



# KSADP-SAA

Vol 2 Issue 7

## NEWSLETTER July 2024



# BUILDING INDIGENOUS CAPACITY



A DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE BY



## FROM THE PMU

### **Dear Reader...**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Have a great read...

**Ibrahim Garba Muhammad**  
**State Project Coordinator**  
**Kano State Agropastoral Development Project (KSADP)**



L-R: Abdulrasheed Kofarmata, KSADP/SAA Project Coordinator; Dr Godwin Atser, SAA Nigeria Country Director; Mrs Aisha Idris, Special Advisor on Food Security, Kano State; Dr. Danjuma Mahmoud, Kano State Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources; Mrs Sadiya Abdu Bichi, Special Advisor on Women and Children, Kano State; Abdulhamid Gambo, SAA Nigeria Deputy Country Director; Prof Sani Miko, Special Adviser to SAA Nigeria Country Director, during a courtesy visit to the Commissioner.

## FROM THE PC

Dear Reader...

A major component of agricultural transformation is the building of indigenous capacity for adequate deployment of new technologies and mechanization. That is why the KSADP/SAA project has made it a point of duty to invest strongly in the training of local fabricators in Kano State. The recent involvement of the National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization (NCAM) in Idofian, Kwara State, offered a new level of opportunities in this regard. The training of 35 fabricators at the institute, in the making of multi-crop threshers, adds to Nigeria's wealth of local technological capacity and increases the technological options used to address postharvest losses in Kano State.

Additionally, one of the benefits of our training programs for young contract sprayers and agro-input stockists is that they are promoting proper use of agro-inputs in farming communities. Apart from earning income, the contract sprayers are helping to reduce under-dosing and overdosing on agro-inputs due to the knowledge gained in the correct application of these products. This has greatly reduced misapplication and its attendant effects.

Similarly, the training and empowerment of agro-input stockists are aimed at improving the availability and accessibility of quality inputs to farmers, a development that is driving an increase in agricultural yield and productivity because farmers now use only quality inputs in the right quantity. The trained stockists have also become advisors to farmers when it comes to agro-inputs.

This edition of the KSADP/SAA Newsletter, themed "Building Indigenous Capacity" underscores the significance of our recent training activities. Local and indigenous capacity is growing as a result of these activities and I'll be glad to see this initiative adapted and scaled up across the country. As for Kano, the dividends are currently being felt. Thanks to these critical investments from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF) and the Kano State Government.

I wish you a happy read.

**Abdulrasheed Kofarmata**  
KSADP/SAA Project Coordinator

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## KSADP/SAA trains 35 additional local machine fabricators for Kano state



Group photograph of participants, SAA Nigeria team members and staff of NCAM, Idofian, Kwara State

The KSADP/SAA project recently trained 35 additional local fabricators drawn from various local government areas in Kano State, bringing the total number of fabricators trained by the project in the state to 80. The weeklong training took place at the National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization (NCAM), Idofian, Kwara State.

The KSADP/SAA Project Coordinator, Abdulrasheed Kofarmata, explained that the exercise was in continuation of the project's drive to build the skills of indigenous fabricators to make agricultural machines that are critical to post-harvest operations in the state.

"This training is aimed at achieving several things," Kofarmata said. "First is to build the skills of the fabricators to design and build modern multi-crop threshers that will help farmers with post-harvest operations. Secondly, it will reduce the cost and pressure of importing machines that our local fabricators can make. Thirdly, it will create jobs for local artisans, increase income and boost efforts

at mechanizing post-harvest operations in Nigeria."

The fabricators were trained by engineers and technicians of NCAM who exposed the trainees to professional metalworking techniques including the use and interpretation of design drawings, materials selection, and safety procedures.

While presenting certificates of training to the fabricators, the Executive Director of NCAM, Engr. Dr. Abdulgafir Kamal, congratulated the fabricators, saying the skills they have acquired in the last week will distinguish them from many other local fabricators in their communities. He said they had been armed with skills to make great machines that would contribute to the growth of mechanized agricultural activities in Nigeria.

