

## CRITICAL FOOD AND FERTILIZER PRICE INCREASE AND ITS IMPACT ON SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN AFRICA

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TICAD 8, August 26th 2022

Before the crisis, Africa was already lagging in terms of fertilizer use and productivity

### Synthetic fertilizer application rates and cereal yields

Kg of nutrients (total) per ha of cropland in 2019

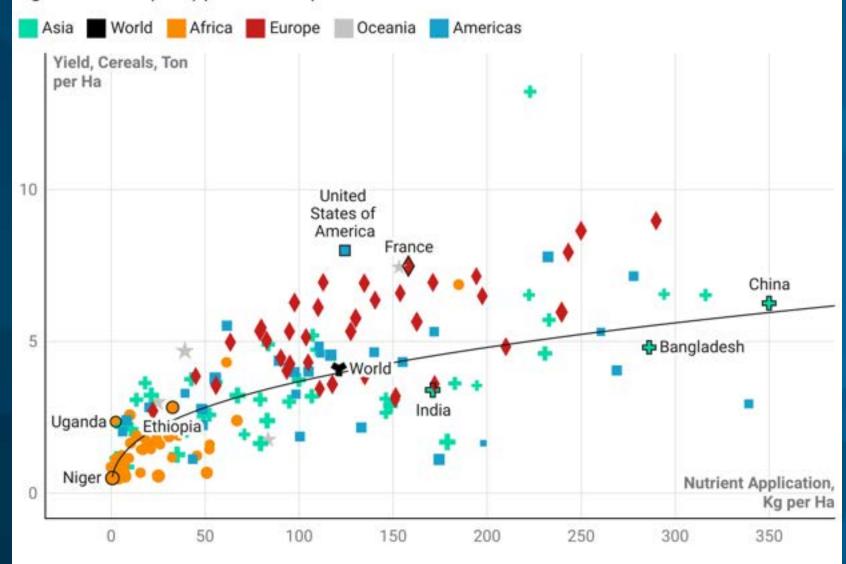


Chart: David Laborde · Source: FAOSTAT

## And the small amount used varies widely across crops and countries

### Share of smallholders cultivated area using fertilizers

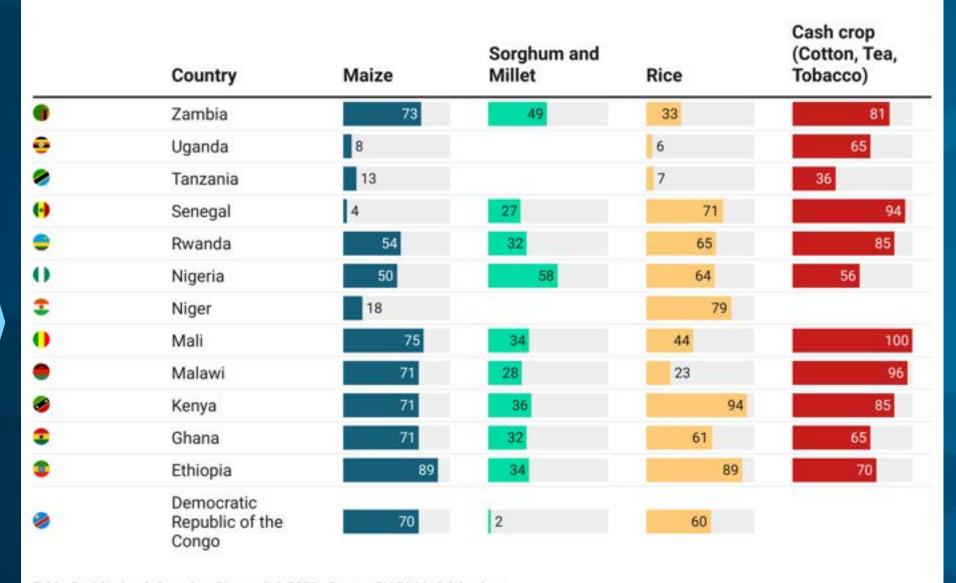


Table: David Laborde based on Diao and al. 2022 • Source: RIAPA Model database

On world markets, food prices have been rising... but farmers' profits not so much

