



FEED THE FUTURE

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

Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity (NIAA) Newsletter

30th Edition

November, 2023.

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Dear Esteemed Stakeholders and Partners,

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to each of you as we embark on the 30th Edition of the Feed-the-Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity Newsletter. It is with great enthusiasm and pride that I share the remarkable stories and achievements that have unfolded throughout the month of November.

As we delve into the pages of this newsletter, you will witness the impact of our collective efforts in fostering agricultural innovation, empowerment, and sustainable development across Adamawa, Borno, Gombe, and Yobe states. The dry season agricultural inputs fair, the transformative journey of Mrs Wataumani Gayus, the success of our dry season farming training program, and the inspiring story of Salome Bitrus Chama's transition from a seed producer to a Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food Entrepreneur—all these narratives reflect the tangible outcomes of our commitment to enhancing the lives of smallholder farmers and communities.

Notably, Abdullahi Usman's story stands out as a beacon of hope and progress. His journey from struggling with meagre yields to becoming a thriving smallholder farmer showcases the transformative power of agricultural innovation. Abdullahi's success resonates not only within the Munga community but also echoes through the broader landscape of Adamawa State, symbolizing the positive ripple effects of our endeavours.

I extend my gratitude to our esteemed partners, stakeholders, and the dedicated team behind the Feed-the-Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity, especially our funder, USAID. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in realizing these impactful outcomes, and I am confident that together, we will continue to contribute to a resilient, well-nourished, and economically empowered future for the communities we serve.

Thank you for your continued commitment and collaboration.

Sincerely,

Mr. Prakash Kant Silwal

Chief of Party

Feed-the-Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity

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Dry Season Farming Training Prepares Farmers for Seed Production In Northern Nigeria



Photo: Crossection of participants at the training

Photo: The training resource team. L - R. Quadri Shakiru Youth and Gender Manager, Ojo Emmanuel NASC Seed Certification Officer, Oyeyemi Azeez Senior Agronomist, Luka Ibi Baba NASC Seed Certification Officer and Peter Ibrahim Adamawa state ADP Desk Officer

The Feed-the-Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity (NIAA), in collaboration with the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC), recently conducted a successful dry season farming training program in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states. The program aimed to equip farmers with the necessary skills and knowledge to produce high-quality seeds during the dry season.

In attendance was the Deputy Chief of Party, Mr Olukayode Faleti represented by the Youth and Gender Facilitator, Mr Quadri Shakiru; the Senior Agronomist Mr Azeez Oyeyemi; the Director of Extension Services Adamawa Agriculture Development Programme (ADP) Mr Zuwathauwama Bagarmi; Mr Ojo Olusegun Emmanuel and Mr Luka Ibi Baba Seed Certification Officers of the National Agricultural Seeds Council, and a total of 139 participants (126 males and 13 females), benefited from the training.

With specific objectives to increase the quantity and quality of dry season seed production in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states while improving farmers' understanding and application of good agricultural practices (GAP) in dry season farming, some other key knowledge areas were explored, including site and soil selection, water management, fertilizer types and recommended dosages, planting methods, weed management, pest and disease control, physiological signs of maturity, enhance farmers' knowledge and skills in harvesting and post-harvest storage of seeds. These individuals were specifically chosen from areas with established dry-season farming practices and



demonstrated expertise in the field. They also belonged to the community-based seed producer-farmer network. The training program was delivered in collaboration with the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC) officials.

This training is expected to contribute significantly to the production of high-quality seeds in the region, thereby improving agricultural productivity and enhancing food security. By equipping farmers with the necessary skills and knowledge, the program paves the way for a more sustainable and resilient agricultural sector in northern Nigeria.

2023 DRY SEASON AGRIC-INPUTS FAIR



▲ Agric input exhibitors at the Potiskum, Yobe State centre of the Dry Season Input fair

The first Dry Season Agricultural Inputs Fair of the Feed-the-Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity was successfully held across locations in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states where farmers had been getting ready for dry season farming. The event took place on the 29th and 30th of November, 2023, in four strategic locations: Ribadu Community, and Old Demsa community in Fufore and Demsa Local Government Area, Adamawa; Bargu Grain Market, Bargu Community, Shanni Local Government Area, Borno; and the Agriculture Development Programme (ADP) Office, Potiskum, Yobe.

