



Sasakawa Africa Association

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



“Walk with the farmer”

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About SAA: History and Operating Countries	1
SAA core donor: The Nippon Foundation	2
Messages	3
2020 Operational highlights	4
Ethiopia country report	6
Mali country report	8
Nigeria country report	10
Uganda country report	12
Human Resource Development (HRD)	14
Partnerships and extra-core projects	16
Financial report and personnel	17



Dialla Coulibaly (left), chief of the Ngonikoro village stands in his MAP plot of maize at the Diedieni Postharvest and Trade Center

Acronyms

ACAI	African Cassava Agronomy Initiatives	ISSD/Sahel	Integrated Seed Sector Development in the Sahel
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa	JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
BMGF	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (Uganda)
CA	Commodity Association	MAP	Model Adoption Plot
CBSM	Community Based Seed Multiplication	MARC	Melkasa Agricultural Research Center
CDP	Community Demonstration Plot	MERC	Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Communications
CIMMYT	International Center for Maize and Wheat Research	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
CP	Community Practice	NARO	National Agricultural Research Organization
CPE	Crop Productivity Enhancement	NF	The Nippon Foundation
CSIA	Community Saving for Investment in Agribusiness	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
CST	Climate-Smart Technology	NWO	Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research
CSV	Climate-Smart Village	OSCA	One stop Centre Association
DDS	Dietary Diversity Score	PHAP	Postharvest Handling and Agro-processing
DCS	Digital Classroom System	PHTC	Postharvest and Trade Center
DINU	Development Initiative for Northern Uganda	PICS	Purdue Improved Crop Storage
EA	Extension Agent	PwDs	People with Disabilities
FMARD	FMARD Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Nigeria)	PSP	Private Service Provider
FCS	Food Consumption Score	SAA	Sasakawa Africa Association
FTC	Farmer Training Center	SAFE	Sasakawa Africa Fund for Extension Education
FO	Farmer Organization	SHEP	Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion
FLP	Farmer Learning Platform	SDDC	SAFE Demand Driven Curriculum
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice	SEP	Supervised Enterprise Project
HARC	Hawassa Agricultural Research Center	SG 2000	Sasakawa Global 2000
HRD	Human Resource Development	TAMASA	Taking Maize Agronomy to Scale in Africa
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	TAP	Technology Adoption Plot
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Center	ToT	Training of Trainers
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture	VCC	Value Chain Centre
IPR/IFRA	Rural Polytechnic Institute for Training and Applied Research (Mali)	VODP	Vegetable Oil Development Project
		WFP	World Food Programme
		WRI	World Resource Institute

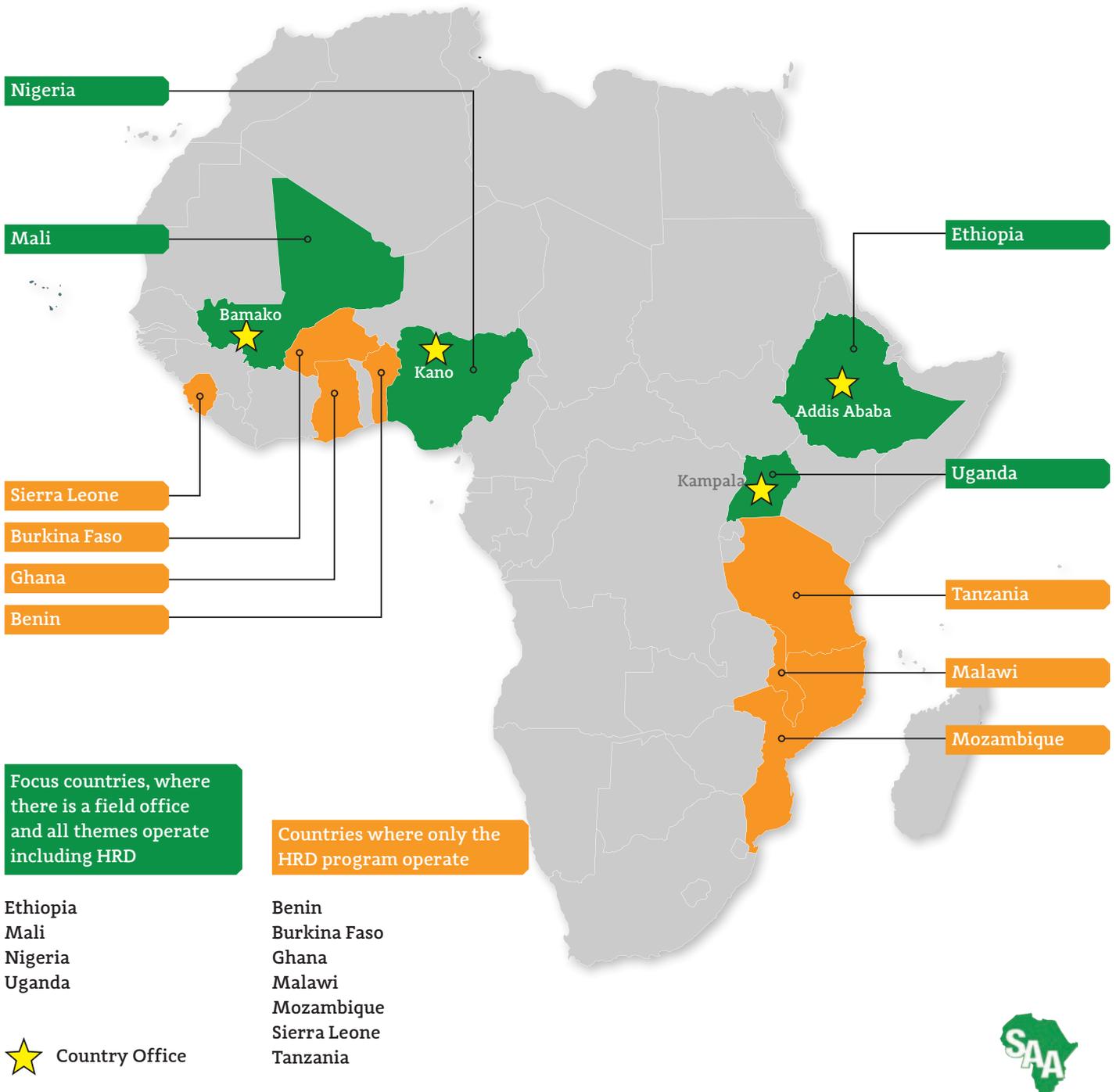
Front cover: *Odong Betty (left) examining her rice field with an SAA Program Officer in the Otuke District, Uganda*

Back cover: *Ali Kakara, a machine operator, demonstrating rice threshing in Kano State, Nigeria*

HISTORY AND OPERATING COUNTRIES

The Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) focuses its operations on four country programs in Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda. Originally operated as Sasakawa Global 2000 (SG 2000) through a joint venture with the Carter Center of Atlanta, Georgia (USA), SAA served as the lead management organization while former US President Jimmy Carter and his advisors worked through the Global 2000 Program to provide policy advice to national political leaders in support of program objectives. Funding for SAA comes principally from The Nippon Foundation, whose Chairman is Mr Yohei Sasakawa and President is Mr Takeju Ogata. SAA was founded in 1986 by Mr Ryoichi Sasakawa, Dr Norman E Borlaug and President Jimmy Carter. SG 2000 is still widely used to describe SAA country programs.

SAA, through its Human Resource Development Program formerly known as the Sasakawa Africa Fund for Extension Education (SAFE), provides leadership for building human resource capacity in agricultural extension. The primary focus of SAA is improving the livelihood of smallholder farmers, whilst committing to delivering human resource development programs, in partnership with agricultural colleges and universities in Africa.



Yohei Sasakawa and The Nippon Foundation

Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, one of the largest philanthropic foundations in Japan, first experienced Africa through the devastating famine that ravaged the Horn of Africa in 1984/85. His father Ryoichi Sasakawa, Founder and the first Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, was among the first to donate food aid for the crisis. But both Ryoichi and Yohei Sasakawa soon realised that food aid alone was not the answer to the disaster. There had to be a more sustainable way forward. So they turned to two notable men for advice and support: former US President Jimmy Carter and Nobel Laureate Dr Norman Borlaug, whose 'green revolution' in the 1960s transformed agriculture in Mexico and the Indian Sub-continent.

