

Annual Report 2022

Building sustainable and resilient food systems



**Sasakawa
Africa
Association**



Walking with the Farmer

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Women group engaged in peanut butter processing at the Monzomblena PHTC, Diila Region, Mali.

Acronyms

ACAI	African Cassava Agronomy Initiative	ISFM	Integrated Soil Fertility Management
AFAAS	African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services	JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
AfDB	African Development Bank	KSADP	Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project
AFSTA	African Seed Trade Association	MOA	Market-Oriented Agriculture
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa	NSA	Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture
AGRF	Africa Green Revolution Forum	OSCA	One-Stop Center Association
CA	Conservation Agriculture	PHTC	Production and Postharvest and Trade/Training Center
CBSM	Community Based Seed Multiplication	PREMAP	Pro-Environment Market-oriented Agriculture Promotion Project
CRM	Customer Relationship Management	PwD	Persons with Disabilities
CSIA	Community Savings for Investment in Agribusiness	RA	Regenerative Agriculture
DAAES	Digital Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services	SAFE	Sasakawa Africa Fund for Extension Education
EA	Extension Agent	SHEP	Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion
EiA	Excellence in Agronomy	SDGs	UN Sustainable Development Goals
EU	European Union	SDDC	SAFE Demand Driven Curriculum
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	SEP	Supervised Enterprise Project
FTC	Farmer Training Center	SMS	Subject Matter Specialist
FLP	Farmer Learning Platform	ToT	Training of Trainers
GAP	Good Agronomic Practice	TB	Talking Book
GHG	Greenhouse Gas	TICAD	Tokyo International Conference on African Development
HDDS	Household Dietary Diversity Score	TNF	The Nippon Foundation
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute	UN	United Nations
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture	USG	Urea Super Granules
IPM	Integrated Pest Management	WFP	World Food Programme
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank		

Message from our President



Makoto Kitanaka
President,
Sasakawa Africa Association

PROMOTING REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

In 2022, SAA made significant strides in promoting sustainable and resilient food systems in Africa. These achievements were made despite major global challenges, such as agricultural input price hikes and soaring inflation aggravated by the Russia-Ukraine war, and the ongoing impacts of climate change.

Against the backdrop of these challenges, we remain committed to promoting regenerative agricultural practices that ensure the optimal use of inorganic fertilizers, while reducing smallholder farmers' reliance on them. We are also committed to promoting sustainable intensification and crop-livestock integration. During 2022, we continued to promote biofortified and nutrient-dense crops and agro-processing activities that helped to meet the nutritional and economic needs of rural communities. In addition, we facilitated market-linkages and access to finance for farmer organizations and agro-dealers across different value chains.

We continued to expand and strengthen our partnerships with various food systems stakeholders. These activities included supporting the identification and scaling of practical solutions that enhance smallholder farmers' resilience and improve their food, nutrition, and income security. We also maintained our support for the integration of ICT, which has accelerated the development of digitally enabled agricultural extension and advisory systems. Our official side events during the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Science and Innovation Forum, provided excellent opportunities to share our experiences and advocate our cause with policymakers, development partners, and world-leading scientists.

Looking ahead, we will continue to explore new opportunities to scale our efforts and promote innovative and practical solutions that utilize and enhance multidimensional agricultural extension systems. We remain committed to 'Walking with the Farmer' to help address the challenges they face and build more sustainable and resilient food systems in Africa.



Farmers in Madudu subcountry showing their produce, a result of SAA's support, to President Kitanaka, Uganda.

About SAA

Founded in 1986, the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) supports smallholder farmers along agricultural value chains in Africa, with a core focus on Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda. SAA aims to increase farmers' food, nutrition, and income security by promoting regenerative, nutrition-sensitive, and market-oriented agriculture, and by building the capacity of extension workers and farmers.

To achieve its goals, SAA works in partnership with national and international agricultural research and extension organizations, farmer associations, the private sector, and universities across Africa.



Vision

To support Africa to fulfill its aspirations in building sustainable and resilient food systems



Mission

Catalyzing knowledge sharing with African farmers and enabling food, nutrition, and income security in their communities



Approach

We aim to fulfill our vision, mission and organizational objectives through:

- **Knowledge Creation:**
Co-create technologies and methodologies that advance business-orientated agriculture.
- **Knowledge Packaging:**
Introduction of flexible technology packages based on community needs
- **Knowledge Transfer:**
Exchange information between farmers and other stakeholders

Operating countries

Focus countries with a country office

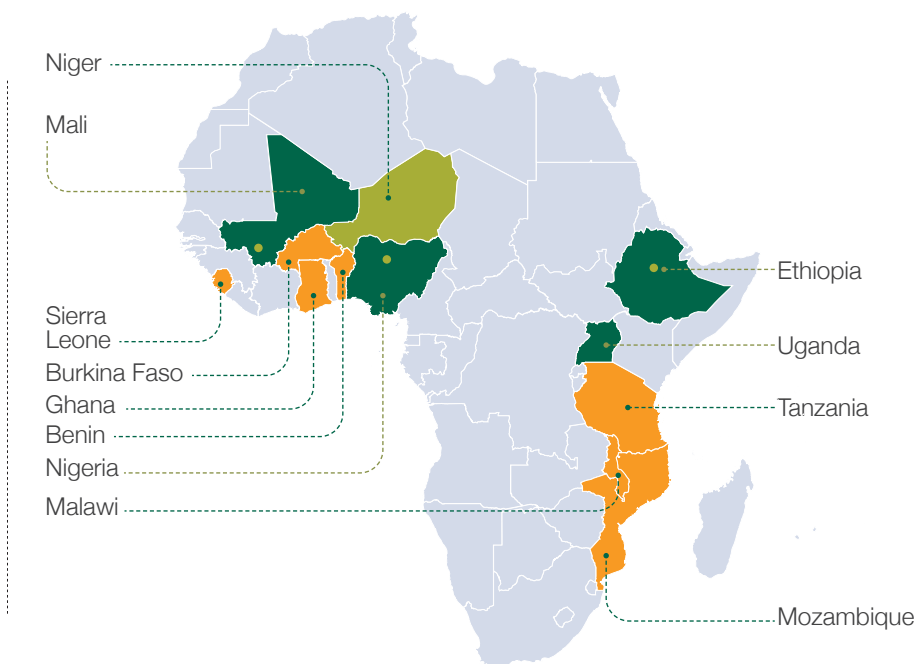
Ethiopia	Nigeria
Mali	Uganda

Country with a project office

Niger

Countries with Capacity Building program only

Benin	Mozambique
Burkina Faso	Sierra Leone
Ghana	Tanzania
Malawi	



STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Building sustainable and resilient food systems