He also commended the KSADP and SAA for organizing such an impactful training which he said goes a long way to add value to the investments made by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF) and the Kano State Government.

Speaking on how the training was coordinated, the Head, of Engineering and Scientific Services of NCAM, Engr. Dr. Olusola Olujirin, praised the project for carefully selecting skilled artisans and good welders. “The selection made it easy for us to enhance their skills with professional and precision techniques,” he said. “We introduced them to the importance and use of design drawings, material selection and proper welding skills. They learnt how to make multi-crop threshers as opposed to single crop threshing machines that some of them have been used to.”

The parts of the machine were divided into seven components and the participants were divided into seven groups to build those components using the design drawings and under the supervision of several NCAM technical staff. At the end of the day, they coupled those components and produced a multi-crop thresher which they successfully used to thresh maize and millet.

On how the participants were selected, Kofarmata said the project made sure that the fabricators selected were already skilled and serious fabricators working in their LGAs and capable of learning and transferring new skills

and making good use of the equipment that will be given to them to practice.

“We’ve already given them Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which they used throughout the training,” he disclosed. “Once they are back in Kano, we’ll further empower them with full equipment needed to be in that line of business. We’ll also be monitoring their activities because they are not the only target. The target is actually their communities.

One of the participants, Ahmadu Idris, from Sitti Sumaila in Sumaila LGA of Kano State, counted himself lucky to be part of the training, saying that he has learned new skills and has been empowered at no cost.

The 30-year-old artisan said: “The KSADP, IsDB, LLF and Sasakawa transported us here and they are transporting us back. They paid for our feeding and accommodation and even gave us some pocket money. So, I am really grateful to them. My plan now is to go back, put the new skills into action and also transfer the knowledge to my apprentices” ●



**Participants coupling the multicrop thresher**



Executive Director of NCAM, Engr. Dr. Abdulgafr Kamal, presenting a certificate to one of the fabricator-trainees

## NCAM boss hails KSADP, IsDB, LLF, KNSG and Sasakawa over contribution to mechanization

The Executive Director of the National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization (NCAM), Idofian, Kwara State, Engr. Dr. Abdulgafr Kamal, has given kudos to the Sasakawa Africa Association, Nigeria and the Kano State Agropastoral Development Project (KSADP) for their commitment to the mechanization of agricultural activities in Nigeria.

The NCAM boss gave the commendation recently during the closing ceremony of a weeklong training of 35 local machine fabricators at the centre. The KSADP/ SAA project had selected and sponsored the training of 35 local fabricators from various local government areas of Kano state under the KSADP.

Speaking on the significance of the intervention of KSADP/SAA in mechanization, Dr. Kamal said that the project was making an immense contribution to Nigeria's agricultural mechanization needs and have become an ally to NCAM as far as the centre's mandate was concerned.

His words: "While agriculture is the bedrock of

development of a nation, mechanization is the wheel upon which agriculture moves. Here at NCAM, we develop mechanization technologies across the value chain, and how do we disseminate this information and commercialize our technology is through training of this nature as brought in by SAA in the centre.

"Now, we've trained 35 trainees in the fabrication of multi-crop threshers and they successfully produced one. Imagine if each of these trainees replicate this in their various fabrication shops. That will create a ripple effect in terms of commercializing the production of threshers in Nigeria. With this development, the centre can tell the country that there's no need to import threshers because it's already being produced locally and that will save a lot of foreign exchange.

"So, I see this relationship between NCAM and Sasakawa to be the beginning of a long-term relationship in ensuring sustainable agricultural mechanization through the production of need-based and homegrown mechanization technologies.



**SAA Nigeria Country Director, Dr Godwin Atser, giving his address at the meeting with partners**

## **SAA, IITA, ICRISAT, seed companies meet to strengthen KSADP partnership**

The leadership of the Sasakawa Africa Association, Nigeria recently met with representatives of its implementing partners on the crop value chain component of the Kano state Agropastoral Development Project (KSADP). The consortium includes SAA Nigeria, MD KNARDA, PMU KSADP, two research institutes -the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT); , and eight seed companies.

