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## Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity Newsletter, 19th Edition, December 2022



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## NIGERIA INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE ACTIVITY NEWSLETTER, 19TH EDITION, DECEMBER 2022

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

**3 BANGLADESHI HIGH COMMISSIONER VISITS IITA**

**4 .... AND THE SEEDS ARE IN!**

**5 WOMEN & YOUTH: IAA'S CORE**

**7 CONCLUDING FY 2022 ANNUAL SURVEY DATA COLLECTION EXERCISE**

**8 MEET ONE OF IAA'S NUTRITION AMBASSADORS**

**9 ABOUT THE ACTIVITY/CONTACT**



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## BANGLADESHI HIGH COMMISSIONER VISITS IITA

The Bangladeshi High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr. Masudur Rahman, and his team paid a visit to the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) office in Abuja on the 21st of December 2022. The visit aimed at establishing bilateral ties with Nigeria through the renowned Agriculture organization. The High Commissioner was received by the Chief of Party, Integrated Agriculture Activity (IAA), Mr Prakash Kant Silwal; Executive Manager of Innovative Youth in Agriculture (I-Youth), Ms. Aline Mugisho; Research Associate, Mr. Alhebhoria Daniel; and IITA Field Security Coordinator, Captain Palash Abul-Kawsher (rtd).

In his remarks, Mr. Rahman said collaboration in digital agriculture and agribusiness

could be possible between the two countries. "Nigeria and Bangladesh have a long-standing relationship. We have been partnering in different areas including education and sports. Setting up a virtual interaction program between scientists at IITA and Bangladeshi businessmen and technology entrepreneurs would benefit immensely both countries", he said. According to him, a partnership in agriculture will be another cogent avenue through which diplomacy between the countries can be cemented.

Responding to the High Commissioner, the Chief of Party (IAA) highlighted the role of IITA in transforming African agriculture. Mr. Silwal also intimated how IITA through IAA is supporting smallholder farmers in the northeast.

He particularly mentioned the market approach and seed system as it relates to the seven focus crops of the Activity and how the Activity can boast of countless success stories. The Executive Manager (I-Youth) explained how IITA is passionate about empowering young people in agriculture. Ms. Mugisho stated that IITA continues to economically empower the youth in 28 African countries. She said IITA through I-Youth has mobilized projects worth millions of dollars for young people on the continent.

The IITA team promised the High Commissioner that the IITA senior management will be contacted on the request in order to work out possible collaborations.



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## ... AND THE SEEDS ARE IN!

Providing improved agro-input and extension advisory services is a key support given to smallholder farmers in Adamawa and Borno States by Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity. So far, 61,177 smallholder farmers have been trained in climate-smart and good agricultural practices (GAP). In addition, the Activity has trained 1,937 Community-Based Seed Producers in Seed Production. The efforts of the Activity do not terminate in mere training. It extends to making available seeds for these farmers.

Earlier in 2022, Community-Based Seed Producers (CBSPs) and partner seed companies in Adamawa and Borno States received genuine foundation and breeder seeds from Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity. The Activity sources these seeds and facilitates their distribution to this group of people as a kind of loan. However, the process of multiplying these seeds is left to the CBSPs and the seed companies but with a promise that the quantity of seeds collected will be returned to the Activity after harvest. The remittance for this year's seeds by the CBSPs and seed companies commenced in late November through December after the harvests.



Some of the bags of seeds remitted to the Activity



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## WOMEN & YOUTH: IAA'S CORE

Throughout FY 2022, Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity ensured the optimal engagement of women and young people in the 12 intervention LGAs of Adamawa and Borno States. 16,878 women and youth were added to the number of

beneficiaries of USG-assisted programs under the Activity. 15,077 of these stated totals are women. These beneficiaries received training in entrepreneurship with diversification in crops and livestock.

From this teeming population

of beneficiaries, the Activity has recorded at least 5,000 amazing success stories that encapsulate resilience, diligence, resourcefulness, and innovation. Mary and Zakaria are among the 5,000 successful entrepreneurs.

### MARIALLAR'S TOMAPEPO

Having moved from Michika LGA to Fufore LGA in Adamawa State, Mary Sabastine Waida refused to wear the label of a helpless internally displaced person (IDP). She wobbled through different petty trading until she was selected for the Activity's Tomapepo training in 2021.