Thus, in 1986 the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) was born, based on the belief that Africa actually did have the resources to feed itself. SAA's target was the millions of smallholder farmers across the continent struggling to avoid the poverty trap. The technology to transform farmers' fields did exist in Africa, and in international laboratories, and could, if correctly applied, double or even triple farmers' yields of staple food crops – and the benefits could be demonstrated on their own land.

The first Sasakawa Global 2000 program, incorporating the Carter Center's Global 2000 initiative and focusing on agriculture extension, began in Ghana in 1986. The operation of SAA has since been reinforced by SAFE, which started in 1992 focusing on improving the skills and knowledge of thousands of mid-career extension agents (EAs).

For over 35 years, SAA has worked in 15 countries across the continent with the firm support of The Nippon Foundation. Currently, SAA operates, and has country offices in, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Mali and Uganda, which are known as focus countries, with a SAFE program also operating in seven additional countries.

Through all these years, Yohei Sasakawa and The Nippon Foundation have remained faithful to the legacy of Dr Borlaug, who led SAA until 2009 when he died. Indeed, in well over three decades since the formation of SAA, The Nippon Foundation has provided over USD 300 million in support of its programs – an unprecedented figure from a donor to a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) on a continuous basis. It is a record of which it can be proud.



Yohei Sasakawa



Yohei Sasakawa listens to pupils from a school in Jinja perform a song of appreciation in Dr Borlaug's honor at the Annual Agricultural show, Uganda

The Nippon Foundation

The Nippon Foundation is an independent, nonprofit, grant-making organization founded in 1962. It was established by legislation for the purpose of carrying out philanthropic activities using revenue from motorboat racing.

The Nippon Foundation is providing aid to projects that fall under one of the following four major categories: 1) public welfare in Japan; 2) voluntary programs in Japan; 3) maritime and ship-related projects; and 4) overseas cooperative assistance.

Under the leadership of its Chairman, Yohei Sasakawa, the Foundation has continued to back the SAA over 35 years in order to improve the effectiveness of agricultural extension advisory services, with support to smallholder farmers, in various African countries.

While this has been a frustrating year with travel to and between African countries seriously restricted, SAA has continued to grow in strength through its loyal and dedicated management and staff. Africa's farming challenges are no less with climate change and dramatically changing weather patterns – and, of course, COVID-19.

This was the background for inviting senior staff to participate in a series of virtual meetings to plan the development of SAA's Strategic Plan, led by the Institute of Management and Development (IMD) in Lausanne, Switzerland. This initiative was instigated by the Vice Chair of the SAA Board, Dr Amit Roy. Our SAA team was thus able to express itself at these meetings, setting targets for the future while re-assessing SAA's mission and vision in providing food, nutrition and income security for our farming communities.

The pandemic has also led to increasing political pressures in many of the countries where we operate. In these situations, which sometimes result in violent disruption, I commend the fortitude of SAA's management and staff – and colleagues in the field – who have had to cope with these difficulties and still produce results.

With COVID-19 dominating 2020, SAA carried out a virtual assessment to establish the current and anticipated effects of the pandemic on food systems. A total of 434 respondents were contacted across SAA's original focus countries – Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda.

While the overall findings were grim, it was encouraging to note that change is being propelled through e-extension and by the greatly increased use of ICT to link and improve farmers' access to input and output markets.

In looking forward, these tumultuous challenges can only be confronted by increased engagement between organizations in the field and greater levels of donor participation.

SAA, working with tens of thousands of farmers on the ground, stands ready to play its part.

Hon. Prof. Ruth K Oniang'o
Chair
Sasakawa Africa Association



The year 2020 was one of change and opportunity. Change was caused largely by the pandemic and was, of course, desperately damaging for African agriculture – not least for the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. Nor, as we move into 2021, are there signs of a significant change in this situation. Rather the opposite, it seems, with African countries last in the queue to receive adequate supplies of the precious vaccine that will help turn the tide.

The opportunity has come with an assessment of all areas of our operations, partly because of COVID-19, but also because of the development of SAA's new Strategic Plan (2021-2025) which will drive our organization forward over the next five years. Senior staff have been engaged in forward planning at policy level – so SAA's immediate and long term objectives and programmes are 'owned' by the management and staff who have to implement them. This has been accomplished with the expert facilitation of Professor James Henderson, Professor of Strategy at the International Institute of Management Development (IMD), who has led a series of virtual meetings and analysis of the views of SAA participants. The Strategic Plan has been approved by the SAA Board and by our major donor, The Nippon Foundation. It stands ready to be rolled out in 2021.

A net result of our work in 2020 is that we have become more attractive to potential partners. Closer to home, I should mention our close collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). SAA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JICA during the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) 7 in 2019. Other relationships with new partners include the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Government of the Netherlands.

I cannot end this report without expressing my grateful thanks to The Nippon Foundation for its steadfast and unbroken support for SAA over 35 years – and particularly to its Chairman, Mr Yohei Sasakawa who, as one of the founders of SAA in 1985, continues to take a great interest in our activities.

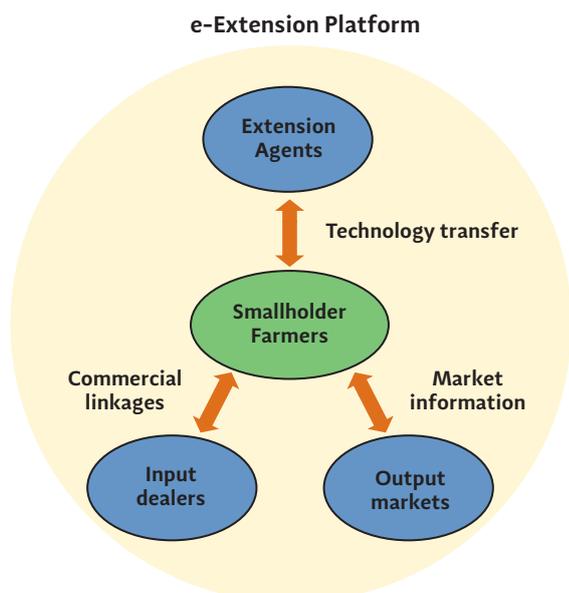
My thanks are also due, at the end of my first year as SAA President, to SAA's staff in Tokyo and Africa, the Board of Directors and The Nippon Foundation staff who actively support our activities. Much has been achieved in this difficult time.

Dr Makoto Kitanaka
President
Sasakawa Africa Association



Silver linings of COVID-19

The year 2020 was impacted significantly by the coronavirus pandemic. In response to COVID-19, SAA carried out a rapid assessment to establish the current and anticipated effects of the pandemic on African food systems. Overall, findings suggested that the limitations imposed by the pandemic affected most activities along the crop value chain, including access to extension and advisory services, input and output markets, financial services, and labor availability. The pandemic also disrupted learning activities at universities and agricultural colleges. Based on the findings, SAA proposed a series of recommendations offering short, medium and long-term solutions to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Pilot short-term interventions were carried out to verify innovative practices with a focus on technology transfer, labor-saving agriculture, and improved access to inputs. Through lessons learnt from the pilot projects, special attention has been given to the development and promotion of digital approaches – such as the e-Extension Platform – as a guiding tool to strengthen knowledge transfer, linkages, and improved information sharing between SAA staff, EAs, and smallholder farmers.



Conceptual diagram of SAA's e-Extension Platform

Expanding partnerships

Throughout the year, SAA continued to develop new partnerships, whilst strengthening existing ones. An example of the latter is SAA's collaboration with the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Global Agriculture Productivity Report. Efforts have also been made to integrate gender and nutrition sensitive interventions in SAA's operations, including agricultural extension, advisory service delivery and capacity building. This was achieved through SAA's partnership with Tanager – an ACDI/VOCA affiliate.

SAA continues to receive the valued support of The Nippon Foundation – the primary funder of its programs in Africa. In addition to this support, SAA continues to diversify its funding sources in response to the limited resources available to scale out innovative extension approaches.

