

Sasakawa Africa Association



Annual Report 2021



Walking with the Farmer

Supported by

THE NIPPON
FOUNDATION

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About SAA

Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) supports smallholder farmers along agricultural value chains by working in partnership with national agricultural extension services in Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda. SAA also extends its program to build capacity of mid-career extension agents through partnership with universities and agricultural colleges in Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Benin, and Ghana.

SAA aims to increase farmers' income, food, and nutrition security by promoting regenerative, nutrition-sensitive, and market-oriented agricultural innovations, and by building the capacity of farmers and extension agents.

Founded in 1986, SAA's original objective was to help smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa acquire knowledge and skills on improved agricultural technologies to increase crop productivity. More recently, SAA expanded these efforts to cover the entire agricultural value chain while strengthening the links between agricultural research, extension and advisory systems, and farmers, in order to achieve the ultimate goal of reducing poverty and improving livelihoods among smallholder communities.

In 2021, in response to new challenges and a changing environment, SAA launched a new five-year strategic plan. The strategy focuses on driving agricultural transformation to help create sustainable and resilient food systems in Africa.



Vision

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



Mission

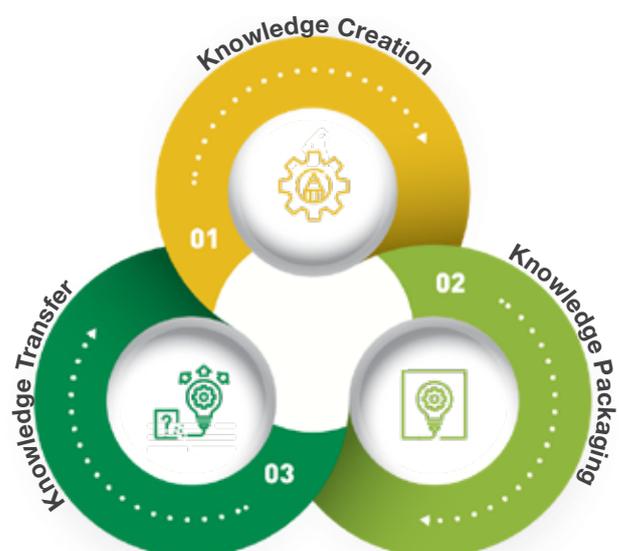
Catalyzing knowledge sharing with African farmers and enabling food, nutrition, and income security in their communities



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



Message from our Chair



Hon. Prof. Ruth K Oniang'o
Chair,
Sasakawa Africa Association

ENSURING FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

The year 2021 marked SAA's 35th anniversary in Africa, and in all four of our focus countries we celebrated this momentous occasion with our staff and partners. I am extremely proud of the impact we have made on our journey so far, and hugely optimistic about what lies ahead.

Originally, SAA's aim was to increase agricultural production through improved seeds and fertilizer. We then transitioned to a value chain approach. Today, we aim to continue supporting smallholder farmers by creating sustainable and resilient food systems. To this end, in 2021 we launched our new five-year strategy, which is built around three core pillars: Regenerative Agriculture (RA), Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture (NSA), and Market-Oriented Agriculture (MOA). The strategy reflects the importance, highlighted by the pandemic, of ensuring food and nutrition security and environmental sustainability. As a nutritionist, I'm especially delighted that nutrition is now one of SAA's key mandates.

As part of our strategic developments, in 2021 we created a new logo that speaks to a more colorful, inclusive and crop-diverse Africa. In addition, our new strapline, '**Walking with the Farmer**', reinforces our underlying ethos. Since our formation 35 years ago, we have committed to working with smallholder farmers by adopting a participatory, context-relevant, and needs-based approach. Our new logo and strapline eloquently reflect these commitments.

With the new strategy setting SAA's future direction, we are focused on accelerating our efforts to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Africa, while addressing the global challenges of hunger, malnutrition, and climate change. We look forward to working with our staff and partners in the year ahead; I hope you enjoy this report.

Message from our President



Makoto Kitanaka
President,
Sasakawa Africa Association

A YEAR OF PROGRESS AND PARTNERSHIP

2021 was a pivotal year, with the launch of our new strategy signaling the start of a major new chapter for SAA. Despite the ongoing challenge posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, we were able to implement our planned activities safely and successfully. With our strategic pillars now in place, we are better positioned than ever to deliver on our vision and mission.

In particular, Regenerative Agriculture (RA) is an area of growing importance, gaining traction as a means of climate change mitigation. In Africa, the approaches supporting RA's implementation are slowly being established. This is largely due to fundamental differences related to the quality of - and access to - key inputs, such as fertilizers, and the frequency and volume with which these inputs are used. They also relate to levels of soil degradation, land size, and infrastructure availability.

At SAA, we believe that the challenges of low crop productivity and land degradation present real opportunities to scale up RA practices in Africa. Through RA and our other strategic pillars, we aim to help deliver sustainable agricultural transformation for Africa's smallholder farmers.

2021 was also the year in which our efforts to strengthen strategic partnerships gained momentum. In July, we co-organized an official side event with IFPRI at the UN Food Systems Summit. We also signed an MOU with AFAAS and HarvestPlus, and successfully co-organized another official side event with HarvestPlus at the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit.

We believe partnerships help us deepen our knowledge, extend our reach, and increase our impact. Together with our partners, we will continue '**walking with the farmer**' long into the future.

Message from our key donor



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 indomitable spirit of those founding fathers and staff, and their determination not to allow an African child to go to bed hungry, SAA has committed to supporting smallholder farmers in Africa to increase food production. Through persistent efforts over many years, crop yield in SAA focus countries has vastly improved and SAA's extension models have been incorporated into national agricultural extension policies. SAA's achievements, and the trust the organization has earned, are the result of its long-established, participatory engagement and collaboration with smallholder farmers. This collaboration is embodied in SAA's new slogan, 'Walking with the Farmer'.

