

Feeding the Future

Issue 28

October 2012

Primary emphasis on women farmers

The Sasakawa Africa Association's (SAA's) Strategic Plan for 2012-16, designed as a "twin track anti-hunger, anti-poverty smallholder development strategy," according to SAA's Managing Director, Juliana Rwelamira, focuses largely on "farmers previously marginalised from extension, with its primary emphasis on women farmers."

Now in its first year of implementation, "our anti-hunger work is directed primarily at smallholder farmers, historically underserved by extension, half of whom are food buyers during the year – by which we mean they didn't produce enough to meet their family food needs. Though they are likely to trade small amounts of their produce, they buy more food than they sell – or go hungry."

"These are the smallholders whose primary concern is food security. Those targeted in the anti-poverty work are either net food sellers already or have the potential to become so. These are the commercially oriented smallholders."

Across its four focus countries – Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda – SAA has segmented its target participants into three sub-groups. The first group comprises 280,000 farmers, half of whom are women with low technical efficiency who have not benefited from extension advisory services. The program objective is to increase crop yields by 50%.

Commercially oriented

The second group is made up of more commercially oriented smallholders (those with surplus production) looking to increase yields and adopt improved postharvest technology, handling and storage practices. Roughly 120,000 farmers fall into this category.

The third group are members of agroprocessing enterprises – often women with few resources, who dedicate their labor to adding value through food processing and market the products produced by their enterprises.



SAA Chair Ruth Oniang'o (left) visiting farmers in Mityana District, Central Uganda, in July. See her message on page 2.

As Leony Halos-Kim, Director of Theme 2 (Postharvest and Agroprocessing) comments, "the empowerment of women producers through access to important information, training and technologies, has enhanced their confidence in developing their entrepreneurial capacity... women operate in groups because of lack of capital resources to invest in machinery."

Despite their major contribution to African agriculture – and being as efficient as men farmers when they have the opportunity – women face numerous constraints in accessing key assets, including land, credit, high-yielding seeds, extension and advisory services, and fertilizer. Yet a reduction in inequality in human capital, physical capital and current inputs between male and female farmers could potentially increase agricultural productivity by 10 to 20%.

According to Catherine Ragasa of the International Food Policy Research Institute, "to understand why agricultural productivity is often lower for women, we need

a broader understanding of the obstacles women face, and to find solutions to address their specific constraints and challenges (see Borlaug Symposium proceedings, page 20).

Greater extension resources

She says "we should not even be talking about women's adoption of technology; we should be talking about designing technologies and innovating along with them."

"We fully endorse this," says Juliana Rwelamira. "However our theory of change hinges on directing more extension resources towards serving underserved farmers who have low technical efficiency. These farmers require access to a greater range of technology options, with an enhanced capacity to select and adapt practices to their particular fields, seasonal conditions, and resource circumstances.

"This is where we must give proper consideration to the needs of women farmers."

INSIDE



Yohei Sasakawa speaking at the Commemorative Symposium in Bamako
Page 3



Women mid-career students in Nigeria
Page 7



Evaluating peanut varieties in Uganda
Page 16



Newsletter of the
Sasakawa Africa Association

SAA Founders:
Mr. Ryoichi Sasakawa,
Dr. Norman E. Borlaug,
President Jimmy Carter



From the Chair

I am glad to point to a main pillar of our program in Ethiopia – supporting those farmers marginalized from extension, a large number of whom are women. As I wrote recently, when I first became engaged in rural development work two decades ago, women

tended to toil in the fields for the sake of their families, as they still do today. Men were the job seekers in town, leaving their women folk to struggle to produce food from land they did not own and without support, such as appropriate inputs and available credit to help prepare the land and plant in a timely manner.

Yet, in those days in rural Kenya, women farmers could rely on the extension services - and reasonably regular visits from extension workers, often identified by their khaki uniforms. Now, in many African countries, this is no longer the case. Indeed, following the structural adjustment programs of the 1980s, there are often no in-country functioning extension services. Women farmers – all poor, smallholder farmers – are left to toil on their own.

Fortunately, Ethiopia is not a case in point. Ethiopia takes extension seriously. For example, with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation SAA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, is

implementing a project to strengthen extension delivery, while reaching out to marginalized groups such as women, agropastoralists, the youth and very poor farmers. The reach and objectives of this program are impressive. It is also an example of SAA's policy of diversifying its funding base to supplement the support given over the years by our principal donor, The Nippon Foundation. This has enabled us to scale up, expand and diversify our programs and increase our efforts to empower the extension services.

In early July, I visited Uganda to experience, at first hand, our program under the leadership of Dr Roselline Nyamutale. It was a particular pleasure to visit excellent demonstration plots, women-managed, with the women confidently explaining the different applications of inputs. These were new areas and the farmers were able to state what they intended to do in the future, in terms of adoption and spreading the message. If there was a problem - it concerned the anticipated bumper harvest and the lack of postharvest storage capacity. I was also encouraged by the interest of the Ugandan political leadership and the strength of the SAFE program in Makerere. Our program in Uganda is certainly moving forward.

Hon. Prof. Ruth K. Oniang'o, PhD
Founder, Rural Outreach Program (ROP)
Editor-in-Chief, African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development (AJFAND)
Adjunct Professor of Nutrition, TUFTS University, USA

Message from the MD



"There was only one response we could make – to resolve to work harder and ensure that Chris' efforts towards improving the livelihoods of Africa's smallholder farmers were not in vain", says Managing Director, Juliana Rwelamira

We have certainly faced our challenges this year – not least the sudden and unexpected death, in November 2011, of our Executive Director for Programs, Chris Downswell. I have to admit that this shook the entire organization to its core. Chris was an inspirational figure for us and there was not a member of staff who was not deeply touched by his passing. There was only one response we could make – to resolve to work harder and ensure that Chris' efforts towards improving the livelihoods of Africa's smallholder farmers were not in vain. We are determined to reach the objectives he set for us. This will be the best tribute we can pay to his memory.

We have also had to face areas of instability in two of the focus countries targeted by the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) – Nigeria and Mali. These posed problems for our program and, in some cases, forced the suspension of some of our fieldwork. However, in both countries, our teams have continued cautiously with program implementation in those regions of the country where the risk to staff is minimal.

New SAA Strategic Plan 2012-2016

Unquestionably the highlight of 2012 has been putting the new SAA Strategic Plan into practice. The Plan, which was approved by the SAA Board in November 2011, covers the period 2012-2016. It is a road map for all staff to follow, setting out clear milestones, timelines and deliverables. The 2012 theme impact targets are based on year one of the plan and mechanisms are in place to measure progress and results. By the end of January this year, all the thematic areas had finalized their concepts and procedures' documents to guide the teams in the focus countries, and conducted planning meetings to internalise the procedures. In terms of financial management, new systems of program planning and budgeting, including monthly and quarterly expenditure reporting, have been instituted.

The work of our thematic teams and progress in our focus countries – Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda – are described in this newsletter.

Staff recruitment

There has been one addition to senior management. In Nigeria, Sani Hussein Sagagi was appointed Deputy Country Director and will also supervise partnership and markets. He brings on board consultancy experience with a network of public and private partners.

At theme level, the directors of Crop Productivity Enhancement (T1), Postharvest and Agroprocessing (T2), Public-Private Partnerships and Market Access (T3) and Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Sharing (T5), finalized their recruitment of team members in the four focus countries, in close collaboration with the Country Directors.

In Ethiopia, more program officers have been recruited to cope with the workload from an expanding program of work. One Administrative Manager, one Theme Coordinator and six Program Officers, were recruited for our collaborative work with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, JICA-Tigray Project and World Food Program-funded projects. In Mali and Uganda, Theme 3 Coordinators were recruited to replace those who resigned in 2011. Uganda also added one program officer for Crop Productivity Enhancement. Unlike the other countries, Uganda experiences a high and regular staff turnover every year, mainly because of competition from the large NGO community. A similar situation has arisen for the first time in Ethiopia this year, with two senior staff joining the semi-autonomous

Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA). At the Regional Office in Addis Ababa, the MELS Program Officer joined the team in January 2012. There has not been any change in the Tokyo office. The ratio of female to male staff varies by country and office but overall, for SAA, it continues to edge upwards. Over 40 % of our staff are female.

Staff development and growth

Our staff are, understandably, ambitious to obtain higher qualifications, improve their performance, enhance their opportunities for promotion and increase their remuneration. We are already committed to becoming a "Learning Organization" that continually transforms itself to meet old and new demands – and this also includes staff motivation. We know that we are operating in an increasingly competitive marketplace for staff in Africa – and that, by implementing a relevant and strong staff development program, the challenges of staff turnover faced in Uganda, and elsewhere, could be reduced.

We are now in a position to utilize the Borlaug Fund for Staff Development, which was approved by the Board in November 2011. The criteria were finalized and invitations for applications from staff for scholarships were sent out. The first scholarship was approved in mid-August 2012 for a staff member pursuing a PhD program. We expect to make further approvals over time.

Bamako – Anniversary Celebrated

Two former African presidents, with close links to SAA, participated in ceremonies held to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of Sasakawa-Global 2000 (SG 2000) last November in Bamako. Held under the auspices of the then president of Mali, Amadou Toumani Touré, the ceremonies included the planting of a Baobab tree by former presidents Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, previously a member of the SAA board of directors, and Nicéphore Soglo of Benin, who currently sits on the board.

Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation which, over the 25 years, has contributed more than \$210 million to SG 2000 projects in 14 African countries, also assisted in the tree planting ceremony. Former US President Jimmy Carter was represented by Dr John B Hardman, President and CEO of The Carter Center.

The ceremonies were a reflection of the extraordinary life and times of Nobel Laureate Dr Norman E Borlaug who, for over two decades, led SAA in its stated vision – to demonstrate to Africa's small-scale farmers that the food crop technology existed in Africa to double and triple farm yields. SG 2000 worked with tens of thousands of frontline extension staff and several million

farmers to test higher-yielding technology for maize, wheat, rice, grain legumes and roots and tubers developed by African national research organizations, in collaboration with the national and international agricultural research centers.

Dr Borlaug, President Carter and Ryoichi Sasakawa, Yohei Sasakawa's father, came together to found SAA and SG 2000 in response to the devastating famine of 1984/85 which killed more than one million people in the Horn of Africa and the savannah and the Sahelian areas of West Africa.

Dr Borlaug died in September 2009. He gave his last speech on African soil in Bamako in 2006 – the twentieth anniversary of SAA/ SG 2000.

Wayne Leroy Haag

Dr Wayne Haag, a highly valued member of Norman Borlaug's original SG 2000 team which sought to transform small-scale agriculture in Africa, lost his battle against cancer in July. His death severs another link with the Borlaug era, which had its early roots in the International Center for Maize and Wheat Improvement (CIMMYT). Indeed, Haag served for 18 years as a maize breeder and agronomist for CIMMYT, first at its headquarters in Mexico and then in Egypt and Turkey. From 1985 to 1989, he worked on the development of tolerance to acid soils in CIMMYT's South America Regional Maize Program based at CIAT in Colombia, before heeding Dr Borlaug's call and heading for Africa in 1990.

