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

Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity Newsletter



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NIGERIA INTEGRATED
AGRICULTURE ACTIVITY
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ON YOUR MARKS! GET SET! EXPANDED SCOPE!

It's official! USAID is continuing its funding of Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity's impactful operations in Nigeria's northeast. The Activity started in July 2019 with a no-cost extension in 2021 and was expected to end in December 2022. In September 2022, arrangements were concluded between USAID and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) to expand the Activity's scope till December 2024.

With the expanded scope, the Activity will scale up interventions in seed system development in response to the secondary impacts of Ukraine-Russia conflicts in the existing states (Adamawa and Borno) and two more states (Gombe and Yobe). The Integrated Agriculture Activity (IAA) Community Seed Enterprise Model is also expected to continue in the extension. This model is in collaboration with the State Agricultural Development Programmes,

National Cereals Research Institute (NCRI), and the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC). In addition to seed systems as the major focus, households of the 2,250 Community-Based Seed Entrepreneurs (CBSEs) - 1,350 in Adamawa and Borno States, 450 each in Gombe and Yobe States - in these four states will benefit from the nutrition and gender components of the Activity.

During the extension phase, conscious efforts will be made to ensure that 40% of CBSEs are female with more emphasis on climate-smart and labor-saving technologies. Internally Displaced Persons will also receive priority. Meanwhile, the market system approach will remain relevant. More public and private partnerships will also be fostered in order to provide more support to the CBSEs such as the Activity's signature agricultural inputs fairs.



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Certified Seed Production: FMARD & NASC inspect IAA CBSP Seed Farms

In order to ensure compliance with genuine seed production procedures, officials of the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC) and Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) embarked on a field inspection tour of seed farms cultivated by Community-Based Seed Producers (CBSPs) under Integrated Agriculture Activity. The field inspection is a necessary routine check which precedes the certification of seeds produced by the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC).

The NASC and FMARD team consisting of



The NASC and FMARD team accompanied by the Borno State Coordinator (IAA), Mr. Ibrahim Kadafur (left) during the supervision of a cowpea farm in Biu, Borno State.

Mr. Ibi Luka Baba and Mr. Mohammed Yau Ahmed; Mr. Ayewale Ayeleke and Mr. Kingsley Onigwe; respectively commended the seed farms on good field management and expressed overall satisfaction on the state of the farms visited. However, they recommended that the CBSPs should carry out rouging of the seeds to enable the removal of undesirable features. They also advised that perimeter crops should be discarded.



The DCoP (IAA), Mr. Olukayode Faleti (third from left) leading a team of staff and the NASC/FMARD at a farm in Fufore LGA, Adamawa State.

Despite hindrances caused by flooding which prevented the teams from visiting all the farms, the teams supervised 307 CBSPs in Adamawa and 100 in Borno State. The inspection started on the 3rd of October through the 21st of the same month.



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“My SILC Group got me back on my feet”
- IDP

Since 2009, Boko Haram and other armed organized groups (AOGs) have been the bane of northeast Nigeria. Coupled with varied intercommunal clashes, about 2.9 million Nigerians (UNHCR Statistics) have been displaced. Hajia Rakiya Mohammed is one such Internally Displaced Person (IDP). From Maiduguri, she now resides in Ungwan Madu Ali, Grema Community in Kwaya Kusar LGA, Borno State.

“Life was very okay before the insurgents came. I had my little place for my local cap-making (Zanna Bukar) business. My customers knew when and where to find me. I was happy contributing my little quota to the family’s upkeep. My husband was happy. My children were happy until Boko Haram came and chased us out of our land, depriving us of our livelihood.”

The relocation was quite difficult for Rakiya and her family because she had to focus on farming full-time. Getting capital to return to her original business was not easy. Fortunately, Rakiya joined Godiya Savings and Internal Lending Community under the USAID-funded



Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity. She was able to get a N20, 000 loan from the group’s contribution which she added to profits from her harvest sales. She produced 3 pieces of native caps and within a period of 6 weeks, she made a profit of N40,000.

