



Lives and Livelihoods Fund



# KSADP-SAA

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## NEWSLETTER

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*Kano State, Sasakawa Africa Association Sign \$12.3m Deal to Boost Agricultural Mechanization*

*Sasakawa Africa Association Commences Construction of Three Agricultural Mechanization Hubs in Kano State.*

*Mechanization Boost for Kano Farmers as KSADP Distributes Combine Harvesters*

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# From the **COUNTRY DIRECTOR**

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Dear Reader,

I am delighted to introduce the latest edition of our monthly newsletter, highlighting the impactful work of the Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP) in partnership with Sasakawa Africa Association. This issue showcases the project's progress, successes, and commitment to transforming agriculture in Kano State.

In this edition, we feature KSADP's participation in the 49th Soil Science Society of Nigeria Conference, where we emphasized the importance of soil health and resilience. We also highlight our beneficiary identification exercise, which aims to support smallholder farmers with targeted interventions.

Our success stories demonstrate the positive impact of KSADP's initiatives, from improved storage solutions and solar-powered irrigation to local Agro-input kiosks and fabrication workshops. These efforts are designed to enhance productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and increase income for farmers.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Kano State Government, the Islamic Development Bank, and the Lives and Livelihoods Fund for funding the KSADP Project and for their continued support. I also appreciate the dedication of our project team and consortium partners in driving these initiatives forward.

I hope you find this edition informative and inspiring. We look forward to continuing our work together to build a more sustainable and prosperous agricultural sector in Kano State.

**Dr Godwin Atser**

*Country Director, Sasakawa Africa Association*



KSADP/SAA Project Coordinator, Abdulrasheed Hamisu Kofarmata during the inspection visit to the KSADP Mechanization hub construction site in Kura LGA.

## SASAKAWA AFRICA ASSOCIATION COMMENCES CONSTRUCTION OF THREE AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION HUBS IN KANO STATE

**K**ano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP) through Sasakawa Africa Association, funded by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF), the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) has begun the construction of three Agricultural Mechanization Hubs (AMHs) across Kano State's three key agricultural zones.

Strategically located in Kadawa community (Garun Mallam LGA), Danbatta (Danbatta LGA), and Gaya community (Gaya LGA), the AMHs are designed to serve farming clusters with a full range of mechanization services, from land preparation to post-harvest handling. Upon completion, the centres will be equipped with both simple and heavy-duty modern farm machinery, supported by trained technical staff to

ensure efficient operations across major crop value chains.

Speaking during an inspection visit, KSADP/SAA Project Coordinator, Abdulrasheed Hamisu Kofarmata, highlighted that the intervention aims to boost agricultural productivity, improve efficiency, and reduce the heavy burden of manual labour on farmers. He further noted that the hubs will enhance competitiveness through improved post-harvest handling and strengthened value chain development.

The AMHs are expected to play a transformative role in modernizing agriculture in Kano State, creating opportunities for farmers to increase yields, reduce production costs, and access better markets.



This structure and two others are part of the proceeds from the Dollar to Naira exchange savings by the project in 2024 and repurposed into the 6months KSADP extension. Kofarmata said "The Kano State Government, through the ministry of agriculture has provided the required land for the centres, while SAA will oversee the construction and installation of state-of-the-art agricultural machinery and equipment.





Dr Farouk Kurawa, Managing Director of Kano State Agricultural and Rural Development Authority, KNARDA, presents keys to Alhaji Adamu from Warawa LGA during a KSADP mechanization equipment distribution activity in Kano.

## KANO STATE, SASAKAWA AFRICA ASSOCIATION SIGN \$12.3M DEAL TO BOOST AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION

The Kano State Government has signed a \$12.3 million Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA)-Nigeria to expand access to modern agricultural machinery and reduce the drudgery of farm work for smallholder farmers across the state.

The agreement, financed by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF), ushers in the second phase of the Kano State Agropastoral Development Project (KSADP). The new phase, which will run from July 1 to December 31, 2025, builds on the successes of the first five years of

KSADP, during which the project improved food security, strengthened rural livelihoods, and created jobs in Nigeria's northwest.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Dr. Godwin Atser, Country Director of SAA Nigeria, said the agreement is a significant milestone in Kano's agricultural transformation.