With SG 2000, he worked with local agricultural extension services, research bodies and the private sector to transfer high yield technology to small-scale farmers, a task he set himself with huge determination. He served as SG 2000 Country Director in Ghana (1990-1995) before moving to Mozambique as Country Director in 1996, working there for ten years before retirement. He had an immense capacity for inspiring loyalty and friendship among staff, colleagues and partner organizations.

Perhaps his greatest accomplishment was to successfully propagate QPM (Quality Protein Maize) in SG 2000 project countries, adding huge value to the crop in terms of human and animal nutrition.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Noelia.



Commemorative Symposium: take it to the farmer

Senior Malian government officials, including the then Prime Minister, Cissé Mariam Kaïdama Sidibé, and Minister of Agriculture, Aghatam Ag Alhassane, took part in a symposium which looked back on the original vision of the founders of SAA/SG 2000 – but also to the future, covering such session subjects as 'research to extension' and 'redesigning and redefining extension'.



Yohei Sasakawa speaking at the Symposium: from left, former President Soglo of Benin, Mali's then Prime Minister Cissé Mariam Kaïdama Sidibé and former Nigerian President Obasanjo.

Leading collaborators from other African countries, such as Steve Obimpeh, former Minister of Agriculture in Ghana, and Zerubabel Mijumbi Nyiira, Minister of State for Agriculture in Uganda, joined representatives from international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and

the newsmedia, in examining the role of extension – and ultimately the importance of the value chain through to the consumer.

Yohei Sasakawa, in his address, referred to the value chain as vital in connecting small-scale farmers to the market, largely through Farmer Based Organizations and agricultural cooperatives.

"These operations guarantee farmers a steady income as well as the ability to purchase and use machinery – equipment which would be too expensive for farmers to purchase on their own," he added. "Our aim is to create as many successful models as possible because success stories motivate farmers."

In looking to the future, Yohei Sasakawa referred to the dedication of SAA's founders and early collaborators who adopted

Dr Borlaug's stricture of "never give up".

This was taken up by Chris Dowswell at the symposium's conclusion, who warned against the complacency which anniversary celebrations can produce.

"We still have an awful long way to go", he said. "We must examine every step we take calmly and, above all, critically."

Chris Dowswell died on his return to Mexico later in November.



Bambara traditional dancers greet Yohei Sasakawa (third from right) as he enters the village of Madina which, with the village of Selinkegny, was visited by delegates to the commemorative symposium. At both sites, the villagers were able to demonstrate the impact of the SG 2000 program – its impact on farmers' production, their incomes, and local capacity building.

Crop Productivity Enhancement

The year 2011 was a challenging one for the Crop Productivity Enhancement team. For the first time we implemented our modified Farmer Learning Platform (FLP) approach with extension agents and farmers. This approach presents greater demands in terms of comprehension, flexibility and responsibility for our staff and the EAs than previously used strategies.

With the FLPs, we use Technology Option Plots as field demonstrations and have recently placed more emphasis on training and learning. The aim is for farmers to understand technologies, input rates and best practices, and to not simply copy what they see at the demonstration sites.

Encouraging farmers' autonomy

Through this approach, field demonstrations turn into learning sites and platforms to exchange opinions, experiences and expertise. For example, instead of recommending certain fertilizer rates to farmers, our aim is to teach farmers; how to use fertilizer more effectively; when and why to use which kind of fertilizer and what kinds of benefits these practices can provide them, in terms of yield and resource use efficiency. Equipped with this knowledge and skills, farmers can utilize these technologies on their farms (Table 1) but they will also be capable of adapting and modifying them for their specific conditions, so that we and other farmers can learn from them in the future. Finally, based on this competence, farmers will eventually learn how to find and use information and knowledge autonomously as well as learning how to develop their skills and capacities. This will help them to improve agricultural productivity and income generation, making them more independent from advisory services, but also more proficient partners in voicing their

needs and demands. Development does not progress by following recommendations, but by understanding them.

Increasing training opportunities

The FLP concept constitutes a learning process for our staff, extension agents and farmers. In 2010, this process was started with the development of Concept and Procedures for the Crop Productivity Enhancement team. In 2011 we increased the number of training opportunities for extension agents from a one-day training session to three sessions with two days for the pre-season training and two one-day sessions at mid-season and harvest, to tackle issues such as best agricultural practices, to evaluate and give feed-back on field activities, and to assess yield increases and other outcomes of the demonstrated technologies.

Likewise, extension agents were expected to increase their training efforts with farmers to hold at least monthly training sessions at all learning sites. Yet the major challenge is to improve the quality of training and the attitude of extension agents who are still often instructed to 'tell' farmers what to do and to respect blanket recommendations, whether they are functional or not. The task is to change their mind set from a 'ready package' approach to let farmers actively participate in the extension process as clients and partners.

We faced problems at the

Theme Director:
Dr Andreas Oswald

"Development does not progress by following recommendations, but by understanding them."



Table 1. Adoption of technologies by Production Test Plot farmers in Uganda, growing season 2011.

Crop/Technology	Rice	Maize	Groundnuts	Soybean
Timely planting	121	230	44	47
Proper spacing	78	71	77	28
Timely weeding	26	50	89	63
Post harvest handling	23	69	23	63
Fertilizer use and application	112	1,010	130	164
Total	360	1,430	365	365

implementation stage of this approach and some country teams could not fully comply with this major step in the first year. Developing learning sites is a process which requires high input in time and energy of the resource persons in the beginning, hence the teams have to plan and budget for these activities and country management has to provide the necessary logistical support.

Community variety plot innovation

A second innovation, tested for the first time in 2011, was the Community Variety Plot (CVP). In the CVP we show different crops and for each crop we demonstrate three to four varieties including the farmers' most commonly used variety as a check. Farmers evaluate these crops and varieties and identify interesting material which they plant on their farm the following season. So far we have had a positive response from farmers and private seed

companies, who contributed seed and solicited farmers' opinions. In 2012 we will continue with these CVPs, increasing their numbers to about 180 in the four countries.

The Crop Productivity Enhancement team has grown from eight Thematic Coordinators and Program Officers in 2010 to 15 staff members in 2011/2012 and by 2012/13 we aim to have another six Program Officers. This growth reflects the increase of tasks and projects undertaken and is necessary in order to achieve a quality service and reach the 400,000 farming households as envisaged within our new strategic plan. However, it also constitutes a continuous challenge in integrating new staff into the team and educating and training them on our approach. I am optimistic that we have the tools and energy to face this challenge and that we will meet our objective of improving the livelihoods of farmers in our focus countries.



Woman explaining her demonstration plot, Nigeria



Program Officer Boubacar Sandinan with WAD group, Mali

Postharvest and Agroprocessing

In SAA countries, crop postharvest management is a promising growth sector for job and income generation and ensuring food security. However, getting farmers and processors to be competitive with high quality and high value-added products to meet market requirements, is a major challenge. SAA is overcoming this by improving farmers' knowledge and making technologies more accessible to them - thus allowing farmers to gain maximum benefit from their agricultural activities.



Cassava chipping by woman entrepreneur in Uganda

In line with SAA's new Strategic Plan, the Postharvest and Agroprocessing (PHAP) program is promoting improved postharvest practices and technologies, as well as skills development training in managing recommended technologies and in developing off-farm agroprocessing enterprises.

PHAP is pioneering a number of strategies to facilitate the access, adoption and scaling-up of improved postharvest technologies for smallholder farmers and processors. It continues to refine and adapt its implementation strategies based on feedback from users.

As smallholder farming is characterized by multiple cropping in small fragmented farms, the need for improved postharvest handling is varied. Assessments of the constraints and opportunities in the selected intervention areas allow the team to select technologies with the desired features of simplicity, affordability, replicability and mobility. The first intervention to improve postharvest systems is awareness training on the importance of good management, to minimize

losses occurring in the food chain, due to poor handling. Technological options are then recommended to producers enabling them to improve process efficiency.

Grain postharvest technologies were promoted in 2011; they included harvesters, thresher/shellers, and cleaners which were adopted mostly by men because of the opportunity for income generation. Women processors are interested in the development of the processing they are currently doing to provide better quality food for their families, reduce drudgery and establish a sustainable source of income.

Strengthening extension capacity

The establishment of the Postharvest and Extension Learning Platform (PHELP) is a major strategy to facilitate the adoption and scaling-up of PHAP technologies. The PHELP serves as a platform to train extension agents and farmers/agroprocessors, and to demonstrate recommended technological options in order

Theme Director:
Mrs Leonides Halos-Kim



"The role of Theme 2 is crucial in enabling smallholder farmers and processors to capture the economic benefits of the African food value chain."

to improve postharvest handling of major food crops. PHELPS are expected to develop into self-sustaining enterprises.

PHELPS are established with the active involvement of beneficiaries. They are managed by a Committee, selected from the group of beneficiaries, and supervised by extension agents until they are able to manage on their own. Themes 2 and 3 work together in sensitizing the groups and the Committees on the purpose of the PHELPS in order to optimize their benefits.

By the end of 2011, 45 PHELPS (Ethiopia-25, Mali-10, Nigeria-5, Uganda-5) had already been equipped with the required technologies, and extension agents were trained on their operation and management.

The role of private service providers is to give farmers and processors access to important technologies to improve their operations. SAA identifies and sensitizes enterprising individuals, motivated by field demonstrations and by experiences in the PHELPS. They are trained on agrobusiness management, the operational and maintenance requirements of recommended technologies and linked to machinery suppliers, and machine shops to support their machine maintenance requirements – and the intended users (farmers and processors).

The success of this strategy will depend very much on the type of technologies and the market opportunities that can be created by the improved process.

Becoming profitable

The empowerment of women producers through access to important information, training and technologies, has enhanced their confidence to develop entrepreneurial capacity. PHAP facilitates access to technologies

that save time, improve the quality of their products and increase their income. In addition, the JICA-funded project on women empowerment, through the development of sustainable food processing enterprises, emphasizes the promotion of nutrition and hygiene. In Nigeria, rice and cassava processing enterprises by women's groups are now developing into profitable businesses. A woman investor in Uganda purchased a cassava chipping machine to use in her operation and also to provide services to other processors.

Women operate in groups because of their lack of capital resource to invest in machinery. In this case, they are challenged by their lack of management skills for both the cooperative and the enterprise. SAA and its partners provide training on the technological and managerial requirements of their businesses. Funding to establish and sustain their enterprises, is also being addressed.

Information-sharing and networking

The development of the support system for a supply of affordable and appropriate technologies, and their associated repair and maintenance services, is still a challenge. SAA works with government and non-governmental agencies to bring these services closer to the smallholder producers through information-sharing and networking among stakeholders. SAA PHAP will continue to intensify capacity building for extension staff and emerging private service providers to reach out to smallholder producers to improve the postharvest handling of their produce. The desired outcome is to see smallholder producers benefit from their once cumbersome food production and processing methods.