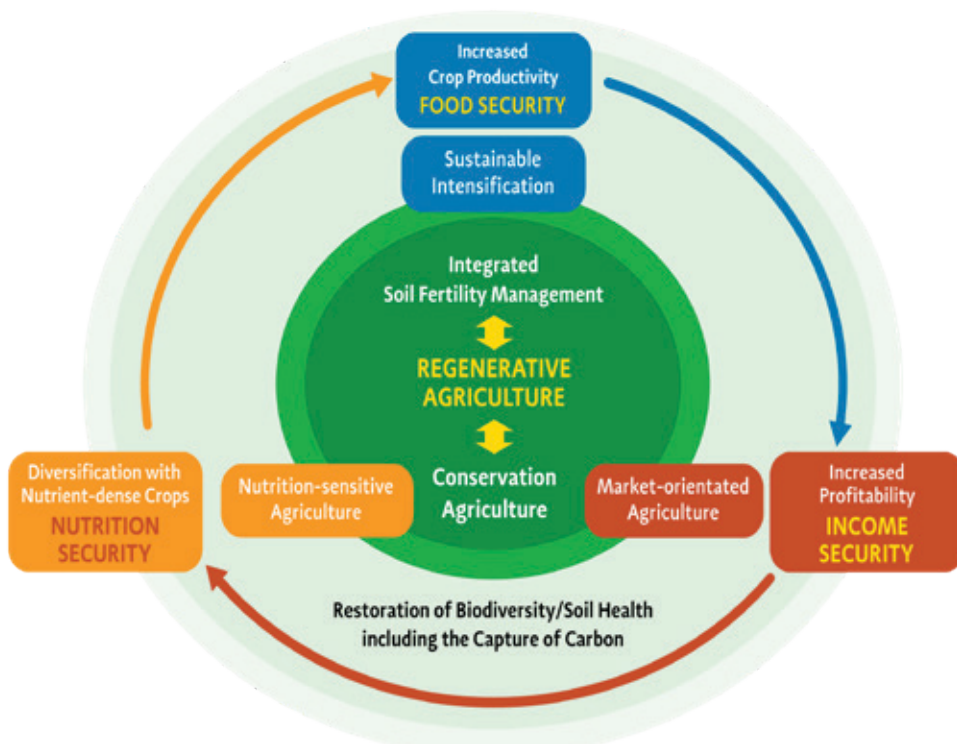
Agriculture productivity in Africa is constrained by relatively low yields compared to the rest of the world. To increase agricultural productivity per unit area and to mitigate and adapt to climate change, SAA is promoting resilient and sustainable food systems, focusing on three strategic pillars: Regenerative Agriculture (RA), Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture (NSA), and Market-Oriented Agriculture (MOA).

In our work, we focus on mainstreaming evidence-based regenerative agriculture to reverse the alarming degradation of soil health in African farmlands caused largely by the loss of soil organic matter. We promote innovative technologies that restore soil health and biodiversity, sequestering carbon in the soil and reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions at farm and landscape level. We also implement nutrition-sensitive interventions that aim to improve the health and livelihoods of rural communities by creating awareness and promoting biofortified and nutrient-dense crops.

At the same time, we are working to boost food purchasing power by generating increased revenue through collective marketing and Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP). Our postharvest management interventions also help to create job opportunities for young people while enhancing food quality and minimizing postharvest loss and wastage.

In addition, we are actively driving the adoption of e-extension platforms through public-private partnerships to enhance agricultural advisory services. By scaling technologies and implementing innovative approaches, we aim to improve the extension worker-to-farmer ratio and ensure effective knowledge dissemination.

Aligned with our strategic goals, we are dedicated to empowering various segments of society, including young people, women, and persons with disabilities (PwDs). To this end, we are strengthening entrepreneurship skills and capacity, while fostering innovation and integrating diverse skills through collaborative partnerships with universities, agricultural colleges, the private sector, and research and extension systems. We conduct these activities through farmer-centric integrated extension models, characterized by our participatory approach and mantra, 'Walking with the Farmer'.



Regenerative Agriculture (RA)



Regenerative Agriculture aims to make farmland more productive and resilient by increasing soil fertility, managing naturally occurring soil-plant interactions, and boosting biodiversity and the ecosystem as vital aspects of sustainable food systems. In this regard, we promote RA practices that aim to balance agricultural productivity with environmental sustainability. The main objectives of these interventions are to help lessen or even reverse the adverse effects of human influence on the environment, restore degraded farmland, sequester carbon, and improve soil health, thereby helping to increase resilience while improving livelihoods.

Within our Regenerative Agriculture programs, we leverage our Farmer Learning Platforms (FLPs) model to promote two leading practices: Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) and Conservation Agriculture (CA), along with improved agricultural technologies and Good Agronomic Practices (GAPs).

2022 was a challenging year for many farmers in Africa due to accelerating global inflation and soaring prices for agricultural inputs, especially fertilizer. We therefore took the opportunity to demonstrate and train farmers and extension workers in a range of RA practices. These interventions helped to reduce farmers' dependence on chemical fertilizers while building their resilience and productivity. In particular, we continued to promote an integrated crop-livestock system whereby crop residue provides food for animals, whose manure then fertilizes the soil. Further, we used 'deep urea placement' techniques to reduce the wastage and leaching of fertilizers while delivering more nutrients to the crops.