In 2021, SAA embarked on a new challenge, setting a new strategy that revolves around three pillars, all adapted to the current needs of smallholder farming communities. I hope that SAA will continue evolving to meet these needs, while helping to address the challenge of a changing climate and rapidly increasing food and input prices. It will not be easy, but through partnerships with host governments as well as various organizations in Japan and abroad, I am hopeful that agriculture will take Africa into a bright future - a future in which farmers' dreams and ambitions can be realized.

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. The foundation's overall objectives include assistance for humanitarian activities and global maritime development. Its philanthropic ideals embrace social development and self-sufficiency, and it pursues these principles by working to improve public health and education, alleviate poverty, eliminate hunger, and help the disabled. Under the leadership of its Chairman, Yohei Sasakawa, the Foundation has continued to back SAA for over 35 years in order to improve the effectiveness of agricultural extension advisory services, with support to smallholder farmers, in various African countries.

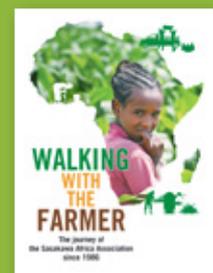


SAA's achievements, and the trust the organization has earned, are the result of its long-established, participatory engagement and collaboration with smallholder farmers."

Walking with the Farmer

The journey of the Sasakawa Africa Association since 1986

Available on our website, this history book chronicles the SAA's work in agricultural development, tackling issues such as climate change, soil degradation, nutrition, value chains, and agricultural finance.



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Impact highlights

Throughout the year, we delivered agricultural technologies, training and education initiatives to smallholder farming communities in Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda; and also engaged in capacity building of extension personnel and students in partnership with Universities in the four focus countries as well as Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Malawi, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, and Mozambique. Through these initiatives and grant disbursements, we enabled the adoption of technologies and techniques in regenerative, nutrition-sensitive, and market-oriented agriculture.

When mentioning Extension Agents, this includes CAT, CBF and Farmer leaders.

Ethiopia



Mali



Nigeria



Uganda



Operating countries

Focus countries with a country office

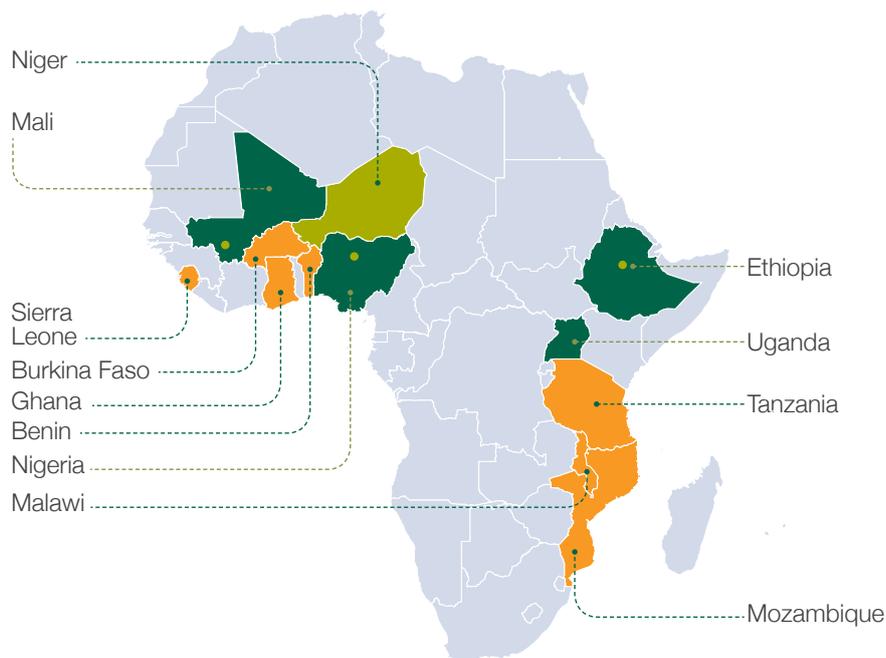
Ethiopia Nigeria
Mali Uganda

Country with a project office

Niger

Countries with Capacity Building program only

Benin Mozambique
Burkina Faso Sierra Leone
Ghana Tanzania
Malawi



List of partner universities and student statistics

Country	Universities/Colleges	Degree	Graduates			Current			Total	
			Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total		
1	Benin	University of Abomey-Calavi	B.Sc	195	43	238	10	8	18	256
2	Burkina Faso	Nazi Boni University	B.Sc	119	24	143	9	1	10	153
3	Ethiopia	Haramaya University	B.Sc	565	88	653	78	7	85	738
4		Hawasa University	B.Sc	216	56	272	139	24	163	435
5		Bahir Dar University	B.Sc	126	52	178	31	28	59	237
6		Mekele University	B.Sc	185	80	265	46	63	109	374
7		Wollo University	B.Sc	92	37	129	16	13	29	158
8		Jimma University	B.Sc	107	21	128	56	23	79	207
9		Jijiga University	B.Sc	46	8	54	37	3	40	94
10		Samara University	B.Sc	51	9	60	27	5	32	92
11		Arba Minch University	B.Sc	62	9	71	69	14	83	154
12		Ghana	University of Cape Coast	B.Sc	495	125	620	21	4	25
13	Kwadaso Agric. College		Dip	493	97	590	-	-	-	590
14	Malawi	Lilongwe University	B.Sc	101	49	150	41	30	71	221
15	Mali	Rural Polytechnic Institute for Training and Applied Research (IPR/IFRA)	B.Sc	287	48	335	13	4	17	352
16		Samanko Agric. College	Dip	271	127	398	57	26	83	481
17		University of Segou	B.Sc	30	4	34	36	14	50	84
18	M'pessoba Agricultural College	B.Sc	-	-	-	42	9	51	51	
19	Mozambique	Catholic University	B.Sc	-	-	-	6	-	6	6
20	Nigeria	Adamawa State University	B.Sc	67	12	79	54	9	63	142
21		Ahmadu Bello University	B.Sc	188	28	216	26	1	27	243
22		Bayero University	B.Sc	220	11	231	15	7	22	253
23		Bowen University	B.Sc.	-	-	-	7	3	10	10
24		University of Ilorin	B.Sc.	47	10	57	12	18	30	87
25		Usmanu Danfodiyo University	B.Sc	40	1	41	12	1	13	54
26		University of Dutsin-Ma	B.Sc	-	-	-	132	34	166	166
27		Michael Okpara University	B.Sc	-	-	-	3	13	16	16
28	Obafemi Awolowo University	B.Sc.	-	-	-	15	6	21	21	
29	Sierra Leone	Njala University	B.Sc	-	-	-	44	16	60	60
30	Tanzania	Sokoine University	B.Sc	853	287	1,140	225	124	349	1,489
31	Uganda	Makerere University	B.Sc	495	218	713	286	114	400	1,113
TOTAL				5351	1,444	6,795	1,565	622	2,187	8,982