Promoting Public-Private Partnerships

Theme 3, in 2011, focused on building more sustainable agricultural advisory services and strengthening Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs) as theory of change agents. This took the form of an emphasis on improving farmers' market linkages through demand-driven business opportunities and input delivery systems. In 2011, a total of 22,605 farmers were supported by SAA to link their production to markets in Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda. A majority of private partners provided seeds, support to extension services, and cash to buy back commodities from farmers.

Access to inputs

To strengthen farmers' access to seeds, SG 2000 partnered with six seed-related institutions and companies to support technology transfers, extension messages and field activities. Six seed companies participated in Ethiopia with three in Uganda and two in Mali supporting SG 2000. In Nigeria, Manoma Seeds Ltd and Dizengoff Agriculture supported field demonstrations in six states.

The parastockist system introduced by SG 2000 in Uganda increased the number of stockist shops available in SG 2000 areas of operation. Demand for inputs has seen 16 new agro-input shops open; with one stockist selling \$42,000 worth of seeds and fertilizers in their first year of operation. SG 2000-Mali improved farmers' access to inputs at village centers by initiating contracts with agrodealers of fertilizers, seeds and fungicides. SG 2000-Mali also conducted an inventory of agrodealers and encouraged 14 new large input dealers and 35 agrodealers in underserved areas by facilitating linkages with farmer groups.

SG 2000's work has led to savings through efficient bulk buying. In Nigeria, 5,000 out-grower farmers trained by SG 2000-Nigeria purchased \$176,000 worth of seeds and fertilizers in bulk from agroinput dealers in Kaduna and Adamawa States. This bulk purchase saved almost \$11,000, or about \$6 per bag of fertilizer purchased. Similarly, in Uganda, farmers' groups in four One Stop Center Associations (OSCAs) purchased \$32,970 of bulk seed under the Purchase for Progress (P4P) program run by the World Food

Program (WFP) - saving \$3,500. The same benefits were visible in Mali and Ethiopia. Malian farmers who are part of a joint program run by P4P, the International Sorghum and Millet Collaborative Research Support Program (INTSORMIL CRSP), Initiative Intégrées pour la Croissance Economique (IICEM), the Institut d'Economie Rural (IER), and the Association Malienne d'Eveil au Développement Durable (AMEDD) purchased inputs worth \$58,000, while in Ethiopia, \$34,000 worth of seed was purchased by seed growers.

Connecting farmers to markets

SG 2000's work to connect farmers to markets saw 5,000 Nigerian farmers trained in collaboration with the USAID-MARKET program. However, of these, only 225 were able to supply 500 mt of high quality maize to Grand Cereals Ltd in Jos as a result of the insecurity. Trust and Arki farmer groups supplied 90 mt of paddy rice to the Umza rice mill in Kano at \$290/mt, compared to a market price of \$280/mt. Similarly, the Tudun Wada maize farmer group supplied 45 mt of maize to the Al-Bookys Company in Kano, at \$307/mt against the market price of \$269/mt.

As a result of the SAA joint collaboration with seed enterprises in Ethiopia, SG 2000 trained farmers produced and sold 4,450 mt of certified seeds, valued at \$1.9 million. Under the same support system, 22 out of 24 identified Farmers' Training Centers (FTCs), with 10,624 members, received a \$4,000 loan each to support income generating activities. SG 2000-Ethiopia provided

Regional Program officer:
Mr Robert Anyang



"Theme 3 continues to develop an approach that ensures the inclusion of marginalized and poor members of the community, as well as the revival of farmer groups."



Working with agrodealers to support farmers in Uganda

support to FTCs in developing a business plan. In Uganda the six FBOs identified in 2011 supplied 498 mt of maize grains and 145 mt of beans to alternative local and regional markets. Through the seven major buying contracts initiated with nine market leaders, three OSCAs delivered 483 mt maize and 70 mt of soybean. Theme 3 continues to develop an approach that ensures the inclusion of marginalized and poor members of the community, as well as the revival of farmer groups in Mali. Theme 3 procedures achieve this through a fair and transparent competitive process which has seen 110 groups in the region of Sikasso strengthened.

Work plan and new approaches for 2012/ 2013

In 2012, the strategy of Theme 3 to achieve its objectives includes:

- i) Embarking on business development activities to catalyze the transformation of agriculture from low output subsistence farming to commercially competitive agriculture.
- ii) Developing working models that can support FBOs in collective marketing.
- iii) Enhancing agribusiness skills of key players in the value chain of both public and private sectors and in agricultural marketing.
- iv) Strengthening business development service providers for smallholder farmers by carrying out an inventory of credible service providers and linking them to value chain actors.
- v) Working with financial institutions (formal and informal) to develop their service delivery capacity, while strengthening the ability of value chain actors to access and efficiently use financial services.

For market access (MA) to be efficient, traders and farmers must create a valuable, equitable, and mutually profitable business relationship. PPP/MA will introduce marketing concepts through producer- market alliances that will enable traders and farmers to understand their marketing options and work towards being more competitive.

Sasakawa Africa Fund for Extension (SAFE)

The SAFE initiative has been described as SAA's most significant contribution to institutional capacity building since its launch at the University of Cape Coast 19 years ago. Focused on building the skills of mid-career extension professionals, 3,935 are benefitting from this program which now involves 17 universities and colleges across Africa. Many of those who have graduated from the program are today in key leadership positions in their national agricultural extension systems.

New programs

Two new programs were launched in Ethiopia at Bahir Dar and Mekelle universities in the 2011/2012 academic session, bringing the total number of participating universities and colleges to seventeen. At both universities, preparatory workshops were undertaken ahead of the launch of the programs. At Mekelle University, the program was launched prior to intervention from SAFE, demonstrating the capacity of universities to initially launch new programs themselves. This lesson - that universities should be able to use their own resources to launch the programs with only technical support from SAFE - is a valuable one for all participating institutions, considering the huge demand for mid-career extension staff training.

Curriculum revision

Throughout the academic session, the new value chain-oriented curricula have been launched at several participating universities. While the old curricula were mainly production-focused, value addition features prominently in the revised models (which includes small-scale processing, safety and quality assurance, packaging, storage, marketing, transportation, etc.).

Bunda College, Malawi and Sokoine University, Tanzania have completed a value chain-oriented training needs survey. The report is under way and will be followed by curriculum revision.

New modes of course delivery and module development

Given the huge demand for mid-career training in all countries, partner universities and colleges are planning to introduce distance and semi-distance

education as alternative modes of course delivery. To that effect, the universities are currently engaged in writing instructional materials for self-directed learners. Specialists on instructional materials development were engaged in order to equip lecturers with the necessary skills. Several sections have been completed and work is continuing on the remaining modules.

These alternative modules of course delivery allow mid-career students and female candidates to participate without necessitating long periods of study leave, therefore allowing candidates to maintain their careers and family routines, and to learn at their own pace.

The University of Abomey-Calavi in the Republic of Benin has taken the lead in developing and implementing a semi-distance learning program for mid-career professionals. Makerere University in Uganda is making good progress towards launching a distance education program, having prepared instructional materials for more than half the courses in the curriculum.

Development of farmer level training materials and short courses

Thirty-one university instructors were engaged in Ethiopia to write farmer training modules on 14 topics or value chains, following two training workshops. Several modules on short courses covering a broad range of topics were written by Bayero University-Kano in Nigeria. Other universities and colleges are also engaging in the writing of such modules.

Students' intake and performance

Student enrolment has increased steadily in all countries, including

Theme Director: Dr Deola Naibakelao



"Given the huge demand for mid-career training in all countries, partner universities and colleges are planning to introduce distance and semi-distance education."

notable improvement in the level of female intake during the 2011/2012 academic session. For example, 63% of new students at Hawassa University in Ethiopia were women, as were 35% of the total intake at Sokoine University, Tanzania and University of Ilorin, Nigeria. The standard of students' academic performance continues to be very encouraging.

Students' Supervised Enterprise Projects (SEPs)

Various projects have been implemented by SAFE students in conjunction with farmers in rural communities. These projects were intended to solve particular problems of farmers along the entire value chain. SAFE students in all countries collaborate with farmers every year to conceive those projects, find solutions and mobilize resources for project implementation.

Regional workshops

A regional networking workshop held in Malawi was very successful, drawing participants from various Ministries of Agriculture and SAFE partner universities in East Africa, as well as guests from Adamawa

and Ilorin universities in Nigeria. Participants shared their experiences with in-service training programs for field extension workers. Ministry representatives presented their expectations from universities and universities outlined their efforts to respond to demands from employers.

Another regional technical workshop for West Africa on 'Creating, developing and sharing of modules electronically' was held in March 2012 in Porto-Novo (Benin) with 45 participants from West and East Africa in attendance. They exchanged their experiences in the implementation of the SAFE program for mid-career students and analyzed their various efforts in the mainstreaming of the value-chain in the curricula. Participants toured the integrated system of production at the Songhaï Center which is a model of the implementation of the value-chain approach in farming.

At the end of the four day exchanges and discussions, participants offered ten recommendations. These were to:

Continued overleaf



Women mid-career students in Nigeria

Sasakawa Africa Fund for Extension (SAFE)

- a) adopt the mixed mode of delivery in distance learning because certain courses are more adapted to the classical face-to-face mode of delivery. The integration of the online training into teaching will oblige institutions to develop 'content', the quality of which can be evaluated by their peers;
- b) establish a training network of SAFE institutions, in which partner universities of the program play a guiding role for the different courses that will be posted online;
- c) develop pertinent educational equipment and set up the required technology for the formation of distance learning;
- d) engage in discussions with the civil service commission regarding the recognition of diplomas acquired through distance learning once there are accredited curricula of training by the universities and colleges;
- e) introduce the value-chain approach to the teaching personnel of the various university and college departments involved in the SAFE program with a view to integrating the philosophy into their teaching;
- f) inform decision-makers of the universities of the importance of distance learning and integrating value-chain into the curricula, in order to guarantee their support;
- g) develop remedial courses for female candidates with deficiencies in order to allow them to participate in the SAFE programs;
- h) offer additional incentives to women, as well as scholarships for their participation in SAFE distance learning programs;
- i) apply the experience of the Songhai Center in the partner



Managing Director Dr Deola Naibakelao receives Sasakawa's Honorary degree from Shiferaw Shigute

- universities of SAFE through the Technology Villages;
- j) extend the experiences of the platforms promoted by SAA in SAFE partner universities.

Honorary Doctorate

In recognition of his eminent achievements, Hawassa University in Ethiopia made Mr Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, "Doctor of Agricultural Development Honoris Causa" during the graduation ceremony held in July at the university's main campus. The guest of honor for the occasion, Mr Shiferaw Shigute, President of the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region and Chairman of the Board of Hawassa University, presented the Honorary Degree to Mr Sasakawa through Dr Deola Naibakelao, Managing Director of SAFE. This is the second award by a SAFE participating university to Mr Sasakawa; the first was given by the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, in 2000.