In his opening remarks, the Chief of Party, Mr Prakash Kant Silwal, offered a welcome address through Mr Quadri Shakiru, the Youth and Gender facilitator of the Activity, emphasizing the significance of the USAID-funded Feed-the-Future Nigeria Integrated Agricultural Activity implemented by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and its partner, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). He highlighted the positive impact of introducing the seeds system on crop production yields since the Activity's inception in 2019.

The Lamido Fombina of Adamawa, His Royal Highness Muhammadu Barkindo Aliyu Mustapha, represented by Alhaji Aliyu Muhammed Gabdo (Sarkin Sadukin Adamawa), shared royal remarks in the Ribadu community while Chief Fidelis Ali, District Head of Demsa shared the royal remarks in Old Demsa. Other notable persons in attendance were the Commissioner for Agriculture, Adamawa State, Prof. David F. Jatau and the Commissioner for Livestock represented by Mr. Jerry Kefas Smart. Others are the District Head of Fufore, Ahmed Aliyu Ahmed; the Director of Entrepreneurship, Adamawa State Mr Ibrahim Usman;



◀ Photo: Sales rep of ALBIT Agro Consult demonstrating the use of the metal seed planter to farmers at the Dry Season Agric-Input Trade Fair, Fufore - Adamawa State.



◀ Photo: Alhaji Aliyu Muhammed Gabdo (Sarkin Sadukin Adamawa) representing the Lamido of Adamawa and the Youth and Gender Facilitator IITA, Quadri Shakiru at the Fufore fair.

Chairman of Potiskum LGA, Alhaji Salisu Muntari, represented by the Head Of Agricultural Unit Potiskum LGA, Alhaji A.M Jajere; and Mr. Inuwa Uba and Mr Ojo Olusegun Emmanuel, the Seed Certification officers of the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC) for Yobe and Adamawa States respectively.

The Honorable Commissioner for Agriculture in Adamawa State, Prof David Finchiwa Jatau, delivered a special guest address, acknowledging the program's success in combating hunger in the Northeast and expressing the government's commitment to investing in dry-season farming.

The exhibition featured partner companies and Community-Based Seed Producers (CBSPs) showcasing diverse agriculture input products. The event attracted over 700 participants in the Ribadu community and over 400 in Old Demsa, Demsa LGA, reflecting a robust engagement from the local community.

Earlier in the month, the Activity had organized training workshops for selected farmers who would be engaging in dry-season farming. In 2023 alone, the Feed-the-Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity has registered and trained 27,320 Northeast (Adamawa, Borno, Gombe and Yobe) smallholder farmers on good agricultural practices out of which 2,145 were upgraded and equipped as Community-Based Seed Producers while mobilizing over 76 tons of improved seeds to them in the process.



▲ Photo: Dignitaries visiting exhibition stands at the input fair in Shani, Borno State.



▲ Photo: Farmers registering at the fair in Old Demsa, Adamawa State.