In 2020, SAA continued to implement two projects funded by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), which is committed to promoting and upscaling productivity driven market-oriented value chain approaches to improve income and food security in Nigeria and Ethiopia. In Mali, SAA continued to implement a project on foundation seed production funded by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research. In Nigeria, the activities of the African Cassava Agronomy Initiatives (ACAI) were realized in tandem with Taking Maize Agronomy to Scale in Africa (TAMASA), funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) through partnership with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT).

SAA also worked with JICA to implement the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (SHEP) approach in Nigeria. Additionally, a new partnership was developed with the Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP) to help implement a comprehensive five-year project funded by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), in partnership with the Kano State Government and the Federal Government of Nigeria.

In Uganda, there is an ongoing partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP). SAA also developed an agreement with the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) in Uganda to help implement a European Union consortium grant project awarded to the Government of Uganda to progress the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU).

In order to increase global networks and partnerships as well as our resource base, SAA participated in – and organized – many internal and external national and global conferences and webinars. This included forums on postharvest management and agroprocessing; the role of youth in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on Africa's agrifood systems; the annual stakeholders meetings; training and validation workshops; and curriculum development through the Human Resource Development (HRD) program.



The Deputy Governor and Honorary Commissioner for Agriculture signing the MoU assisted by the Nigeria Country Director Dr Sani Miko



Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Communications

We have continued to develop a robust and structured evidence-based Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Communications (MERC) system. To this end, an M&E framework and handbook has been developed to guide institutional program implementation and to enhance efficiency in operations. Baseline and needs-based studies have been carried out in order to establish benchmarks in measuring the impact of SAA interventions in the field and in academic institutions. Additionally, SAA continued to build on relations and partnerships with diverse media outlets covering various platforms including television, radio and print newspaper resulting in coverage of some of SAA's activities and events.

Notable achievements

SAA Uganda was recognized as the leading Visionary Agricultural NGO of the year 2020 for its outstanding contribution towards Uganda Middle Income Status Aspiration and Vision 2040 on a visionaries of Uganda Award ceremony held in December, at the Serena Hotel in Kampala.



SAA Deputy Country Director Bbemba Joseph (right) receiving the Visionaries of Uganda Award by the Chief Justice Alfonse Owiny-Dollo



Aciro Ann Grace standing in her sunflower field in the Apac District of Uganda

Development of New Strategy (2021-2025)

To better address the changing trends in agriculture, SAA has revised its strategy covering the period 2021 to 2025. Participatory consultations involving SAA staff, partners and stakeholders were conducted to review the critical issues facing Africa's agriculture and food systems. The consultations identified ways in which SAA could realign its operations to solve the issues facing smallholder farmers today – it also led to the establishment of a new Vision, Mission, Focus and Approach for the organization.

SAA New Strategy 2021-2025

VISION

Africa realizes its aspiration for a resilient and sustainable food system

MISSION

To work with African smallholder farmers to increase their food, nutrition, and income security by catalyzing technological innovation in agriculture

FOCUS

Sustainable, resilient and regenerative agriculture in response to soil degradation and climate change

Nutrition-sensitive agriculture for children and adults' health

Market-oriented agriculture for ensuring farming as a business

APPROACH

- Knowledge Generation
- Knowledge Packaging
- Knowledge Transfer and Adoption

In the coming year, SAA will continue to strengthen its evidence-based operations, increase visibility, expand its partnerships, and implement consolidated programs at a community level to enhance the synergistic impact of its various model-based extension approaches along the entire value chain.



COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

In 2020, activities within Ethiopia were implemented in the Oromia, Amhara, SNNP, and Tigray Regions throughout 29 Woredas and 178 Kebeles – of these, 20 Woredas and 160 Kebeles were addressed through the IMPACT project. The mid-career program was rolled out in nine universities.

Interventions focused on building the capacity of EAs, smallholder farmers, value chain centres (VCCs), climate-smart villages (CSVs), farmer training centers (FTCs) and universities; whilst demonstrating innovation, strengthening entrepreneurship, and the improvement of market and financial access and e-extension activities.

Business development training was administered to Commodity Associations (CAs), Community Saving for Investment in Agribusiness (CSIAs), agro-dealers, and Community Based Seed Multiplication (CBSM) groups. Additionally, SAA carried out needs assessments, baseline surveys, threshing service cost-benefit analyses, and a study on the impact of COVID-19. In the SAFE demand driven curriculum (SDDC) model, new e-learning platforms were developed and lecturers received training on SAA's extension models.

In recognition of its work, SAA Ethiopia received certificates of appreciation from the Federal Cooperative Agency and Guji Zone Agriculture Office respectively, in 2020.



Farmers receive practical training on a Temesgen teff row planter in the Soro Woreda, SNNPR

Summary of achievements



intervention areas

4 Regions · 29 Woredas · 178 Kebeles



people engaged in enterprise development and job creation 2,273 (1,637 male and 636 female)

This includes:

- 49 youth groups of 317 (277 male and 40 female) members on threshing/shelling service, repair and maintenance and PICS Bags vending
- 20 groups of 240 (six male and 234 female) members on value addition
- One agro-processing group comprising 50 members (six male and 44 female) engaged in value addition
- 23 groups comprising 1,538 members (1,330 male and 208 female) trained on seed production
- Six groups of 144 members (five male and 139 female) trained on saving and credit



farmers and EAs trained on postharvest handling and management

35,183 beneficiaries comprising of the following:

- 34,477 (26,902 male and 7,575 female) farmers
- 706 (560 male and 146 female) EAs



Worke Markos (left) showcases a vegetable harvest from her permagardening plot, Kerekicho Kebele, Angacha Woreda, SNNP Region

COVID-19 pandemic response

In response to the pandemic, and to relieve farmers' of labor and time shortages, **114 farm implements** (98 plows and 16 row planters) were demonstrated. Permagarden-based vegetable production was promoted and **230 farmers** (65 male and 165 female), **37 EAs** (25 male and 12 female), and **15 SMSs** (13 male and two female) received training on improved nutrition. A total of **624 kg grain and 30.3 kg vegetable seeds were distributed to farmers**, and **13 water harvesting tanks were installed**. As part of postharvest management, **SAA Ethiopia supplied two threshers, 3,000 PICS bags, and 24 metal silos to farmers and youth PSPs**.

To mitigate the impact of COVID-19, more focus was given to **electronic communication methods**, including e-mails, social media, and the Bitrix24 platform to facilitate information exchange. Work also began on the **development of a crop-based e-extension advisory software**, and video-based training was offered via **Digital Classroom System (DCS)**. SAA Ethiopia also worked closely with Amplio Technologies to **deploy 'Talking Book' audio devices for less literate farmers**. Farmer training centers (FTCs) and partner government offices received 31 Digital DCS projectors, 77 smartphones, 96 tablets, 15 desktop computers, 15 solar backup systems, 16 printers, and 116 megaphones. In the **e-learning pilot project, a web-based platform was developed**; 33 modules digitized; and video production started for 50 courses. **ICT equipment was also delivered to Bahir Dar University**, and a national workshop on Digital Technologies was organized.