OUR NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Creating resilient and sustainable food systems

Agriculture and food production in Africa have reached a major turning point. In addition to increasing crop productivity, it is essential that other global challenges such as climate change, soil degradation, and malnutrition are addressed as part of the agricultural transformation. For this reason, SAA has embarked on a new five-year strategic plan (2021–2025), expanding our interventions across the entire food system.

By focusing on the three pillars of regenerative, nutrition-sensitive and market-oriented agriculture, our new strategy supports the creation of resilient and sustainable food systems through agricultural development. These interventions will run alongside our more traditional efforts to combat hunger through crop productivity improvements.

Our new five-year strategy is also designed to support the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 2, 'Zero Hunger,' is a particular priority for SAA.

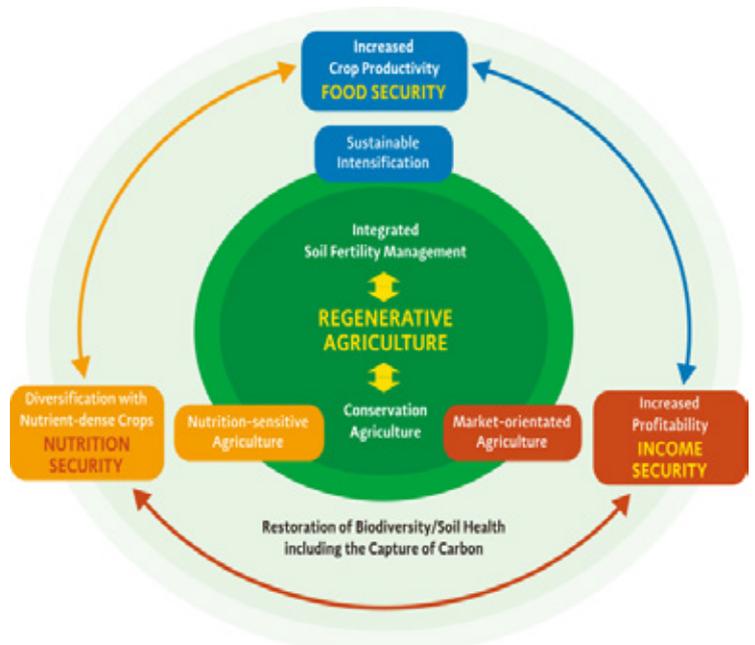
Delivering against our strategic goals

We aim to improve soil health to increase productivity; improve the overall health of farming communities through improved nutrition; and develop farming as a business enterprise to ensure food, nutrition and income security for improved livelihoods.

As part of the new strategy, we are focusing more towards a 'farmer-centric' business model. Within this model, farmers co-create flexible technology packages and methodologies to advance market-oriented agriculture. At the same time, we are developing an e-Extension platform that will facilitate the transfer of agricultural knowledge and the information exchange between farmers and other stakeholders.

In support of our strategic goals, we are also strengthening technological innovation through partnerships with a broad range of research institutions, universities and the private sector. We also expand the knowledge and skills of frontline agricultural service providers and young agri-entrepreneurs.

In 2021, to operationalize our strategy and guide our operations, we produced the following 'logic model':



In this logic model, the activities in each of the three focus strategic areas are interconnected to ensure our new strategy delivers food and nutrition security, and income stability for rural communities.

Regenerative Agriculture



Regenerative Agriculture (RA) envisions going a step further beyond the “do no harm” principle of sustainable agriculture by not only maintaining the current state of soils and ecosystems but also enhancing (regenerating) them through a set of considered agricultural activities. The effective implementation of RA is expected to contribute to increased food, nutrition, and income security, social inclusiveness, stewardship of the soil environment and ecosystem services, and climate resilience, adaptation, and mitigation for African smallholder farmers.

At SAA, we aim to mainstream this ecological approach as part of our efforts to achieve a resilient and sustainable food system in Africa. To do this, we combine Conservation Agriculture (CA) and Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) to sustainably increase productivity per unit area as well as enhance the soil fertility to grow and nurture the plants and crops. We also promote local community regenerative practices, while working to optimize the application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Our achievements in 2021

In 2021, we supported farmers to gain a better understanding of RA techniques and practices. Through dedicated training, as well as a range of field and community demonstrations, farmer field days and other events organized by SAA, farmers were familiarized with RA techniques, such as minimum tillage, mulching, intercropping and crop rotation. We also established demonstration plots for seed multiplication and technology adoption, and created climate-smart village (CSV) sites to promote optimal combinations of approaches, such as seed priming, irrigation, mulching, introduction of drought-tolerant varieties, fertilizer deep placement application and water management, in drought-affected areas. These efforts will boost on-farm resilience and productivity, and promote income stability and food security as part of our commitment to supporting smallholder farmers in Africa.