“I was so happy to be back to my original business. People saw what I was doing and how good I was at it. So many women showed interest and I decided to teach them for free! About 11 of them. They are now in the cap-making business. At the moment, I am training 45 participants in a local support programme and it has been quite fulfilling. I will forever be grateful to USAID, IITA, and IAA.”



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When Side Hustle Pays

53-year-old Mrs. Diya Audu Wandali is a Primary School Teacher who lives in Kwaya, Kwaya Kusar LGA, Borno State. Due to indebtedness caused by non-salary payments at some point in her career, Diya decided to try a side hustle. She picked up an interest in liquid soap-making and asked a woman in Abuja to teach her the processes involved.

Unfortunately, Diya's first trials at soap-making were not successful until she encountered the USAID-funded Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity team during a non-farm enterprise training in liquid soap and shampoo-making in September 2020. They took her and several others through a thorough step-by-step process.

"I started the business of making liquid soap and shampoo with N3,000. I produced every fortnight. I targeted the end of the month for production at the beginning because my main customers were my colleagues at work. Before I knew it, I was making N10, 200 as profit and funding my professional exams."

With her impressive performance as a soap and shampoo producer, Diya was invited by the Activity to learn the production of Tomapepo (a blend of tomatoes, pepper, and onions).



Mrs. Diya Audu during her early days of liquid soap and shampoo-production



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Unlike the soap and shampoo, I commenced the production of Tomapepo but did not start the sales until 4 months after. This is because I wanted to be sure that the product can actually be stored for that period as claimed by the trainers. Alas! You can even store it for up to 12 months!” Dija started her Tomapepo business fully in February 2022 and has since produced about 299 bottles for sale apart from those meant for her family’s consumption.

Through buying cheap raw materials, her total expenditure is NGN 94,040 with total sales pegged at NGN 324,000, and a profit of NGN 171,810. As her customer base continues to expand in Maiduguri and Abuja, Dija is investing more in her teaching career through her production business. She has also successfully registered her business with Nigeria’s Corporate Affairs Commission.



Mrs. Audu after producing some jars of Tomapepo at her home in Kwaya Kusar LGA, Borno State.



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“How IAA buttered my bread” – Keke Rider

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, 42.5% of young people in Nigeria, as of September 2022, are unemployed. Economic analysts blame the rise of unemployment in Nigeria on causes such as population explosion, corruption as well as unfavorable conditions for entrepreneurship. One of the key focus areas of USAID-funded Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity is to expose the youth population in the intervention states to productive economic resources.

27-year-old Rashid Yakubu, a resident of Hong LGA in Adamawa State, is one of the many youths who have benefited from our enterprise interventions. Rashid came in contact with the Activity in 2020 through a local association. Subsequently, he received training in animal fattening, poultry-keeping, and business plan writing.

With a partnership between the Integrated Agriculture Activity and Rural

Resilience Activity, Rashid and 171 others in Adamawa received a COVID-19 Enterprise Mitigation Fund.

“As if they knew I needed that grant badly. I had been eyeing a ‘Keke’ (tricycle) in my neighbourhood but I didn’t have the money to get one. When the N78,000 finally came, my brother was willing to add the remaining amount to purchase the tricycle. The grant made it possible to become a shareholder and an entrepreneur.”

Through the tricycle, Rashid realizes NGN5,000 daily. He is able to support his children’s school fees, buy seeds and implements for his farm, diversify into poultry-keeping and settle family emergencies.

“IAA really helped me improve my life. They buttered my bread. I can now dabble in bigger projects and employ a relief driver. I will forever be grateful to USAID and IITA!”



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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 small holder farmers disenfranchised by conflict; and facilitate the engagement of youth and women in economic and entrepreneurial activities

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