Strengthening Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs)

A key and indispensable factor for the protection and enhancement of the smallholder agricultural sector is the existence of strong farmer organizations that are able, motivated and sufficiently independent to effectively represent farmers' interests. The challenges for smallholder farmers to enter the cash economy are numerous and extremely difficult for them to master individually. These range from the provision of services to development of

business skills to deal with the new circumstances. Currently, many smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa are not sufficiently organized with resources, technical and managerial expertise, legal mandates and political power to express their demands.

In light of the current situation, Mr Sasakawa pledged, at the 25th anniversary of SAA in Bamako, Mali, to support the development and strengthening of FBOs. SAFE is leading this new initiative. As a first step towards the development and strengthening of FBOs, case studies on FBOs have been commissioned in the four SAA focus countries. The studies have been completed in Mali, Uganda and Ethiopia. The objectives of the studies were essentially to identify factors in the success and failure of FBOs and to propose viable intervention strategies for SAA/SAFE. Several factors for success were identified, the most notable being the benefits to farmers. The success of FBOs depends on the extent to which individual members derive benefits from their membership. This largely depends on the viability of the business enterprises in which the farmer organizations are engaged. The consultants have therefore recommended that SAA/SAFE ensure that the enterprise promoted has the potential to bring economic benefits to farmers. This means that the choice of an enterprise should be preceded by a cost-benefit analysis. Consequently, feasibility studies have been commissioned in order to generate profiles of market-oriented and economically viable value chains.

SAFE Statistics, July 2012

Mid-career BSc and Diploma Courses	Graduated	Current	Total
University of Cape Coast, Ghana (B.Sc.)	423	53	476
Kawadaso Agric. College, Ghana (Diploma)	462	75	537
Haramaya, Ethiopia (B.Sc.)	394	70	464
Hawassa, Ethiopia (B.Sc.)	116	78	194
Makerere, Uganda (B.Sc.)	184	111	295
Sokoine, Tanzania (B.Sc.)	598	290	888
IPR/IFRA, Mali (Maîtrise)	129	75	204
Samanko Centre, Mali (Diploma)	77	53	130
Ahmadu Bello, Nigeria (B.Sc.)	110	40	150
Bayero University-Kano, Nigeria	64	66	130
Abomey-Calavi, Benin (Licence)	81	30	111
Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso (Licence)	37	36	73
Bunda College, Malawi (B.Sc.)	42	20	62
Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia (B.Sc.)	0	32	32
Adamawa State University, Nigeria (BSc)	0	24	24
Illorin University, Nigeria (B.Sc.)	0	15	15
Mekele, Ethiopia (B.Sc.)	0	40	40
Sub-Total	2,717	1,108	3,825
Scholarships	Graduated	Current	Total
Diploma	6	0	6
B.Sc.	32	0	32
M.Sc.	59	2	61
PhD	5	6	11
Sub Total	102	8	110
Grand Total	2,819	1,116	3,935

Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Sharing (MELS)

Background

The MELS Theme spearheads SAA's efforts to increasingly become an evidence-based organization, as articulated in the SAA Strategic Plan 2012-16. Theme 5 is driven by the programs and interventions of other Themes and its work is framed by seven specific objectives. Thematic and country logframes are now aligned to the Strategic Plan. Several completed surveys and studies help to inform SAA and SG 2000 interventions with data, information and results for learning and sharing.

Institutionalization of MELS

At the start of this exercise, SAA institutionalization aims to create ownership and a common understanding of MELS, as well as to develop its capacity. Concepts and procedures to implement this are now in place. Theme 5 trained SAA and SG 2000 staff on logframes, MELS framework and chain, data chains, data management, analysis and GPS. Lectures on evidence-based reporting and the setting of SMART objectives were also given to SAFE staff and partners.

The Agricultural Transformation Agency in Ethiopia conducted training on results based monitoring and evaluation for all Theme 5 staff. Theme 5 trained staff of the Melkassa Research Centre on baseline surveys. Also in Ethiopia, a joint MELS framework has been developed for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation project in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Oxfam America (OA). Theme 5 works closely with Jigawa and Adamawa States' Agricultural Development Programs in Nigeria; Directorate of National Agriculture, Mali; and Ministry of

Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and National Agricultural Advisory Services in Uganda. The level of engagement varies by country but is particularly high in Mali and Nigeria.

Training on data collection, entry and management has been provided to partners and outsourced personnel.

Theme 5 convenes meetings in Ethiopia and facilitates quarterly and annual review and planning; this is taking root in Uganda. A data center is in place in Ethiopia as are relational databases and MELS systems in Uganda.

Needs assessments

SG 2000 interventions are informed and guided by assessments undertaken in Ethiopia and Uganda to ensure that they fit clients' needs. The assessments conducted in Ethiopia, between 2010-2012, focused on the needs and priorities of farmers, Farmer Training Centers (FTCs) and woredas (districts) and were a requirement of the BMGF-funded project. In Uganda, assessments took place in Ntungamo and in the seven new SG 2000 districts. Summary FTCs and detailed

Theme Director:
Mr Justine Wangila

"Output and outcome monitoring started earnestly in the second half of 2011."



Woreda Reports were shared within SG 2000.

Baselines

Baseline surveys were undertaken in the four focus countries with 2010 as a base year for all core activities. Further surveys were conducted for BMGF and JICA funded activities in Ethiopia and in new SG 2000 districts in Uganda. Reports and results were shared within SG 2000 and presented at the 2012 SAA Retreat and Theme 5 Workshop – and a Synthesis Report is underway.

Monitoring

Output and outcome monitoring started earnestly in the second half of 2011 using different approaches. Reports and results were shared within SG 2000 Programs in real-time, and were presented in the 2012 SAA Retreat and MELS Workshop. For structured monitoring, outcome indicators were redefined; tools were developed and pre-tested in Ethiopia and Uganda. These were circulated within SAA and SG 2000 Themes and Programs, to make them user-compliant ahead of their implementation in the third quarter of 2012.

Evaluation

Evaluation of SG 2000 Crop Extension Approaches is planned for the third quarter of 2012 to assess their relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.

Impact Assessment (In-depth) studies

Impact Assessments evaluate the impact of SAA contributions and aim to identify lessons and best practices. Benchmarks for impact assessment came from the baseline surveys. Policy briefs are underway on the emergence and growth of rice in Ethiopia and Uganda, One Stop Center Associations (OSCA) in Uganda, and Niet@Kenes in Mali. Studies are in progress on multi-crop threshers in Ethiopia, and in Adamawa State, Nigeria on women agroprocessing and an economic analysis of the Postharvest and Agroprocessing Program (PHAP). Studies on groundnuts and fonio value chains in Selingue and Kondogola and the emergence and growth of quality protein maize in Mali are also planned.

Learning and sharing

Theme 5 staff participated and presented results and papers in seminars and workshops, including the SAA 25th Anniversary in Mali; Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) in Kenya; BMGF Baseline & Validation Sharing Workshop in Ethiopia and, outside Africa, at workshops in the USA and Rome.

Conclusion

Outcome monitoring is central to our work in 2012. MELS now has evidence streaming in from needs assessments, baselines, monitoring and data, reports and results from in-depth studies from Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda.



Monitoring visit in Aleta Wendo, Ethiopia

SG 2000 Ethiopia is playing an important role in contributing to the transformation of Ethiopian agriculture. Currently, SG 2000 Ethiopia is operating in ten regions and implementing five projects – a) The core project which is funded by The Nippon Foundation and four new extra-core projects; b) Strengthening the Ethiopian Agricultural Extension Delivery (SEAED) project, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF); c) Women Enterprises Project (WEP); d) Promoting Crop Diversification and Advanced Technologies in Tigray (PCDAT); both funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and e) increasing smallholder farmers' income through strengthening farmers' organization funded by the World Food Program Purchase for Progress (WFP-P4P) project. In addition, a project known as "Nutritional Maize for Ethiopia", funded by Canadian CIDA through CIMMYT, has been approved but is awaiting final implementation modalities with partners. All these projects have a common goal of improving the productivity and food security of smallholder farmers in the country.

Crop productivity improvement

In 2011, Theme 1 conducted numerous yield improving activities including capacity building of Development Agents (DAs) and Subject Matter Specialists (SMSs), establishment of farmer learning platforms (FLPs), farmer field days and participatory planning workshops.

A series of pre-season trainers of trainers (TOTs) were conducted at various locations for 160 SMSs, 295 DAs, 94 supervisors and 2,440 farmers. Farmers' training was conducted by improving the capacity of woreda (district) level SMSs, DA supervisors and DAs. The focus was on crop productivity improvement measures such as land preparation, fertilizer application techniques, plant spacing, weeding practices, and pest control measures.

The other major activity carried out in 2011 was the establishment of demonstration plots as part of the farmers' learning platforms. Intensive training, coupled with method and result demonstrations, in the form of Technology Option Plots (TOPs), Women Assisted Demonstrations (WADs) and Production Test Plots (PTPs) were the major extension activities undertaken to improve adoption of technologies. To this end, a total of 363 TOPs, 720 WADs, 1,712 PTPs and 73 Community Variety Plots (CVPs) were conducted in 96 Farmer Training Centers (FTCs) of 24 woredas. As part of agricultural extension tools and approaches, farmers'

field days were organized to disseminate proven technologies. Several field days were conducted in which a total of 16,834 farmers, DAs, woreda, zonal and regional officials participated.

Early in 2011, a participatory planning workshop was organized which aimed to identify available technologies and create awareness of activities and strategic approaches of SG 2000 with researchers implementing federal, regional, zonal and woreda agricultural extension service providers. A total of 69 people participated in the workshop. For 2012, ongoing activities include training of 6,721 farmers, 570 DAs and 190 woreda SMSs, and the establishment of 489 TOPs, 1,410 WADs, 6,405 PTPs and 174 CVPs will be undertaken.

Post-harvest extension learning platforms (PHELPS)

In Ethiopia, smallholder farmers practice traditional postharvest and agroprocessing techniques that are time and energy consuming and result in significant losses and quality deteriorations of crops. Theme 2 has promoted postharvest

Country Director: Dr Aberra Debelo



"Small-scale agroprocessing centers have been established for rural women to attend training on basic business skills, cooperative management, hygiene and sanitation and processing techniques."



Capacity building on product packaging and marketing

technologies such as multi crop threshers, maize shellers, grain cleaners and animal drawn carts to minimize such problems.

In 2011, the program followed a strategy of establishing PHELPS in selected FTCs and disseminating information to wider farming communities through field demonstrations and field days. As a result, about 28 entrepreneurs have bought postharvest machines and started providing threshing/shelling services to farmers who rent the technologies from PHELPS and service providers. Theme 2 has also conducted TOTs on postharvest handling and storage management for agriculture office experts and DAs. Training was conducted for operators recruited from local communities, and small-scale agroprocessing centers were established for

rural women who attended trainings on basic business skills, cooperative management, hygiene and sanitation and processing techniques.

