



Lives and
Livelihoods
Fund



KSADP-SAA

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KSADP_SAA and IsDB field supervision in Bagwai LGA, Kano State

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 Agropastoral Development Project, KSADP.

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A DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE BY



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Beneficiary of the KSADP Fabricators training in ABU Zaria

"All these put together, will ensure that the presence of these skilled fabricators scales up local fabrication and make machines available and affordable."

- ABDUL RASHEED HAMISUKMATA

KSADP/SAA TRAINS 25 YOUTHS TO FABRICATE LOCAL EQUIPMENT FOR RICE, MAIZE, OTHERS

The Kano State Agro-pastoral Development Programme (KSADP) Crop value chain implemented by Sasakawa Africa Association has trained and empowered 25 indigenous fabricators as part of efforts to build the capacities of youths to take advantage of the increasing demand for locally manufactured agricultural machines. The youths were in the design and fabrication of a modern multi-crop thresher for rice, maize sorghum, and millet.

The training was organized by the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) in conjunction with the Agricultural and Bioresources Engineering Department workshop of the Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR), Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria, Kaduna State. SAA is implementing the crop value chain component of the KSADP.

The KSADP/SAA Project Coordinator, Abdulrasheed Hamisu Kmata, explained that the training became necessary because of the urgent need to build local capacity in the face of the high cost of importing agricultural tools that can be manufactured in Nigeria.

His words: "We have a lot of artisans manufacturing agricultural machines locally and they are showing a lot of promise. However, they face challenges such as erratic power supply, high cost of raw materials, lack of technical know-how, marketability, and a general bias against locally fabricated machines. Incidentally, rising foreign exchange rates have increased the cost of importing machines. So, it's better to build the capacity of our artisans and engineers to fill the gap".

The project boss noted that the beneficiaries were selected from 25 Local Government Areas in Kano state.

He said: "We picked one fabricator from each local government. This is an addition to the 20 persons who received similar interventions last year. So, the 44 local government areas now have one highly skilled fabricator each. And there's a step-down training component where the fabricators are expected to step down the training to other fabricators and artisans in their various communities. All these put together, will ensure that the presence of these skilled fabricators scales up local fabrication and make machines available and affordable."

At the end of the training, each of the participants was equipped with an Angle grinder for grinding and cutting metal plates and iron; a MMA 500 welding inverter, and personal protective equipment including safety boots, overalls, helmets, and gloves.



Distribution of tools and equipment to beneficiaries at the end of the training

440 YOUTHS TRAINED IN SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE HANDLING OF AGRO-INPUTS

Youths in Kano State are now acquiring the skills and knowledge of safe, correct, and responsible handling of agro-inputs following a training organized by the KSADP/SAA for 440 spray service providers across the 44 local government areas of the state. The new spray service providers consisting of 330 males and 110 females were trained and equipped with complete spray kits.

The participants who were trained on sustainable spray techniques, safety, enterprise management, financial management, and good record keeping, are now making extra income by offering professional spray services to farmers in their communities. The youths are also training their peers in their various communities and helping farmers solve the challenges of weeds and pests on their farms.

“We did not just train them to spray herbicides, we trained them on how to handle these products in ways that do not harm the environment, the applicators, and the farmer”, said The KSADP/SAA Project Coordinator, Abdulrasheed Hamisu Kmata.

At the end of the training, each of the participants was equipped with knapsack sprayers, raincoats, rain boots, eyeglasses, hand gloves, and nose masks.

One of the beneficiaries, Saminu Rabi, a person living with disability (PWD) in Kura, disclosed that his new skills had attracted more clients (farmers) paying him to spray their fields.

“I have even trained five other people in my community to assist me since the amount of work is increasing,” he said, adding that farmers now entrust the buying of the agro-inputs to the sprayers because the trained additionally sharpened their knowledge of various pesticides and where and how to get authentic products.

“The training also helped me to realize that in the past, we were overdosing and hurting the environment because we did not know correct measurements,” he added.

The training also equipped the sprayers with entrepreneurial and financial skills to treat their service as business ventures.



Spray enterprise field supervision in Kano state



Beneficiaries of KSADP SAA branded inputs kiosks during an event in Bagwai LGA



Distribution of improved seeds to farmers for 2023 wet season farming

KSADP/SAA PARTNERS WITH IITA, ICRISAT, SEED COMPANIES, TO DIFFUSE IMPROVED SEED VARIETIES IN KANO

346 seed outgrowers trained, empowered with inputs for 2023 wet season

As part of efforts to make improved varieties of maize, rice, and sorghum available to farmers in the 44 local government areas of Kano State, the KSADP has established 192 hectares of Community-Based Seed Multiplication (CBSM) plots, in various communities. Its partner seed companies have also established another 154 hectares of CBSM plots in Kano state. The establishment of the fields is being led by the Regenerative Agriculture (RA) team of the KSADP/SAA.