Applied innovation - tackling rising fertilizer costs with the USG applicator

Adamu Muhammed Hotoro, a 62-year-old farmer from Kano state in Northern Nigeria, is a participant in the SAA Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP). Through KSADP, Adamu has been introduced to several new innovations, but the most transformational feature has been the Urea Super Granules (USG) applicator, which has enabled him to reduce the amount of inorganic fertilizer he uses and achieve higher crop yields. "I learned a new method of applying fertilizer on my farm," says Adamu. "It has made life easier for me, especially with the rising prices of inorganic fertilizer. The process is faster and more efficient." Now, Adamu is passing on his knowledge to his children and fellow community farmers.

By promoting the USG applicator as part of the KSADP project, SAA-Nigeria is empowering farmers to combat soil degradation and cope with fertilizer price fluctuations. This innovative tool further accelerates the adoption of USG fertilizer deep placement, which increases effectiveness while reducing the environmental impact of excess fertilizer runoff. The simple mechanized applicator also eliminates the drudgery of manual fertilizer application. Looking to extend the benefits further, SAA-Nigeria and KSADP are working to train local fabricators in mass applicator production to improve access and scalability.



Farmers with Urea Super Granules (USG) applicators, Kano, Nigeria.



It has made life easier for me, especially with the rising prices of inorganic fertilizer. The process is faster and more efficient."

Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture (NSA)



Our NSA work comprises three key strands: (1) Improving the nutritional value of consumed food through crop diversification, including the promotion of nutrient-dense and bio-fortified crops. (2) Improving postharvest management for improved quality, safety, and loss reduction, as well as harvesting/threshing private service provision. (3) Providing nutrition education, including the promotion of nutritious recipes and complementary diets for infants and lactating women.







We implement these approaches to suit local typologies and socio-economic circumstances. For instance, in Ethiopia we promote perma-gardening with drip irrigation systems for household vegetable production, while maintaining quality through evaporative cooling chambers. And in Nigeria, we have introduced artificially aerated onion storage technology to increase postharvest shelf life.

In 2022, SAA continued to promote biofortified crops, such as orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, iron-rich beans, high-iron and zinc pearl millet, high vitamin A maize, and high vitamin A cassava, as well as nutrient-dense vegetables. High in market demand, these crops helped to generate income for smallholder farmers. Additionally, we conducted cooking demonstrations to help maintain nutritional quality, raise nutritional awareness, and promote balanced diets among rural households.

Healthy harvest – enriching diets and boosting income

“As a mother, I value the skills taught to me,” says Aisha Nakibule, a mother of five and group leader of Nko Nkobazambogo farmers group in Mubende District in Central Region, Uganda. “I have learned how to combine foods to increase nutrients in each meal for a balanced diet. Four years ago, malnourished children were common in our village. Now, it is rare.”

In 2022, Aisha and her group received SAA training in child feeding, caregiving, meal planning, and food preparation. The training has resulted in a number of positive changes, and the Nkobazambogo farmers group is taking significant steps to enhance community nutrition. Following the introduction of nutrient-dense, high iron-rich beans and orange-fleshed sweet potato, facilitated by SAA and HarvestPlus, the farmers are cultivating biofortified crops and meeting the nutritional needs of vulnerable children and women of reproductive age. Growing these nutrient-rich crops has also enabled the group to generate additional income by selling their harvest, which has contributed to their overall savings. Furthermore, the farmers and their families can minimize fuel costs due to the reduced cooking times required.

-  Over **1,500** extension workers trained in NSA
-  Over **311,900** farmers trained in NSA
-  An average **35%** increase in households with a dietary diversity score of 6 and above in Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda.
-  **7** types of biofortified crops promoted
-  Capacity of **27** women groups enhanced in agro-processing and business management
-  Over **5,800** demonstrations on improved postharvest practices, including storage



Aisha Nakibule (left), a leader of Nko Nkobazambogo farmers group in Mubende District in Central Region, Uganda.



I have learned how to combine foods to increase nutrients in each meal for a balanced diet. Four years ago, malnourished children were common in our village. Now, it is rare.”

Market-Oriented Agriculture (MOA)

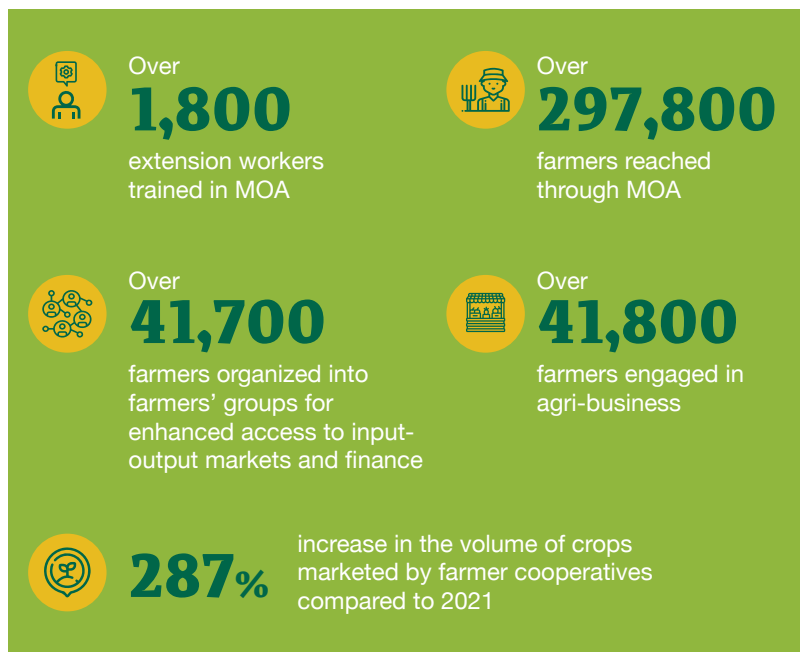


Focusing on job creation and income generation, in MOA we provide input-output market linkages and enhance the capacity of various actors. These actors include extension workers, farmers, farmer organizations, youth and women groups, and agro-dealers.