In 2012, these activities are being expanded in different regions of the country, in collaboration with SAA's partners. In addition, recruited technicians will be trained on the fabrication, repair and maintenance of postharvest technologies to respond to the demands created in different parts of the country.

Strengthening agricultural extension delivery

Ethiopia's agricultural extension delivery predominantly relies on grassroot FTCs found at the lowest administration unit called a "Kebele," which refers to a cluster of villages. The FTCs, in

Table 1: Pre-season Training Participants – March-June, 2011

Project	No of Regions	No of Woredas	FTCs	Total Trainees	Farmer Learning Platforms			
					TOP	WAD	PTP	CVP
Nippon Foundation	4	17	48	2,325	141	426	1,400	38
BMGF	10	16	36	400	78	219	90	35
PCDAT	1	4	6	242	18	74	40	0
Collabrative	2	2	6	106	25	21	182	0
Total	17	39	96	3,087	363	720	1,712	73



Oxen fattening under Loan Guarantee scheme

general, own between two and four hectares of land and are staffed with three DAs, qualified with minimum diploma level education in agronomy, natural resource management and animal science. While the FTCs secure government budget to cover monthly salaries of the DAs – invariably estimated to cost between 60 and 70 million Birr per month – raising the extra budget from the scarce budgetary source has weakened the FTCs main role of serving as learning platforms for improved technology demonstration and agricultural practices.

In view of the soundness of the Government's agricultural development agenda and the commendable potential of FTCs to engage in business oriented income generating activities, SAA/SG 2000 in collaboration with the Ethiopian government, have embarked on a four-year project entitled SEAED, which is implemented at a national level on a pilot program basis.

The project is intended to reach a total of 215 FTCs. A loan guarantee fund modality has been developed and multi-party financing agreements (FAs) signed between SAA/SG 2000 and five regional Bureaus of Agriculture (BoA); one Regional Cooperative Development

Agency; and partner financial service providers (FSPs) i.e. four microfinance institutions (MFIs) and two cooperatives. Institutional capacity building and training have been delivered to enable 24 FTC Management Committees (MCs) to formulate bankable business plans, each worth about US\$ 4,000; access to banking services; establishment of sustainable business models; and management of small business enterprises with a view to capturing and recycling income from commissioned enterprises.

Loan agreements have been signed between 22 Farmer Training Center Management Committees (FTCMCs) and the 4 MFIs for the purpose of undertaking independent revenue generating enterprises in the following sectors: livestock fattening, vegetable and potato production, and beekeeping enterprises. Fifteen district level steering committees have been instituted to principally act as coordinating agencies in the implementation of the respective pilot projects.

The pilot interventions will be extended to 70 more FTCs by; organizing FTCMCs; commissioning two consultancy services (on enterprise development and youth group formation) to enhance the pilot

interventions; and signing multi-party FAs with five more MFIs and Regional Bureaus of Agriculture (BoAs).

Using internet connectivity

One of the key roles that extension plays at the woreda level is to assist DAs in linking with research, higher education institutions and market information. Effective internet connectivity and suitable information bases are essential to achieve this, yet such connectivity and acquiring up-to-date information is rare at woreda-level extension offices. The project invests in the hardware needed to establish and maintain internet connectivity for pilot woredas. Woreda extension resource centers enable SMSs to access knowledge bases to obtain effective technical backstopping for DAs and farmers for the provision of extension services, in support of priority enterprises, selected by farmers. The project also creates a website, assembles instructional materials, reference sources, information databases, and provides an interactive mechanism for DAs, SMSs, Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education Training (ATVETS) staff and other key stakeholders to share best practices with each other.

In 2011, 13 woredas and four ATVET Colleges were equipped with the required hardware and seven of the woreda resource centers and two ATVETS had access to internet connectivity. In the areas where there is internet access, DAs and SMSs are now able to access information to help them develop training materials for the resource poor farmers. A website is developed and space is provided to upload literature and display achievements, challenges and best practices. The website can be accessed through "www.sg2000ethiopia.org". This website links the woreda and ATVETS with universities' IT rooms/libraries, SG 2000 database, broad information sources of agriculture and other related websites. The capacity of 26 MoA staff (two trainees from each of the target woredas) was enhanced by a one week theoretical and practical training program on how to use internet, website management and basic computer maintenance.

By 2012, all Woreda Extension Resource Centers (WERCs) and ATVETS will be (internet-enabled), Woreda Resource Center Database will be established and the remaining extension staff will be trained on internet use, website management, ICT techniques and computer maintenance. Moreover, farmer level training materials will be developed to train DAs and SMSs in various ATVET Colleges.

Ten regions covered

In 2011, Theme 5 has designed an MELS strategy, tools, instruments and joint MELS framework (in partnership with Oxfam America). Trainings, need assessments, baseline and monitoring surveys have all been implemented. The MELS strategy and framework documents detail the approach, method and implementation of surveys and specify roles for different partners. The Theme has also organized training sessions on CSPro software for all SG 2000 staff, and trained enumerators and supervisors on data collection and survey implementation. The needs assessment surveys were conducted in ten regions of the country, covering 128 project FTCs – particularly of the SEAED/BMGF project. Detailed reports were produced for each project woreda to help Themes establish a need based intervention in project FTCs. The reports identify and prioritize innovative technologies of crop, livestock, postharvest, agroprocessing and training needs of farmers, DAs and SMSs. Baseline surveys have been undertaken in 50 kebeles and a clean data set of 1,652 households has been produced; both for SG 2000 intervention and non-intervention sites. To promote learning and sharing, Theme 5 (MELS Theme) has organized quarterly review meetings and participated in several workshops to communicate survey results.

In 2012, Theme 5 is focusing primarily on implementing structured outputs and outcome monitoring surveys, and undertaking in-depth studies on multi-crop threshers, SG 2000 crop extension approaches and others.



DAs accessing internet at a Woreda Extension Resource Center (WERC)

The hunger situation in Mali remains serious, despite a decrease in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) from 49.9% in 1990 to 25.5% in 2011. SG 2000 has been involved in this Sahelian country since 1996. Mali food production is dominated by small family farming with less than four hectares, producing traditional cereals (millet, sorghum), maize, rice and legumes (groundnut and cowpeas). Market liberalization for input and output products, the surge in the prices of food crops since 2008, and the efforts of the government in subsidizing seeds and fertilizer for the main food crops, offer opportunities for sustainable intensification of small family farmers' agriculture.

According to government estimates, cereal production for 2011/12 was 5,788,000 mt, an increase of 2% from the 2006-10 period, yet a reduction of 25% from the 2010-2011 season. This recent reduction in cereal production is due to late and low rainfall, which contributed to a poor harvest in the western Sahel of the country (north of the regions of Kayes, Koulikoro and Segou) and the inlet Niger Delta of the region of Mopti. The cereal balance established a net surplus production of 1,716,320 mt for all cereals, including importation, commercial exportations and food distribution. However, an estimated 1.7 million people remain at risk of hunger. The situation has been further complicated by a rebel uprising in the north, forcing around 320,000 people to flee the fighting, some into neighboring countries.

Increasing crop productivity capacities

The Agricultural Support Program of SAA Mali focuses on small farmer households at risk of food insecurity and/or poverty. It aims to create opportunities for both subsistence and surplus production farmers to access appropriate crop and livestock production technologies, and stimulate income generating opportunities.

In order to expand farmers' access to improved crop production technologies, 651 demonstrations of methods, such as the use of improved seed varieties, fertilizer types and levels, have been established in 152 villages, involving 6,124 farmers, of whom 5,661 are women. Based on the 2010-2011 crop production technology demonstrations, farmers in 2011-2012 have established 6,401 Production Test Plots (PTPs) including microdose demonstration plots, in partnership with the AGRA PASS Program. SG 2000 Mali has also been supporting the intensive production and marketing of millet and sorghum crops in conjunction with INTSORMIL CRSP (International Sorghum and Millet Collaborative Research Support Program).

Fifteen FBOs (Farmer Based Organizations) benefited from seeds and mineral fertilizers (DAP and Urea) and cultivated 500 ha of Toroniou – an improved variety of millet. They produced 600 mt of millet grain from which 25 mt were sold at premium prices and used to build up a revolving fund for ensuring a sustainable farmer input procurement system.

For 2012/2013, agricultural enhancement activities will aim to further increase crop productivity by strengthening farmers' learning platforms in

Country Director: Dr About Berthe

"Only six percent of farming families are headed by women. Illiteracy is a main constraint."



Technology Option Plot (TOP) group in pearl millet field

120 new villages throughout four regions of the country.

Postharvest and agroprocessing activities

Postharvest and agroprocessing activities involved the establishment of postharvest learning platforms in 10 focus villages with the partnership of the AGRA market access program. These were equipped with postharvest handling equipment including threshers, cleaners, decorticators and rice steamers for women farmers' groups. Postharvest handling of most crops, dominated by women, remains laborious. To alleviate the work load of women farmers and increase efficiency, specimens of peanut decorticators and rice steamers have been developed and introduced in most postharvest platforms. The peanut decorticator can process one bag of peanuts per hour compared to

the manual technique of one bag every eight hours. The rice steamer can process at least 325 kg of paddy rice per day compared to 100 kg in the traditional system. Local manufacturers have also been trained to fabricate this equipment.

Activities planned for 2012/2013 involve building the capacity of postharvest and agroprocessing learning platforms for sustainable cooperative-based business enterprise development.

Collective marketing is being fostered in the postharvest platforms by providing support to 20 warrantage storage units of staple grains. FBOs and extension agents have successfully negotiated with microfinance institutions and agricultural banks (BNDA, Kondo Jigima and Kafo Jiginew) to secure eight month term credit at a rate of 10-12% for undertaking warrantage, group marketing



Manually operated maize sheller

Farmers' learning platform achievements 2009-2011

Key Performance Indicators	2009	2010	2011	TOTAL
Number of extension agents	60	74	179	313
Number of farmers trained	480	4,467	8,214	13,161
Number of technologies demonstrated	10	10	10	10
Number of demonstrations	480	1,563	651	2,694
Total number of participants	540	4,541	8,393	13,474
Number of female participants	240	1,257	2,964	4,461

and income-generating activities. Some 226 producers from five Farmer Based Cooperatives (FBCs) stored 115 mt of cereals. The net benefit of the warrantage activity was US \$ 144.55 per producer. The income generating activities reached 57.67% of the feedstock involved in the warrantage storage system, and contributed to an additional income of US \$45.37 per producer.

SG 2000 Mali acts in partnership with agrodealers (Arcenciel and Faso Kaba) for improving farmers' access to mineral fertilizers and seeds, and with the World Food Program for securing markets for family farmers. Farmers directly purchased 624 mt of mineral fertilizers (DAP, NPK and Urea), 5,660 liters of herbicides and 2,450 bags of fungicides from the 23 inputs shops established in collaboration with the AGRA PASS program. For the fiscal year 2011-2012, five FBOs – supported by SG2000 – contracted 491 mt of millet out of 646 mt, and 365 mt of sorghum out of 480 mt; a realization rate of 76% contracted in the WFP/P4P food procurement market system.