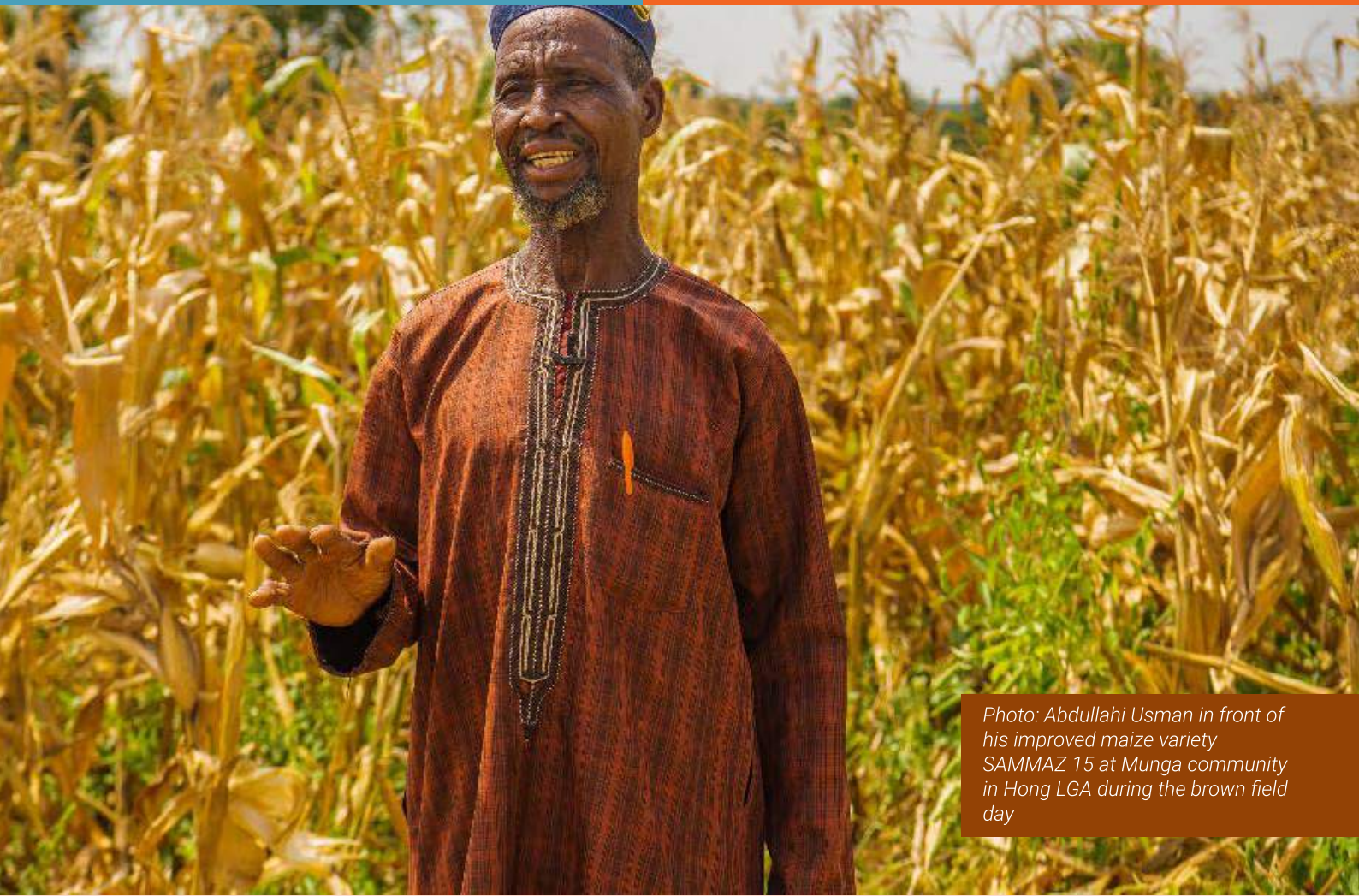


Photo: Abdullahi Usman in front of his improved maize variety SAMMAZ 15 at Munga community in Hong LGA during the brown field day

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH INNOVATION: ABDULLAHI'S SUCCESS STORY

In the Munga community, located in the Hong Local Government Area of Adamawa State, Abdullahi Usman, a committed smallholder farmer supporting a family of eight, has diligently cultivated the land for years. Focusing on the local variety of maize across a hectare of farmland, he aspired to achieve a plentiful harvest.

Unfortunately, despite his tireless efforts, Abdullahi consistently faced the disappointment of meagre yields, ranging from 3 to 5 bags of maize. He doesn't have a fixed monthly income as he is only able to farm during the rainy season. After harvest, he proceeds to pick firewood that he sells. He earns between N15,000 to N20,000 additional monthly income from the sales of firewood, even in favourable farming seasons. This predicament posed a significant challenge as he struggled to provide for his family with the income generated from selling these bags, typically ranging from N100,000 to N120,000 Naira after the planting season (About \$124.98 to \$153.60), reflecting a shared concern within

the community's agricultural landscape.