### Grains, Energy and Fertilizers have been rising sharply



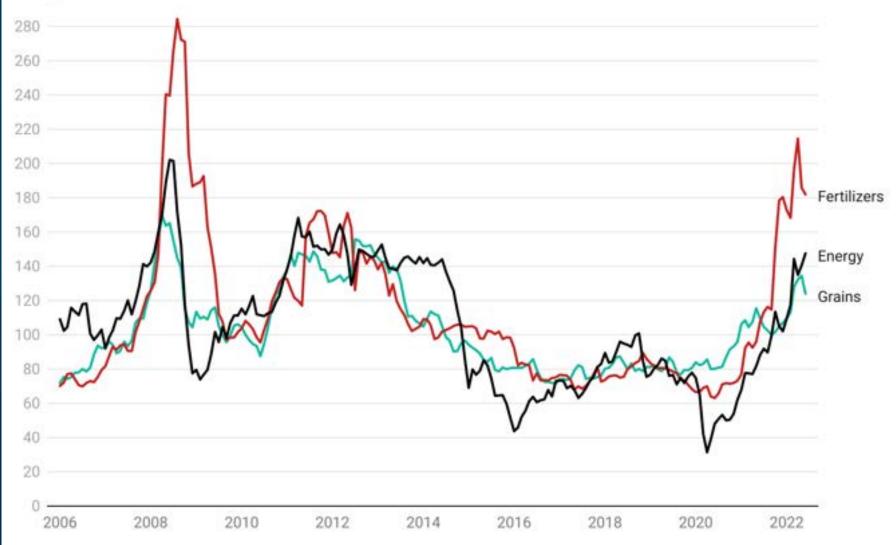


Chart: David Laborde • Source: World Bank, US Federal Reserve

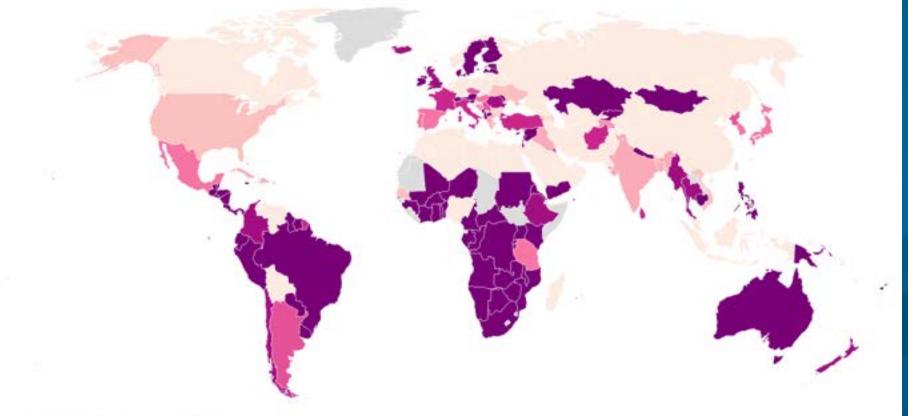


Africa imports more of its fertilizers, but consumes a small share (less than 4%) of global consumption

### Dependency to world markets for N fertilizers

Share of imports in domestic use





Map: David Laborde · Source: FAOSTAT

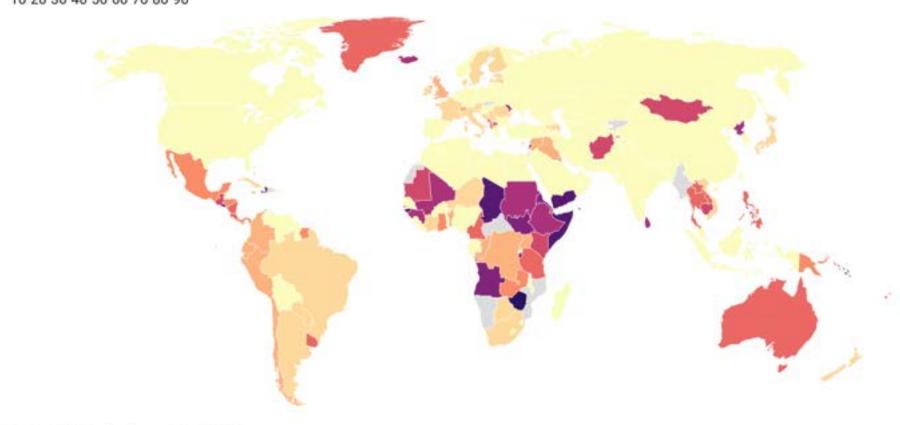


### Share of "missing" imports of Nitrogen fertilizer in 2021-2022

Unfulfilled imports by June 2022 as estimated by FAO divided by agricultural use.