Activities planned for 2012-2013 include strengthening the capacity of 10 FBOs to produce quality food crop products and improved market access.

Crop productivity

SAFE and crop productivity improvement themes collaborated for the establishment of a Farmer Learning Platform (FLP) including Technology Option Plots (TOPs) and Women Assisted Demonstrations (WAD) in the agricultural training school Samanko, an institution participating in the SAFE program in Mali. Students had the opportunity to learn about SAA strategies and to gain awareness of the technologies introduced for the rapid dissemination of SAA strategies in the social system they are likely to serve upon graduating.

Additional activities planned for 2012-2013 involve the extension of the FLP approach of Samanko to the Rural Polytechnic Institute of Katibougou.

Research studies

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning activities involved baseline and Nyèt@kènè studies. The baseline study results reveal that only 6% of farming families are headed by women. Illiteracy is a main constraint, as 79.9% of respondents do not have any formal education and 83.1% do not have a bank account. The Nyèt@kènè study revealed



*Program Officer,
Monitoring, Evaluation,
Learning and Sharing*
Oumou Sissoko

Oumou joined SAA Mali in August 2011 as a Program Officer of Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Sharing. She received a Bachelor in Statistics and an MBA from St Cloud State University in Minnesota, USA. Upon graduating, she worked as a Loan Document Reviewer at Wells Fargo Bank for a year and before joining SAA, she was a commercial assistant for a private company.



*Thematic coordinator,
Public Private Partnership
and market access*
Nouhoum Sangaré

Dr Nouhoum Sangaré is an animal geneticist by training, and lectured in the field for around ten years at the Rural Institute of Mali. He has been involved in development projects in rural communities for many years. Dr Sangaré has extensive experience in project formulation and monitoring, especially concerning projects dealing with value chain approaches and stakeholder organization.

that women can be sources of increased competitiveness and empowerment as they can provide services to their cooperative members such as; education and training; guidance on market information and access; audit services; credit or business registration; research; communication services. They can also become cooperative support

structures to provide skills and resources for cooperatives to grow and prosper as true business entities that can generate income for their members.

Looking ahead, mid-term evaluation and impact studies are planned for the 2012-2013 season.



Women farmers weeding a groundnut Women Assisted Demonstration (WAD) plot in Madina village



Groundnut shelling service provider

Agriculture in Nigeria is the largest sector of the economy accounting for nearly 42% of GDP and providing employment for over 60% of the population. The slow growth of agriculture has resulted in increased food imports and food insecurity. In Nigeria, as in many developing countries, women play a major role in agricultural food production and especially food processing; but face major obstacles to increasing their productivity and living standards. As usual, as early as March 2011, agricultural inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizers and agrochemicals were procured and distributed to farmers with a subsidy of between 40 to 50% by the various state governments. Thus, agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, agro chemical and sprayers were available.

Inter-thematic collaboration

The only limiting factor to farmers was the high cost of fertilizers and their quality. Similarly the use of improved seeds by farmers was limited due to insufficient networks of agrodealers in the rural areas. Farmers recycle seeds from farmer to farmer, which ultimately results in low yields. Fields with good crop performance on the various technologies were observed except in areas where planting was delayed due to the late arrival of rainfall. Prices of most staples such as maize, rice, millet, sorghum and cowpea, increased by more than 25% compared to the first quarter of 2011. Generally, harvests/yields were above average with no economic incidence of pests, diseases, drought/floods. Inter-thematic collaboration has greatly increased and this has resulted in better synergy towards a holistic approach to addressing farmers' needs.

Good crop performance

The year 2011 started with pre-season visits to interact with farmers in selecting areas of intervention. This was followed by pre-season training on best agronomic practices for extension agents and some selected

farmer leaders. A total of 161 Community Based Extension Agents were trained across all states. The rainy season started in April in Adamawa state, whereas Kano, Bauchi, Gombe, Jigawa and Zamfara states received the first rainfall in May. Planting of crops commenced in late May through to June in the North-Central, North-East and North-West agroecological zones. The Theme 1 team established 2,309 Production Test Plots (PTPs), 278 Technology Option Plots (TOPs) (comprising different technologies on cereals, legumes and oil seed crops) and 743 Women Assisted Demonstrations (WADs). The mid-season training was conducted for extension agents, States and Zonal Coordinators on field data collection and entry into the data sheets; use of GPS in taking coordinates and area measurement (most of the extension agents saw the GPS machine for the first time); and reviews of field activities on TOPs, WADs, PTPs and Community Variety Plots (CVPs). The rainy season came to an end in the second week of October in most areas of our activities; good crop performance was observed across the states.

Thirteen field days (FDs) were conducted in all the six states, with the highest number of field days in Adamawa State and the least in Bauchi State.

Country Director:
Dr Sani Miko

"The only limiting factor was the high cost of fertilizers and their quality."



Technology Option Plot (TOP) farmer group

To enhance the efficiency of the field extension staff, a total of 32 motorcycles were purchased and distributed to 32 hard working extension agents in Adamawa State.

New businesses established

A needs assessment of new groups for women processors was conducted in Jigawa and Adamawa states early in the year in order undertake a quick appraisal of the newly identified groups in the states. In all, seven women's groups were identified, with a total of 187 member processors involved in different processing activities. Thus, four business enterprises were established for garri, rice and groundnut oil, and maize milling (table 1).

Additionally, training was

conducted on enterprise development and management, agribusiness development, postharvest and agroprocessing handling of maize and rice, improved rice parboiling techniques, postharvest and agroprocessing handling of maize, rice, sorghum, millet cowpea and groundnut, postharvest and agroprocessing handling of maize for BtM2 USAID/MARKETS project farmers, machine operators and groundnut oil extraction in Panda (Kano). The Theme also carried out machine verification and adaptation exercise for a groundnut oil extractor in Jigawa State and a multi-crop thresher in Adamawa State.

In an effort to promote wider adaption of simple, efficient and affordable machines for postharvest and agroprocessing, seven service providers, adopting groundnut oil extracting machines, multi-crop threshers, rice mills, and rice threshers, were launched. The theme also purchased eight multi-crop threshers, five rice and wheat threshers, 12 motorized groundnut oil kneaders, five wet grinders, 14 manual groundnut oil kneaders, 20 tarpaulins, seven grain cleaners, 200 manual maize shellers, 12 rice parboiling kits, five hammer mills, eight SB rice

Table 1: Four new businesses financed and technically established by SAA

State	LGA	Group	Type of Enterprises	Product Processed
Adamawa	Fufore	Unity Farmers	G/nut oil processing	Groundnut oil, G/nut cake
	Ganye	Tikamen Women	Cassava processing	Garri and starch
	Larmorde	Alheri Women MPC	Rice processing	Parboiled rice
Jigawa	Madagali	Hankuri Women Farmers	Maize processing	Maize flour
	Birnin-Kudu	Kafin-Gana Women Rice Farmers	Rice processing	Parboiled rice

mills, five groundnut roasters, five cassava processing units and one seed planter. Some of these were used to launch PHAP service provision. Two training modules on enterprise development and management and postharvest handling of maize were also commissioned.

Developing market access

Theme 3 continues to develop more formal partnerships with the private and public sectors. Emphasis was focused on (1) strengthening capacity of private agribusinesses in advisory services to farmers, (2) strengthening smallholder seed supply systems (3) improving institutional linkages through development of strong partnerships, (4) fostering market linkages between farmer associations and commercial contractors and (5) facilitating commercial credit services for farmer associations and entrepreneurs. Thus, 15 private agribusinesses were sensitized through awareness meetings on support to agricultural extension services. This resulted in Manoma Seeds Limited, Jubaili Agrotec and Dizengoff Agricultural Unit supporting SG 2000 demonstrations.

Theme 3 also trained 130 community-based seed out-grower farmers comprising 120 men and 10 women and 30 extension agents in conjunction with Theme 1, from which 360.7 mt of assorted certified seeds were produced. From these, 1.5 mt of foundation seeds

were supplied to the JASCO/JARDA community-based seed multiplication program of Jigawa state. The beneficiary farmers sold over five mt of seed to seed companies. The Theme conducted two business planning and management training workshops for 11 farmer groups, eight women processing groups, 10 entrepreneurs and stakeholders. Three Farmer Groups in Adamawa State were also linked to the Premier Seed Company where 3.5 mt of assorted seeds worth N525m were purchased. A service provider was linked to Karfi Hausa microfinance bank for a N150,000 facility.

The activities of MELS were restricted to Adamawa and Jigawa states. Training was conducted on MELS tools for staff and enumerators and Theme Coordinator. Thirty enumerators were trained on data collection and in-house training on software and hardware such as CSPRO, MS Access, MS Excel, SPSS and Global Positioning System (GPS) was also conducted, in preparation to the conduct of baseline surveys. Baseline data was collected from eight Local Government Areas in Jigawa and Adamawa States. Analysis has been concluded, and draft and final reports have been successfully written.

Partnerships, progress and achievements

SAA carried out audits on all expenditures incurred during the year from the states' accounts, and comprehensive reports were



Community Facilitator

written on technical activities undertaken in Jigawa and Adamawa states as part of the deliverables contained in the signed MoU. These reports were submitted to the Executive Governors of the states along with the request for the release of the second installment for the year 2012. The \$400,000 states' funds were used along with funds from SAA to conduct all thematic activities. Reports indicated that the governments were satisfied with the level of activities carried out in their respective states. Again, SAA was awarded a sub-contract to work with 5,000 maize out-growers in Kaduna State in the Bridge to MARKETS II project. Training of Trainers (TOT) on maize production technology, group management and record keeping was conducted for

216 Lead Farmers who later trained 4,784 farmers in their communities. The major objective of this program was to link these producers to Grand Cereals Company based in Plateau State.

SAA has maintained its partnership with principal investigators including the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and Wageningen University, on the N2FIXAFRICA project, funded by BMGF. A total of 388 Demonstration Plots of cowpea, soybean and groundnut under the care of extension agents and 7,224 Satellite Demonstration Plots, with minimal extension agents' supervision, were conducted. The objective is to improve and maintain soil fertility and farm productivity.



Motorized and manual threshing of maize demos for lead farmers under the USAID/MARKETS project

In 2011, Uganda experienced a series of economic challenges, exacerbated by the unstable state of the global economy. Uganda's annual headline inflation accelerated rapidly from 5 to 30.5% between January and October, declining to 29% in November. The decrease at the end of the year was mainly driven by the decline in food prices. High inflation exerted pressure on household disposable incomes and presented a major challenge to macroeconomic stability. It also had a significant impact on price increases for most commodities including food, fuel, agricultural commodity prices, and inputs.