Key achievements



% crop grain yield enhancement

- The mean grain yield of maize, sorghum, wheat and teff on CDP demonstration plots recorded a yield advantage of 62.08%, 10.68%, 44.66% and 48.91%, respectively over the community practices
- The marginal profit per hectare was Birr 10402.39, 5896.11, 2584.72 and 11881.53 for maize, sorghum, wheat and teff in that order



farmers and other actors trained on business and entrepreneurship

- 91 (75 male and 16 female) EAs and cooperative leaders on business activities
- 626 (593 male and 33 female) CA members and 258 (239 male and 19 female) EAs/SMS on market and market information
- 371 (345 male and 26 female) actors on market linkage/market linkage workshops
- 50 (six male and 44 female) agro-processors on agro-processing
- 317 (277 male and 40 female) youth service providers on postharvest service provision



% household nutritional status

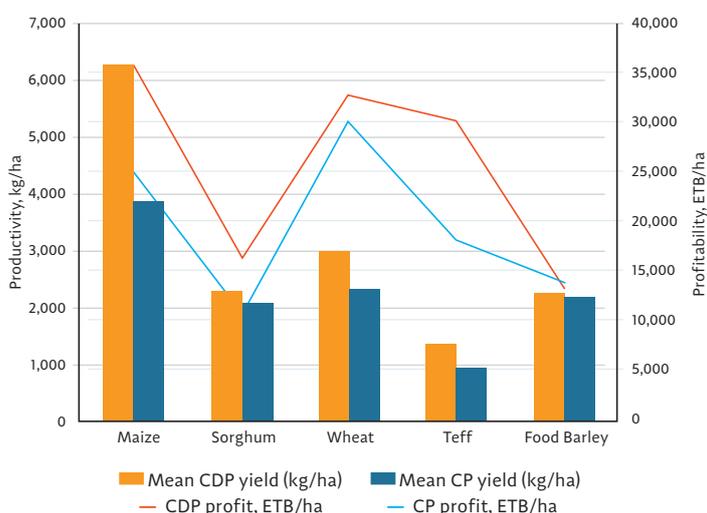
- 85.6% sample households registered high dietary diversity score (DDS)
- 83.3% of households recorded acceptable food consumption score (FCS)



% farmers and EAs reached through e-extension platforms

- 100,100 (78,679 male and 21,421 female) received video-based training
- 86,416 (67,654 male and 18,762 female) trained on good agricultural practices (GAPs)
- 13,183 (10,642 male and 2,541 female) on postharvest handling and management

Comparison of mean crop yield (kg/ha) of FLP plots and Community Practices (CPs) as calculated from 2019 data



Highlights of partnerships

In 2020, SAA continued to forge partnerships with different organizations.

A partnership was initiated with Melkasa Agricultural Research Center (MARC) and Hawassa Agricultural Research Center (HARC) to collaborate on Climate-Smart Villages (CSVs). MARC agreed to integrate its research programs in the Negele-Arsi Woreda and Arjo CSV. Hawassa Agricultural Research Center assists in training EAs and farmers on cassava and sweet potato production. Similarly, contact was established with the Meki Catholic Relief Service and preliminary talks were held with regard to collaborating CSV interventions at Arjo. Discussions were also initiated with Heifer International to collaborate on agricultural value chain: crop-livestock integration, seed security, agricultural extension, climate-smart agriculture, and postharvest management, and joint proposal writing. The World Resource Institute (WRI) has also expressed an interest in partnering with SAA in advancing Sustainable Agricultural Commercialization. Partnerships were also created with several providers of ICT solutions, including SBC4D, Green Agro Solutions PLC, Amplio Technologies, iCog Labs, Meklit ICT solution, as well as broadcasting media, such as EBC, OBN and ATV.



Private Service Providers threshing Teff in the Negele Arsi Woreda, Oromia Region



Plans for 2021

SAA Ethiopia's plan for the future focuses on sustainable, regenerative, nutrition-sensitive and market-oriented agriculture practices.

In 2021, we intend to **train a further 36,916 farmers and 1,213 EAs** – of these, **26,761 farmers and 529 EAs in crop production; 5,700 farmers and 478 EAs in postharvest; 16 technicians in repair/maintenance; 3,000 farmers and 125 EAs in nutrition; 1,330 farmers in seed production; 125 CSIA members and 65 EAs in saving, credit and financial management. A total of 4,200 demonstrations are planned, of which 1,950 are FLPs and 2,250 postharvest demonstrations. Field days will be organized at different levels for 53,522 participants: 43,772 green, 9,750 brown field days.**

We will continue to conduct needs assessments and relevant analysis in new intervention areas, to guide our work. Additionally, mobile application development, Talking Book piloting and radio spot messaging will be undertaken. SAA Ethiopia also plans to revise 15 modules for the pastoral program.



COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Mali's operations in 2020 were implemented along the value chains of six crop commodities: millet, sorghum, maize, rain-fed upland rice, groundnut and cowpea. Activities were carried out under SAA's four thematic areas of CPE, PHAP, BD and HRD. The MERC theme regularly documented key achievements and successes to guide SAA and partners in evidence-based decision making.

In contrast to previous years, during which our efforts focused on four regions (Kayes Koulikoro, Sikasso, and Ségou), activities in 2020 reached all areas where the state department of agriculture established functional agricultural services. This corresponded to a total of 15 regions: Kayes, Nioro du Sahel, Bamako, Koulikoro, Dioila, Bougouni, Koutiala, Sikasso, Ségou, Mopti, Tombouctou, Gao, Kidal, Menaka, and Taoudeni.

Needs assessments helped identify suitable technology packages to be transferred to farmers and other agricultural value chain actors, through SAA extension models. These models were designed to increase uptake while putting learners (farmers, processors and students) at the heart of the process. Most technology transfers were administered through field demonstrations, practical training, and face to face training – although in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, SAA focused primarily on digital extensions.



Farmers stand on a CBSM plot at the Siranikoto PHTC in Doumbadjila village

Summary of achievements



Capacity building efforts were continued through the provision of training for 6,597 farmers involved in crop production



An ongoing virtual platform was launched providing information on seeds and agricultural equipment service providers

All modules were successfully converted into audio and video format to allow for dissemination through eight local radio stations, reaching a total audience of over 600,000

Mali's first virtual seed exchange fair was organized in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, the Malian Seed Trade Association, and AGRA. The event attracted over one hundred participants



Support with equipment and training of lecturers and students in online learning

Registration of 146 students at partner universities and colleges

Graduation of 91 students at partner universities and colleges



Maize sheller demonstration carried out during a media field day at the Monzobléna PHTC

COVID-19 pandemic response

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 led our country office to temporarily stop field operations in line with the restrictive measures ordered by the Malian government. These measures disrupted agricultural extension and advisory services provision, and agricultural training at all levels – especially at our partner universities and agricultural colleges where more than 3,000 students were impacted. Thus, SAA Mali had to adjust its country operations to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on agrifood systems and the educational system.

First and foremost, a countrywide rapid impact assessment of the pandemic was conducted in April 2020. The report highlighted existing and potential impacts of the pandemic on agricultural value-chain actors, universities and colleges. Our country operations were then reassessed to better address the situation imposed by the pandemic, and more funding was assigned to implementing necessary measures. Emphasis was put on the use of technology and the role it plays in ensuring the continued implementation of regular activities.



Key achievements

- 
Initiation and execution of a distance education pilot project at the University of Ségou
- 
New training modules covering topics such as improved drying techniques and stock management practices were produced and disseminated through local radio stations, reaching an audience of over 600,000 producers
- 
SAA Mali oversaw the provision of smart phones and tablets, communication credit and internet packages to 140 agents in preparation for e-extension approaches
- 
A total of 389 demonstrations involving climate smart technologies and seed production technologies were administered
- 
Farmers in the PHTC of Monzobléna were awarded a total of 10 awards in recognition for their work adopting technology in farming throughout the 2020/21 crop year

Highlights of partnerships

Relationships were strengthened with existing partners including the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research while new partnerships were secured.

The end of 2020 marked the approval of the ISSD Sahel project by the donor - the project is assigned 11,000 EUR by the Netherlands Embassy in Niger and has a duration of four years (2020-2024). It is being implemented by a consortium of partners including IFDC (which leads the project), SAA, KIT, and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). Through the ISSD Sahel project, SAA will expand its extension and advisory services to other countries of the Sahel. Towards the end of 2020, AGRA joined the project and successfully co-organized the first virtual assembly of Malian seed actors in December 2020. Another proposal on the SHEP approach has also been submitted to IFAD by SAA and the Ministry of Agriculture earlier in 2020. Financial assistance was secured from JICA to finance the implementation of two training workshops and field visits on the SHEP approach, which enabled us to reach out to the 15 administrative regions where the National Directorate of Agriculture has established a functional regional directorate.