While much has been achieved under the KSADP, our renewed focus is on establishing subsidize mechanization private service clusters, distributing machinery and scalling technology adoption through demonstration plots, seed multiplication, and farmer training across the 44 LGAs, he explained.



Sasakawa has been a consistent partner to Kano State, supporting smallholder farmers and processors to improve productivity and livelihoods,” Atser said.

“This new phase focuses on mechanization, which will not only reduce the drudgery of farm labour but also ensure sustainability and scale up the gains already recorded under KSADP.”

SAA, a Japan-headquartered non-governmental organization, has been active in Kano for more than 30 years. Through the KSADP's cereal crop component alone, it has supported over 450,000 farmers with improved agronomic practices and market-driven technologies across all 44 local government areas of the state.

Dr. Danjuma Mahmoud, Commissioner of Agriculture and Natural Resources, said the new phase will accelerate the state's mechanization agenda.

Abdulrasheed Kofarmata, KSADP Project Coordinator for SAA, added that the funds will be used to procure over 9,000 pieces of agricultural machinery and accessories for land preparation, planting, crop protection, harvesting, and processing.



Better days are ahead for both individual farmers and farmer groups,” he said. “The project will provide tractors and implements, power tillers, combine harvesters, planters, sprayers, rice mills, threshers, solar-powered irrigation systems, and more.

With mechanization identified as a key driver of agricultural transformation, the Kano State Government and SAA believe the partnership will not only enhance farm productivity but also create jobs in machinery operation, repair, and services, while improving food security for millions.



Beneficiaries of the KSADP Combine Harvesters during the distribution exercise in Kano.

# MECHANIZATION BOOST FOR KANO FARMERS AS KSADP DISTRIBUTES COMBINE HARVESTERS

**K**ano states drive to modernize agriculture received another boost recently as the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA), through the Kano State Agropastoral Development Project, (KSADP) Continued the distribution of combine harvesters to farmers accross the state.

The event, held on Monday, July 28, saw the formal handover of five combine harvesters and five tricycle trucks to selected farmer groups, to reduce drudgery, cut labour costs, and boost farm productivity. The project is funded by the Kano State Government, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF), and is implemented under the crop component of KSADP by SAANigeria.

Speaking at the distribution ceremony, Abdulrasheed Hamisu Kofarmata, KSADP-SAA Project Coordinator, said the mechanization support is part of an integrated effort to transform Kano's agriculture from land preparation through to postharvest handling.



"The combine harvesters will perform multiple tasks, cutting, threshing, and cleaning grains like rice and wheat all in one operation" he explained.

"This not only saves time but also ensures farmers can harvest within short windows and meet market demands.

Kofarmata stressed that the intervention is not just about distributing machines but about laying the foundation for rural business opportunities, as mechanization creates value chains in equipment rental, maintenance, and repair services. He assured farmers that the KSADP team will conduct routine follow-ups to monitor machine use, ensure proper maintenance, and confirm that the equipment benefits only Kano-based farmers as intended.

Four combine harvesters and three tricycle carriers were allocated to farmers in Garun Malam, Madobi, Tofa, Gwale, and Gwarzo Local Government Areas.

Dr. Faruk Kurawa, Managing Director of the Kano State Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (KNARDA), congratulated the beneficiaries, describing their selection as an opportunity to demonstrate leadership within their communities.



We urge you to use this support responsibly, not just for your benefit, but for the collective good of your farming communities," Dr. Kurawa said.

"Mechanization will not only ease harvesting but also strengthen food security in Kano State.

He further noted that the gesture aligns with the commitment of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf to reposition agriculture as a driver of economic growth in the state.

Since its launch in 2021, the KSADP crop component has reached over 450,000 farmers, combining input support with capacity-building programs in Regenerative Agriculture, Market-Oriented Agriculture, Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture, mechanization, and postharvest handling.

For the beneficiaries, the combine harvesters represent more than just machinery; they symbolize a pathway to prosperity, better quality produce, and reduced losses at harvest. Beyond farming efficiency, the project anticipates that the machines will stimulate rural entrepreneurship, creating opportunities for service providers in machine operations and maintenance.

