



Lives and
Livelihoods
Fund



KSADP-SAA

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NEWSLETTER

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A SPECIAL
**WOMEN'S
MARCH**
EDITION



Lives and
Livelihoods
Fund

A DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE BY



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FROM THE PMU

Dear Reader...

The Kano State Agro-pastoral Development Project is a \$95 million, 5-year program which focuses on improving crop production and enhancing livestock productivity in the state. It is funded by the Islamic Development Bank, IsDB, the Lives and Livelihood Funds, LLF and the government of Kano state. The Executing Agency of the program is the Kano State Agriculture and Rural Development Authority (KNARDA).

The overall objective of the KSADP is to contribute to reducing poverty and strengthening food and nutrition security in the state by developing agro-pastoral production systems (production, processing, and retailing). The target beneficiaries of the program include smallholder farmers and pastoralists.

Other key beneficiaries are actors involved in the value chain of agro-pastoralism, namely, agricultural produce processors, marketers, input suppliers, and financial

institutions. The program will directly benefit over 1.26 million people.

One of our major mandates is the development of the crop value chain. In this regard, we are funding Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) to impact nearly half a million smallholder farmers across the 44 local government areas of Kano. We are proud that our relationship with SAA is making a huge impact.

It is my hope that this publication will bring into the limelight the achievements of our collaboration with SAA and how, together, we can continue to make an impact in agriculture for the good of our citizens.

Have a great read...

Ibrahim Garba Muhammad

State Project Coordinator

Kano State Agropastoral Development Project (KSADP)



A group of women beneficiaries of KSADP/SAA rice processing intervention pose with their product

FROM THE PC

Dear Reader...

Women are critical stakeholders in agricultural development, rural development, and poverty alleviation. They play major roles in the production of the food consumed globally. They lead in the production, processing, and marketing of agricultural produce for household food consumption and income generation. Unfortunately, they usually grapple with productivity challenges even when they still shoulder the burden of the food needs of many households. Therefore, no amount of intervention is too much to empower more women.

To commemorate the 2024 International Women's Day, which is observed on March 8 every year, we at KSADP/SAA project spent the month of March evaluating our engagements and interventions aimed at empowering women in Kano state. While we have satisfactorily implemented women-centred projects through our Regenerative Agriculture, Market-Oriented Agriculture, and Nutrition-Sensitive agriculture activities, we shall do more in 2024.

Sincere thanks to the State Project Management Unit of the Kano State Agropastoral Development Project (KSADP) for their support to the Sasakawa Africa Association to empower women through the crop value chain. The entire project would also not be possible without the project funding received from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF), the Kano State government, and the Kano State Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (KNARDA).

This edition of the KSADP/SAA Newsletter is tagged "A special Women's March Edition" to present some of the stories of our female beneficiaries captured in March. In this edition, you will read about the women's exploits in increasing yield and productivity on their farms, processing, nutrition, and income generation. We also look at how some of them are empowering fellow women through training, group formation, and extension services.

I wish you a happy read.

Abdulrasheed Kofarmata
KSADP/SAA Project Coordinator

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KSADP/SAA beneficiary “pays it forward”, trains widows, school leavers in agrifoods processing



Mrs Khadija Abubakar Jibril with members of her KAJ Agro team at Sheka Sabuwa Abuja in Kumbotso LGA, Kano

As part of efforts to address poverty through the empowerment of small enterprises, the KSADP/SAA helped struggling processors establish 28 milling enterprises in 2023. Today, those enterprises are thriving, generating income and providing employment. However, one of the enterprises, owned by Khadija Abubakar Jibril, has embarked on a “pay it forward” journey. The 46-year-old woman is currently training and empowering younger and less privileged women in her community.

Her milling enterprise, KAJ Agro Allied, located at Sheka Sabuwar Abuja in Kumbotso Local Government Area of Kano State, currently produces at least 10 bags of agri-foods per day from maize, groundnuts and soya beans. Nevertheless, a striking part of her success is that she is currently training 30 other women comprising orphans, widows and secondary school leavers.

Narrating her journey, Mrs Jibril Khadija, revealed

that before she became a beneficiary of the KSADP/SAA intervention, she was just a small-scale processor who barely made profit.