A smallholder farmer works a TAP plot at the Guessebougou PHTC in Mintiguila village

Table 1. Results of the demonstrations conducted with men and women on climate smart technologies under the climate smart village (CSV)

CSV Men				CSV Women			
Crop	Area (m ²)	Yield (Kg/ha)	Yield (Community Practice kg/ha)	Crop	Area (m ²)	Yield (Kg/ha)	Yield (Community Practice kg/ha)
Millet	1 000	1100	950	Groundnut	1 000	1 000	850
Maize	1 000	2800	1950	Rain fed upland rice	1 000	2 200	910

Both CSV demonstration plots managed by men and women out yielded the community practice, which is quite encouraging.

Table 2. Average results of the implementation of the CBSMs in 2020 for men and women

CSBM Men				CSBM Women			
Crop	Area (m ²)	Yield (kg/ha)	Seed Stock (kg)	Crop	Area (m ²)	Yield (kg /ha)	Seed stock (kg)
Millet	2,500	1,300	325	Groundnut	2,500	1,148	287
Maize	2,500	2,103	689	Rice	2,500	2,575	644
Sorghum	2,500	2,900	725	Cowpea	2,500	880	220
Total (kg)	7,500	-	1,739	Total	7,500	-	1,151

A total of 2,890 kg of quality seeds was contributed by the CBSMs to the community seed stock on average - this corresponded to a total of 2.8 metric tons of quality seeds contributed by the CBSMs in 2020.

Table 3. Number of participants reached during hermetic storage demonstrations in 2020

EVENT	Numbers of farmers reached	
	Male	Female
Demonstration set up	59	118
Open bag ceremony	51	50
Total	110	168

Plans for 2021

In 2021, SAA Mali will continue with the implementation of its activities in line with the new Strategic Plan (2021-2025). We will also pursue the implementation of the ISSD/Sahel Project.



COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

SAA Nigeria continued to implement its various interventions, deploying consolidated models to address farmers' myriad of production, value adding and marketing challenges across targeted value chains. Working in tandem with development partners, including AGRA, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), African Cassava Agronomic Initiative (ACAI), and TAMASA, SAA Nigeria works to address farmers' needs in a functional and collaborative manner.

In 2020, SAA Nigeria trained 20 graduates under the National Youth Service Corps as well as providing practical skills to over 80 university agricultural students under the Industrial Training Fund (ITF). Work was also conducted alongside JICA to implement the SHEP approach. Farmer learning platforms continued to showcase technologies that increased productivity as well as the quality of farmers' produce with a recorded increase in income. Farmers' capacity building, and the sourcing and dissemination of innovative technologies, as well as information sourcing and sharing through the use of e-Extension remained key priorities for us, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Summary of achievements



Throughout 2020, SAA Nigeria operated in six geopolitical zones of Nigeria training a total of 10,500 farmers (7,350 male and 3,150 female) on GAPs through FLPs



Three e-extension platforms were utilized to reach a total of 4,000 farmers and ensure continued information sharing. To this end, 500 manuals on GAPs were printed and distributed



Business development training was provided to 10,500 farmers, while 305 FOs aggregated and sold 2,243.62MT of assorted grains worth \$1,269,494.39.



A total of 15 CATs (13 male and two female) and three SCs (two male and one female) were trained on use of ICT for market information sourcing, aggregation and dissemination.



A total of 140 field days attended by 3,704 farmers (2,470 male and 1,234 female).



Farmer leaders displaying posters on rice, maize and soybeans value chain during the distribution of COVID-19 palliatives at a skills acquisition centre in Ringim, Jigawa state



Felicia Yusuf, leader of the Maiganga Women Multipurpose Cooperative, addressing the media team on various soybean recipes during the 2020 media field days in Gombe State

COVID-19 pandemic response

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a **negative impact on Nigerian agriculture**, including notable fluctuations in agricultural demand and supply chains, which in turn affect real value-chain actors. Following SAA's assessment on the impact of the pandemic, **SAA Nigeria planned recommendations to mitigate the effects** in selected locations. A total of **five youth, five women and three PwDs groups** in each state of Kano, Jigawa and Gombe **received quality production inputs** which were expensive and difficult to source, due to the imposed lockdown. These were envisaged to **cushion the effect of the pandemic** by providing farmers **access to inputs at a time of scarcity and restrictions on mobility**. The support has ensured Farmer Organizations (FOs) are **able to continue with the planting season**, with some even able to get involved in dry season crop production; thus helping to **increase the income of group members**.

Other solutions include the **creation of WhatsApp and Facebook groups**, weekly **radio and television programs**, production of **COVID-19 awareness posters and flyers** in order to **enhance information sharing** on infection prevention, technical-backstopping and linkages between farmers, CATs and SAA staff. A total of **105 EAs were trained on e-extension and data collection** using the application KoBoCollect. A total of **105 tablets were procured and shared with the extension staff** for information sharing and data collection. Another **50 EAs, equipped with android smartphones, were trained on the use of Nutrient Expert App** to generate production recommendations for **location-specific maize farmers** in Kano and Kaduna States. **Similarly SAA - through the AGRA funded projects - engaged Rural Farmers Hub (a private consultant) and deployed its e-extension application (Capture) to advise 1000 farmers (700 in Kaduna and 300 in Niger states) on soil fertilizer and water relations.**



Key achievements



The provision of training for farmers resulted in yield increases of 40-60%, and in turn contributed to an increase in the ratio of households reporting an increase in income



A total of 192 participants (153 male and 39 female) comprising of 117 EAs and 15 CBFs were trained on PHAP and storage management with an additional 13,675 farmers reached through step downs. Additionally, 333 farmers (150 male and 183 female) were trained on improved rice processing techniques and local balanced diets, which was stepped-down to a further 10,500 farmers (7,350 male and 3,150 female)



15 CATs (14 male and one female) and 105 EAs (83 male and 22 female) were trained on VCE. MERC provided evidence on the implementation, of these activities, as well as generating reports that contribute to transparency, accountability and evidence-based reporting



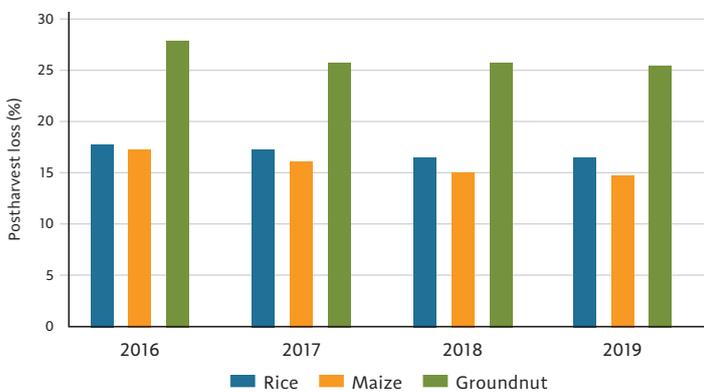
Universities under the HRD program registered 111 students, and 61 students graduated within the year. Additionally, a total of 44 lecturers and partners were trained on SAA extension models

Highlights of partnerships

SAA Nigeria continues to collaborate with both public and private sectors with a view to widening our funding base, as well as realizing more impactful and cost-effective project designs and implementation.

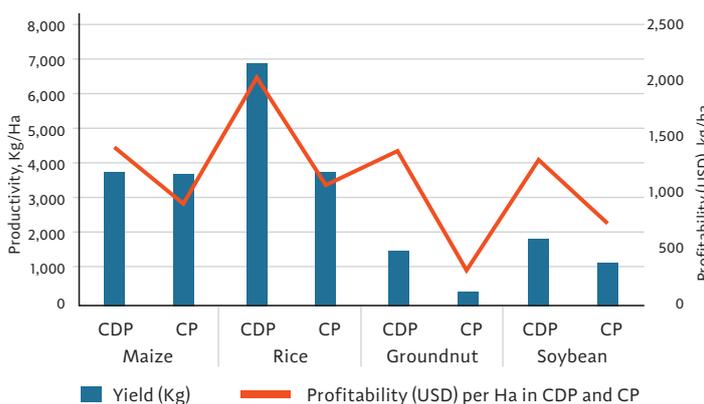
SAA's partners include FOs, IITA, ICRISAT, Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs), National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (NAERLS), Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR), Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) inputs dealers and processors. A key partnership is the SAA-AGRA projects in Kaduna and Niger States focusing on rice, maize and soya, targeting 270,000 and 156,250 farmers, respectively. Similarly, SAA renewed its partnership with FMARD in 2019 for a four-year project securing continued funding to implement its activities in 12 states. The IITA-SAA partnership on the African Cassava Agronomy Initiative and TAMASA projects were very active within the year. These projects use apps (such as AKILIMO and NE) to generate fertilizer recommendations for cassava and maize crops, respectively. SAA is also working in partnership with the Kano State Government on the implementation of the Agro-pastoral Development Project for a period of five years. The KSADP targets 900 Communities, 4,500 farmer groups, 90 EAs and 900 CBFs to be trained on improved production technologies through training of trainers (ToT). Private sector, especially seed companies, off-takers and agro-processors will have a central role in the project. Postharvest handling, climate-smart agriculture and market linkage are also key project activities. Major commodities involved include maize, rice, sorghum, millet, onion, cabbage and tomato among others. The project has a total budget of \$21.31 million covering five years.