One of the beneficiaries from Garun Malam expressed gratitude on behalf of his farmer group, noting that access to modern equipment was a long-standing challenge.



With this combine harvester, we can now harvest faster, reduce wastage, and even rent the machine to other farmers to earn extra income,” he said.

As Kano continues to position itself as a leader in Nigeria's agricultural transformation, the KSADP's mechanization support signals a firm step toward a more resilient, efficient, and market-driven farming sector.





## HOW A KSADP FLOUR MILL IS CHANGING LIVES IN GULU COMMUNITY

In the quiet farming community of Gulu, located in Rimin Gado Local Government Area of Kano State, life used to revolve around the long, exhausting trips villagers made to access basic grain milling services. For years, farmers like Hannatu Muhammad endured an 18-kilometre journey to Rimin Gado town just to mill grains like maize, millet, and wheat, an effort that often resulted in high post-harvest losses and income.

But today, thanks to the Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP), funded by the Kano State Government through the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF), and implemented in part by the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) under its Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture intervention, this story is changing.

At the heart of this transformation is a simple but powerful intervention: the installation of a community-based flour milling machine in Gulu.



Quick processing means less spoilage and waste of harvested grains," says Hannatu Muhammad, Chairperson of the Gulu Women Multi-Purpose Cooperative, who oversees the day-to-day operations of the mill. "Now, farmers no longer fear losing their harvests because of delays. They are encouraged to grow more, knowing they can process their grains quickly, right here in the village.

For the people of Gulu, the flour mill is more than just a machine; it is a symbol of opportunity. The project has also created new jobs. 24-year-old Muhammad Abdullahi, a young resident of the community, was employed as the local machine operator. Every day, he earns about ₦3,000 daily, amounting to around ₦90,000 per month.



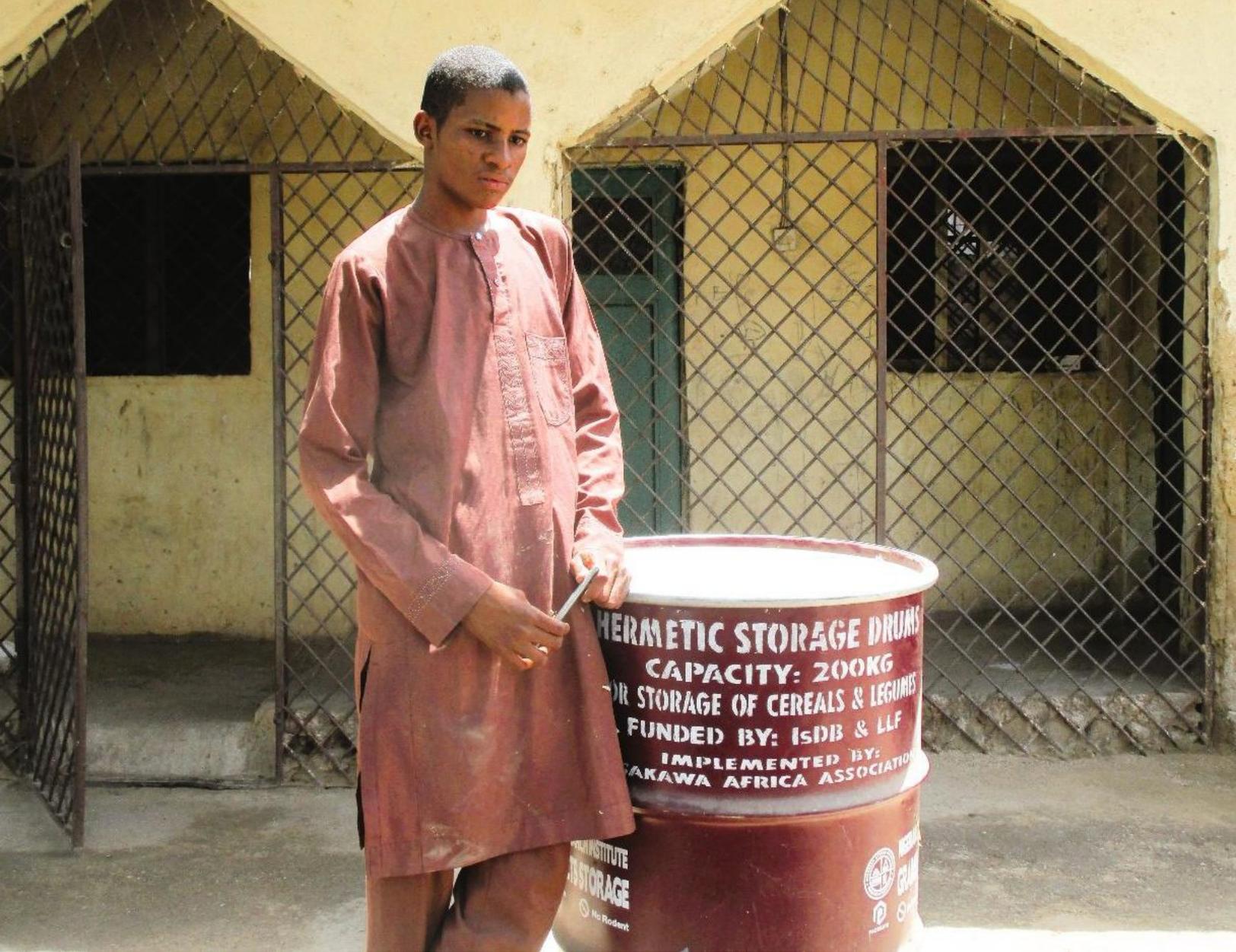
This job changed everything for me," he shares. "I don't have to leave my village to earn a decent living. I can support my family while serving my community.