The team collaborated with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) to train 266 community-based seed producers on quality and improved seed production techniques and Good Agronomic Practices (GAPs) in maize and rice production. The training also covered the management and control of Fall Armyworms.

According to the KSADP/SAA Project Coordinator, Abdulrasheed Hamisu Kmata, “partner seed companies collaborated to provide breeder and foundation seeds of upland and lowland rice, maize, sorghum, and millet, to establish the plots.”

He said the plots are expected to provide a source for the diffusion of improved varieties in the communities around them and offer opportunities for the host farmers to serve as seed out-growers for the seed companies. “They also complement our demonstration plots,” he added.

He pointed out that the CBSM initiative became necessary because smallholder farmers in the state still relied on old traditional saved seeds, which were not giving them satisfactory yields. “A major limitation to the adoption of new varieties is the unavailability of quality seeds, so the CBSM activity will help bridge the gap,” he said.

Additionally, the project received 2000 kg of breeder and 3000 kg foundation seeds of improved maize varieties (SAMMAZ 27, SAMMAZ 51, SAMMAZ 52, SAMMAZ 59, and SAMMAZ 60) from the IITA 1000 kg of breeder from AfricaRice and 5,840kg foundation improved rice seeds (FARO 44 and FARO 67), and 4,000kg breeder and 6,000kg foundation seed varieties (sorghum and

millet) from ICRISAT which were distributed to partner seed companies and Community seed producers for the production of certified seeds for farmers and foundation seeds for seed multiplication.

According to the Coordinator, these maize seed varieties are drought- and Striga-resistant seed varieties that are also efficient in soil nutrient utilization.



Beneficiaries of KSADP offseason farming activities in Bagwai LGA.

BUILDING CAPACITIES OF EXTENSION AGENTS IN ICT AND E-EXTENSION



Data collection by KSADP/SAA Extension Agent in Boko Community

The KSADP/SAA collaborated with the National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Service (NAERLS), to train 88 Extension Agents and Community Association Traders (CATs) on the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools to effectively source, aggregate, and disseminate market information.

The training covered the use of ICT for effective extension communication, internet usage, information management, data privacy and security, techniques of information sourcing tools, and farmers Helpline. The participants were also exposed to data archiving for improved market information access and dissemination in Nigeria.

“It was great to see that the participants left with the ability to effectively and efficiently source, aggregate and disseminate timely quality market information to farmer clusters and other relevant value chain actors using ICT tools”.

They can also access information from the National Farmers Helpline (NFHL) and other market information providers using smartphones and computers.”

- ABDUL RASHEED HAMISUKMATA

E-extension techniques and basic operations of ICT gadgets such as smartphones, tablets, and computers were also covered.

The KSADP/SAA Project Coordinator, Abdurashheed Hamisu Kmata, noted that the skills were important to keep the CATs and EAs ahead in the digital revolution in agriculture.

He said: “It was great to see that the participants left with the ability to effectively and efficiently source, aggregate and disseminate timely quality market information to farmer clusters and other relevant value chain actors using ICT tools. They can also access information from the National Farmers Helpline (NFHL) and other market information providers using smartphones and computers.”

The 88 participants comprised 44 EAs and 44 CATs all drawn from the 44 LGAs in Kano State



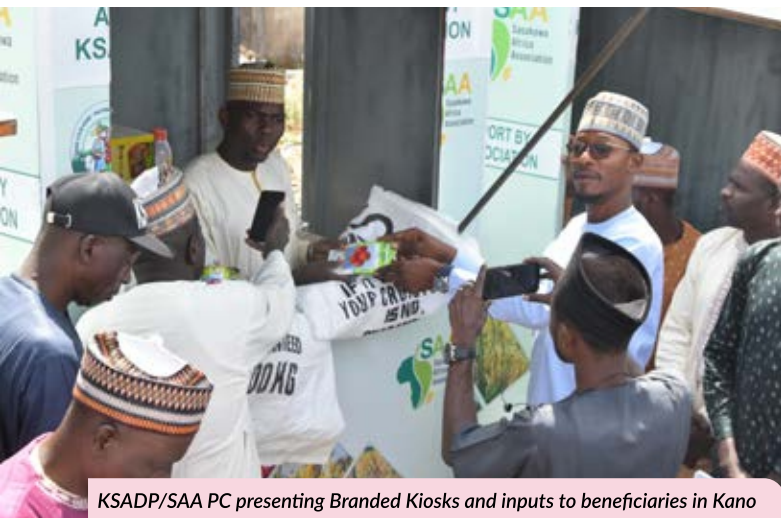
EMPOWERED AGRO-INPUT DEALERS EXPAND ENTERPRISES, CREATE NEW JOBS

Some small-scale agro-input dealers are expressing delight at how their lives and businesses have been transformed following the training and empowerment they received from the KSADP/SAA programme.