Across our MOA interventions, we achieve our objectives through the following key activities:

1. Supporting agro-entrepreneurship, business development and service provision among value-chain actors.
2. Strengthening the functions of farmer cooperatives through collective marketing and access to improved technologies and finance.
3. Promoting 'farming as a business enterprise' across the value chain, including through the SHEP approach developed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
4. Promoting Community-based Seed Multiplication (CBSM) to enable smallholder access to quality seed.
5. Facilitating access to finance through the Community Savings for Investment in Agribusiness (CSIA) model.

In 2022, we provided training for 122 agro-dealers in Nigeria, focusing on GAP, product knowledge, and the safe use of pesticides. And in Uganda, as part of our support for farmer associations and One-Stop Center Associations (OSCA), we trained 180 OSCA leaders and farmers (79 female), resulting in the aggregation and combined collection and marketing of 2,845 MT of agricultural products (maize, beans, soya, and rice). These activities generated USD 750,260, including exports to Kenya.



Impacting communities through agro-entrepreneurship

In the rural community of Baso Liben, in the Amhara region of Ethiopia, Denberie Gizachew, a BSc Plant Sciences graduate, has found an unexpected path to success. With limited job opportunities after graduation, Denberie started a small business making beeswax candles. Her entrepreneurial spirit caught the attention of the team at IMPACT, a program funded by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) that aims to improve rural access to agricultural inputs and create job opportunities for young people.

Provided with seed money and comprehensive training on business skills and quarantine standards, Denberie opened an agro-chemicals shop. Filling a critical need in her district, she stocked a wide variety of agro-chemicals, hermetic grain storage bags, sprayers, and seeds.

After just one year, her shop was serving over 3,500 farmers, increasing her sales volume significantly and raising her capital by 30%. More than a business, her shop has become a central community hub, providing much-needed resources and advice to local farmers. And this, says Denberie, is where the real success and impact lie: "Agro-dealership is about more than just making money. I'm very satisfied with the service I provide to the farming community where I'm from."

Through her efforts, Denberie is not only improving her own economic status but also enriching the farming practices and livelihoods of those around her. In this way, her work showcases the potential of the IMPACT project to transform lives through entrepreneurship and agro-dealership.



In her agro-chemical shop, Denberie provides essential resources to the surrounding farming communities.

“Agro-dealership is about more than just making money. I'm very satisfied with the service I provide to the farming community where I'm from.”

Capacity Building (CB)

Cross-cutting area one

SAA's long-term capacity building program, formerly known as the Sasakawa Africa Fund for Extension Education (SAFE), provides training to mid-career extension staff and high school graduates in partnership with universities and agricultural colleges. Currently, the program offers long-term training at diploma and degree level, as well as short-term training schemes designed to address emerging issues. It also provides various needs-based capacity building workshops and seminars.

In 2021, we conducted a major review of this program in response to the shifting circumstances surrounding agricultural extension in Africa. Today, the public extension system is no longer the predominant model, with various actors, including youth and women's groups, agri-entrepreneurs, agro-dealers, and community-based facilitators, playing increasingly important roles in extension delivery.

Naturally, these changes have implications for the SAFE program, and during the year we held workshops at partner universities and agricultural colleges to address these issues. At the events, we shared our plans to scale down the long-term training program with relevant stakeholders. We also discussed the continuation of capacity building for lecturers at hub universities, as well as our new policy of short-term training programs for young people.



Graduates of SAA supported capacity building program at Wollo University.

List of partner universities

Country	Universities/Colleges
Benin	University of Abomey-Calavi
Burkina Faso	Nazi Boni University
Ethiopia	Haramaya University
	Hawasa University
	Bahir Dar University
	Mekele University
	Wollo University
	Jimma University
	Jijiga University
	Samara University
Ghana	Arba Minch University
	University of Cape Coast
Malawi	Kwadaso Agric. College
	Lilongwe University
Mali	Rural Polytechnic Institute for Training and Applied Research (IPR/IFRA)
	Samanko Agric. College
	University of Segou
Mozambique	M'pessoba Agricultural College
	Catholic University
Nigeria	Adamawa State University
	Ahmadu Bello University
	Bayero University
	Bowen University
	University of Ilorin
	Usmanu Danfodiyo University
	University of Dutsin-Ma
	Michael Okpara University
Obafemi Awolowo University	
Sierra Leone	Njala University
Tanzania	Sokoine University
Uganda	Makerere University



An Enterprise Center at M'Pessoba Agricultural College where students gain practical skills and knowledge, Mali.



31

partner universities and agricultural colleges in 11 countries



388

students (106 female) graduated for the 2022 academic year



175

Supervised Enterprise Projects conducted by students to address the needs of rural communities

Inclusiveness

Cross-cutting area two

SAA is committed to empowering women, youth and PwDs. In 2022, we continued our efforts to mainstream inclusiveness throughout our programs. Under our NSA pillar, we focused on involving and empowering more women, who play an important role in providing nutrition at the household level. Our MOA approach also encourages the participation of marginalized groups in agro-processing, community-based seed multiplication, and postharvest service provision. Together, these efforts are intended to enhance the empowerment and participation of women, youth and PwDs across the agricultural value chain.

In Ethiopia, 17,791 women received training in NSA activities and 492 women learned MOA techniques and approaches. Also in Ethiopia, 257 women participated in RA-related activities, 976 women attended Green Field Days, and 297 received training in perma-gardening.

In Mali, men and women customarily produce different crops. We therefore provided technical RA guidance tailored to gender-based agricultural production systems. For example, men received training in maize and millet, while women received training in groundnut, cowpea, and upland rice.

In Uganda, we targeted young people with entrepreneurship development activities, with 182 participants (47 female) trained at Youth Business Clinics and 22 business proposals awarded cash prizes amounting to USD 6,486.

In Nigeria, 105 women and their husbands learned about gender-related issues and family budgeting, especially regarding nutrition. In addition, 23 PwDs were trained in enterprise and financial management skills.