Beyond personal income, the flour mill has brought ripple effects across the Gulu economy. By cutting down on transportation and logistics costs, households save both time and money. More importantly, it helps retain wealth within the community, boosting local commerce and enhancing food security.



With the mill in place, we no longer depend on outsiders for our staple foods," Hannatu adds. "Our food is processed locally, hygienically fresh, and readily available.

The Gulu flour mill is a shining example of how context-driven, community-owned infrastructure can unlock rural potential. Through KSADP's Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture pillar, lives are being transformed, not just with machines, but with renewed dignity, improved livelihoods, and stronger local economies.



## HOW KSADP HERMETIC DRUMS ARE SAVING GRAIN AND LIVELIHOODS IN KANO

**F**or farmers like Alhaji Mustapha Dalili in Kura Local Government Area of Kano State, the harvest season once came with as much anxiety as it did hope. After months of hard work and prayers for a good yield, another battle would begin: trying to store the grains safely before pests or spoilage claimed them.

“In the past, I lost a lot, sometimes up to 4 bags of grains, about 40% of my yield to mold, insects, and poor storage,” Alhaji Mustapha recalls. “I would spray chemicals, use sacks, and even build mud silos. But none of them worked, and some were harmful to health, as I would later understand through training by the KSADP/SAA team

But that was before the intervention of the Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP), funded by the Kano State Government through the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF), came to our community. Under its Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture pillar, the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA), which is implementing the crop component of the project, introduced hermetic storage drums to farming communities like Dalili in Kura and Chiromawa in Garun Malam.

These airtight, moisture-proof drums are transforming post-harvest practices in the state.



"Since I started using the hermetic drum, my beans stay dry, fresh, and nutritious for months," Alhaji Mustapha says.

"I don't need pesticides or fumigation anymore. That means safer food for my family and savings on chemicals."

Similarly, in Chiromawa community, 38-year-old Aisha Tijjani, involved in crop processing, has turned grain storage into a business advantage. She safely stores her harvest in hermetic drums for several months, waiting for favorable market prices before selling.



"This drum gave me control over when to sell," Aisha shares. "I no longer rush to sell after harvest. Last season, the KSADP

drums helped save my grain and sell at 120,000 (80 USD) per 100kg bag, 40,000 Naira (26USD) higher than the market price at harvest. I used the money to buy 3 goats for breeding"

Thanks to this smart storage, Aisha not only increased her earnings but also gained bargaining power in the market. **"It's durable, easy to use, and doesn't require maintenance like the old storage methods," she adds.**

Beyond income and food quality, the drums are also helping fight hidden dangers like aflatoxin contamination, a major health risk in humid environments. Hermetic storage minimizes mold growth, keeps grains safe, and ensures that what gets to the plate is nutritious and toxin-free.