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90

Currently,
Africa,
could not
afford to
import them



Map: David Laborde · Source: FAO (2022)



## Farmers face either higher prices or

rationing

### **Urea prices on selected markets**

USD per Metric Ton

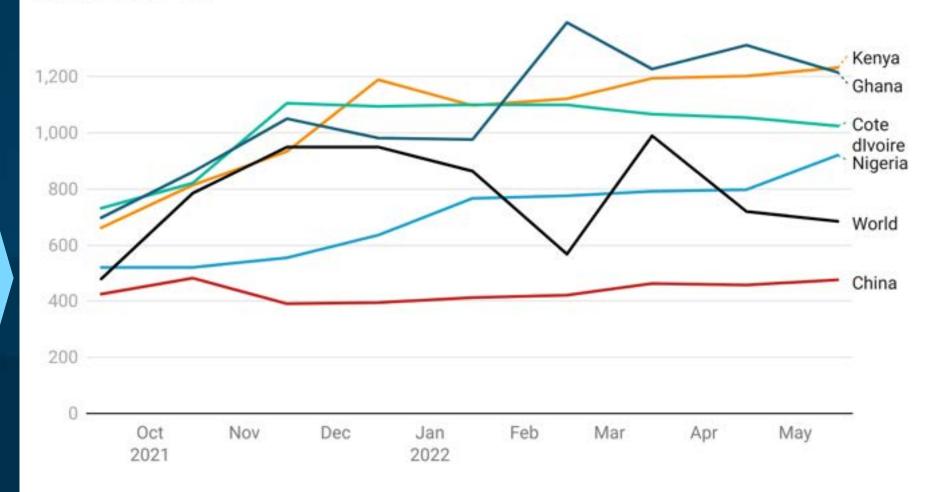


Chart: David Laborde · Source: AfricaFertilizer.org

and their profitability has shrunk

### Evolution of the price ratio between maize and urea

Normalized to 1 in September 2021



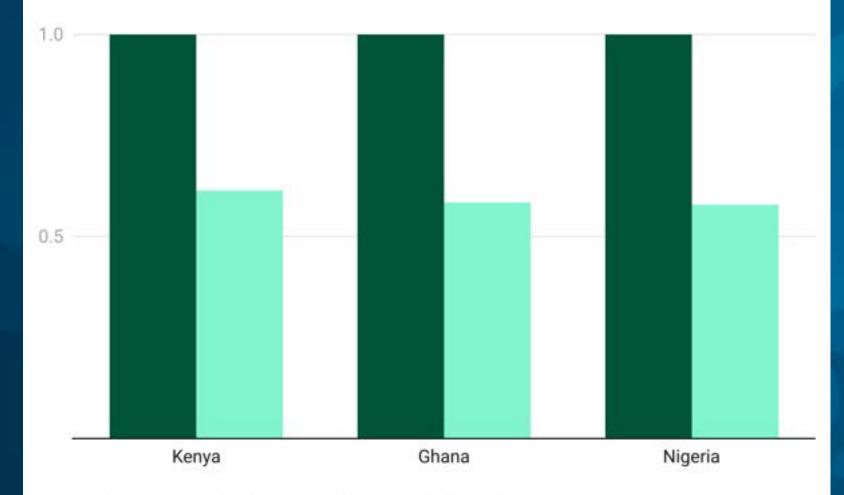


Chart: David Laborde • Source: AfricaFertilizer.org, GIEWS (FAO)



threatening their food security

MOST AFRICAN SMALLHOLDERS REMAIN NET FOOD BUYERS And are negatively impacted by increase in food prices

LOWER FERTILIZER ACCESS MEANS THAT SOME NET FOOD SELLERS
WILL BECOME NET FOOD BUYERS THIS YEAR
And will become negatively impacted by increase in food prices

INCOME OF NET FOOD SELLERS WILL BE NEGATIVELY IMPACTED by higher input prices, lower productivity level, higher transaction costs and increase food losses.

## Potential impacts on rural poverty

### Estimated impacts of changes in prices between June 2021 and April 2022 on rural povery

2022 estimated impacts by the RIAPA model based on country level analysis.