Empowering women through agricultural finance

In the Kayes region of Mali, the Siranikoto Production, Postharvest and Trade Center (PHTC) is driving progress in women's financial inclusion in agriculture. SAA-Mali has created an invaluable link between female farmers and the Nyèsigiso Savings and Credit Union, a local financial provider. Through a tailor-made workshop in 2022, these farmers began to secure low-interest short-term credit, with the aim of unlocking their income generation potential.

One of the beneficiaries, Minata Coulibaly, vividly illustrates the transformation process. Minata initially accessed 25,000 FCFA (about USD 38), which she has used to enhance her grocery store. She started with smoked fish and then, with the little profit she made, she added more varieties to her store, including spices, roasted onions, and sorrel seeds.

Through the small but vital loan sums she has accessed, Minata is looking to kick-start her homegrown agricultural enterprise and activities.

"Now I'm proud that I'm able to support my family and children for their education," says Minata. "One of my dreams is to become a local spice wholesaler, which will greatly ease women's difficulty in accessing cooking ingredients. I want to be financially independent as a successful and respected tradeswoman."

Crucially, the SAA-Mali initiative has not only provided women with access to credit. It has also fostered economic independence and empowerment, creating a replicable model for women's financial inclusion in agriculture.



One of my dreams is to become a local spice wholesaler, which will greatly ease women's difficulty in accessing cooking ingredients. I want to be financially independent as a successful and respected tradeswoman."



Youth project participants in Tudun Wada, Kano, Nigeria.



1,325

youth (244 female) trained in entrepreneurship



Over

23,300

women trained in RA practices



198

PwDs (55 female) trained through SAA interventions

Digitalization

Cross-cutting area three

The digitalization of extension systems has helped to improve farmers' access to agricultural extension and advisory services. It has also accelerated our efforts to scale agriculture technologies and GAPs to increase adoption. Across our program countries, the integration of ICT – such as apps and AI-powered advisory services – is already underway.

In Ethiopia, we provide technical advice for the development of the Digital Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services (DAEAS) Roadmap 2030. The roadmap was initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture and adopted by FAO in June 2022. We also continue to use video-mediated learning; a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform (BITRIX 24); a crop-based extension and advisory service mobile App (Maed); an audio-enabled Talking Book (TB); and digital radio and TV spot messaging services.

In Nigeria, we deliver the Excellence in Agronomy project in partnership with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and AfricaRice. As part of this project, we are promoting a decision-support tool that provides site-specific agronomic recommendations, as well as tailored advice on agronomic investment prioritization.

Meanwhile in Uganda, the number of farmers using SAA-promoted digital applications is reported to be increasing. The applications, which include m-Omulimisia, EzyAgric and Akaboxi, enable farmers to receive agronomic advice and access market information, finance, and agro-inputs.

And in partnership with various universities and agricultural colleges, we have established e-learning centers in Nigeria, Mali, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Sierra Leone - further evidence of our commitment to accelerating digitalization in agriculture.



Digital technology advancing cassava cultivation

In 2022, SAA partnered in Nigeria with the IITA through the African Cassava Agronomy Initiative (ACAI). The aim of the partnership is to develop an innovative digital tool, AKILIMO, which is a cassava-focused agronomic advisory service app developed for and with smallholder farmers.

Through AKILIMO, farmers receive guidelines and recommendations on optimum planting practices, fertilizer application, and cassava weed management, including strategies for effective intercropping with maize. Moreover, we are also partnering with IITA and AfricaRice through the Excellence in Agronomy (EIA) initiative to validate a gender-responsive digital agricultural advisory service. The service integrates AKILIMO with other digital decision support tools, such as Nutrient Expert and Rice-Advice, to provide tailored fertilizer recommendations. The recommendations extend to fertilizer use, appropriate planting times, and site-specific nutrient management for maize, rice, and cassava. We are also enabling tailored agronomic guidance on investment prioritization for these three crops.

By integrating technology and farmer-centric extension services, we are helping to revolutionize integrated cassava farming in Nigeria, driving productivity and propelling sustainable agriculture.



An extension agent in Nigeria carrying out field inspection with his mobile app in Kura Community in Kano state, Nigeria.



23

lecturers from 8 universities trained on e-learning platforms in Ethiopia



3

digital apps and 1 farmer helpline system developed with partners in Nigeria



6

lectures accessed a total of 1,168 times on YouTube in Mali



300

farmers gained access to digital advisory services on mobile apps in Uganda

Country highlights

Ethiopia



Fentahun Megistu
Country Director

In 2022, SAA-Ethiopia intervened in 67 kebeles across 19 woredas in Oromia, Amhara, and SNNPR regions, reaching 62,981 farmers (18,685 female) and 574 extension agents (EAs) (153 female). As we are now in the second year of our strategic period, visible impacts are starting to become apparent. Such impacts include increased adoption of CA and ISFM practices, increased dietary diversity, and agricultural market orientation.

During the year, we continued to tailor our initiatives to the local context by promoting locally adoptable



solutions. For example, following our introduction of a step-plow (Berken Maresha), host farmers were able to reduce tillage frequency by half, which in turn is helping to reduce soil erosion and weed infestation. Crop-livestock integration was also enhanced through the adoption of fodder species, which is resolving the trade-offs between the use of crop residue for mulching and animal feed.

Through the AGRA-funded IMPACT project, we helped to train 7,055 farmers (934 female) in postharvest technologies and management through videos, and 162 EAs (46 female) in market-oriented extension and value chain approaches.

In the Capacity Building component, 217 students (64 female) graduated

with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Extension and Rural Development from six partner universities.

Through the Pro-Environment Market-oriented Agriculture Promotion Project (PREMAP), funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, we equipped two Farmer Training Centers (FTCs) in the Amhara and Oromia regions with training and exhibition rooms and greenhouses. We also developed a series of ponds; provided digital facilities and farm equipment; helped women farmers gain to access water; trained EAs and farmers; and piloted the AI-powered decision-making support tool, **e-kakashi**, with a view to digitalizing agricultural extension.