The meeting which held between the 1st and 5th of July 2024, was the consortium’s quarterly meeting aimed at reviewing project’s progress, identifying challenges, and proffering solutions. Key areas of discussion included input distribution, data quality, reporting, and the impact of climate change.

Speaking after the meeting, the Country Director of SAA Nigeria, Dr Godwin Atser, stated that the meeting had always been a critical part of the KSADP implementation because the project deliverables were designed to run on effective collaborations and partnerships.

His words: “Sasakawa does not joke with collaborations and partnerships because they are critical elements in any endeavour aimed at improving the lives and livelihoods of people. And KSADP is uniquely fashioned to run on partnerships between SAA, research institutes and seed companies. We have made a lot of progress with that partnership and we must continue to strengthen and sustain it.”

At the end of the meeting, the participants resolved to strengthen collaboration, monitoring and evaluation, and ensure timely execution of tasks. The meeting emphasized

robust monitoring and evaluation, improved data collection and reporting, market linkages, gender balance and capacity building.

The SAA Deputy Country Director, Dr. Gambo Abdulhamid; the Special Adviser to the Country Director, Prof. Sani Miko; KSADP/SAA Project Coordinator, Abdulrasheed Hamisu, as well as other SAA technical coordinators and program officers were in attendance ●

*"KSADP is uniquely fashioned to run on partnerships between SAA, research institutes and seed companies. We have made a lot of progress with that partnership and we must continue to strengthen and sustain it".*

- Godwin Atser



A section of the participants at the partners' meeting

## **KSADP/SAA trains and empowers 370 agro-input stockists in Kano**

The total number of agro-input stockists trained and empowered by the KSADP/SAA project has reached 370 following the recent addition of 176 input dealers who were trained recently and will be equipped with branded kiosks and additional inputs to top up. The 176 beneficiaries, drawn from the 44 local government areas of Kano state, went through a three-day training where they were equipped with the essentials on product knowledge, safety rules, and enterprise management.

According to the KSADP/SAA Project Coordinator, Abdulrasheed Kofarmata, the exercise was a critical component of KSADP's efforts to boost agricultural productivity in Kano State by improving the availability and accessibility of quality inputs to farmers, to increase yields and enhance livelihoods.

"Farmers ability to assess quality agro-input is a critical step to productivity increase, that is why it is important to empower those responsible for making those input available and accessible," he said.

He explained that the stockists were selected based on parameters showing that they were genuine stockists in need of support to boost their businesses and contribute to the project's objectives of increasing the availability and accessibility of quality inputs in the state.

His words: "The beneficiaries were small but promising input dealers operating in the communities they were found. Some of them had just a table where they displayed their wares but they showed genuine commitment to boosting their businesses and being a part of our input quality crusade in the state.

At the end of the training, the 176 participants received free branded metal kiosks and support packs to enhance their businesses.

Hauwa Ibrahim, a female beneficiary, said the training and empowerment will now help her serve her customers with more confidence while growing her business.

"I am eager to apply the knowledge gained from this training to improve my operations and contribute to the development of the agriculture in my community", another beneficiary, Aliyu Usman said ●

## 1200 farmers, EAs, others, learn compost making and utilization in Kano



*Regenerative Agriculture Program Officer, Albert Taru, at a demonstration to participants during the compost making training*

**A**t least 1200 farmers along with Extension Agents and Community Based Facilitators (CBFs) in 15 LGAs of Kano state were recently introduced to compost making and utilization under the Regenerative Agriculture component of the KSADP/SAA project.

Compost, an organic matter that has undergone a

natural decomposition, has proven to be a cost-effective way to improve soil health and soil quality.

According to the KSADP/SAA Regenerative Agriculture Program Officer, Albert Taru, "Healthy soil is very important for agricultural productivity so the key actors in farming communities must understand ways

to improve and maintain soil health. One such way is composting. So, we're educating the farmers on the importance of composting, the various composting techniques, and the different types of materials that can be used for composting."

