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Lives and Livelihoods Fund



# KSADP-SAA

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## NEWSLETTER

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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)**



Group photo of the IsDB mission and KSADP-PMU during the inauguration of a rice milling centre in Kura, Kano state

## IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE



Thumbs up as KSADP/SAA project presents 2023 scorecard to stakeholders

4



KSADP/SAA crop threshers: Saving harvests and creating jobs

5



Why I'm doing better than my colleagues in white-collar jobs – Youth farmer

7



Farmer vows to join KSADP/SAA to promote organic farming

8



Woman narrates experience practicing lessons from KSADP/SAA soybean/maize demo

9



Tilling the path to progress: KSADP empowers Kano farmers with advanced power tillers

10



How project's MOA beneficiaries successfully accessed and repaid N8.8m JAIZ bank loan

11

Photo News

12

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# Thumbs up as KSADP/SAA project presents 2023 scorecard to stakeholders



**SAA Nigeria Country Director, Dr Godwin Atser; KNARDA MD, Dr Farouk Kurawa and Dean Faculty of Agriculture, ABU, Zaria at the SAA Annual Stakeholders workshop**

The KSADP/SAA Project has received commendations for its achievements in the year 2023 and its plans for 2024. The “thumbs up” came at the 2024 Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) Annual National Stakeholders Review and Planning Workshop held at the Conference Hall of the National Agricultural Research and Liaison Services (NAERLS), Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State on February 20 and 21 2024.

The KSADP/SAA Project Coordinator, Abdulrasheed Kofarmata, presented the project’s 2023 scorecard to stakeholders comprising representatives from the donor community, state governments, tertiary institutions, research institutes, and agricultural associations, members of the press, farmers and other key players in the agricultural stakeholders.

According to Kofarmata, the KSADP/SAA project, funded by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and Lives and Livelihood Fund (LLF), exposed farmers to

climate smart farming technologies that are enhancing the soil, cutting production cost, reducing post-harvest losses, increasing yields and creating new income sources. He noted that the project worked with partners to conduct training, youth and women empowerment, establishment of post-harvest facilities and enterprises, and distribution of thousands of farm equipment.

His presentation showed that in 2023, the project, operating across the three SAA pillars of Regenerative Agriculture, Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture and Market Oriented Agriculture, had reached more than 366,000 farmers and trained 854 Extension Agents, Community Based Facilitators (CBFs) and Commodity Association Traders/Trainers (CATs) on good agronomic practices, post-harvest handling and market-oriented agriculture. At least 100 input stockists and 440 contract sprayers were trained and equipped while branded kiosks were distributed to the input dealers.

He said: “We also worked to reduce post-harvest losses

by establishing 20 aerated onion storage systems, three parabolic solar dryers for vegetables, 28 agro processing centres and rice parboiling enterprises. All these were supported with the training of 75 women and establishment of medium scale tomato enterprises. At least 100 planters, 500 water pumps, and 240 USG applicators were distributed last year.”

The presentation generated applause from stakeholders present with Dr Farouk Kurawa, the Managing Director of the Kano state Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (KNARDA), saying that “showcasing these achievements will encourage other states to adopt the KSADP model. Every state has its own priorities, Kano prioritized agriculture and deployed its loan facility from the IsDB to KSADP and it is paying off”.



**KSADP/SAA Project coordinator making a presentation at the stakeholders workshop**

Agreeing with Kurawa, the SAA Country Director, Dr Godwin Atser, said, “with the KSADP, Kano State has presented a template for other states to copy.

Also reacting, the State Project Coordinator of the KSADP, Mallam Muhammad Garba, hailed SSA for an impressive implementation of the crop value chain component of the KSADP, saying, “Sasakawa has done a good job with the crop value chain component of the KSADP. With the progress we’re also witnessing on the livestock side, Kano state is on the path of agricultural transformation”

On the plans for 2024, Kofarmata noted that the project would install more post-harvest facilities, establish more demonstration and community-based seed multiplication fields and conduct more training aimed at decarbonization of cropping systems, climate mitigation and yield enhancement ●

## **KSADP/SAA Saving harvests and crop threshers: creating jobs**

**H**arvest time is a period of joy in every farming community but the joy is usually cut short by the losses and drudgery associated with the manual threshing of harvested grains. Grain breakage, grain spillage, and incomplete separation are some of the challenges farmers usually deal with. In some cases, farmers wait endlessly to use the few available threshing machines. These delays lead to significant losses due to exposure to air, moisture, and pests.