Over

18,900

farmers (5,479 female) trained in RA, NSA and/or MOA



574

extension workers (153 female) trained in RA, NSA and MOA



About

60%

of the target beneficiaries applied one or more components of RA practices



Over

40%

of the target beneficiaries increased on-farm crop diversity



Household income increased by

64%

from the baseline

Yield increased by:



40%
Wheat



32%
Maize



103%
Teff

as compared to 2021.



Mali



Hamado Tapsoba
Country Director

In Mali, the global shortage of fertilizers and subsequent price rises have led to the disruption of agricultural production. In 2022, SAA intervened in nine Postharvest Trading Centers (PHTCs) in four regions: Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso, and Segou. Our RA activities included the identification of Community Demonstration Plots and Community Based Seed Multiplication Demonstrations, as well as the training of trainers in all nine PHTCs. Maize production among SAA-supported farmers experienced a considerable uplift, exceeding 102%.

In our NSA programs, to improve the dietary diversity of farmers we raised awareness through training and demonstrations of balanced diets and cooking practices. The HDDS of



target beneficiaries increased by two points, up from an average of 7.11 in 2021 to 9.11 in 2022. We also trained private service providers in business management and pre- and postharvest machinery maintenance.

Under our MOA pillar, we implemented a contract farming model linking farmers to two agro-processing enterprises for the supply of groundnut and sesame. Currently, we are exploring partnerships with companies to develop a contract farming model to supply maize.

As a result of these combined actions, during the year the average

annual farm income for smallholder households increased by 27%, from FCFA 266,590 (around USD 430) in 2021 to FCFA 339,690 (about USD 550) in 2022. We also continued to implement the ISSD Sahel project to enhance farmers' access to quality seed through better seed production and marketing systems in Mali and Niger. About 200 tons of certified seed of the target cereal and legume crops were produced by contract producers. The project established five PHTCs in Niger and linked farmers' groups to microfinance institutions.



Over **7,600**

smallholder farmers (904 female) reached



280

extension workers (126 female) trained in RA, NSA and MOA



58%

of the target beneficiaries applied one or more components of RA practices



Seed production by CBSM increased by

50%

compared to 2021



2

food processing companies engaged in contract farming for groundnut and sesame production

Nigeria



Godwin Atser
Country Director



In 2022, with funding from The Nippon Foundation, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), IITA, AGRA and UN agencies, and with support from national and local government, SAA-Nigeria reached over 455,000 farmers in the field through RA, MOA, and NSA activities.

We exceeded our performance levels from 2021, achieving an increase in the number of CSIA groups from 45 to 75, and an increase in HDDS from 7 to 8.8. In addition, we continued to encourage farmers to pool their savings for agricultural investment.

We also promoted the consumption of nutritious foods by organizing a number of cooking demos, showing the importance of better nutrition for better health.

SAA-promoted technologies continued to gain traction in Nigeria. There was a high uptake of RA practices, such as USG deep placement, and the use of safe and environmentally friendly agrochemicals. Farmers welcomed our RA interventions, which are helping to reduce costs in the face

of rising inflation and price hikes for inputs and fuel. Moreover, in our MOA programs, we taught farmer groups about cooperative management, including the utilization of aggregation centers to scale their agribusinesses. And through our NSA activities, we helped to reduce postharvest losses by introducing new agricultural techniques, including improved rice parboiling. We also introduced appropriate labor-saving equipment such as paddy pre-cleaners, soaking tanks, and cooking pots.



Over

960

extension workers (91 female) trained in RA, NSA and MOA



Over

455,200

farmers (108,558 female) reached

Yields increased by:



170%

Rice as compared to 2021.



150%

Maize



1,195

youth (358 female) trained in MOA activities



82

PwDs trained in MOA activities



1,195

demonstration plots and 219 CBSM plots established



Uganda



David Wozemba
Country Director

In 2022, Uganda experienced crop failures and food price rises linked to insufficient rainfall and an outbreak of the Ebola virus, which restricted the movement of people and goods. These conditions resulted in food insecurity among many poor households, while fertilizer prices increased by over 50%.

In response, SAA-Uganda focused on promoting technology adoption, with support from The Nippon Foundation (TNF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and the



European Union (EU). Over the course of the year, our efforts led to an increase in productivity and access to profitable markets among 40,285 farming households in 31 districts.

Through our RA interventions, we promoted the use of productivity-enhancing technologies, such as drought-tolerant, high-nutrient, and high-yielding crop varieties. We also encouraged and enabled practices such as timely planting and weed management, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Conservation Agriculture and Integrated Soil Fertility Management.

Across our NSA programs, we engaged farmers with bio-fortified crops, such as high vitamin A sweet potatoes and iron-rich beans, and nutrient-fortified foods such as porridge with millet, amaranthus,

maize, sugar, and sesame. Farmers also engaged with postharvest loss reduction practices and technologies, including agro-processing and nutrition awareness activities encouraging gender inclusion.

Unique to SAA-Uganda is the One-Stop Center Association (OSCA) model, with OSCAs established in 13 locations across the country. To help strengthen farmer organizations and OSCAs, in 2022 we supported the bulking and marketing of 2,845 metric tons of agricultural products, including maize (1,836.5 tons), beans (223.2 tons), soybean (423.9 tons), and rice (361.4 tons). Combined, these activities generated USD 750,260. In addition, under our MOA approach we prioritized a farmer-led market survey and youth support scheme focused on business management skills training.



158

extension workers
(65 female) trained



Over **40,200**

farmers (24,285 female) reached



Rice yield increased by over

65%

compared to 2021



4
types of bio-fortified crops promoted



Over **25,200**

farmers (15,154 female) trained in MOA

Strategic partnerships

SAA continues to build and maintain strategic partnerships with a broad range of national and international organizations. Through these partnerships, we aim to catalyze, synergize and scale our impacts to sustainably transform and grow Africa's food systems.