The Project Coordinator of the KSADP/SAA, Abdulrasheed Kofarmata, noted that the Inert Silos were manufactured locally by the Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute (NSPRI) which SAA has been partnering to promote locally produced and adapted technologies for the empowerment of smallholder farmers, marketers and processors. Kofarmata further says the project has so far trained beneficiaries and distributed 201 units of the 210kg hermetic drums across the 44 LGAs of Kano state to address post-harvest losses suffered by smallholder farmers.

Through the KSADP crop component, SAA is delivering on its mission to uplift 450,000 farmers in Kano State, one drum, one farmer, and one success story at a time.



## HOW INERT SILO TECHNOLOGY IS POWERING PROSPERITY IN RURAL KANO

Farmers in Kano State are expressing excitement over their new abilities to store their grains safely and avoid the devastation caused by pests, mold, and moisture, thanks to the introduction of hermetic storage drums in farming communities. The drums, introduced by the KSADP/SAA Project, help to eliminate post-harvest losses without the need for chemicals.

Khalid Muhammad, deputy chairman of the Danbare Farmers' Association, one of the farmer groups mentored by SAA to promote collective action, still remembers when poor storage meant

watching their hard-earned harvest decay before their eyes. **“We'd lose a big portion to pests or mold. Even when we sprayed chemicals, the grains still went bad, and they weren't safe for food or seed anymore,”** he recalls.

That was before the Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP), funded by the Kano State Government through the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF), brought a lasting solution through the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) Nigeria.

Through its Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture component, SAA introduced the 10MT inert silo drums, a hermetic storage technology capable of keeping grains dry, fresh, and pest-free for up to six months without chemicals.

“It's like giving our grain a second life,” Khalid says with a smile. “We can now store maize and rice without fear. We even use it to preserve high-quality seed for our members.”

Each community in Danbare, Warawa and Gwamma, Bunkure received two 10MT silo drums with a combined capacity to store over 50 bags of grain. These airtight silos create an oxygen-deprived environment that stops pests, mould, and fungi in their tracks, all while maintaining ideal moisture levels.

For Khalid and his group, the impact is already evident. Their preserved seed stock has become a trusted resource, boosting local seed marketing and improving quality for the next planting season. But the benefits haven't stopped there.

In Danbare, Kamal Musa, another member of the farmers' group, has seen his entire farming journey change, thanks to timing and patience.

**“I invested in irrigation farming during the dry season,” he says proudly. “With the profits, I bought**

“When we harvested our maize, it was selling at ₦40,000 (27USD) per bag,” Kamal explains. “But we waited four months. With the silos, we didn't lose a single grain, and by then, the price shot up to over ₦60,000 (41 USD)”

**a motorcycle, something I never thought I could afford. Now, I use it for transporting inputs and even renting it out.”**

For these farmers, the KSADP crop intervention, designed to impact 450,000 farmers across the state, is not just about agriculture; it's about autonomy, dignity, and sustainability.

“We're no longer in a hurry to sell. We sell when we choose, and at a price that rewards our effort,” says Khalid.

From Danbare to Gwamma, the story is the same: better storage means better food, better income, and better futures.

And all of it began with a sealed drum, and the hope that no grain should go to waste again.



Participants engage in syndicate groups during the training at TukuiNN Training Centre.

## SAA CONDUCTS TRAINING ON RECORD KEEPING FOR CBF AND EAS TO ENHANCE FARMING ACTIVITIES

Capacity building in recording exercises for enhancing farming activities is essential for empowering farmers to make informed decisions, improve productivity, and ensure sustainability.

Sasakawa Africa Association engaged 568 Community-based Facilitators (CBFs) and Lead Extension Agents in Training from 26th May to 2nd June 2025 at four centres: Kadawa, Gwarzo, Tukui, and Makole to enhance productivity in seasonal farming Activities.