However, some farmers in Kano State are singing a different song due to the scores of modern single

and multi-crop threshers the KSADP/SAA project, operating with funds from the Islamic Development Bank ((sDB) and Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF), has distributed across local government areas of the state.

According to the KSADP/SAA Programme Officer for Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Engr. Sadiq Hamman, the machines were distributed to young people in the communities to set them up as private service providers helping farmers to reduce post-harvest losses in maize, rice, millet, and sorghum.

His words: “Last year we have so far given out 15 modern maize threshers 15 rice threshers and 9 multi-crop threshers in the state. The aim is to achieve the dual benefit of helping farmers reduce post-harvest losses and creating jobs for operators of the machines. The beneficiaries are young farmers, men and women, living in the communities, who showed capacity and commitment to use and maintain the machines”

One of the beneficiaries is 33-year-old Usman Suleiman a farmer and maize threshing machine operator in Kofar Arewa community, Gwarzo Local Government Area of Kano State. Suleiman told the KSADP/SAA Newsletter recently that the maize thresher given to him two years ago has made him fully self-employed.

His words: “Before now, I was just an operator using a locally fabricated maize thresher that belonged to someone else. So, we shared the money I made. Apart from going home with very little after paying for fuel, labour, and other things, the quality of work wasn’t so smooth. The local machine breaks the stalk and even leaves some grains on it. But with the KSADP thresher, I thresh faster and deliver fine grains. On a good day, I can process up to 100 bags.

Suleiman revealed that the machine offered several advantages such as speed that allows him to handle up to 100 bags per day and efficiency that ensures that stalk and grains come out unbroken. “The wheels under the machine also help me move them around easily,” he said, adding that because of the volume of work, he employs one or two people and pays them after each job ●



**Usman Suleiman, maize threshing machine operator in Kofar Arewa community, Gwarzo Local Government Area of Kano State.**

# Why I'm doing better than my colleagues in white-collar jobs – Youth farmer



KSADP Youth farmer, Rabiu Sani, on his tomato farm in Bunkure LGA, Kano State

**R**abiu Sani, a 35-year-old farmer in Bunkure Local government Area of Kano state, has called on young people searching for white-collar jobs to embrace agriculture, saying that with the kinds of technologies and techniques, he learned from the KSADP/SAA programmes, farming is a profitable business.

Sani, a graduate of the Audu Bako School of Agriculture, Kano State, produces cabbage, maize, and tomatoes. "I have always loved farming and believed that it can be profitable," he said. "Although I used to get discouraged when I record crop losses, but after adopting the practices introduced by the KSADP/SAA, I discovered that the losses were due to old deficient practices. For example, when fruiting, some of my tomatoes die due to the kind of spacing. But working with KSADP/SAA has introduced me to better plant spacing methods.

Recalling how the journey with KSADP/SAA started, Sani stated that the KSADP demo signboards he saw on a demo field moved him to reach out to the project EAs in the community. "I knew I'll do better with better technologies. So, immediately my group was offered to host a demo, I did not hesitate.

Sani who spoke to KSADP/SAA Newsletter on his

tomato farm, was proud to talk about some of the changes he made to be the owner of the healthy-looking newly transplanted tomato field.

His words: "Working with KSADP/SAA on my demo plot opened my eyes to the advantages and use of improved tomato varieties, fertilizer use efficiency and better planting methods and nursery management. Before participating in the project, I used to plant open-pollinated tomato varieties, spent a lot on fertilizers, and lost seedlings at the nursery stage. But with what I am practicing now, I had more than 90% survival at the nursery stage. I am using improved varieties and having better water management this dry season. In fact, I have never been surer about the prospects in tomato farming".

Sani who is married with six children boasted that he makes more money as a farmer than most of his colleagues doing white-collar jobs. He encouraged those looking for non-existent government or cooperate jobs to embrace agriculture. "And thank God we have sponsors like the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF) and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) who make funds available for technologies that make farming easy" he said.