In 2022, partnerships helped us to leverage resources and scale existing efforts to widen the reach of our interventions beyond initial focus regions. The Nippon Foundation, continued to provide significant support, and we received additional funding from WFP, IsDB, the Government of the Netherlands, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, AGRA, and the private sector.

We also concluded several partnership agreements, including with IFPRI, and worked on strengthening and extending the scope of our partnerships with other institutions, organizations, and donors. In addition,



Dr. Mel Oluoch, Director for Strategic Partnerships engaged in a panel discussion during the AGRF 2022 in Rwanda.

we engaged with partners and organized events at major international summits, including TICAD8. We took part in regional and international conventions in Africa and Europe, including the Africa Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), the African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA) Congress, the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory

Services (AFAAS) extension week, the FAO Africa Regional Conference, and the FAO Science Innovation Forum/ World Food Forum. Through our active participation in these events, we worked to develop new partnerships and networks to expand our reach and impact across the continent.



Message from Yohei Sasakawa Chairman, The Nippon Foundation



SAA was established in 1986 by the former US President Jimmy Carter, the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr Norman Borlaug, and Ryoichi Sasakawa. Driven by the founding motto, 'Never Give Up', SAA has committed to supporting smallholder farmers in Africa to increase food production. Through our efforts over many years, crop yields in SAA focus countries have vastly improved and our extension models have been incorporated into national agricultural extension systems. These are the result of our long-established engagement with smallholder communities, which is embodied in our slogan, 'Walking with the Farmer'.

In 2022, I visited Ethiopia for the first time in eight years. I was deeply impressed

to see the impact of SAA's interventions, such as the magnificent vegetables grown in local perma- gardens, and the adaptation of regenerative agriculture practices by smallholder farmers. These encouraging signs of progress give me hope for the future.

Due to climate change and the war in Ukraine, the urgency with which food security in Africa needs to be addressed has intensified. Against the backdrop of these global issues, SAA's activities and interventions are hugely appreciated by our global stakeholders. Through the ongoing efforts of all SAA staff to advance our work, we will continue to provide a leading model for increasing food production and improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Africa.

About The Nippon Foundation

The Nippon Foundation is an independent, non-profit, grant-making organization founded in 1962. It was established by legislation for the purpose of carrying out philanthropic activities using revenue from motorboat racing.

TNF believes in building up an inventory of ideas and implementation expertise, with a view to creating new frameworks for a better society and delivering positive change. TNF provides aid to projects that fall under one of the following six major categories: maritime and ship-related projects; overseas cooperative assistance; support for children; disaster countermeasures; support for disabilities; and social welfare, culture, and innovation.

Under the leadership of its Chairman, Yohei Sasakawa, the Foundation has backed SAA for over 36 years to enhance agricultural extension advisory and capacity building services in various African countries, with a core focus on smallholder farmers.

Our key partners in 2022

Governments/Public institutions

Ministries of Agriculture of Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda
National agricultural research and extension centers
Universities and agricultural colleges
Kano State Government, Nigeria
The Government of Japan
The Government of the Netherlands
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

International organizations/ Regional organizations

African Development Bank (AfDB)
African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS)
Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

European Union (EU)
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC)
Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
World Food Programme (WFP)

International research centers

Africa Rice
HarvestPlus
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)
International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)

Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)
KIT Royal Tropical Institute, Netherlands
Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)

Foundations/NGOs

The Nippon Foundation
Tanager, ACDI-VOCA

Private sector

Amplo
Bayer East Africa Ltd.
Nippon Biodiesel Fuel co. Ltd.
SoftBank Corp.
Tromuso Co. Ltd.

Universities

Bavaria Research Alliance, Germany
Iowa State University, USA
Virginia Tech, USA

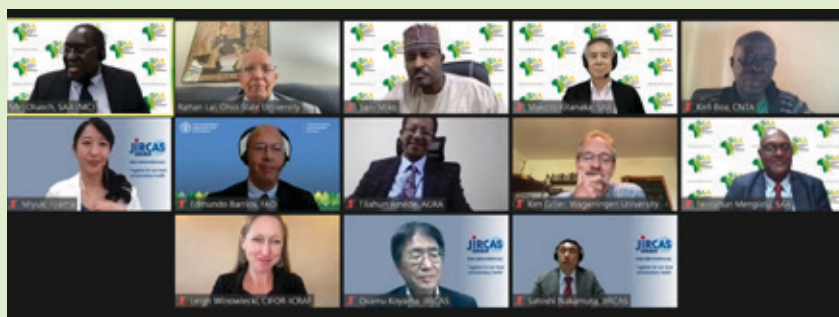


TICAD 8

In August 2022, SAA organized two official online side events at the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8). The first event, in collaboration with JIRCAS, focused on regenerative agriculture and its potential to transform agriculture in Africa.

Dr. Ken Giller, Professor at Wageningen University, emphasized the importance of area-specific soil fertility management to improve agricultural practices, driven by a clear understanding of climatic, soil, and socio-economic conditions in Africa. Dr. Rattan Lal, Hon. prof. of Ohio University, highlighted the significance of maintaining healthy soils and developing mechanisms to support farmers transitioning to regenerative agriculture.

The second event, co-organized with



IFPRI and AFAAS, focused on digitally enabled agricultural extension in Africa. Speakers discussed the impact of fertilizer price increases on smallholder farmers. They also considered how the development of effective multidimensional extension services, enhanced by digital tools, could accelerate international efforts to build resilience among smallholder farmers.

These events showcased innovative approaches, including SAA's successful interventions in promoting

sustainable agriculture in Africa. With the participation of key organizations and experts at the forefront of agricultural development, the events also demonstrated SAA's commitment to addressing the challenges faced by smallholder farmers.

Furthermore, they showed how, through partnerships and innovative models, SAA aims to bridge the gap between research and practice.