"As much as I was grateful for the selection, I thought it was just another kind of training from an NGO. During the training, I immediately realized I was going to start doing Tomapepo (a blend of tomatoes, pepper, and onions). I told my friend with whom we went together that I was going to invest the little money I had saved in the

production. She thought I was joking until I bought the first basket of tomatoes, some pepper, and onions."

Mary started her Tomapepo business in Fufore and in a short while, she had customers up to Gurin, close to the Cameroonian border. Her Tomapepo business received so much patronage that she admitted that the business opened the door for a bigger venture – a restaurant. She now caters to indoor and outdoor meals.

"The Tomapepo business taught me important entrepreneurial lessons such as risk-taking and how to build and manage a customer base.

These are useful skills that are helping me in my food business. I have also dabbled into the sale of second-hand clothes because of the confidence I got in the other businesses. I am forever grateful to USAID, IITA, and IAA. I have suddenly become a responsible sibling because I can give money for school fees and other family needs." Through the facilitation of the Activity, Mary got her business registered with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN). She plans on registering with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) in the nearest future.



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Mary's certificate of registration with SMEDAN

## ZAKARIA BARBING SALON

Before 2021, 26-year-old Zakaria Fidelis was not certain of a path to a steady income. He depended on casual jobs to meet his daily needs. In 2021, he was privileged to be trained by the Activity in barbing during the vocational skills programme in Fufore LGA, Adamawa State.

"I had always wanted to be a barber but didn't know where to begin. I was so happy when

I heard I was shortlisted for the training programme. I knew I was just a step to getting money on a daily basis."

After the training, Zakaria saved money from his casual jobs and also got financial assistance from his religious assembly. This was enough to secure a space in a container as well as buy some tools for his barbing salon.

"From opening my salon till

now, I have enjoyed a lot of patronages. Money comes in on a regular basis and I am able to attend to family needs comfortably. I have also trained a couple of younger men. Some of them have started their barbing business too. I am indeed grateful to USAID, IITA, and IAA for opening a door for me. Also, I wouldn't have registered with SMEDAN if not for them. God bless them"



Zakaria's proof of registration with SMEDAN



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## FY 2022 ANNUAL SURVEY DATA COLLECTION EXERCISE

The Activity's Monitoring & Evaluation team has completed FY 2022 Annual Survey Data Collection in the 12 intervention LGAs of Adamawa (Yola South, Demsa, Fufore, Guyuk, Song, Hong, Gombi) and Borno (Biu, Kwaya Kusa, Hawul, Bayo, Shani). The annual survey helps to measure the achievements and results of the Activity in line with the project's annual Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). In all, 26 KPIs will be employed to measure the performance at different levels of output, outcome, and impact before the eventual submission to the donor, USAID.

With contracted consultancy

for the overall analysis, 43 enumerators were engaged to facilitate field data collection across the LGAs. These enumerators worked with 62,000 registered farmers in the 12 LGAs. Expected respondents were pegged at 1,603 with 1718 respondents eventually selected through a random sampling technique at a 2.5% margin of error and 95% confidence interval for the household-based survey. For the pre-test, 50 households were used. For the actual survey, a mixed method of research design was employed in obtaining data for the survey - primary and secondary data which are quantitative and

qualitative in nature. Meanwhile, STATA 15 and SPSS (software) were employed for the data analysis. All field works have been concluded, data collected analysed and preliminary report submitted by the consultant. This is being reviewed by the Activity's management and final report will be ready as soon as the reviews are completed.

On a continuous basis, the M&E team updates the Activity's training database, data entry of service delivery, and validation of active participants towards ensuring quality in data capturing and reporting.



