and Nutrition Liaison Officers. For the DQA sessions in Adamawa and Borno, the team validated the Q1 and Q2 reported data for the current fiscal year. The data were adjudged to be valid, relevant, accurate and submitted very timely.

The USAID Monitoring and Evaluation Learning Services Activity (MELSA) team has commended Integrated Agriculture Activity for its data management structure. The Activity was also appreciated for its effort at building the capacity of the Activity's data collectors consisting of the Data Clerks, Nutrition Promoters, Nutrition Liaison Officers, Extension Agents, and Filed Agents.

The USAID team headed by Dr. Andrew Edungbola came on a Data Quality Assessment (DQA) visit to the Activity's Yola office.



IAA M & E Manager, Mr. Kehinde Oteju, introducing one of the data collection tools to Dr. Andrew Edungbola of MELSA during the DQA session in Yola, Adamawa.



DQA session with Nutrition Promoters in Purokayo community, Guyuk LGA, Adamawa State.

Subsequently, the IAA M&E team joined other USAID Implementing Partners at a meeting in Maiduguri, Borno State on the 18th of August, 2022 where the MELSA team concluded the DQA exercise and gave a brief of some of their findings. The IAA data management system was showcased to be a very good model.





Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) may be majorly about saving and loan facilities but it is also about togetherness, especially for members of the Farmers Association SILC group in Kwaya, Kwaya Kusar Local Government Area, Borno State. Formed on May 6, 2021, the group is made up of 30 members. As an avenue for social cohesion, these 30 individuals have found financial and emotional solace in joining the group.

“I am amazed by the commitment of each member of our group. The bond is getting stronger by the day. It is also surprising how we are growing to understand and trust one another” said member, Bukar Idrisa.

In preparation for the wet season, the group purchased farm inputs including 7 bags of maize, 36 bottles of herbicides, 44 bottles of Glycine, and 21 sachets of Atrazine for N300,000, all from their saving. These items were then sold to members at subsidized rates and non-members at market rates.

“I think this is really remarkable. We have always wanted to purchase farm inputs. This time it is possible because of the cooperation of members. We got the right quantity and at the right time too”, said maize and cowpea farmer, Mazu Mohammed.

The Chairman of the group also acknowledged how effective the group has been in ensuring that everyone



FARMERS DOING GREAT THINGS TOGETHER

stays knitted together even when their unity is threatened. The purchase of farm inputs, especially, has brought the people closer.

“I discussed the idea with my group members but I had to confirm with the Field Agent, Lami Amos if the idea was acceptable under the Integrated Agriculture Activity SILC methodology. After confirmation, we set out to work on the idea. This act has brought about trust among the people. Also, everyone respects my leadership more now. No doubt, we are going to do this for the dry season”, said Chairman Mohammed Bukar.





Beneficiaries of IAA Goat Management and Para-vet Services Training Count their Blessings

Apart from assisting smallholder farmers to achieve increased agriculture production and productivity, USAID-funded Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity also helps to ensure that these farmers and their families increase their economic as well as nutritional status. Rearing goats, for instance, is one of the avenues through which

women, especially, can increase their income and improve their family's nutrition. IAA has been at the forefront of training men and women in goat management and para-vet services in the 12 intervention LGAs of Adamawa and Borno States. A total of 578 individuals have been trained on goat management by the Activity.

No-More Loss



43-year-old Hajia Halima Hassan is a resident of Teli Community, Bayo LGA, Borno State. In December 2021, Halima was trained in goat management and para-vet services.

“Before the training, I lost 4 goats to sicknesses. I tried all the local remedies at my disposal. Yet, they died. I was scared of the remaining goats. Each year, I expect that at least two of my goats will die”, recounted Halima.

During the training, the mother of 5 learned how to manage the hygiene of her livestock.





She also learned how and when to vaccinate her domestic animals. Most importantly, she learned about the right nutrition for her goats.

“My goats are healthy. None has died since the training. None is sick. They used to fall sick frequently but that was before.