Her words: “I was struggling to scale production. My equipment were inadequate and I didn’t have the manpower. I was only processing one bag per day, and struggling to make profit. However, KSADP came to the rescue last year. I was empowered with two agro-processing machines. Those machines transformed my operations. I increased production, hired more people and today, we produce and package various food products and sell them in stores and supermarkets”

Mrs Jibril said that the KSADP/SAA intervention had boosted people’s livelihood because of additional efforts. “Apart from creating jobs, we are creating opportunities,” she said. “I am training these less privileged ones hoping that one day, they too will establish themselves and further help to reduce unemployment and poverty ●

Ending women's struggle in the rice milling business in Kano



KSADP/SAA team poses with a group of women beneficiaries at Sumaila LGA, Kano

Women play critical roles in rice processing in many rice-producing communities in Kano State. These women earned a living sorting and parboiling paddy rice for commercial and domestic consumption. The coming of the milling machines in many communities however presented new challenges to some of the women.

The destoners and dehullers eliminated the job of manual sorting. Parboiling then became the main and only rice-processing task for most of the women because men owned most of the machines. To make matters worse, the lack of modern skills, techniques, and facilities for parboiling rice further disadvantaged most of the women who produced poor-quality grains that could not compete in the market.

The KSADP/SAA project has however started changing the narrative for these women through training and empowerment in rice processing. The project has provided modern rice milling and parboiling facilities

and trained hundreds of women in groups across the state. The development has levelled the field for women to survive in rice processing.

In Gala community, Sumaila Local Government Area, the project empowered the women's group with rice milling and parboiling facilities including a drum, a generator set, and a sack sewing machine. The women now run the centre, the Gala Rice Processing Enterprise, parboiling and processing top-quality rice.

The leader of the group, Mrs Babannan Idris 40, said that the intervention has transformed the way they parboiled rice.

She said, "They gave us a 3-day training on modern parboiling techniques and also gave us all the equipment we need. Now, our parboiling is done both efficiently and hygienically. The rice is stone-free and doing well in the market. We now mill 20 – 30 bags of rice weekly and make over N30,000.

In Tsohon Garu Community under Gwarzo Local Government Area in Kano, the project handed over a rice-milling centre equipped with milling and destoning machines to the Tsohon Garu Women Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society to ease the difficulties faced by women processors.

According to Mrs Bilkisu Yahaya, the group's leader, the women parboiled rice locally for decades until KSADP/SAA came to their rescue.

"Those days, we usually just put the rice in a pot and set fire. The method usually led to breakage of the grains but we didn't know any other method. And we usually spend 2 - 3 days before parboiling a bag of rice, before milling it for the owner at a price of N1,000.

But the rice milling enterprise established for us now, we are doing great. The training has opened our eyes to the best production, processing, and even marketing strategies ●

"They gave us a 3-day training on modern parboiling techniques and also gave us all the equipment we need. Now, our parboiling is done both efficiently and hygienically. The rice is stone-free and doing well in the market. We now mill 20 – 30 bags of rice weekly"

- Mrs Babannan Idris



Processing machines donated to KAJ agro processing facility, Kano

Maize farmer gushes over improved yield from improved varieties



Mrs Hadiza Garba and KSADP/SAA EA during a visit to the Bakin Kasuwa community in Rogo LGA, Kano.

“**L**ast year after harvesting maize from my farm, I found myself counting and recounting the bags of maize in the store. I couldn’t believe there were 45 bags!” Hadiza Garba, 42, who prides herself as one of the luckiest female beneficiaries of the KSADP/SAA project, said recently. Hadiza, who started farming nine years ago, is the leader of the Rogo Bakin Kasuwa Women Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative in Bakin Kasuwa, in Rogo Local Government Area (LGA) of Kano state.

Hadiza who usually got 18 to 22 bags of maize on the same area of land (1Ha Maize CBSM), disclosed that the journey to increased yield started when the KSADP/SAA project, under its Regenerative Agriculture (RA) component, introduced Sammaz 51, a biofortified improved maize variety to her community.