Enter the USAID-funded Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity, an Activity implemented by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). The Activity, issued under the US Government's Global Food Security Act, has the objectives of advancing inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led economic growth, strengthening resilience among people and systems, and a well-nourished population, especially among women and children in targeted locations of Adamawa, Borno, Gombe and Yobe States. The project improves the livelihoods of farmers, bringing a ray of hope to Abdullahi and many others like him.

Recognizing the potential for improvement, the project introduced Abdullahi to SAMMAZ, a variety that was developed by IITA maize breeder, Dr. Abebe Menkir. SAMMAZ



▲ Photo: Improved maize variety SAMMAZ on the left and local maize variety on the right from the Demo plot at Munga community in Hong LGA during the brown field day

is an improved maize variety tailored to thrive in striga endemic areas such as Adamawa State North-East Nigeria. The impact was immediate and profound. Today, Abdullahi stands amidst his flourishing maize field, confident of a harvest ranging from 12 to 15 bags of 100kg, filled with certified seeds that exceed his expectations. This transformation enables him to generate a profit of N300,000 to N400,000 naira (About \$375 – \$475). Grateful for the innovative variety and the training he received, he proudly declares, "I no longer worry about feeding my family or paying school fees for my seven children, one of whom is now studying at the University of Maiduguri. USAID has significantly improved my life."

Abdullahi's success story is not just about increased yields; it is a testament to the power of agricultural innovation in transforming lives and communities. The introduction of SAMMAZ has not only boosted productivity but has also become a focal point for knowledge-sharing and community development. The Activity has registered 27,320 smallholder farmers as beneficiaries of the introduction of this type of improved seeds across different crops such as rice, maize, sorghum and soybean. It has also trained 2,145 community-based seed producers to continue the local production of these improved seeds under the watchful eye of the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC) the regulatory body for the Nigerian Seed Industry.

One of the highlights of this transformation was the Brown Field Day at Munga community, where Abdullahi Usman took centre stage. Addressing fellow farmers, he shared his journey, from the challenges he faced with the local maize variety to the remarkable turnaround brought about by SAMMAZ. His story resonated with the audience, inspiring a sense of optimism, and instilling a newfound enthusiasm for adopting improved agricultural practices.

Captured in compelling images, Abdullahi Usman's journey unfolds visually through the lens of success. In one photograph, he addresses a group of farmers during the Brown Field Day, becoming a local champion for the transformative power of agricultural innovation. Another image showcases Abdullahi proudly standing in front of his SAMMAZ maize field, a stark contrast to the neighbouring plot with the local maize variety – a

powerful visual representation of the positive impact of adopting improved seeds.

Beyond the Munga community, the success story extends to Gombi in the Gombi Local Government Area, where a demonstration plot of cowpeas stands as a testament to the project's multifaceted approach. The project not only focuses on improving maize varieties but also explores diversification through crops like cowpeas, enhancing overall agricultural resilience in the region.

The images further capture a side-by-side comparison of SAMMAZ and the local maize variety from the Demo plot at the Munga community. The stark difference in growth and yield is unmistakable, reinforcing the efficacy of the introduced innovation. These visual narratives speak volumes about the tangible impact of the Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity.

Abdullahi Usman's success story exemplifies the transformative potential of agricultural innovation in revitalizing communities. The journey from traditional farming methods to embracing improved varieties has not only increased productivity but has also empowered farmers like Abdullahi to become advocates for change. As these success stories ripple through Adamawa State, they signify a promising future for agriculture and rural development, demonstrating the enduring impact of initiatives like the USAID-funded Feed the Future Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity.

“ I no longer worry about feeding my family or paying school fees for my seven children, one of whom is now studying at the University of Maiduguri. USAID has significantly improved my life. ”



▲ Maize varietal Demo plot at Munga community in Hong LGA, Adamawa state.