Progress in postharvest loss reduction of major crops (2016 - 2019)



Alhaji Yushua Musa, an agro-dealer in Kachia LGA, gives fellow farmers inputs on credit

Yield and income comparison between SAA community demonstration plots and community practices 2019



Plans for 2021

SAA will source new and proven climate-smart production and postharvest technologies for dissemination, adoption and scaling up. Furthermore, commodity group leaders will receive training on leadership, collective marketing, community resource mobilization, and access to financial services. Emphasis will be placed on e-extension delivery using digital tools. SAA's partnerships will be expanded to secure more funding and widen the organization's visibility. Gender mainstreaming will feature in virtually all aspects of SAA's activities. Additionally, SAA Nigeria will consolidate the gains made so far in the SAA-SAFE integration by carrying along the SAFE universities in field level extension service delivery.



COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

2020 was characterized by one of the major global challenges of the 21st century, the COVID-19 pandemic that was first reported in Uganda in March. Amidst the pandemic, however, SAA was among the essential institutions that was permitted to continue providing services. Despite the challenges, SAA Uganda successfully implemented all planned activities for the year in the nine districts covered under The Nippon Foundation core program, and the COVID-19 mitigation pilot project that involved the nine districts and the eight One Stop Centre Association (OSCA) districts. Through collaborative partnerships, SAA Uganda implemented the Agriculture Market Support (AMS) program in the five districts of Karamoja, and three under the Vegetable Oil Development Project (VODP) funded by IFAD and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF).

Interventions focused on capacity building for EAs, farmers, and other actors along the value chains of prioritized crops. Needs assessments were also conducted to identify ways in which SAA Uganda could continue to provide valuable support to smallholder farmers. Activities involved establishing e-extension services, carrying out participatory farmer-led market surveys, and linking farmers with service providers along the value chain, among others. Various field days were organized offering demonstrations for CPE and PHAP services.

Summary of achievements



A total of **438 actors** (234 male and 204 female) were trained across the value chain for **priority crops including maize, beans and rice, horticulture, nutrition, value addition and CST practices**



In addition, **148 farmers** were trained on **seed production** along the value chain, **34** (20 male and 14 female) **agro-input stockist** on **safe use and handling of agrochemicals**, **31** of whom received certificates and were linked to major agro-input companies



A total of **392 farmer leaders** receiving training on **food safety**, with a total of **350** (156 male and 194 female) attending **green field days**



Training was also administered for **traders, CATs, village agents and store attendants** on **storage management, quality control and hygiene**, whilst **machine operators** benefited from training on **machine fabrication, quality welding, machine operation, problem diagnosis and maintenance**



SAA Uganda developed a range of educational material throughout 2020 for distribution amongst farmers and EAs, these include **1,984 nutrition charts** and **1,000 copies of bean production guides**



Aidah Abia threshing soybean near his store in the Kole District



Balya James irrigating seedlings in his nursery in the Kibuku District

COVID-19 pandemic response

Findings from the rapid impact assessment commissioned by SAA revealed that restrictions on transport, movement and the gathering of smallholder farmers had **limited access to input and output markets and extension services, limited labor availability, and reduced food and nutrition security**. SAA's **COVID-19 mitigation project** therefore focused on deploying e-extension services, whilst improving food and nutrition security and the income of smallholder farming communities. The findings were presented at the AGRA webinar on **"Preparedness of the seed industry in Uganda amidst COVID-19 pandemic and locust invasions"** and during the **Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (UFAAS)** under the theme "positioning agricultural extension and advisory services for resilient agriculture and food systems in Uganda."

To increase access to information, **196 CBFs** received **smart phones for use in the provision of advisory services**, and a total of **203 EAs** (**161 male and 42 female**) received training on **e-extension and digital marketing services**. SAA Uganda also registered **ten staff members**, and **344 farmer groups** on digital applications **providing agritech solutions**. To further mitigate challenges posed by the pandemic and ensure food security, **1,152 farmers** received **orange fleshed sweet potato vines**, and a further **800** received **cassava**. A total of **1,563 farmers** from **521 farmer groups** were given access to **vegetable seeds** – all crops and vegetables selected were based on market demand, food security and nutrition.



Key achievements



Ten audio-visual technology clips across crop value chains were developed and are being customized to be **uploaded on the e-extension platforms**

Under the HRD theme, seven interns were facilitated during their Supervised Enterprise Projects (SEPs); an SAA alumni meeting was attended by 40 members; the Department of Agriculture Extension at Makerere University was supported with new IT equipment (10 desktops, two laptops, two professional cameras, one printer, and four projectors and screens) to facilitate e-learning



Other achievements included a workshop under the theme “**Re-defining/strengthening the roles of postharvest handling and Agro-processing within Uganda’s food system**” that was attended by stakeholders along the postharvest segment of the value chain, SAA regional and Tokyo staff as well as other stakeholders; **14 radio talk shows and 300 spot messages** across the intervention districts across the value chain, **10 documentaries** were also captured and aired on TV and social media under the various relevant groups



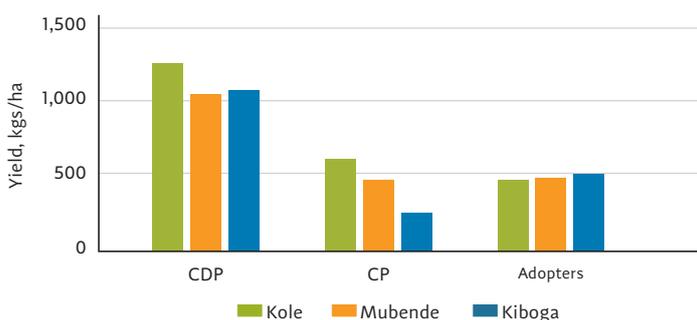
The following demonstrations were carried out: **six water harvesting and irrigation systems** focusing on high-value crops in CSVs; **21 types of labour-saving small-scale production and postharvest technologies**. A total of **1,257** (561 male and 696 female) farmers attended the **postharvest field technology demonstrations**

SAA demonstrated **17 different technologies** at a **three-day national technology exhibition** hosting **219 farmers** – 68 of the participants then visited the SAA office for technical advice and to **form linkages with technology suppliers**

Yield data capturing

Results from the demonstrations showed that the technological packages and practices used resulted in higher crop yield compared to results from the community practices. Productivity increase of more than 100% was recorded on Longe 5 (below) which is both an open pollinated and Quality Protein maize variety across all districts.

Average yields for Longe 5



Source: SG 2000, Yield data 2020 Season A analysis, National Average Yield: Longe 5=2000 kgs/Ha

Highlights of partnerships

In 2020, SAA Uganda continued implementing the Agriculture and Market Support Program (AMS) in partnership with the WFP.

Additionally, SAA has developed an agreement with the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) in Uganda to help implement a European Union grant awarded to the Government of Uganda so as to implement a “Development Initiative for Northern Uganda” (DINU) Project. To mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture, SAA has partnered with various media houses as well as private ICT companies to ensure the continuity of extension and advisory services through e-extension platforms.