High quality harvests

The first season of 2011 (January-May) was characterized by very dry weather. Conversely, rainfall in July and November was fairly good, resulting in high quality harvests.

Theme 1 provided technical support to farmers in nine districts, 21 sub-counties, 84 parishes, and worked with 22 zonal Community Based Facilitators (CBFs) and selected farmers. Theme 1 also established 336 Technology Option Plots (TOPs), 504 Women Assisted Demonstrations (WADs) and 20 Community Variety Plots (CVPs) for maize, beans, upland rice, soybeans, groundnuts and sweet potatoes, and 2,520 Production Test Plots (PTPs). Crops were selected using a bottom-top approach which considered market and food security. Farmers hosting the TOPs and WADs are required to keep records and to assess the profitability of different technological packages through gross marginal analysis.

Increasing stakeholder access to information is integral to

improving technology uptake and productivity enhancement. Training and farmer field days were conducted before, during and after the season. Sixteen parastockists who trained in two districts in collaboration with Theme 3 have helped bring inputs closer to farmers at parish level, bridging the gap between input suppliers and farmers. Seed companies provided seed of new crop varieties for demonstration under the CVP concept, to create awareness and demand amongst farmers. Stakeholders have been trained in various areas based on need. Twenty-two extension agents (six women, 16 men) and 212 CBFs (89 women, 123 men) were trained as Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) on agronomic practices for selected crops and setting up Farmer Learning Platforms (FLPs). Extension agents and CBFs trained 1,395 farmers (743 women, 652 men) on appropriate agronomic practices and fertilizer use; 2,054 stakeholders (farmers, extension agents, district personnel, seed companies, and local government staff and leaders) attended field days.

Country Director:

Dr Roselline Nyamutale

"High inflation exerted pressure on household disposable incomes and presented a major challenge to macroeconomic stability."



Farmers' group with their leader during SAA field visit, Northern Uganda

A study tour to Western Kenya with staff and 40 farmers was conducted to share experiences. The team also visited the annual Nairobi Agriculture and Trade show. Thereafter farmers adopted a number of technologies on crop agronomy which included the mulching of legumes such as soya beans to retain moisture in the soil, and the ridging and earthing of maize and other crops. Farmers also learnt how to produce biogas. One extension agent from Kamwenge District, Ntara Sub County attended a rice extension training course at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines to

support delivery of rice advisory services. Radio talk shows and TV documentaries have increased the outreach of the farmer learning platform approach.

The introduction of CBFs has increased farmers' access to extension services. The ratio of CBFs to farmers is 1:80. CBFs are continuously supervised and provided with technical guidance by the extension agents. To monitor their performance, extension agents and CBFs sign farmers' record books indicating activities carried out and advice given.

Demonstrating technologies

Theme 2 carried out activities aimed at strengthening and supporting farmers in Postharvest and Agroprocessing program (PHAP) while improving quality control along the value chain. Activities focused on capacity building, technology transfer, value addition and quality improvement of products. Major accomplishments included; training of fabricators while demonstrating PHAP technologies, training farmers and extension workers, and training women on agroprocessing and enterprise development. In many farmers' associations, there has been an improvement in product quality



Evaluating peanut varieties

and market access following the training of farmers, extension workers and lead farmers on quality control and postharvest handling. PHAP demonstrations carried out in various sub-counties played a leading role in improving farmers' awareness of appropriate technologies at different levels of value addition. In some districts, PHAP private service providers have sprung up.

The following stakeholders were trained over the year: 92 extension agents and Zonal CBFs, trained as TOTs for farmers on PHAP, quality control and enterprise development, proceeded to train 2,552 farmers (1,650 women, 902 men). Twelve fabricators trained on fabrication of multigrain threshers and cleaners, while 19 masons and 15 artisans were trained to act as resource persons in the construction of maize cribs. Sixteen women from eight districts were trained in agroprocessing – on confectionery. Twelve center managers from six One Stop Center Associations (OSCAs) and marketing centers were trained on PHAP machine maintenance and operation.

Prototypes of mobile PHAP equipment were adapted and demonstrated to farmers during training, field days and agricultural shows. As a result, over 436 units of equipment were adopted in different parts of the country. Three trolleys, for converting motorized maize shellers to mobile ones, were constructed as well as two mobile cassava chippers to improve cassava chipping services to farmers.

One grain cocoon and a PVC tank were adapted to demonstrate grain storage technologies. Three hundred and twenty tarpaulins and two drying yards were demonstrated at farm level to create awareness on appropriate drying practices. Postharvest Extension and Learning Platforms (PHELPs) and PHAP private service provider's models were developed and strengthened among the farmers and key stakeholders. Four OSCAs are being developed into PHELPs and five PHAP private services

providers among the OSCA districts.

Theme 2 interventions registered improvement in the quality and quantity of produce that attracted buyers who offered higher prices. Over 300 mt were sold at Bugiri marketing center as a result of grain quality improvement.

Remunerative markets

Access to remunerative markets is a trigger to technology uptake, increased production and quality produce. In 2011, PPP/MA supported the private sector seed industry through capacity building of 27 extension officers and 85 agrodealers in agronomy and extension delivery systems. Sixty-eight women farmers were trained and linked to Pearl Seeds to grow foundation bean seed worth \$52,000 on 50 acres that were sold to NASECO and Pearl Seeds.

Seventy-eight agrodealers were linked to SAA supported farmers in 12 Districts. Theme 1, in collaboration with Uganda National Agro-input Dealers Association (UNADA) trained 16 parastockists (13 men, three women) to improve farmer access to seeds. A marketing manual for parastockists has been developed. Linkages have also improved their capital base. One female parastockist doubled her capital base of US\$ 8,000 within a period of two months after the training and linkage to more farmers under the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS).

Bulk purchase of inputs, promoted under the P4P partnership, saved the group a total of \$3,500 on inputs worth \$32,970.

Through P4P support to improve agroprocessing efficiency, two motorized seed cleaners were placed at two OSCAs (Bugiri & Lira) and moisture meters were placed in all the P4P districts.

In a bid to improve farmers' linkages to new markets two feed millers were identified to buy maize and soya; the major ingredients for livestock feeds. In order to improve income generating activities, 18 women farmers from Lira were trained in the processing of cassava into garri which has a ready market.

To reform the OSCA approach, four executive members of ZAABTA (comprising 1,150 members) were trained in business planning, in partnership with the Uganda Development Trust – a microfinance institution. Some 5,601 farmers, including 3,286 women, benefitted from credit training but only 206 farmers confirmed accessing the loans. This process is still very slow due to stringent bank criteria set for lending that is not farmer friendly.

Evidence-based organization

The work of Theme 5 has turned SAA into an evidence-based organization. However, compiling evidence is a complex undertaking and involves many actors in the chain from 'offices to field'.

The MELS theme has attempted to understand this diversity by conducting baseline studies in the new intervention areas. Districts surveyed included Lira, Luweero, Wakiso, Mukono, Buikwe, Kamwenge, Ntungamo, Jinja, Kumuli, Bugiri, and Tororo. Results show that:

- A plurality of households (42.3%) had houses constructed of mud floors; most walls were made of fired bricks (38.4%) and the majority of roofing materials were iron sheets (60.1%).
- Land is mainly inherited (41%). On average, households owned 0.4 ha; below the national average of 1 ha. Female-headed households had smaller land holdings (0.3 ha) than households headed by males (0.5 ha) or youths (0.4 ha).

- Over 90% of households across the districts were self-employed in agriculture, mainly in crop production.
- The main source of credit was semi-formal and consisted mostly of microfinance for farm operations (over 70%), specifically to purchase inputs, followed by expenses on education.
- No household experienced food shortages over the periods April–June and August–December 2010. A few cases were experienced in January (6.9%), February (6.3%), March (10.6%) and July (0.5%). These were considered food insecure months. According to Uganda Bureau of Statistics, food shortage in Uganda in 2010 was reported at 63%.

Needs assessments at all levels of the value chain have also been important undertakings for MELS because they induce informed decision-making and interventions that farmers actually need.

During the year, efforts were also made to monitor the progress of other thematic interventions. This was mainly a 'helicoptering' exercise which registered promising results from the different thematic efforts in the field. Another major undertaking of the year has been sharing lessons learned with all the relevant stakeholders. The whole SAA family has appreciated the need for weighing up results before taking services to the farmers.



SG2000 staff and a farmer participating in a radio talk show

Ethiopia – Springboards for change

Since 2008, the Sasakawa Africa Association has worked to diversify its funding sources while relying on the constant and unswerving support of The Nippon Foundation. This strengthens, rather than dilutes, the main thrust of SAA's objectives as set out in the Strategic Plan (2012-2016) with different donor funding streams being channelled into one corporate program of work. As a result, SAA activities in the field are being scaled up and much greater impact is being made.

This is now apparent in all four focus countries, not least in Ethiopia where the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is providing financial support for a project, being implemented by SAA to create 'springboards for change'.

From a project steering committee, regional and woreda (district) focal points were appointed at the beginning of the year. Need assessment surveys were then conducted in 10 regional states, 18 woredas, 52 Farmers' Training Centers (FTCs) – and with 968 farmers. From the evidence gathered and assessed, appropriate technologies were identified and demonstrated in 15 woredas, and 36 FTCs in 76 Farmer Learning Platforms (FLPs). Some 239 Development Agents (DAs) and 180 Subject Matter Specialists (SMSs) in 16 woredas have been trained in crop, livestock and postharvest operations.

Extension resource centers have been established in 13 woredas and two Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education Training (ATVET) centers. A loan guarantee scheme was established with four microfinance institutions – benefitting 22 FTCs to generate income in support of farmer-driven extension programs.

Management Committees in 36 FTCs were trained in business development, management and accounting with the Ministry of Agriculture, to strengthen extension delivery with the objective of improving food security and household incomes.

"Modern agricultural technologies in crops, livestock, postharvest and agroprocessing can all increase the productivity, quality and incomes of resource poor smallholder farmers", comments Ethiopia's Country Director, Aberra Debelo, "but the extension services must be trained to support marginalized groups such as women, agropastoralists, the youth and very poor farmers. Targeted FTCs, DAs and SMSs are the key to developing and demonstrating best practices – that can then be expanded to a larger number of FTCs and woredas", he added.

The overall objective is to transform 215 FTCs in 22 woredas from very low levels of operational capacity into springboards for change – for agricultural modernization and livelihood improvement. A monitoring, evaluation and training program has been developed for the model FTCs and target woredas.



Members of Danchuma Women Savings and Credit Cooperative (Tulla Sub-City, Southern Ethiopia) trained on quality control in maize processing.

Mali – a range of partners: a range of projects

SAA in Mali has developed synergistic projects with several partners including AGRA, USAID Intsormil, the World Food Program and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

With the support of the AGRA PASS program, the microdose fertilizing technology among 45,302 small family farmers, involving 94,829 ha of food crops, contributed to an increased production of millet and sorghum – the main food crops of the Malian population. The project also involved the construction of 23 input shops and 20 warrantage storage structures to improve farmers' access to production inputs (mineral fertilizers and seed from improved crop varieties) and output markets. Project participants – farmers and their communities – were able to earn substantial income from group storage and the crop production surplus from the efficient use of inputs. Farmers earned additional revenue from income generation activities from the warrantage benefits.