From Seed Producer to RUTF Hero: Salome Bitrus Chama's Incredible Journey



◀ Photo: Mrs Salome Bitrus

Salome Bitrus Chama, a 42-year-old woman, has changed her life from seed producer to successful Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food Entrepreneur (RUTF), inspiring countless others in her wake in Wandali village Kwaya-Kusar Local Government Area of Borno State.

Inspired by a single training session in micro-processing cereals and legumes back in October 2023, Salome has built a thriving business focused on producing Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF). This vital nutritional supplement is crucial for children suffering from malnutrition and other health concerns.

Her dedication is evident in her daily production. Salome generates ₦10,000 worth of ready-to-use therapeutic food, yielding a profit of ₦3,000 after accounting for ingredient costs. Since starting her venture, she has already produced the life-saving supplement many times over, accumulating a profit of ₦30,000 in just weeks.

But Salome's success extends far beyond personal gain. She actively supplies her RUTF to her mother's petty shop in Wandali, her school (Jalingo Primary School), and the Wandali Primary Healthcare Unit. By ensuring this essential

product reaches vulnerable populations, she is making a significant contribution to community health and well-being, especially among children.

Salome's story is an inspiration to aspiring entrepreneurs everywhere. Her perseverance, dedication and wise decision to reinvest her profits back into the business demonstrate her foresight and commitment to long-term success. Salome Bitrus Chama is not just a RUTF producer; she's a true RUTF hero, changing lives and making a lasting impact on her community.

■ *The Business Development and Nutrition component of the Feed-the-Future Nigeria integrated Activity works with the families of the smallholder farmers in the Northeast to increased income and improved nutrition status.*

Mrs Wataumani Gayus' Journey to Entrepreneurial Empowerment



cosmetology, and entrepreneurship. These sessions not only equipped her with the practical skills required to start a business but also ignited a spark of entrepreneurial spirit within her.

Inspired by the knowledge and support she received, Wataumani ventured into the production of 'Zobo' (hibiscus flower) and 'Kunu' drinks. With a dogged determination, she converted her newfound skills into a thriving enterprise, registering her business with the Small and Medium Scale Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) under Business registration ID: SMEDAN SUIN 51451721.

Her daily production of Kunu and Zobo drinks averaged around 50 bottles, generating daily sales between NGN3,000 and NGN3,500. This translated into a daily profit of NGN1,000 to NGN1,500, a significant boost to her household income.

With her entrepreneurial spirit ignited, Wataumani acknowledges the importance of branding her products. She envisioned attractive packaging that would not only enhance the appeal of her drinks but also attract a wider customer base. Notwithstanding the challenges posed by unstable electricity supply and sourcing of containers for

▲ Photo: Mrs Gayus

Mrs Wataumani Gayus is a low-cadre civil servant in the Shani Local Government Area who is juggling the demands of her work with the mounting weight of financial responsibilities at home. As the sole breadwinner for her family, the need for an additional income source is very apparent.

Her prayers for a lifeline were answered when USAID-funded Feed-the-Future Integrated Agriculture Activity rolled into her community, bringing with it a wave of opportunity. Identified as a potential beneficiary under the Women and Youth Economic and Enterprise Development Activities, Wataumani began her journey of transformation that would have a remarkable effect on her life's trajectory.

With Registration ID: BO/SH /H5352/WY1, she immersed herself in a series of trainings, including agro-processing,

packaging, Wataumani remains undeterred. Her willpower is fired by the new financial independence and the ability to provide for her family's needs.

Wataumani expressed her gratitude for the USAID Feed-the-Future project. In her words: "I am feeling fulfilled having found a reliable source of additional income to support household needs, through training and inspiration given by USAID Feed the Future project in my community."

More images from the 2023 Dry Season Agric Input Fair

Fufore, Adamawa State



Demsa, Adamawa State



Potiskum, Yobe State.



Shani, Borno State.





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

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 18 Local Government Areas of Adamawa, Borno, Gombe and Yobe 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.

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