

Voices from the Field

The Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) was founded in 1986 by Norman Borlaug, Jimmy Carter, and Ryoichi Sasakawa, to support smallholder farmers in Africa.

Voices from the Field offers an insight into the positive impact and benefits of SAA programs and activities, in the words of the smallholder farmers with whom we work. Through their experiences we continue to learn and improve, working together for a better future for Africa's smallholder farmers.

“Thanks to SAA, we have seen our revenues and livelihoods greatly improved.”

How SAA empowered Assa Sanogo and her fellow farmers to improve their livelihoods

Assa Sanogo is a 66-year old smallholder farmer from the village of Monzomblena in Mali. In addition to engaging in the production and processing of agricultural products including groundnuts, Assa is also the President of the women's group, comprising 223 members at the Postharvest and Trade Centre (PHTC) in Monzomblena, Dioila Region, Kerela Commune, Mali.

As a result of training administered by SAA on improved farming practices and technologies, Assa and her colleagues have seen their technical and operational capabilities greatly improve. *“I was impressed with the technologies SAA encouraged us to test and adopt. At first I was reluctant – especially with the new variety of groundnut flower 11 brought for demonstration by SAA – as the first responsible for the women of the village. But, time proved SAA right after an initial agricultural test campaign,”* Assa explains, *“I was impressed by the quality and quantity of the harvest within our community, and SAA have helped ensure food security in our community.”*

In addition to training farmers on good agricultural practices, SAA also helped obtain a groundnut processing unit consisting of a sheller, roaster and groundnut pulp mill. Additional training ensured smallholder farmers are fully knowledgeable in using the equipment safely and efficiently.

“Over a two and half month period of activity, we processed 500kg of grain groundnut into 75 container paws. With a starting amount of 450,000 XOF (\$786.70 US), we generated a revenue of 175,000 XOF (\$306 US). In terms of capacity building efforts, SAA has supported members of the group in a variety of areas, including entrepreneurship in agriculture,



Assa Sanogo (right) and an SAA field technician standing in the groundnut pulp mill unit

business management, marketing, and contracting, among others.

“We are truly grateful and delighted with the training we received, as it has enabled us to manage our own business better, and to ensure financial profitability. Thanks to SAA, we have seen our revenues and livelihoods greatly improved.”

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