“Young people should focus more on farming,” he advised. “Understandably, they run away from it due to the drudgery and losses sometimes recorded, but with the methods I have adopted now, those losses have been reduced. This is modern farming with less drudgery. The

project should do more to target young people because, with your technologies and techniques, they can practice modern farming and make more money than they will make in any other job ●

## Farmer vows to join KSADP/SAA to promote organic farming

**“W**hen I was a child, my father used to get a good yield from maize without inorganic fertilizers but over time, we discovered that we get nothing without these fertilizers. So, I was skeptical when KSADP/SAA came with the idea of organic farming.”

Those were the words of Mallam Yusuf Garba, a maize farmer and Person with Disability (PWD) in Gwarzo Local Government Area of Kano state. The 70-year-old farmer said he decided to host the KSADP/SAA organic farming demonstration plot since the project said they would provide the seeds and guide him through the production phase.

He said: “I followed the recommendations, applied only farmyard manure, and used only organic matter for pest and weed control. The first marvel was how good looking and healthy my maize was. Fellow farmers did not believe that I did not apply inorganic fertilizer. My only sorrow is that people started stealing the maize before I could harvest them. What I harvested despite the massive theft showed that organic farming is the way to go. So, right now I have fully embraced organic farming and I will join the KSADP/SAA project to promote it.

Under its Regenerative Agriculture (RA) component, the KSADP/SAA project which is funded by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Lives and Livelihoods Funds (LLF), promotes organic farming among farmers in the state as a way to reduce dependence on inorganic fertilizers and herbicides.



Mallam Yusuf Garba, a PWD maize farmer in Gwarzo Local Government Area of Kano

According to Albert Taru, the RA Programme Officer for the KSADP/SAA project, organic farming is one of the technologies the project is encouraging farmers to adopt as part of climate adaptation challenges and in the face of costly inorganic fertilizers.

“Quite a lot of farmers are usually skeptical at the idea

of farming without inorganic inputs but when they try it and see the huge benefits, they automatically become ambassadors of organic farming”, he said, noting that the project is also encouraging the use of improved seed varieties to get a higher yield, pest and disease resistance and drought-tolerance.

“These attributes are what farmers aim to get by using inorganic inputs but now they know they can get them organically,” he added ●



## Woman narrates experience practicing lessons from KSADP/SAA soybean/maize demo

In the last five years, Aisha Ibrahim, 33, has been supporting her fabrics business with some maize farming on a half-acre land in Bunkure local government area of Kano State. At harvest time, she goes home with one or two bags of maize. The produce does not go far in catering for their home but her husband appreciated the effort she made for the family.

Last year, she had the opportunity to attend training sessions at a soybean/maize strip cropping demonstration plot established by the KSADP/SAA project in the community. She got closer to the host farmer and continued to monitor activities on the field.

“The varieties and planting practices used on the plot were really interesting,” she said. “They were new and more efficient. For instance, while I was used to planting up to five seeds per hole, they put only one seed per hole and the germination rate was even better. Secondly, the crop performed better and at harvest, I could not believe the yield. That was when I decided to replicate the practice on my farm.”

Aisha also noted that the intercropping of soybeans and maize struck her as a perfect way to improve soil fertility and earn some extra money. “I have never thought of intercropping the two crops,” she confessed. “But I decided to try it on my field. I believe the soybeans helped to increase the soil’s fertility and the maize gained from it. That was why the yield was very good.

The mother of five revealed that she cultivated only a half-acre of land and got about seven bags as against the two

bags she used to get in the past. She noted that the soybeans was an additional gain on the same plot of land. This is definitely how I will continue to grow maize and soybean together.

Pointing to the room where she stored her maize, she noted that her household can now feed from the maize for a longer time. “I have already started using it and still have a lot left. So, in terms of maize, my family is secure. And I have heard about the different ways I can use the soya beans to feed my children”

The KSADP is funded by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Lives and Livelihoods Funds (LLF)●



Aisha Ibrahim carrying her baby in front of her maize store

# Tilling the path to progress: KSADP empowers Kano farmers with advanced power tillers



KSADP Technical officers on Regenerative Agriculture interacting with beneficiaries during a field visit to Kura LGA, Kano State

"Manual labour has crippled Kano's agriculture for far too long," states Hamisu Abdulrasheed Kofarmata, Project Coordinator, KSADP/SAA Project. "Farmers, particularly smallholders, have been burdened by drudgery and inefficiency, restricting their yields and income potential." Statistics show that majority of agricultural activities in Kano still rely on manual labour.