The ability to quickly identify disease symptoms and the appropriate remedy is helping me a lot. IAA, I thank you.”

Halima sold 3 of her goats in July 2022 during the Id-El Kabir celebration at N30,000 each. She currently has 15 goats.

Increase Only



Ms. Rabi Madu has always had an interest in rearing goats. The only problem was that the 45-year-old mother of 6 didn't know how or where to start. She admired people who had many goats in her Kidam Community, Hawul LGA, Borno State. However, in August 2021, Rabi was privileged to be part of the goat management and para-vet services training. After the training, Rabi was encouraged to buy three does.

“I bought the small goats for N25,000. I am so happy to see them do so well.

The first three have all given birth to young ones. Seeing them healthy has made me buy more goats. Altogether, I have 13 goats and I am so proud”, admitted Rabi.

Rabi finds the training extremely helpful as she can administer medications to the goats by herself. More importantly, she says IAA taught her the business angle of goat-rearing. “People ask me if I am willing to sell my billy-goats. I tell them no. The bigger, the better. I know I will definitely make more money when they are bigger.





IAA trains SILC Group Members in Business Plan Writing

As part of efforts to empower more beneficiaries, USAID-funded Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity has trained members of the Lamtada A&B SILC groups of Saminaka community, Yola South, Adamawa State in business plan writing. The training which took place on the 18th of August had The 81 Members (Female: 73, Male 8) of the Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC) group who are majorly farmers and petty traders.

IAA's Market Systems and Livelihood Specialist, Mr. Basse Archibong explained that the purpose of the training is to acquaint the beneficiaries with the tenets of business development relative to their immediate environment as well as provide the necessary support for their micro-enterprises.

"We assist them with an executive

summary, product and service description, market research, marketing sales strategy, organizational structure, financial projection, record keeping, and emphasize the importance of a business plan".

One of the trainers, IAA's Business Development Officer, Mr. Sini Luwa Ndzahea, stated that the training exposes the participants to indicators of the period of surplus resources and scarce resources due to some of their livelihood activities, and how best to allocate and manage resources within season and off-season.

"This is exactly what I need at this stage of my cosmetic business. If only I knew how to write a business plan earlier. My small business wouldn't have missed so many opportunities", said Hassana Barkindo, a local cosmetics maker.





“IAA taught me a better way to raise chickens.” - Poultry Farmer

67-year-old Ms. Kubili Daud is a native of Biu, Biu LGA, Borno State. She started raising chickens over a decade ago. Like most people, the retired grandmother ventured into this ‘lucrative’ business without prior training.

“I had money. What came to mind was poultry farming. I had a lot of friends in the business so the right thing to do was join the ‘gang’ of poultry farmers. Unfortunately, I was wrong. The knowledge I had of poultry-keeping was inadequate”, lamented Kubili.

Kubili had bought about 1,500 layers. She depended on people’s guidance and managed to groom them to maturity. At some point, she would retrieve about 15-16 crates of eggs. Then, production continued to dwindle until all she got was just half a crate. When she got tired of the poor production rate, she decided to dispose of the chickens to households in the neighbourhood at very reduced

prices. She felt a great sense of loss!

In 2020, Kubili was introduced to the USAID-funded Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity by a Community Development Officer (CDO). Subsequently, the Activity trained her in four different areas including animal fattening and poultry farming.

“I didn’t know that even antibiotics can kill birds. You need to tread softly when administering drugs. Mere abrupt change of feeds can affect your chickens. So, you need to introduce a new brand of feed to them gradually. Also, I learned how very important debeaking is to layers. All these and more IAA taught me, and I am indeed grateful for the knowledge”.

Kubili feels emboldened by the comprehensive training. She just purchased 200 ‘point of lay’ chickens. So far, she says the birds are doing well in terms of weight and general wellbeing although they are yet to start laying eggs.



Ms. Kubili Daud with her 200 chickens in Biu, Borno State.





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,

Abuja FCT, Nigeria

Mobile: +234-9062927839

Email: P.Silwal@cgiar.org

www.iita.org

www.feedthefuture.gov



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