The Bakin Kasuwa community was one of the communities that benefitted from the KSADP/SAA training and empowerment of 346 seed out-

growers across the 44 local government areas of the state in 2022. Part of the intervention included the establishment of 192 hectares of Community-Based Seed Multiplication (CBSM) plots in various communities and a collaboration with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), to train 266 community-based seed producers on quality and improved seed production techniques and Good Agronomic Practices (GAPs) in maize and rice production.

Hadiza who participated actively in the empowerment programmes, went back to her farm to practice the new technologies and knowledge acquired from the training.

“They gave us seeds, fertilizers, herbicide, insecticide and fungicide for free, so there was no reason for me not to practice everything they introduced us to,” she explained. “I expected a higher yield but the 45 bags I got were really astonishing.”

On why she describes herself as “lucky”, Hadiza said that the development has opened another income opportunity for her as a seed outgrower. She said: “I am one of those linked to seed companies to become an out-grower. So, what

more can I ask for? I just want to thank the project as well as their sponsors, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Lives and Livelihood Funds (LLF), the Kano state government, and everyone who has made this intervention possible ●

"I'm nourishing my household and generating income at the same time"

Fifty-year-old Mrs Usaina Alli Ahmed, is enhancing the nutritional status of her household and generating income from producing delicious foods and drinks from grains such as rice, maize, soybeans, sorghum and millet. She and members of her group, the Limawa Ammar Women Fadama Farmers group in Kano Municipal Local Government Area of Kano State, currently make soy cake, “soy meat steaks”, maize couscous, soy noodles, tombrown, and a vast array of grain-based drinks.

This feat is the result of the collaboration between the KSADP/SAA, IITA and ICRISAT to build the capacity of women in the production of nutritious foods and drinks from major staple grains for household nutrition and income generation. Members of Mrs Usaina’s group were among the beneficiaries who took part in the training activities. The partnership trained the women in groups in complementary foods production and income generation using soybeans, maize, millet, rice, and sorghum.

In a chat with KSADP/SAA Newsletter, Mrs Usaina recalled that they formed the group to leverage the power of unity to support one another in their small-scale farming businesses.

She said: “Despite our efforts, we still found it challenging

to participate substantially in catering to our household needs. The financial pressure also affected our families’ nutritional status, especially in the care of young children. It was clear that we all needed additional income sources and that was when we encountered the KSADP/SAA project.

“They trained us to make soy cake, “soy meat steaks”, maize couscous, soy noodles, tombrown, pap, and other grain-based foods and drinks. They also exposed us to some enterprise and small business management skills to help us manage the income we generate.”

Mrs Usaina makes up to N1500 profit daily in addition to having enough to feed her family.



Mrs Usaina Alli Ahmed, farmer and food processor in Kano Municipal LGA, Kano

“I process about one Mudu of soybeans every day and make up to N1500 profit every day,” she disclosed. “The money I make is helping me to support my husband in taking care of the home.”

The mother of nine noted also that with the food options she produces from maize, soybean, millet, rice, her household has completely eradicated malnutrition as there is always healthy food and drinks for her children and husband any time of the day ●

Extension Agent lauds KSADP/SAA for women-friendly working conditions

“In the beginning, I thought it would be challenging for a female extension agent to work under the KSADP/SAA project because of the targets set out at inception. But I was surprised at how easy the project became despite achieving so much”.

Those were the words of Asabe Inusa, an extension agent seconded to SAA under the Kano State Agricultural and Rural Development Agency (KNARDA). Mrs Inusa has been the Lead Extension Agent (EA) for the KSADP/SAA project for two years. In those two years, she has worked as a solution provider to farmer groups in Doguwa Local Government Area of Kano State.



Asabe Inusa, KSADP/SAA Lead EA in Doguwa Local Government Area, Kano State

more exposure to modern practices in Regenerative Agriculture, Market Oriented Agriculture, and Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture. Now, I am a solution provider and a go-to person for farmers in the community. Farmers rely on my experience and connections to relate to the project to get solutions and increase productivity.”