In the year 2023, KSADP's intervention offered a powerful response by providing nine power tillers. The distributed power tillers had advanced features like carrier seats, ride-coaches, and diverse implements. "These machines are more than just tools," Kofarmata says. "They are instruments of progress, enabling increased efficiency, reduced drudgery, and ultimately, improved crop yields and income generation".

The carefully selected beneficiary groups hail from

diverse communities across Kano, including Rogo, Gwarzo, Dawakin Tofa, Dawakin Kudu, and Bebeji. "We are very grateful to the Kano State Agro-pastoral Development Project and the Islamic Development Bank for this opportunity," said Amina Abubakar, Chairlady of the "Gwanji Arzikin ka na Kasa Women MPCs group from Dawakin Tofa Local Government Area. "This power tiller will improve our farming practices, allowing us to cultivate larger areas, save time and energy, earn more income to boost our farming business and ultimately, harvest more produce."

Envisioned as "drivers of change" within their communities, the KSADP-supported farmer groups will offer crucial farm mechanization services through a Private Service Provision (PSP) model. By extending the benefits of these powerful machines to fellow farmers, they foster a collaborative and inclusive approach to agricultural progress. As Sa'idu Nalado of

Self Reliance Farmers MPCs, Gwarzo, joyfully says, "With this power tiller, we can double the land cultivated in half the time". Usman Uba of the Fancan Gidan Dubu Dama Farmers MPCs in Dawakin Kudu, said the power tiller allows them to focus on improving crops instead of battling backaches. By addressing the core issue of agricultural mechanization, the project paves the way for a more

productive, sustainable, and resilient agricultural sector in Kano state. As Mallam Muhammad Garba, the State Project Coordinator of the KSADP, declares, "Our strategic interventions are tailor-made to transform Kano's agricultural landscape, ensuring a brighter future for our farmers and communities". The KSADP is funded by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Lives and Livelihoods Funds (LLF)●

## How project's MOA beneficiaries successfully accessed and repaid N8.8m JAIZ bank loan

In August 2021, a group of 10 women in Barkum community, in Bunkure Local Government area, Kano state, came together to leverage the power of collective and cooperative endeavours to survive the harsh economic situation they found themselves. They were struggling on the home front and their farming efforts were grossly insufficient. Therefore, they formed a group and started meeting regularly, contributing money, produce, and trading collectively.

"In 2022, we heard about the activities of the KSADP/SAA project on the radio and reached out to a Community Based Facilitator (CBF) working with the project. He advised us to start group farming and be rest assured that the project will facilitate market linkage for us", Mrs Hajara Yusuf, the leader of the group recalls.

Later that year, the women came under the KSADP/SAA Collective Market Access, Group Dynamics, and Community Savings for Investment in Agribusiness (CSIA) programme led by the Market Oriented Agriculture (MOA) component of the project. They were trained on record keeping, group dynamics, collective market access, and financial management. After the training, the group, now known as the Barkum Women Rice Processors with 38 members, was able to



access a JAIZ Bank loan of N8,872,000. One year after that encounter, they completed the loan repayment without defaulting and had substantial savings in the bank account.

According to Mrs Yusuf, "The record-keeping, market, and group dynamics training we received helped us manage the funds we got.

We traded successfully with it. I remember we bought rice at N23400 per bag. So, last year, were able to complete the loan repayment. Now we have around N400, 000 saved in our account"

On their plans for the year 2024, Yusuf said they plan to cultivate 10 hectares of rice in the dry season and increase their rice processing activities.

"We are grateful for all the training so far and how the KSADP project helped us with marketing and finance," she said. "Now, members are more financially viable, we are now able to support our husbands in taking care of household needs. Nevertheless, we will be glad if you include our community in the ones that have rice mills and modern equipment, and help us in knowledge and input. This will help our expansion plans"

The KSADP is funded by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Lives and Livelihoods Funds (LLF)●

## PHOTO NEWS



**A newly installed rice parboiling centre in Kano State**



**Installation of equipment at one of the agro-processing centres established by the KSADP/SAA Project**



**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**



**Usman Suleiman, maize threshing machine operator in Kofar Arewa community, Gwarzo Local Government Area of Kano State.**

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

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