He noted that during the training which was organised across 60 clusters in 15 local government areas across the state, participants learnt how to create and maintain

a composting pile and its effective application on the field.

"We had four clusters each for every local government," he explained. "And since each cluster had 80 members, we were able to train not less than 1200. These 1200 will further step down the training to more clusters through which we plan to reach up to 1950 other farmers and EAs"●

## KSADP/SAA establish plots to showcases new technologies, diffuse improved varieties

The Project Coordinator of the KSADP/SAA Project, Abdurashheed Kofarmata, has described the establishment of the 2024 wet season demonstration plots across the state as hugely satisfying, saying that reports coming from the various local governments were pointers to farmers' eagerness to embrace sustainable agricultural practices.

For the 2024 wet season farming, SAA and its eight partner seed companies have altogether established about 955 demonstration plots and 206 Community-Based Seed Multiplication (CBSM) plots across 44 Local Government Areas in Kano State. While the demonstration plots aim to introduce farmers to new technologies in Regenerative Agriculture, the CBSMs primarily aim to diffuse improved seeds across the farming communities

Kofarmata who shared his views in the light of the ongoing monitoring and supervision activities by the project's Regenerative Agriculture and Monitoring and

Evaluation teams, noted that the exercise was aimed at assessing host farmers' and EAs' compliance with production guidelines, identifying challenges, and making recommendations.

"We're also using the exercise to ensure that farmers fully understand the project's objectives in the light of

Regenerative Agriculture, so that they can adopt and scale the technologies," Kofarmata said. "We're working closely with Extension Agents because they are critical to the success of the intervention. They are our eyes and hands in their various communities.

The demonstration plots established include Rice plots, Maize/Soybeans Strip cropping demo plots; Sorghum/Soybeans Strip cropping demo plots and Millet/Groundnut Strip Cropping. The CBSM fields established include Rice, Maize, Sorghum and Millet ●



## KSADP/SAA trains, empowers 440 youths in spray service provision

The KSADP/SAA recently trained and empowered 440 youths to offer private spray services to farmers in their various communities. The youths, drawn from the 44 local government areas of the state, were trained on spray techniques, safety and enterprise management.

At the end of the training, each of the participants were empowered with a set of sprayers and kits to boost their spray service. The training was conducted for four days in four locations in Kano State namely: Kadawa, Tukui, Makole, and Gwarzo.

According to the KSADP/SAA Project Coordinator, Abdurashed Kofaramata, the training enlightened the participants on the different types and classifications of crop protection products and how to identify them, precautionary and safety measures, and spray enterprise

management. The use and maintenance of sprayers and personal protective equipment was also covered.

He said: “This training was conducted under the Market Oriented Agriculture component of the project. The idea behind the training and empowerment of contract sprayers is very strategic because it is achieving several things at the same time. First of all, it is creating jobs for those starting the enterprises and utilizing knowledge gained at the training.

“Secondly, the knowledge the sprayers have gotten will help to reduce incidents of overdosing and under-dosing and reduce the negative environmental impact of these products. Thirdly, it will make the farmers winners in the battle against weeds and pests because they can now employ the services of trained and knowledgeable sprayers.



KSADP/SAA Project leaders pose with participants and the solar-powered spray tanks distributed to them

# PHOTO NEWS



**Group photo of participants during the three-day training of Agro-Input stockists at the Kano State Technology Incubation Centre.**



**Distribution of Solar Sprayers to beneficiaries in Kadawa, Kano State.**



**KSADP/SAA team visit to NCAM, Idofian, Kwara State, just before the training of fabricators began**



**KSADP/SAA Project Coordinator, Abdurashed Kofarmata, inspecting facilities at NCAM for training of fabricators**



**Compost making training session in Wudil LGA with the trainees actively participating in the training activities.**



**Prof Sani Miko, Special Adviser to the SAA Nigeria country Director giving his address during a recent meeting of partners**

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

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