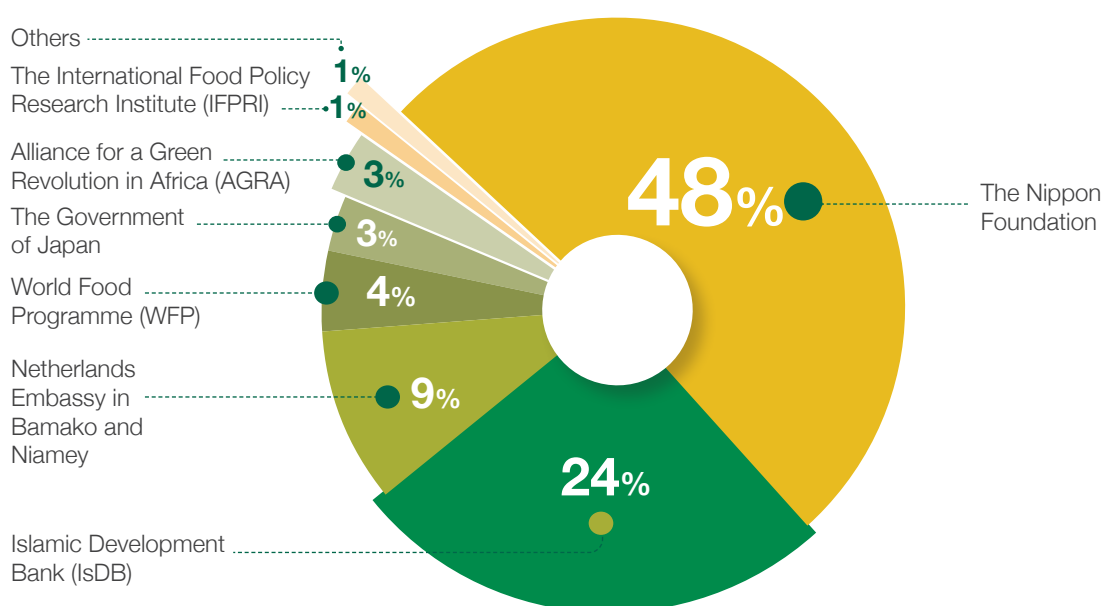
1. SAA Chair Madam Ruth Oniang'o at AGRF
2. H.E. Islamic Development Chairman visiting KSADP site in Nigeria
3. SAA Uganda received Agricultural NGO of the Year at the Visionaires of Uganda Award
4. SAA team and the visitors at the African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA) Congress held in Tunisia

Financial report

Unit rate: USD

SAA	2021	2022	
Overview	Total Ordinary Income	12,673,281	14,986,074
	Total Ordinary Expense	11,760,655	13,608,146
	Total Net Assets	5,822,076	6,423,785
	Cash balance at the end of the year	9,172,473	8,255,924
NF Core Projects			
	Operating Expenses	4,692,284	3,265,853
	Management Expenses	2,277,692	2,290,454
Extra Core Projects			
	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (Ethiopia)	683,417	433,649
	Rocky Mountain Institute (Ethiopia)	3,299	29,978
	Pro-Environment Market-oriented Agriculture Promotion Project (Ethiopia)	0	449,585
	Integrated Seed Sector Development - Sahel (Mali)	509,778	1,230,077
Breakdown of Expenses	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa - K (Nigeria)	192,213	312
	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa - N (Nigeria)	172,325	251,362
	Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (Nigeria)	2,151,956	3,299,437
	United Nations Women (Nigeria)	222	47,077
	Excellence in Agronomy (Nigeria)	5,320	9,561
	Bayer (Nigeria)	0	15,414
	World Food Programme - Karamoja (Uganda)	749,702	1,326,589
	Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (Uganda)	43,742	155,320
	International Food Policy Research Institute Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (Uganda)	110,880	247,854
	Others (Ethiopia/Mali/Uganda/Nigeria)	167,824	42,163

Revenue by Donor Breakdown (FY2022)



- Figures of each item provided in 2022 are based on the English translation of the Financial Report of Sasakawa Africa Association (The 7th and 8th Term) audited and reviewed by Mazars LLC on March 8, 2023, and prepared on accrual basis as per the Japanese accounting standard for public incorporated foundations. The full translated financial statements and the independent auditors' reports are available on SAA's website at <https://www.saa-safe.org/www/disclosure.html>
- Exchange rates are used based on the financial report, FY2021: 1 USD = 115.02 JPY, FY2022: USD = 132.70 JPY.

Leadership

SAA Founders

Ryoichi Sasakawa (The Nippon Foundation Founder)
Norman E. Borlaug (Nobel Peace Prize Laureate)
Jimmy Carter (Former US president)

SAA Board of Councillors

Jiro Aikawa
Katsumi Hirano
Takeju Ogata
Shuichi Ohno
Fumio Watanabe

SAA Board of Directors

Ruth K. Oniang'o, Chair
Amit Roy, Vice Chair
Makoto Kitanaka, President
Keiichi Shirato, Director

SAA Auditor

Akinori Sugai

Senior Staff

Junichi Hanai, Advisor to the President
Mel Oluoch, Director, Strategic Partnership
Stella Kabiri, Lead, Regenerative Agriculture (joined in July 2022)

Country Directors

Fentahun Megistu, Ethiopia
Hamado Tapsoba, Mali (joined in November 2022)
Godwin Atser, Nigeria (joined in November 2022)
David Wozemba Wetaka, Uganda (joined in November 2022)

Appreciation

We acknowledge and appreciate our former Country Directors in Mali, Nigeria and Uganda who retired in 2022.



Sokona Dagnoko
Mali
(Retired August 2022)



Sani Miko
Nigeria
(Retired August 2022)



Roselline Nyamutale
Uganda
(Retired October 2022)

SAA Awards

Recipients of the SAA Awards, whether individuals or teams, exemplify SAA's values. This internal recognition program celebrates their significant contributions throughout the year.

Most Valuable Player (MVP)

Okello Julius, SAA-Uganda



President's Award

Fentahun Mengistu, Getachew Minass & Fikadu Chala, SAA-Ethiopia





Visit the SAA website at: www.saa-safe.org

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Subscribe to the SAA newsletter: <https://saa-safe.org/newsletter/>

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