Innocent Kinyera in his agro-input shop in the Iganga District

Output and input marketing

During the year, 140MT of soy bean seeds and 15MT of rice seeds were produced and sold by the CBSM groups; 25.2MT of fertilizers, 70.2MT of seed (maize, beans and soybeans) and 10,810 liters of assorted pesticides worth 502,049,000 (\$135,688) were bought by farmers; while 621.9MT of maize, 360.4MT of soybean, 88.2MT of beans and 24.3MT of rice were produced and sold by farmers worth 1,081,232,800/= (\$292,225) mainly through the OSCA and CATs models.



Plans for 2021

SAA Uganda will continue to intensify its use of e-extension platforms to maximize outreach and impact. We will continue to encourage the adoption of CST practices as a way of enhancing households’ nutrition, and to combat poor postharvest handling practices.

We will also continue with the implementation of the SHEP approach in our areas of intervention.

Program coverage and potential expansion

The HRD program currently operates in 11 African countries and is operational in 30 universities and agricultural colleges. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and its subsequent effects on pedagogy, there was a notable demand for collaboration with SAFE programs and requests to adopt the SAFE demand-driven curriculum (SDDC), as well as an increase in student intake – these factors suggest the HRD program is being successfully implemented and embraced as a catalyst to improve overall agricultural productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa.



Participants of the Deans' Forum hosted by SAA in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

Impact Assessment of COVID-19

A study was conducted in Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Benin to assess the impact of the effects of COVID-19 pandemic on HRD activities, with a special focus on challenges and strategies needed to implement the SDDC model in training institutions. The study recommended that SAA support training institutions in the establishment of online training and e-learning platforms.

Statistics of SAFE Students as of December 2020

SAFE Program Universities/Colleges and Countries	Graduates			Current			Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin (B.Sc.)	195	43	238	10	8	18	256
Nazi Boni University, Burkina Faso (B.Sc.)	119	24	143	9	1	10	153
Arba Minch University, Ethiopia (B.Sc.)	26	4	30	105	19	124	154
Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia (B.Sc.)	126	52	178	31	28	59	237
Haramaya University, Ethiopia (B.Sc.)	565	88	653	78	7	85	738
Hawasa University, Ethiopia (B.Sc.)	216	56	272	139	24	163	435
Jijiga University, Ethiopia (BSc)	46	8	54	37	3	40	94
Jimma University, Ethiopia (B.Sc.)	107	21	128	56	23	79	207
Mekele University, Ethiopia (B.Sc.)	185	80	265	46	63	109	374
Samara University, Ethiopia (B.Sc.)	51	9	60	27	5	32	92
Wollo University, Ethiopia (B.Sc.)	92	37	129	16	13	29	158
Kawadaso Agric. College, Ghana (Dip)	493	97	590	-	-	-	590
University of Cape Coast, Ghana (B.Sc.)	495	125	620	21	4	25	645
Lilongwe University, Malawi (B.Sc.)	101	49	150	41	30	71	221
Rural Polytechnic Inst. and Applied Research (IPR/IFRA), Mali (Maîtrise)	287	48	335	13	4	17	352
M'pessoba Agricultural College, Mali (Dip)	-	-	-	42	9	51	51
Samanko Agric. College, Mali (Dip)	271	127	398	57	26	83	481
University of Segou, Mali (B.Sc.)	30	4	34	36	14	50	84
Catholic University of Mozambique (M.Sc.)	-	-	-	6	-	6	6
Adamawa State University, Nigeria (B.Sc.)	67	12	79	54	9	63	142
Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria (B.Sc.)	188	28	216	26	1	27	243
Bayero University, Nigeria (B.Sc.)	220	11	231	15	7	22	253
Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Nigeria (B.Sc.)	-	-	-	3	13	16	16
University of Dutsin-Ma, Nigeria (B.Sc.)	-	-	-	132	34	166	166
University of Ilorin, Nigeria (B.Sc.)	47	10	57	12	18	30	87
Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Nigeria (B.Sc)	40	1	41	12	1	13	54
Njala University, Sierra Leone (B.Sc.)	-	-	-	44	16	60	60
Sokoine University, Tanzania (B.Sc.)	853	287	1140	225	124	349	1489
Makerere University, Uganda (B.Sc.)	495	218	713	286	114	400	1113
Sub-Total	5,351	1,444	6,795	1,543	613	2,156	8,951
Scholarships	Graduated			Current			Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Diploma	6	-	6	-	-	-	6
B.Sc.	31	2	33	-	-	-	33
M.Sc.	49	12	61	-	-	-	61
PhD	9	5	14	-	-	-	14
SUB-TOTAL	95	19	114	-	-	-	114
Grand total	5,446	1,463	6,909	1,543	613	2,156	9,065



Training needs assessment

Needs assessments were conducted in Mali, Benin and Uganda to examine the changing environment around extension systems and the implementation of the SDDC model. The findings revealed that programs are well aligned to the agricultural, educational and youth development policies in the three countries, thus confirming that SDDC is tailored to the current needs of stakeholders, particularly that of farmers.

Pilot e-learning projects in Ethiopia and Mali

Following the COVID-19 impact assessment, e-learning pilot projects were implemented at Bahir Dar University in Ethiopia, and the University of Segou in Mali. In addition to the deployment of e-learning systems, a series of ToTs were organized for 55 lecturers (12 male and 43 female) in Ethiopia and Mali. Following the training, 63 modules (33 in Ethiopia and 30 in Mali) were uploaded on the e-learning platforms. The production of 65 modular video courses (50 in Ethiopia and 15 in Mali) are in progress. Necessary ICT equipment required for e-learning programs were provided. The e-learning platforms in Ethiopia and Mali are now institutionalized and managed by the universities.

Stakeholder workshops

Annual stakeholder planning workshops held in Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, Uganda and Ghana helped lecturers from partner universities share their respective experience. Stakeholders confirmed their commitment to supporting the implementation of the SDDC program. During a regional workshop conducted in Bamako, training institutions agreed to use e-learning to complement the existing modes of delivery.

Deans' Forum

Deans' Forums were successfully organized in Ethiopia, Mali and Nigeria to discuss how to strengthen employers' participation in the SAFE program. The Forums also provided an opportunity to review progress made so far, assess challenges, and suggest proposals for the way forward.

Student Research Fellowship and Internship Program

Three PhD students in Mali, Uganda, and Ethiopia were supported in conducting their research on the effectiveness of SAA field level technologies and practices through agronomic assessments. In Uganda, 21 interns were supported in their SEPs on climate-smart related projects and management of the army fall worm in maize. Four students in Mali had their internship on the SHEP approach, value chain approach, and e-learning platforms.



Visit to an e-learning center established with SAA's support at Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

Key achievements

Module Revision/Development



A total of **50 technical modules** were revised and developed in Ethiopia (11), Mali (10), Mozambique (11) and Malawi (18) along the entire agricultural value chain. **Sixteen manuals** were also developed in Ethiopia (five), Mali (eight) and Uganda (three) on the management and application of e-learning platforms.

Training on Topical Issues



Training on value-chain oriented SEPs were conducted for 81 lecturers (62 male and 19 females) in Mali, Tanzania, and Ethiopia.

ToTs on SHEP were organized for 43 participants (31 male and 12 female) in Mali and Burkina Faso to introduce the approach.

A series of training sessions on SAA models were also conducted for over 103 lecturers (84 male and 19 female) in Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda to enhance understanding of SAA field level models, and to examine the mainstreaming of SAA field level models in curricula.

A ToT on curriculum planning and mapping along value-chain agriculture was organized for 15 lecturers (nine male and six female) of the Catholic University of Mozambique.

SEPs Workshop and Supervision



A series of SEPs workshops were conducted to evaluate and provide feedback to students. SEPs supervisions were also carried out to provide technical advice to students to improve the implementation of SEPs.

Enrollment and Graduation



424 students (341 male and 83 female) graduated and 596 students (403 male and 193 female) were admitted to the program under different modes of delivery from January-December 2020.

Alumni associations

Alumni associations in all countries conducted their annual conferences and produced their bulletins. They have been very functional through their networking activities in the dissemination of technologies to farmers. Additionally, alumni also took part in SEPs supervisions.

Publications and conference papers

Two articles on the SDDC program were published in international journals. A further paper on the SDDC model was presented at the virtual MANAGE International Conference on "Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services: Innovations to Impact" in India.