The mother of 10 also spoke highly of her male counterparts, describing them as supportive. “My male counterparts have been very supportive. The farmers and farmers’ group too have been very cooperative. It’s been a good ride and we pray for more impactful projects like this. I am grateful to the project, the funders, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Lives and Livelihood Fund (LLF), Sasakawa, and other partners” ●

Sharing her experience working on the project as a woman in a male-dominated profession, the 50-year-old development worker stated that the project’s women-friendly and gender-sensitive approach had been a critical factor.

She said: “Female extension agents are performing excellently on the project because of the women-friendly working conditions provided. The frequent training we received also empowered, strengthened and updated our step-down training skills.

“Female extension agents are performing excellently on the project because of the women-friendly working conditions provided. The frequent training we received also empowered, strengthened and updated our step-down training skills.

- Asabe Inusa

“As a person, these training sessions have given me

KSADP/SAA women beneficiaries reel out “next level” plans



Female beneficiaries of agro-processing centres established by KSADP/SAA project being interviewed by journalists during a media parley

Groups of female beneficiaries of the KSADP/SAA project are reeling out expansion plans leveraging their success stories and the new prospects before them.

One such ambitious group is the Barkum Women Rice Processors in Bunkure Local Government Area in Kano state. Last year, the group demonstrated enterprise prowess when they came under the KSADP/SAA Collective Market Access, Group Dynamics, and Community Savings for Investment in Agribusiness (CSIA) programme and successfully accessed and paid back a loan of N8.8million from JAIZ Bank.

The group had focused on minimal rice production, processing, and trading but now plans to produce and process at a larger scale. According to the group's leader, Mrs Hajara Yusuf, “we plan to cultivate 10 hectares of rice in the dry season and increase our rice processing activities. We are hereby requesting rice milling equipment for our community. The year 2024 will be

for massive production and massive processing.”

A group of female spray service providers, who have constituted themselves into a cooperative group in Unguwar Dan Umma village in Tudun Wada LGA of Kano State, also stressed their decision to move to the “next level”. The group, which currently has 10 members, is involved in spraying as a business and saving money in a unique cooperative style, and helping one another financially. Members go out to spray people's farms and get paid. They contribute a certain percentage to the group and keep the rest. Since the members are also farmers, we give the money as loans for production. After harvest, members also contribute produce that we store and sell when the price is good.

According to 35-year-old Mary Musa, the group's leader, “we're planning to enlist and train more members and then get registered to be able to access input financing and acquire more spraying kits”.

The Limawa Ammar Women Fadama Farmers group in Kano Municipal Local Government Area of Kano State, currently has its members generating income through the production of soy cake, “soy meat steaks”, maize couscous, soy noodles, tombrown, and a vast array of food and drinks made from maize, soybean, sorghum, and millet.

The leader of the group, Mrs Usiana Alli Ahmad, told KSADP/SAA Newsletter that the group plans to concentrate on the production of the raw materials needed for their production.

According to her, “We are all farmers. We were struggling with production but the training and opportunities to make food and drinks from those crops exposed us to the fact that we can indeed be producing both our raw materials and our finished products. This will help us produce at scale and maximize profit”.

Commenting on the massive plans the female beneficiaries are putting forward, the KSADP/SAA Project coordinator, Comrade Abdulrasheed Kofarmata, stated that it was a reflection of the gender sensitive approach the project has used in the delivery of its interventions. He said: “KSADP recognizes that women are critical stakeholders in agricultural development and poverty alleviation. They are involved in production, processing and marketing, so, agricultural transformation will not happen without them. This year, we intend to focus more on them •

“Women are critical stakeholders in agricultural development and poverty alleviation. Agricultural transformation will not happen without them, so we intend to focus more on them this year.

- Abdulrasheed Kofarmata



Beneficiaries of household nutritious food processing and income generation training pose with their products at Kano Municipal LGA, Kano

PHOTO NEWS



Barkum women MPCs during a meeting in Bunkure LGA, Kano



Mrs Asabe Inusa in photo with KSADP/SAA officials during a visit to her community in Doguwa LGA, Kano.



KNARDA and KSADP officials at the installation of the rice parboiling centre



Member of the Burkum Women MPCs in a group photo.



Female beneficiaries of power tillers distributed to farmers



Members of the Rogo Bakin Kasuwa Women Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative in Rogo LGA, Kano

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

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