Based on the promise of the microdose project, SAA Mali and the AGRA market access program initiated, in 2011, a new venture to improve the access of small family farmers to markets in the southwestern zone of Mali, hosting AGRA's first granary project. The need assessment, and the profiling of food crop value chains in the project intervention site, allowed the identification of appropriate postharvest handling equipment and the setting up of 10 postharvest and market centers (Ph&MCs) across the various sites. Some 2,890 producers, including 1,774 women, benefited from postharvest handling training. On-farm demonstrations of threshers, peanut shellers and maize shellers involved 3,025 farmers, including 1,413 women farmers. Management Committees (MCs) of Ph&MCs were responsible for planning demonstrations of postharvest handling equipment. MCs have since been able to provide postharvest handling services to individual farmers. The groundnut value chain is dominated by women in Mali and the shelling is a burdensome task. A groundnut sheller developed and introduced by SAA reduced the time for shelling of a bag of groundnuts from more than a day to three hours.

Appropriate Technology

The SAA -Intsormil/USAID project is concerned with the farmers getting the appropriate technology onto their fields. The technology includes a new cultivar of millet (Toroniou), moderate levels of inorganic fertilizer, water harvesting techniques, and other agronomic improvements. SAA managed the delivery of the technology (best practices for crop production techniques and postharvest management techniques, linkage to markets and other actors in the value chain) and the monitoring of farmers' activities and results. The seeds and fertilizer are paid for by Intsormil's Production-Marketing Program and provided as input credits to farmers. A critical input also provided is the tarps to get the threshing off the ground and thereby produce cleaner grain for the processors. The input credits for the seed and the inorganic fertilizers must then be repaid to the farmers' association in grain at harvest. The farmers' association makes a profit from the cleaner grain and the higher prices from selling later in the year.

With the support of the Directorate of Regional Agriculture of Segou, the area for intensive millet crop production and marketing was increased last year by 500 ha with 17 new farmers' associations. Combined with the 498 ha in 2010, the total crop area under the new technology was 1,498 ha – involving 27 new farmers' associations.

SAA, with the support of IFAD, has been fostering a market-driven development process to allow millet and sorghum producers to respond to more structured market demands and, where profitable, adopt productivity-enhancing techniques as established by the Initiative Millet Sorghum 2.

Finally, SAA in Mali has been working with the World Food Program to facilitate the supply of locally produced commodities to WFP's P4P initiative.

JICA funds empowerment project

Nine rural women agroprocessing cooperatives, with a total of 420 members, are currently being supported by SAA, in partnership with Ethiopia's Ministry of Agriculture and funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This three year Women Empowerment Project is encouraging women farmer groups and cooperatives to improve their agroprocessing techniques and produce more market value-added food products.

"The objective is to increase incomes rather than selling agricultural raw materials at a cheaper price", says Project Controller Senayit Yetneberk, who runs the project with SAA's Program Manager, Sayako Tokusue.

In the first full year of the project, baseline surveys were undertaken before six cooperatives received specialist training. This focussed on the hygienic processing of the products, packaging and labelling. Processed products included flour from cereals, pulses and spices. Recipes were compiled – and the improved quality of the products was immediately recognised.

Business skills

As well as the practical aspects of improved quality produce, training was undertaken in basic business skills – not an easy task as many of the women farmers were illiterate. However, courses in areas such as new business ideas, business planning and basic management skills, were held using posters, stories, drama and work groups. A trainers'

guide, prepared by Women in Self-Employment – an Ethiopian NGO – was closely followed and was instrumental in changing the mindset of rural women.

A workshop – on Gender Awareness Creation – involved seven cooperatives as well as their spouses. The Woreda Women, Youth and Children Affairs Office provided the training. Men were made more aware of the extra work shouldered by their wives in striving to improve household income.

The project has proved that training and follow-up activities enable rural women to be more confident and competent in the market place. This year, the focus is on business plan development, training on nutrition for the family diet and market promotion events. Flour mills are being introduced in eight cooperatives to process products and contribute to income generation.



Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers training farmer groups

A delegation from SAA and SAFE, led by Executive Director Aki Miyamoto, visited Beijing in January to meet with the Chinese Academy for Agricultural Mechanization Sciences (CAAMS) to discuss potential areas of collaboration on the development and supply of agroprocessing machinery.

CAAMS has had many years' experience working with Chinese small-scale farmers – whose requirements are similar to Africa's farmers. The SAA team were also in talks with CAAMS' collaborating agencies, the Modern Agricultural Equipment Company and the Food Machinery Corporation.

"We made the point that there is a need for appropriate technologies to be used for different crops", said Leony Halos-Kim, SAA's Theme 2 Director, "and that they are portable and can be replicated locally."

CAAMS also offers short technical courses in China for foreign trainees – sponsored by the Chinese Government.

Collaboration with Nigerian States

Of Nigeria's northern states which have signed memoranda of understanding with SAA, Adamawa and Jigawa are leading the way.

In both these states, SAA has conducted pre-season training and established crop production demonstrations – with 158 Technology Option Plots (TOPs), 425 Women Assisted Demonstrations (WADs) and 1,205 Production Test Plots (PTPs). Technical equipment, as part of the postharvest and agroprocessing program, was sourced and delivered (Table 1).

The machines were distributed to service providers on a hire-purchase basis. In August, the Executive Governor of Gombe State released N30 million to SAA, following the example of the Adamawa and Jigawa State Governors. A workplan has since been established with Gombe State. Business training in entrepreneurship has been conducted and two students' supervised enterprise projects (SEPs) were established using joint funds.

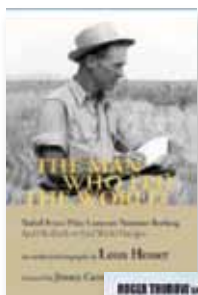
Table 1: Postharvest and Agroprocessing (PHAP) equipment

Equipment	Jigawa State	Adamawa State	Total
Motorized groundnut oil expellers	2	2	4
Rice mills	3	3	6
Multi-crop threshers	5	2	7
Rice par-boilers	4	4	8
Groundnut roasters	2	2	4
Groundnut oil extractors	2	2	4
Manual groundnut kneaders	4	4	8
Rice and wheat threshers	3	2	5
Hammer mills	3	2	5
Wet grinders	3	3	6
Grain cleaners	5	2	7
Cassava presses	0	3	3
Fermentation racks	0	3	3

Public Information

A number of publications are available from SAA, including the Sasakawa Africa Association 20th Anniversary Report; the SAA newsletter, Feeding the Future, various Theme-related publications, and the SAA Annual Calendar. For a complete list, contact info@raittorr.co.uk

In addition, recommended reading includes: the authorized biography of Dr. Norman Borlaug: *The Man Who Fed the World*. Leon Hesser. *Durban House Publishing Company, Inc. 2006*; and *Enough: Why the World's Poorest Starve in an Age of Plenty*. Roger Thurow and Scott Kilman. *Public Affairs Publishing. 2009*.



SAA 20th Anniversary Report



SAA Progress Report 2009



Number 26



Number 27



SAA Progress Report 2010



Setting the Grassroots on Fire: Agriculture and Sasakawa Global 2000 in Ghana
Joseph Kwarteng and Ida Kwarteng



Taking it to the Farmer – Proceedings from the SAA Feeding the Future Borlaug Symposium, 2010, Addis Ababa

Writing/Editing:

Raith Orr & Associates, London, UK +44 (0)20 7250 8288

Designed and print-managed:

B-Creative, Horsham, UK +44 (0)1403 274 742 www.b-creative.co.uk

For further information, Contact:

SAA Managing Director's Office

Dr Juliana Rwelamira
Managing Director, SAA
Gurd Sholla
Daminarof Building, 4th Floor
Bole Sub-City, Kebele 13
PO Box 24135, Code 1000
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel 251 11 647 7667
Fax 251 11 647 7666
Email JRwelamira@saa-safe.org

Shushan Negussie
Administrative Manager
Email shushan@saa-safe.org

SAFE

Ethiopia

Dr Deola Naibakelao,
Managing Director, SAFE
Gurd Sholla,
Daminarof Building, 4th Floor
Bole Sub-City, Kebele 13
PO Box 24135, Code 1000
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel 251 11 6477665
Fax 251 11 6477666
E-mail n.deola@saa-safe.org

Dr Jeff Mutimba,
Program Co-ordinator
Eastern and Southern Africa
E-mail jmutimba@field.winrock.org

Japan

Masaaki Miyamoto,
SAA Executive Director,
SAA, 4th Floor, The Nippon Foundation
Building 1-2-2, Akasaka, Minato-ku
Tokyo 107-0052
Tel 81 3 6229 5460
Fax 81 3 6229 5464
Email miyamoto@saa-safe.org
yokoyama@saa-safe.org
seki@saa-safe.org

Switzerland

Jean F. Freymond
Director, D@G – Geneva Dialogues
President, Network for Governance,
Entrepreneurship & Development (GE&D)
c/o BHF, International Environment House
7-9 Chemin de Balxert
1219 Châtelaine (Geneva)
Tel 41 79 256 5360
Fax 41 22 776 0142
Email jeanfreymond@gmail.com

United Kingdom

Patrick Orr
Information Consultant
Raith Orr & Associates Ltd
Ground Floor, CAN Mezzanine
49-51 East Road
Old Street
London N1 6AH
Tel 44 (0)20 7250 8288
Email patrick@raittorr.co.uk

USA

P. Craig Withers, Jr
Director of Program Support
Global 2000 of The Carter Center
One Copenhill, 453 Freedom Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30307
Tel 1 404 420 3830
Fax 1 404 874 5515
Email cwither@emory.edu

SAA Country Programs

Ethiopia

Dr Aberra Debelo,
Country Director,
Sasakawa-Global 2000
PO Box 12771
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel 251 11 5528509/10
Fax 251 11 5528507
Email aberrad@saa-safe.org

Mali

Dr Abou Berthe,
Country Director
Sasakawa-Global 2000
Kanu-Magnambougou
Rue 6885, BP E3541, Bamako
Tel/Fax 223 220 5834
Email bertheab@saa-safe.org

Nigeria

Dr. Sani Miko
Sasakawa Global 2000
No. 8, Kura Road
Off Magajin Rumfa Road
Nassarawa GRA
PMB 5190
Kano, Kano State
NIGERIA
Tel 234 080 6648 2663
Email sanimiko@saa-safe.org

Uganda

Dr Roselline Nyamutale,
Country Director
Sasakawa-Global 2000
Plot 15A Clement Hill Road
Ruth Towers, Nakasero
PO Box 6987, Kampala
Tel 256 41 434549
256 31 2261180
Fax 256 31 2264180
Email rnyamutale@saa-safe.org