Plans for 2021

Under the HRD theme, SAA will continue to revise its curriculum and modules to enhance compatibility with e-learning platforms. There is also focus on integrating SAA promoted field level technologies and approaches, as regenerative and nutrition sensitive agricultural concepts in the curricula of trainings.

Partnerships and extra core projects

Project name	Partner/donor	Duration	Amount (USD)	Project overview
ETHIOPIA				
Improving Market led Production of selected Agricultural commodities in Targeted Woredas of Tigray (IMPACT-Tigray)	AGRA	2018-2022	2,808,216	Improving food security and income of smallholder farmers through enhancement of crop productivity of wheat and tef and market access.
Improving Market led Production of selected Agricultural commodities in Targeted Woredas of Amhara (IMPACT-Amhara)	AGRA	2018-2022	2,174,806	Improving food security and income of smallholder farmers through enhancement of crop productivity of maize, wheat and tef and market access.
MALI				
Developing Economically Viable Models of Foundation Seed Production for Vital Food Security Crops in Mali	Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO)- Food and Business Applied Research Fund (ARF)	2017-2020	326,115	Establishing a stable production model for breeder's stock seed. ¹
Integrated Seed Sector Development in the Sahel (ISSD/Sahel) Project	Embassy of the Netherlands in Bamako	2020-2024	4,025,309 ²	Accelerating the development of the quality seed market among producer organizations and the private seed sector, whilst retaining a fair balance between profitability for producers and affordable prices for consumers and processors
NIGERIA				
Uplifting smallholder farmers' livelihood in Kaduna State of Nigeria through market driven upscaling of the maize, rice and soybean value chains (AGRA-K)	AGRA	2018-2021	1,160,741	Enhancing productivity of maize, rice, soybeans to improve the income of smallholder farmers.
Increasing Rice Productivity to Improve Income and Food Security of Farmers in Niger State, North-Central Nigeria (AGRA-N)	AGRA	2018-2021	751,319	Enhancing productivity of rice and soybeans to improve income of smallholder farmers.
Promoting Agricultural Productivity on Crops and Livestock	FMARD	2019-2022	1,202,146	Improving agricultural productivity and production.
African Cassava Agronomy Initiatives (ACAI) Phase III	IITA	2020	53,957	Disseminating cost effective agricultural technologies to improve production of cassava.
Co-validation of nutrient expert (NE) mobile-based tool in smallholder maize-based systems of Nigeria (TAMASA)	CIMMYT	2020-2021	32,285	Disseminating a digital extension advise application developed on Maize (Nutrient Expert) for fertilizer recommendations to farmers using Android Smart phones.
Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project	IsDB	2020-2025	21,310,000	Contributing to poverty reduction and strengthening food and nutrition security of 450,000 smallholder farmers in Kano state by establishing agricultural extension systems which improve the whole agricultural value chain in the state.
SHEP collaboration	JICA (NTC International & Kaihatsu Management Consulting)	2020-2021	76,058 ³	Conducting baseline survey at Federal Capital Territory and Nasarawa state for the preparation of following SHEP activity. Also, train EAs in 18 states to disseminate SHEP approach.
UGANDA				
Agriculture Market Support Program (AMS) for Karamoja region	WFP	2020-2021	1,072,964	Assisting smallholder farmers moving out from subsistence farming to market-oriented farming through capacity building of farmer organizations in the area of collective marketing and quality control.
Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU project)	EU 11th European Development Fund	2020-2023	307,105 ⁴	Eradicating poverty and improving livelihood and inclusive socio-economic development in Northern Uganda, through enhancing the production of nutritious and marketable diversity of crops and animal source foods and products.

¹ Breeder's stock seed: In order to maintain the quality of seeds, variety seeds raised by breeders (breeder seeds) are multiplied into foundation seeds and registered seeds by agricultural testing facilities and research institutes of better classed. Registered seeds are multiplied by seed companies, and sold to farmers as certified seeds.

² Exchanged to USD by TTM as of December 30, 2020.

³ Exchanged to USD by TTM as of December 30, 2020.

⁴ Exchanged to USD by TTM as of December 30, 2020.

SAA		2019 (USD)	2020 (USD)
Overview	Total Ordinary Income	10,335,482	13,265,208
	Total Ordinary Expense	11,597,076	11,159,371
	Total Net Assets	3,165,406	5,456,162
	Cash balance at the end of the year	8,421,681	6,886,874
Details of Income	NF Grant	7,484,665	9,170,282
	AGRA (Ethiopia)	1,014,261	1,119,620
	KSADP (Nigeria)	0	1,896,222
	AGRA-Kaduna (Nigeria)	211,943	257,464
	AGRA-Niger (Nigeria)	280,972	241,411
	WFP-Karamoja (Uganda)	0	102,312
	Other Income from Extra Core Project	838,914	191,663
	Other Income (Including foreign exchange gain)	504,637	286,233
	Contribution Received	88	0
Details of Expense	NF Core Project		
	Operating Expenses	5,630,136	5,633,326
	Management Expenses	2,959,483	3,326,396
	Extra Core Projects		
	AGRA (Ethiopia)	1,002,709	1,085,123
	KSADP (Nigeria)	0	102,759
	AGRA-Kaduna (Nigeria)	525,114	327,522
	AGRA-Niger (Nigeria)	199,390	269,163
	WFP-Karamoja (Uganda)	0	197,285
	Others (Ethiopia/Uganda/Nigeria)	1,280,245	217,797

Notes:

- Figures of each item provided in 2020 are based on the English translation of the Financial Report of Sasakawa Afirca Association (The 6th Term) audited and reviewed by Mazars LLC on March 11, 2021, and prepared on accrual basis as per the Japanese accounting standard for public incorporated foundations.
- The figures of extra core projects of which amount is more than USD100,000 are shown in the report.

SAA Award 2020 Winners

Best Team: **Team Uganda**

Best Individual: **Mr Ahmad Abdulrahman Jibrin**

SAA Value Award

Kaizen: **Mr Alou Traore (Mali)**

Passion: **Mr Eric Bosco Akera (Uganda)**

Self-reflection: **Dr Oladele Idowu (Nigeria)**

Integrity: **Mr Ande Okiror (Regional Office)**

Team Spirit: **Team Mali**



*Mr Ahmad A. Jibrin, MERC PO,
Best Individual SAA 2020 Award Winner*

SAA Founders

Ryoichi Sasakawa
(The Nippon Foundation Founder)

Norman E. Borlaug
(Nobel Peace Prize Laureate)

Jimmy Carter
(Former US President)

SAA Board of Councillors

Takeju Ogata

Shuichi Ohno

Katsumi Hirano

SAA Board of Directors

Ruth K Oniang'o, Chair

Amit Roy, Vice-chair

Makoto Kitanaka, President

Fumiko Iseki, Executive Director
(until February 2020)

Katsuhiko Osako, Director
(until March 2020)

SAA Auditor

Akinori Sugai

SAA Principal Staff

Management

Junichi Hanai, Program Director
(as of April 2020)

Mel Oluoch, Regional Director

Deola Naibakelao, Deputy Regional Director
(retired December 2020)

Senior Staff (Regional Office)

Bidjokazo Fofana, Thematic Director,
Crop Productivity Enhancement

Leonides Halos-Kim, Thematic Director,
Postharvest Handling and Agro-Processing
(retired December 2020)

Mercy Akeredolu, Thematic Director, Human
Resource Development (as of January 2020)

Ethiopia Tadesse, Acting Thematic Director,
Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and
Communications

Senior Staff (Country Offices)

Fentahun Mengistu, Ethiopia Country Director

Sokona Dagnoko, Mali Country Director

Sani Miko, Nigeria Country Director

Roselline Nyamutale, Uganda Country Director

SAFE Staff from Winrock International

Assa Kanté, Coordinator,
Francophone West Africa

Oladele Idowu, Coordinator,
Anglophone West Africa

IN MEMORIAM

Franklin Simtowe, Thematic Director, Monitoring,
Evaluation, Reporting and Communications

Dr Franklin Simtowe joined SAA in August 2020.

He sadly passed away on 9 October 2020.



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