2021 in numbers



Voices from the field

Ground-breaking brothers deliver inspirational speech at SAA-Ethiopia field day

For many years, SAA-Ethiopia has been promoting innovative agricultural technologies. Some of these technologies have focused on soil health, anticipating the launch of our new Strategy.

Brothers Gemedo Sorra (47) and Debeso Sorra (57) are innovative adopters who live in Raya Boda Kebele, Ana Sora Woreda, in Ethiopia’s Oromia region. In 2019, the brothers hosted SAA Community Demonstration Plots (CDPs), and received training in a range of disciplines, including: reduced tillage, line planting, the use of high-yielding improved seed varieties (cereals and pulses), the application of inputs, Integrated Soil Fertility Management, and Integrated Pest Management.

During the 2021 field day event, Gemedo and Debeso gave an inspiring speech to participants. Debeso Sorra said, “Our eyes and minds have been opened to adopting improved agricultural technologies and practices. My farm looks like a Farmer Training Center (FTC) as a result of the knowledge and skills I have gained. This is our college; a space where we can acquire the learning we need to improve our livelihood.”

Then Gemedo Sorra said: “We had ploughed vast farmland all our lives,” he said. “Why had our livelihoods not improved? It was because we didn’t apply good agricultural practices and were not able to improve our productivity. We are grateful for and excited about the new capabilities we have acquired.” Looking out at the crowd, he added, “Participating in field days and looking at demonstrations alone is not enough. Apply what you learn to your own fields and change your life forever!”



Our efforts will boost on-farm resilience and productivity, helping to ensure income stability and food security as part of our commitment to supporting smallholder farmers in Africa.”

Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture



Improving nutrition in rural Africa

Malnutrition among young children has a significant negative impact on brain development and physical growth, while also increasing the risk of childhood disease and mortality. In rural Africa, factors such as poverty, drought, population growth, low awareness and limited access to quality foods have created severe levels of malnutrition. Agriculture has a vital role to play in tackling this major health challenge.

At SAA, we are committed to improving health and nutrition through the promotion of Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture (NSA). NSA aims to enhance nutrition for children and adults by supporting the cultivation of nutritious and biofortified crops, such as iron-rich beans, provitamin A maize, vitamin A-rich sweet potatoes, and indigenous vegetables. NSA also involves promotion of labor-saving pre- and post-harvest agro-processing machines for better quality food, improving postharvest storage, value-addition and providing training on

food safety, quality, agro-processing, and marketing.

Our achievements in 2021

During the year, we provided extensive NSA training to agriculture and health extension workers in our four focus countries, who in turn passed on their knowledge and skills to multiple smallholder farmers. Our training focused on basic nutrition principles, sanitation, hygiene, gender, social behavior change communication (SBCC) and multisectoral coordination. We also provided sessions on postharvest management, agro-processing, and value addition. And with SAA assessments revealing major knowledge gaps among farmer communities, we conducted demonstrations and field days on food preparation and fortification. By supporting the cultivation and consumption of vegetables for improved access to diverse nutrients, and disseminating key information on nutrition, we increased our efforts to boost the health and income of smallholder farming households.

2021 in numbers



Over **78,000**

farmers trained on post-harvest handling, nutrition and food safety



7,107

demonstrations on storage and agro-processing machines in Ethiopia



239

permagarden demonstrations established in Ethiopia



180

fabricators trained on postharvest and agro-processing machine fabrication in Nigeria and Uganda

Voices from the field

Planting for prosperity - rice farming in Nigeria

Soybean is a unique, special crop. It contains more than 36% protein and 30% carbohydrate. It is rich in dietary fiber, vitamins, and minerals. And it is the only available crop that provides an inexpensive and high-quality source of protein comparable to meat, poultry, and eggs. Furthermore, 20% of soybean seed is oil, making it the most important crop for producing edible oil.

Nigeria has a large population of malnourished children with 44.6% stunted and 26.9% underweight (CMAM, 2020). To help improve community nutrition, in Billiri LGA in Gombe State, SAA provided training to Maiganga Women's Cooperative Group in food

fortification techniques – including soybean processing. The idea behind the initiative is to enable the integration of soy milk and cheese (Awara) into local diets, and to enhance the preparation of popular local dishes, such as Tom Brown. Tom Brown consists of crayfish, groundnut, and millet or sorghum; enriched with roasted soybean, it provides a nutritious, supplementary meal (porridge) for malnourished children under five, and for adults too.

Not only is Tom Brown meal highly nutritious; it also provides income-generating opportunities for those who produce it. SAA-Nigeria in Gombe State has a strong focus on women's enterprise

development, and through the food fortification training it is empowering local women to supplement their household incomes. Some have already started trading Tom Brown powder in their local communities, while their children are reaping the nutritional benefits.

By 2022, it is hoped that the Maiganga Women's Cooperative will be supported to produce Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), and enabled by NAFDAC to ensure full registration of the product. Through SBCC, SAA-Nigeria will continue to promote and scale nutrition-sensitive activities, and further extol the virtues of soybean to women's groups and communities.

Market-Oriented Agriculture



Strengthening market linkages, enhancing farming as a business enterprise

Many smallholder farmers in Africa are engaged in low-profit agriculture, with limited access or exposure to viable markets. This scenario means farmers are unable to sell their surplus at competitive prices or purchase yield-enhancing inputs, keeping them locked in a cycle of subsistence and poverty.

To support the shift to more profitable agricultural production, SAA promotes Market-Oriented Agriculture (MOA) across the focus countries. In short, SAA tries to support farmers to engage in lucrative agriculture. Our aim is to inspire an entrepreneurial spirit among smallholder farmers and other value chain actors, and improve their understanding of market characteristics and trends. To this end, we apply an integrated approach to the whole agricultural value chain, which includes nurturing “grow-to-sell” mindset among farmers in Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP) approach (in partnership with JICA), strengthening and diversifying the functions of the agri-cooperatives and farmers associations e.g. OSCA in Uganda and supporting the entrepreneurship and business development of agro-business groups, with a focus on youth and women groups.