The programme last year trained and stocked up 94 small kiosks for the agro-input dealers who were hitherto mere roadside sellers of agricultural inputs. The project went across the 44 LGAs and selected

young people who were passionate about expanding their businesses. Today, the beneficiaries are extremely elated at the impact of the empowerment exercise on their lives.

Haruna Lawan, one of the beneficiaries living with disability in Kura LGA of the state said he had increased the size of his agro-input business and had employed two sales boys and paying them commission for every sale made.



KSADP/SAA PC presenting Branded Kiosks and inputs to beneficiaries in Kano



Ibrahim Kura, one of the beneficiaries of the input stockist support in Dabino community , KuraLGA, Kano State

Apart from becoming an employer of labour, Lawan also provides advisory services to farmers and the spray service providers linked to him. “Farmers value the free consultation a lot and it is the reason why they prefer to patronise me,” he said with pride.

Another beneficiary living with disability, Isah Abdullahi, in Ungoggo LGA , has also become an employer of labour. He

currently has two people working for him and earning biweekly wages.

A lot of the input dealers, which the programme refers to as “input stockists” have seen their customer base jump by more than 100% owing to the additional service they offer and the assurance that they only stock genuine and quality products.



Distribution of branded kiosks to beneficiaries by the KSADP

“Farmers value the free consultation a lot and it is the reason why they prefer to patronise me

-HARUNA LAWAN

HOW FARMER GROUPS MAKE EXTRA MONEY FROM PRE AND POST HARVEST EQUIPMENT



Beneficiaries of USG applicators.

When the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team of the KSADP/SAA project embarked on a tour to assess the level of utilization and maintenance of the pre-and post-harvest equipment distributed to farmers across the state a few months ago, little did they know that the rate of utilization of some of the equipment would beat their expectations.

Some of the equipment distributed across the state, include 10 rice threshers, 15 multi-crop threshers, 25 dehullers, 12 rice mills, 15 hammer mills, 28 de-stoners, 40 small generators, 40 sack sealers, 2000 returnable plastic crates, 25 weighing scales and 7500 PICs bags.

The equipment were aimed at helping smallholder farmers reduce drudgery and postharvest losses, and also to improve crop quality and value addition to their produce for a better market.

But when the M&E team visited some locations of the equipment in seven LGAs - Kura, G/Mallam, Bunkure, Gwale, Nasarawa, and Ungogo, they found out that a lot of the equipment were not only being used by the farmers, but also being rented out to help other farmers.

For example, at Karfi yan Shinkafa Kura, the modern tomato crates given to them were being used to prevent post-harvest losses and damage during loading and offloading. But the groups were also renting out the crates at N600 per crate to tomato dealers going to Lagos, thereby making extra income from the crates. One of the beneficiaries, Sule Garba said he hired raffia baskets to transport his tomatoes until the KSADP intervention came. He said he currently rents out the crate for N600 per crate through his farmer group, Nasaba Farmers Association.

At Ungoggo LGA, the farmers were using the transplanters to make work more efficient with increased speed and accuracy. The farmers were renting out the machines for N1000 per day. The same applied to the Urea Supper Granule (USG) Applicator at Kura LGA. Apart from utilizing the machine, Hafizu Muhammad said he was renting the USG applicator out at N500 per day.



KSADP introduced RPCs to reduce postharvest losses of tomatoes



Beneficiaries of the KSADP Rice parboiling kits in Kano

KANO FARMERS POST N370 MILLION IN SALES UNDER KSADP'S MARKET ORIENTED AGRICULTURE

Farmers participating in the collective market access, group dynamics, and community savings for investment in agribusiness (CSIA) initiative of the KSADP have raked in a total of N378,520,000 from sales with the support of the project's Market Oriented Agriculture component.

Available records from the farmer groups also showed that inputs worth N112,452,000 were purchased for the 2023 wet season farming and loans worth N152,700,000 were accessed.

According to the Program Officer of Market Oriented Agriculture, Nasiru Ahmed Umar, about 1000 farmers were linked to the input and output market, with group savings amounting to N7,530,000.

He described the results as a testament to the benefits of group dynamics in agriculture and the effectiveness of the step-down training the Commodity Association Trainers, Extension Agents, and Community-Based Facilitators were conducting across the state.

"The trainings have positively impacted a large number of farmer groups, who were educated and sensitized on how to develop their groups, manage and resolve group conflicts, have collective access to both input and output markets, and increase and manage group finances effectively," he said.



KSADP/SAA officials during a field supervision visit to Kura community



Beneficiaries of KSADP Rice parboiling kits in Kano



Beneficiary Farmer during Mega Brown field day in Gwamma community



Beneficiary farmer during a KSADP green field day



Rice Mill operator in Jobe community



→ Green field day in Gwarzo Local Government

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

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