The program officer, Adams Ephraim Onuche, urged the participants to utilize the knowledge on accuracy in record-keeping to enable farmers to track inputs and outputs through the monitoring of soil health practices, fertilizer use, crop rotation and pest control, leading to environmentally friendly and sustainable farming over time.

He said the training was aimed at equipping farmers on the concept of record keeping and data collection from farmers and various ways to keep records accessible for building trust and opening doors to contract farming or agro-business partnerships.

The training emphasizes that occasional capacity building is more impactful when farmers can compare outcomes and progress. With clear data, extension support, more effective, as advisory services can be based on real data.

In an interview with participants, Ibrahim Nagodi, a Lead EA from Ungogo, elaborated that those records help farmers manage risks related to climate, pests or diseases by reviewing past trends and outcomes.

Similarly, Alkasim Makole views that Extension workers can provide better, data-driven advice if farmers maintain records, and the training would enhance transparency and accountability, especially in group farming or cooperatives.

As such, farmers can measure income versus expenses and identify profitable or loss-making aspects of their operations.

In his closing remarks, the KSADP-SAA project coordinator, Abdulrasheed Hamisu Kofarmata, wishes the participants to make good use of the training in building their capacity on record keeping so that farmers can inculcate the knowledge and skills to manage their farms like businesses.

During the 8-day training, both male and female participants actively engaged and gained new skills in keeping their farming records, which encouraged them to ensure an understanding of the new record-keeping methods.



The State Project Coordinator, SPC of the KSADP, Mallam Ibrahim Garba presenting Inputs to a beneficiary during the exercise in Kano.

## **KASDP-SAA 2025 SEASON IMPLEMENTS DISTRIBUTIONS EXERCISE TO FARMERS IN KANO STATE**

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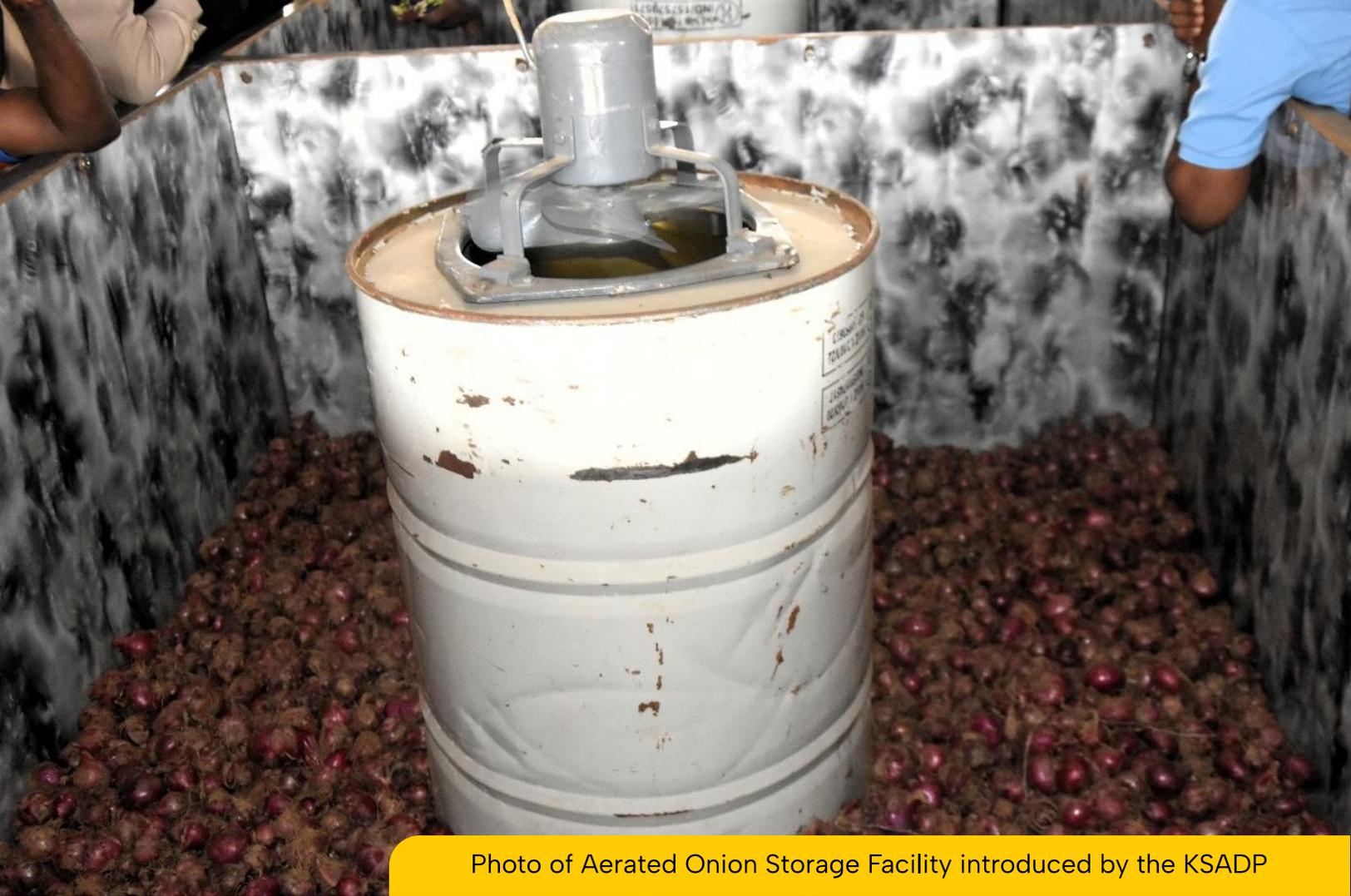