Our achievements in 2021

In 2021, we provided MOA training to extension agents and workers in all four focus countries, with cascaded training carried out with smallholder farmers and communities. We also supported the start-up of various agribusinesses. We facilitated access to markets among agro-service providers, and established links between farmers and agro-processing enterprises. With the aim of expanding production in key areas, we convened meetings to explore partnership opportunities based on the Contract Farming Model. Crucially, SAA brought about a conceptual shift within the SHEP approach, encouraging farmers to switch their production mindset from ‘grow and sell’ to ‘grow to sell’. We also assisted farmers to deepen their understanding of market trends and opportunities, as we continued to work hand in hand, side by side, with smallholder farmers.

2021 in numbers



Voices from the field

Changing the narrative through SHEP

When he was younger, Peter Vundru from Adjumani district, Uganda, dropped out of school for financial reasons. For a long time afterwards, gaining formal employment seemed an impossible task.

Eventually, he decided to venture into agriculture, which he believed held huge potential as a sector.

“I have always loved agriculture,” says Peter, now 23. “I was inspired by my parents who used it to grow vegetables to generate income for the family. So, I decided to create my own employment through agriculture.”

Today, Peter’s farmers’ group consists of 20 members. In 2021, the group was selected to take part in the SHEP project, a pilot scheme implemented by SAA and IFPRI, with funding from the Government of Japan. The project aims to promote market-oriented horticulture enterprises through the production, consumption, and commercialization of high-value crops.

In October 2021, he received training through the SHEP project in best agronomic practices. Equipped with new skills and knowledge, he began growing tomatoes, onions, cabbage, and okra. He is now a successful ‘agri-preneur’ and model farmer, and an inspiration to young people in his community.

“I planted Asila FI and Real Gradios tomato varieties in January on 1.4 acres of land,” says Peter. “By the third week, I was mulching. So far, I have harvested eighteen boxes of tomatoes and sold them for US\$110 each. I plan to harvest 12 more boxes in June, which will bring in US\$1,316.”

With the US\$1,974 earned so far, Peter plans to invest in solar-powered irrigation for the dry season and wants to fence off his land to keep out animals.

Through the SHEP project, Peter is changing the narrative of his life. He is also using his skills to empower the local youth: “I have employed two young men who also dropped out of school,” he says. Looking ahead, the SHEP project will continue to empower smallholder farmers like Peter to engage in farming as a viable business.

Cross-cutting area 1 : Capacity Building and Human Resource Development



Cross-cutting areas

In addition to our core project work, we focus on capacity building, inclusiveness, and the digitalization of agricultural extension (DX). These cross-cutting areas are at the heart of our new strategic plan, underpinning all our efforts to build sustainable and resilient food systems in Africa.

Capacity building

Developing individuals and organizations

We implement capacity building initiatives in the form of training sessions, demonstrations and workshops, and through partnerships with Universities and Agriculture Colleges. This work is central to our efforts to promote sustainable agricultural transformation through human resource and organizational development.

Our capacity building program was originally delivered by our sister organization, the Sasakawa Africa Fund for Extension Education (SAFE). In 2018, SAFE merged with SAA. Its work is currently implemented as the 'SAFE program' in partnership with 31

universities and agricultural colleges in 11 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. To date, over 7,000 students have graduated from the program and over 2,000 are currently enrolled.

Our achievements in 2021

In 2021, Covid-19 continued to impact the delivery of university and college courses, with many classes canceled to prevent the spread of infection. In certain countries, human resource development activities were also interrupted by travel restrictions caused by political unrest. To address these challenges, we have developed e-Learning tools to enable student extension workers and other students to continue their studies remotely.

During the year, we implemented the SAFE Demand Driven Curriculum (SDDC) through technical backstopping and supervisory visits to all participating institutions. Most of the training activities focused on SHEP, agricultural entrepreneurship, and Supervised Enterprise Projects (SEPs) under the SAFE program. Regenerative, nutrition-sensitive and market-oriented agriculture, along with database management and e-Learning, were also

2021 in numbers



698

students across seven countries supported to implement SEPs within farming communities



15,380

(4,614 female) reached with training on crop and livestock value chains, apiculture, extension models, and soil and water conservation



2,187

(622 female) currently enrolled for diploma/degree programs

Voices from the field

Supervised Enterprise Project (SEP)

Supervised Enterprise Project (SEP) is a component of the SAFE program which requires students, who are mid-career extension agents, to work on research to help solve problems encountered by farming communities. In June 2021, the Department of Rural Development and Agricultural Extension at Bahir Dar University in Ethiopia organized a workshop in which 55 third-year students (25 female) presented their SEP project reports. Previously, projects tended to focus mainly on

crop management. But now they cover a number of agricultural aspects, reflecting the changing needs of rural communities. Among them, Habtamu Legesse presented his project on increasing soybean yield and market access while reducing post-harvest loss. Since the inception of the program, SAA has provided a series of trainings and seminars on value chain-oriented SEPs, regenerative agriculture, market-oriented agriculture, and nutrition-sensitive agriculture, among other

subjects, to help build capacities and networks among lecturers and students.

Currently, Bahir Dar University is using a web-based e-Learning platform which has supported the diversification of program delivery modes. All training modules are digitalized and uploaded on the platform. The platform has also created a close connection between students and supervisors, particularly when students are away conducting SEPs for eight months or more.

Cross-cutting area 2: Inclusiveness



Empowering women, youth and PwDs

SAA promotes the empowerment of women, youth, and people with disabilities (PwDs). Through our interventions, we aim to improve livelihoods by creating opportunities for women, youth, and PwDs to participate in the agricultural sector. We achieve these goals by empowering the groups through business development, entrepreneurship, and agro-processing technology. And we encourage the active involvement of the vulnerable and marginalized in every aspect of our activities.