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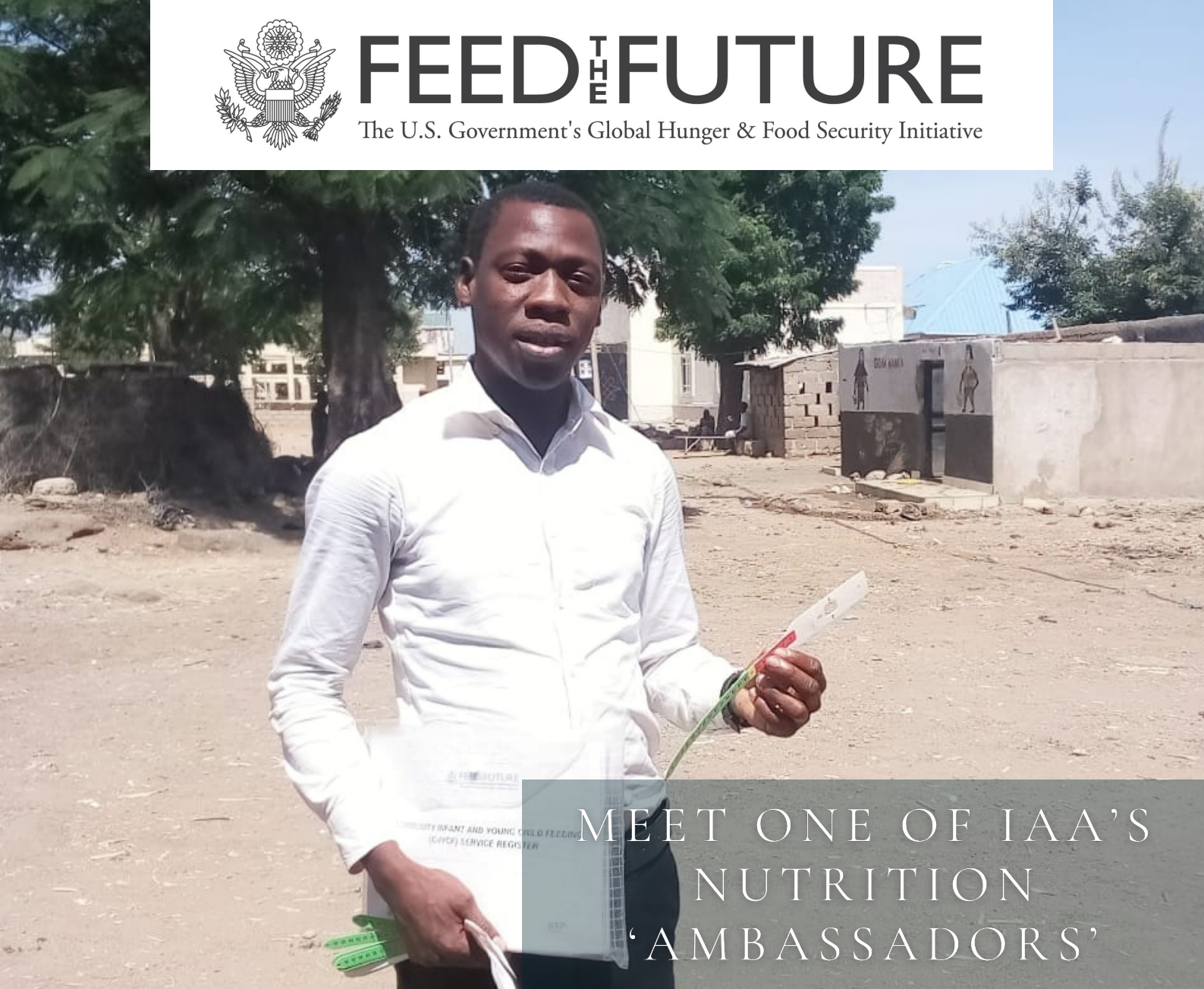
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## MEET ONE OF IAA'S NUTRITION 'AMBASSADORS'

Haruna Musa is a nutrition promoter in Miringa community, Biu LGA, Borno State. In late 2021, he was trained in Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF). Apart from being a crusader for excellent family nutrition, he started monthly visitations to his group members carrying out constant Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening for their children. This made him so popular in his community and earned him a spot at the local maternity clinic as a volunteer. The opportunity to assist the local maternity clinic helped

Haruna to propagate the gospel of nutrition. He was always willing to support mothers whose children suffered from moderate or acute malnutrition (SAM and MAM). "I just couldn't stand seeing children so underweight especially when I know that these families can still prepare their children nutritious meals from foods that are cheap and available in the communities. Most of these parents do not realize this until I counsel them and show them how easy it is to prepare these meals for the underfed

babies".

Due to Haruna's proactiveness in nutrition matters and his work for the Activity, he was recommended by his contacts within his community for a volunteer nutrition role in another non-governmental organization. He was given the role!

"Integrated Agriculture Activity really helped me. Most of what I know about nutrition is through them. They trained me to the point where all I can think of is helping people with nutritional needs. Thank you, IAA, IITA, and USAID."



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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 smallholder farmers disenfranchised by conflict, and facilitate the engagement of youth and women in economic and entrepreneurial activities.

## Contact



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