Photo of Aerated Onion Storage Facility introduced by the KSADP

## ONION FARMERS IN KANO GAIN MARKET POWER THROUGH SOLAR-POWERED STORAGE TECHNOLOGY

For years, onion farmers in Kwanar Dangora, Kiru Local Government Area of Kano State, had little control over how and when they sold their produce. With no reliable storage facilities, most were forced to sell immediately after harvest, when prices were lowest.

“

The period when we are forced to sell off our onions at giveaway prices is over,” said Ibrahim Suleiman, a member of the Onion Marketers Association in the community. “Now, we can wait for better market conditions and earn more.

This shift is the result of a new solar-powered, artificially aerated onion storage facility installed in the community through the Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP), funded by the Kano State Government, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF), and implemented by the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) Nigeria.

The intervention is part of the project's wider goal to reduce post-harvest losses, improve farmer incomes, and ensure market stability through smart technologies that work in rural conditions.

According to Abdulrasheed Kofarmata, KSADP/SAA Project Coordinator, traditional onion storage methods often lead to 40–60% post-harvest losses due to high temperatures, poor ventilation, pests, and moisture buildup. **“These new facilities have changed that reality in the communities where they've been installed,” he said.**

The technology works by providing a ventilated and controlled environment that keeps onions dry, cool, and protected, without the use of chemicals or fumigation. Solar panels power the ventilation system, ensuring constant airflow even in off-grid areas.

In Kafin Maiyaki, another beneficiary community, farmers now store more onions in a much smaller space. **“Before this intervention, we rented two houses with three rooms each just to store our onions,”** said Jinjiri Kafinta, Chairman of the Kafin Maiyaki Cooperative.



Now, this one facility does the job better and keeps the onions in good condition for much longer.

The impact goes beyond storage. Farmers now have better bargaining power, improved profit margins, and the ability to regulate supply and stabilize prices in the market. This also leads to a more consistent presence of onions throughout the year, benefiting consumers and traders alike.

The KSADP crop component, implemented by SAA, aims to reach 450,000 farmers across Kano State with interventions that promote productivity, resilience, and profitability. For the onion farmers of Kiru and Kafin Maiyaki, this storage technology is more than a facility; it's a shift in how they work, earn, and plan for the future.

As Ibrahim Suleiman puts it, “This storage has given us control. We now sell when we want, not when we're forced.”



# KSADP-SAA

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED BY SASAKAWA AFRICA ASSOCIATION IN COLLABORATION WITH THE KANO STATE AGROPASTORAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (KSADP).**

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