As part of our gender strategy, we aim to enhance the productivity of smallholder farmers by integrating and empowering women as leaders of agricultural transformation. In addition, we seek to expand opportunities for youth and PwDs by developing agriculture as a business enterprise, with a view to making lasting links between enterprise and inclusion.

Our achievements in 2021

In 2021, we continued to expand our inclusiveness efforts and interventions. Throughout the program, we encourage and ensure women participation as well as youth and PwDs. Women play critical roles in agriculture in Africa, and knowing the key role mothers play in promoting infant and maternal nutrition, we used our NSA program with special emphasis to engage as many women. To date, 359 PwDs have participated in SAA programs, receiving training in RA practices, NSA and/or MOA. It was also another busy year for youth entrepreneurship development, with youth business clinics, training and other activities coordinated across our focus countries.

2021 in numbers

1,315
female Extension
Agents trained (TOT)

60
demonstration plots
established for PwDs
in Nigeria

122,466
female farmers
trained

Over 380
youth agribusiness
start-ups supported

Voices from the field

Empowering special- need farmers in Nigeria

For over a decade, Billiri of Gombe State, Nigeria, worked to support the day-to-day wellbeing of physically challenged farmers. But for years, many of the group's members continued to beg on the streets.

In 2018, SAA intervened to deliver guidance and training on the benefits of self-help group dynamics. The training took place between 2019 and 2021, focusing on group management, agribusiness, and collective market access. SAA also provided a Covid-19 palliative support package, consisting of eight bags of fertilizer, four liters of herbicides, and 20kgs of improved maize seeds.

Following SAA's intervention, the group, which consists of 15 members, began to cultivate 0.5 hectares of maize. In 2019 they harvested 2.5 metric tons, which enabled them to feed their families and purchase three sheep. Since then, they have also purchased goats and poultry. Each group member has committed to rearing poultry and ruminants to feed their families and generate additional income, while collectively they plan to procure a maize thresher and employ local youths as operators.

These developments have transformed the lives of the physically challenged farmers of Billiri. As of 2021, not one of them has needed to beg to support themselves or their households. As a supporter of the group, Mr. Emmanuel, explained: "No member is seen begging now. They can afford to eat good food". Group member Madam Malata concurred, adding: "The poultry we keep are not only for making money but to eat as well, so we have improved things not only financially but in our diets too." And with their children attending good schools, and their economic status and prospects enhanced, the members of Billiri can look to the future with optimism.

Shaping the future

As part of our commitment to inclusiveness, in June 2021 a SAA team led by Dr Makoto Kitanaka held a meeting with the Department of Extension and Innovation Studies at Makerere University in Uganda. During the meeting, participants discussed strategies to improve the participation of women and youth in agribusiness, which will be explored further in 2022.

Cross-cutting area 3: Digitalization (DX) of Agricultural Extension



Closing the information gap

Digital disenfranchisement prevents smallholder farmers from accessing information and opportunities. To address this challenge, SAA, through partnerships, has adopted a range of e-Extension platforms. These platforms aim to close the information gap between smallholder farmers and value chain stakeholders through the use of ICT.

Specifically, we collaborate with local companies to introduce and develop agricultural e-Extension apps. In Ethiopia, for example, farmers concerned about pests and crop disease can seek advice from extension workers via a dedicated app. In Uganda, two apps have been adopted by SAA to enable users to purchase seeds and fertilizer and access market prices. And in Nigeria, in partnership with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and AfricaRice, we are scaling a digital agricultural advisory service to improve fertilizer use and productivity.

Our achievements in 2021

In 2021, we continued to promote the use of ICT across all our activities. At Bahir Dar University in Ethiopia and the University of Segou in Mali, for example, we supported establishment of e-learning centers and its adoption. Elsewhere, we promoted digitalization across the entire agricultural value chain. With Covid-19 disrupting normal activities, we developed digital training and online lessons in good agronomic practices. We also provided a range of interventions on e-Extension, ensuring we continued to reach, inform, and empower key agricultural stakeholders.

2021 in numbers



23,355

farmers (3,406 female) reached with agronomic training via video-mediated learning in Ethiopia



14

new training videos uploaded to SAA Mali YouTube channel



3

E-Extension use-case apps have been validated for maize (Nutrient Expert), cassava (AKILIMO), and rice (RiceAdvice) in Nigeria.



169

extension Agents including CBFs trained on the use of apps for online procurement of farm input and marketing and record keeping in Uganda



373

farmer group members received training on digitalizing CSIA records in Uganda

Insights for 2022

Leveraging insights to shape our path for multidimensional agricultural extension system

Our activities in 2021 yielded valuable lessons that we will take forward to shape our future activities for more dynamic multidimensional agricultural extension.

Lessons

- Digitalization of extension systems is crucial for complementing conventional extension and advisory services. E-Extension can be used to reach many farmers cost effectively, creating various options and opportunities for farmer and farmer groups.
- Networking and co-opting Agro-dealers in program design and implementation has increased access and uptake of quality inputs - especially seeds - by farmers. In some instances, Agro-dealers provide additional support in farmer training, especially in the use of agricultural inputs like seeds and pesticides.
- The consortium approach, whereby various development partners work together, has proven vital for cost-effective VC extension service delivery, generating interest among government, private sector, and development partners.
- Collaboration with partners of high expertise opened great opportunities for accessing innovations.
- Greater impact is achieved when all strategic pillars are working in one location, creating synergy and complementarity.



Lessons learnt by country

Ethiopia

- **Climate change:** In drier places, drip irrigation alone is insufficient, and conservation methods to reduce evaporation are required.

Mali

- **Capacity building:** Recognition for high-performing farmers at community level motivates others to adopt GAPs and technologies.

Nigeria

- **Multidimensional extension:** The CBF approach is an effective tool for complementing the public extension system, which has been well accepted by the government and needs to be widely scaled.
- **Market-oriented agriculture:** Effective and functional Aggregation Centers, equipped with necessary communications and information sharing facilities, can effectively widen business opportunities for farmer groups

Uganda

- **Market-oriented agriculture:** Integrated cropping system as opposed to promoting only cereals and pulses provides farmers with various opportunities for income generation throughout the year.
- **Nutrition-sensitive agriculture:** In promoting nutrition through agriculture, it is crucial to engage key partners, such as Ministries Health and Education for programs like school feeding, and universities with research and curriculum development.

Partnerships



SAA Board Chair Prof. Ruth Oniang'o signing MOU with AFAAS.

Our partners

SAA's strategic partnerships

In order to accelerate our efforts in the field, SAA builds strategic partnerships with local, national and international institutions and organizations. In addition to ongoing support from The Nippon Foundation, we have enhanced our financial portfolio through additional funding from the World Food Programme (WFP), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), GIZ, and the Netherlands government. We have also concluded several partnership agreements, including with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Africa Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), and HarvestPlus, aiming to extend the scope of scaling

up appropriate technologies and information.

Our achievements in 2021

To support the implementation of our new strategic plan, we strengthened our partnerships with a range of institutions and donors. We also engaged with partners and organized events at major international summits, including the UN Food Systems Summit and the Tokyo Nutrition Growth Summit. In addition, we actively took part in regional events in Africa, including the AGRF, AFSTA Congress, the 3rd All Africa Postharvest Congress, and the 5th Africa-Wide Extension Week events, with the aim of expanding our reach and impact across the continent. As a result of these efforts, during the

year we signed MOUs with AFAAS and HarvestPlus.

SAA signs MOU with AFAAS

In November 2021, SAA signed an MOU with the Africa Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) during the 5th Africa Wide Agricultural Extension Week. Among other key benefits, the MOU will allow SAA and AFAAS to continually upgrade the skills and knowledge of extension staff, and improve the quality of service-delivery to small-scale and marginalized farmers. During the event, SAA organized a side event session on bridging gaps in agricultural extension during the pandemic, and the lessons learned across Africa on digitalizing extension.

Key partners engaged at country level in 2021

Governments/Public institutions

Ministries of agriculture
National agricultural research centers
Universities and agricultural colleges
Kano State Government, Nigeria
The government of Japan

International organizations/ Regional organizations

African Development Bank (AfDB)
African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS)
Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
World Food Programme (WFP)
Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

International research centers

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

ODA

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Mali and Niger

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Foundations/NGOs

The Nippon Foundation
Tanager, ACDI-VOCA
KIT Royal Tropical Institute, Netherlands

Private sector

SoftBank Corp.
K+S KALI GmbH

Universities

Iowa State University, USA
University of Würzburg, Germany
Virginia Tech, USA

On-going projects

Project name	Partner/donor	Duration	Amount (USD)	Project overview
Ethiopia				
Improving the Production of Market-Driven Agricultural Commodities in Amhara and Tigray (IMPACT)	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)	2018-2022	3,079,763	Improving food security and income for smallholder farmers through improved wheat and teff yields and market access.
Productive Uses of Energy in Ethiopia	Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)	2021-2022	41,636.80	Piloting and scaling off-grid agricultural processing in selected mini-grid sites in Ethiopia.
Mali				
Integrated Seed Sector Development in the Sahel - ISSD Sahel (Consortium IFDC, SAA, KIT, ICRISAT, with IFDC as lead)	Embassy of the Netherlands in Niger	2020 -2024	11,000,000 (Euros)	Promoting the integrated development of formal and informal seed sectors in Mali and Niger to increase farmers' access to quality seed for improved income and livelihoods.
Nigeria				
Market-Driven Maize, Rice, and Soybean Value Chain Expansion	AGRA	2018-2021	1,160,741	Boosting the productivity of maize, rice, and soybeans in Kaduna State and improving the income of smallholder farmers.
Increasing Rice Productivity in North-Central Nigeria's Niger State	AGRA	2018-2021	751,320	Improving rice productivity, food security and smallholder incomes in Niger State.
Improved Productivity of Crops and Livestock Products	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD)	2019-2022	1,202,146	Improving crop and livestock productivity.
African Cassava Agronomy Initiatives (ACAI) Phase III	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)	2020-2021	53,957	Disseminating cost effective agricultural technologies to improve production of cassava.
Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP)	Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) (Loan to Kano State Government)	2020-2025	21,310,000	Reducing poverty and improving food and nutrition security for 450,000 smallholder farmers; establishing an agricultural extension system to improve the entire agricultural value chain in Kano State.
Market Oriented Agricultural Promotion Collaboration (ToT)	JICA (Partners: NTC International, Kaihatsu Management Consulting)	2020-2021	72,687	Preparing for the future implementation of the SHEP project; baseline surveys to be conducted in the Federal Capital Territory and Nasarawa State, with training provided to agricultural extension agents in 18 states.
Smart Food Chain Investigation (NTCI)	JICA (Partners: NTC International, Kaihatsu Management Consulting)	2021	13,955	Recruiting start-up companies to optimize agricultural value chain activities in the use of data; supporting companies in hypothesis testing and information gathering through short fieldtrips.
Plan for Strengthening the Resilience of Women and Girls Affected by Conflict, Violent Extremism and Climate Change around Lake Chad	UN Women	2020-2021	29,090	Providing training to approximately 350 women in two districts of Yobe State on horticultural crop production and agro-processing techniques; targeted women will be trained by Agricultural Extension Department (ADP) staff in a cascade format.
Collaborative Vegetable Production	Bayer co.	2021-2023	30,129	Distributing hybrid vegetable seeds to 4,750 farmers in Kaduna State and 4,000 farmers in Kano State; and providing training in the latest agricultural technologies to improve their productivity and livelihoods.
Excellence in Agronomy	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)	2021-2022	24,003	Developing and demonstrating a growth advisory tool (application) for cassava, maize, and rice in collaboration with IITA.
Uganda				
Agriculture Market Support Program (AMS)	World Food Program (WFP)	2020-2023	2,305,953	Supporting 12,000 smallholder farmers to progress from subsistence to commercial farming, improving food security and household incomes in Karenga, Abim, Napak, Nabilatuk, and Nakapiripit.
Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion Project (SHEP)	IFPRI & Government of Japan	2021-2022	345,000	Promoting market-oriented horticulture enterprises in refugee-hosting Adjumani District.
Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU project)	European Union, National Agriculture Research Organization (NARO)	2020-2023	250,377 (Euros)	Eradicating hunger and poverty through diversifying food systems for food and nutrition, and inclusive development.

Financial report

Unit rate: USD

SAA		2020	2021	
Overview	Total Ordinary Income	13,265,208	12,673,281	
	Total Ordinary Expense	11,159,371	11,760,655	
	Total Net Assets	5,456,162	5,822,076	
	Cash balance at the end of the year	6,886,874	9,172,473	
Details of Income	NF Core Project	9,170,282	7,189,803	
	Nippon Foundation Grant	9,170,282	7,189,803	
	Extra Core Projects			
	Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) (Ethiopia)	1,119,620	747,673	
	Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) (Ethiopia)	0	13,000	
	Netherlands Embassy, ISSD-Sahel Project (Mali and Niger)	0	798,896	
	AGRA (Kaduna State, Nigeria)	257,464	75,977	
	AGRA (Niger State, Nigeria)	241,411	58,368	
	Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), KSADP Project (Nigeria)	1,896,222	1,765,814	
	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), SHEP Program (Nigeria)	0	72,687	
	UN Women (Nigeria)	0	222	
	GIZ, Smart Food Chain (Nigeria)	0	13,334	
	IITA, Excellence in Agronomy Project (Nigeria)	0	9,142	
	World Food Program (WFP) - AMS Karamoja Project (Uganda)	102,312	530,531	
	European Union, DINU Project (Uganda)	24,567	0	
	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), SHEP Project (Uganda)	0	133,873	
	Other Income from Extra Core Project	191,663	25,032	
	Other Income (Including foreign exchange gain)	261,666	1,238,926	
	Details of Expense	NF Core Project		
		Operating Expenses	5,633,326	4,692,284
Management Expenses		3,326,396	2,277,692	
Extra Core Projects				
AGRA (Ethiopia)		1,085,123	683,417	
RMI (Ethiopia)		0	3,299	
Netherlands Embassy, ISSD-Sahel Project (Mali and Niger)		0	509,778	
AGRA (Kaduna State, Nigeria)		327,522	192,213	
AGRA (Niger State, Nigeria)		269,163	172,325	
IsDB, KSADP Project (Nigeria)		102,759	2,151,956	
JICA, SHEP Project (Nigeria)		0	54,966	
UN Woman (Nigeria)		0	222	
GIZ, Smart Food Chain (Nigeria)		0	3,733	
IITA, Excellence in Agronomy Project (Nigeria)		0	5,320	
WFP-AMS Karamoja Project (Uganda)		0	749,702	
European Union, DINU Project (Uganda)		0	43,742	
IFPRI, SHEP Project (Uganda)	0	110,880		
Others (Ethiopia/Mali/Uganda/Nigeria)	217,797	109,124		

Leadership

As of 31 December, 2021

SAA Founders

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

SAA Board of Councillors

Takeju Ogata
Shuichi Ohno
Katsumi Hirano

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

SAA Auditor

Akinori Sugai

Senior Staff

Junichi Hanai, Program Director
Mel Oluoch, Regional Director
Mercy Akeredolu, Thematic Director,
Human Resource Development
Ethiopia Tadesse, Acting Thematic Director,
Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Communication

Country Directors

Fentahun Megistu, Ethiopia
Sokona Dagnoko, Mali
Sani Miko, Nigeria
Roselline Nyamutale, Uganda

Acronyms

AFAAS Africa Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services

AGRA Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa

BGMF Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

CA Commodity Association / Conservation Agriculture

CAT Commodity Association Trader/Trainer

CBF Community Based Facilitator

CBSM Community Based Seed Multiplication

CDP Community Demonstration Plot

CSIA Community Saving for Investment in Agribusiness

CST Climate-Smart Technology

CSV Climate-Smart Village

EA Extension Agent

FCS Food Consumption Score

FTC Farmer Training Centre

FO Farmer Organization

FLP Farmer Learning Platform

GAP Good Agricultural Practice

HDDS Household Dietary Diversity Score

HRD Human Resource Development

ICT Information and Communication Technology

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development

IFDC International Fertilizer Development Center

IFPRI International Food Policy Research Institute

IITA International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

IPM Integrated Pest Management

ISFM Integrated Soil Fertility Management

IsDB Islamic Development Bank

JICA Japan International Cooperation Agency

MOA Market-Oriented Agriculture

MoU Memorandum of Understanding

NARO National Agriculture Research Organization

NF The Nippon Foundation

NGO Non-Governmental Organization

NSA Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture

OSCA One Stop Center Association

PHTC Production and Post-Harvest Training/Trading Center

PSP Private Service Provider

PwDs People with Disabilities

RA Regenerative Agriculture

SAA Sasakawa Africa Association

SAFE Sasakawa Africa Fund for Extension Education

SDGs UN Sustainable Development Goals

SHEP Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion

SDDC SAFE Demand Driven Curriculum

SEP Supervised Enterprise Project

SMS Subject Matter Specialist

ToT Training of Trainers

WFP World Food Programme



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