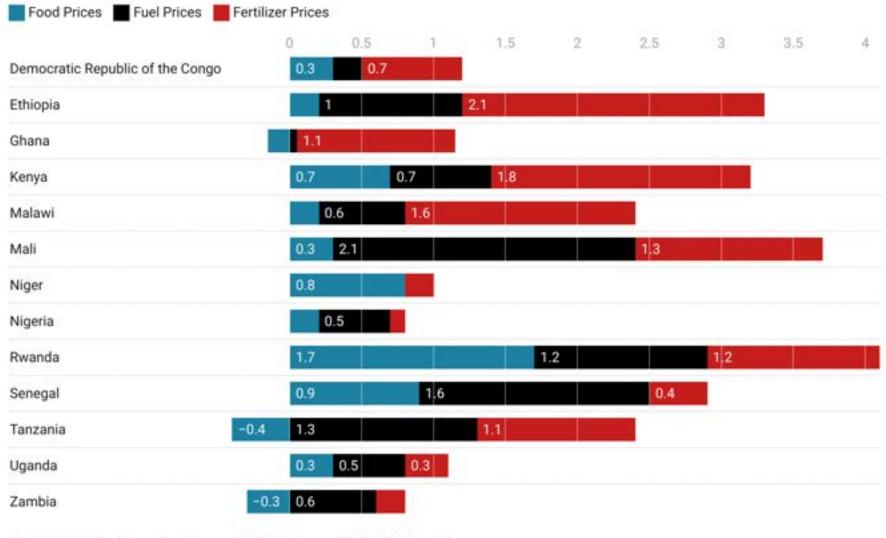
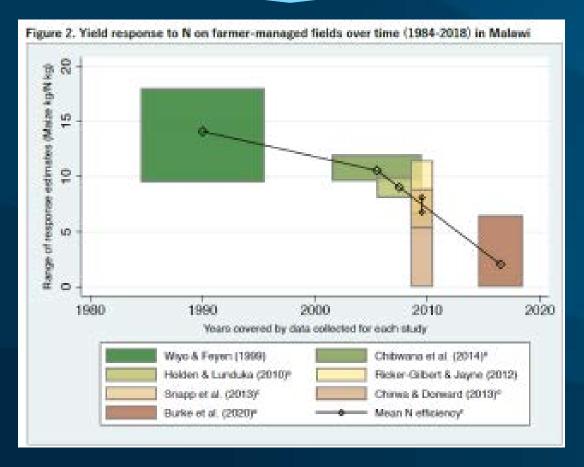


Chart: David Laborde based on Diao and al. 2022 · Source: IFPRI, RIAPA model

### But enough fertilizer does not guarantee high yields



Maize Yield response – Malawi Burke et al. 2021





#### **RIGHT SOURCE**

Matches fertilizer type to crop needs.





Matches amount of fertilizer type crop needs.



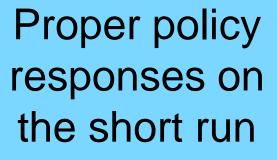
#### **RIGHT TIME**

Makes nutrients available when crops needs them.



#### **RIGHT PLACE**

Keep nutrients where crops can use them.



Make economic sanctions harmless for fertilizer trade with "comfort letters" and open port permits.



Remove export restrictions and taxes on fertilizers.



Specific financial facilities should be provided to countries that face major macroeconomic or exchange rate crises.

Public spending in LMICs should focus on reducing trade costs impacting the access and distribution of fertilizers and support access to finance for SMEs.

Identify smallholder groups that will face fertilizer shortages in 2022 and 2023, and prepare safety nets to compensate for expected production losses.

Scale up extension service efforts to optimize fertilizer use and support all farmers with improved knowledge.

### Why extension services matter?

TO DEVELOP MARKET AWARENESS AND INFORM ON PRICE TRENDS TO ALLOW FARMERS TO ANTICIPATE AND ADAPT



TO IMPROVE FERTILIZER USE EFFICIENCY WHEN THEY ARE SCARCE AND EXPENSIVE

TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE TO SYNTHETIC FERTILIZER (E.G. CROP ROTATION) WHEN THEY ARE NOT AVAILABLE

TO ADDRESS GENDER INEQUALITIES IN TIME OF HARDSHIP

### አመሰማናለሁ!



### THANK YOU!

ありがとうございました!

**MERCI!** 

**ASANTE!** 

**OBRIGADO!** 

DAALU!

شكرًا لك!

O SEUN!

### Read more at

- https://www.ifpri.org/blog/high-fertilizer-prices-contribute-rising-global-food-securityconcerns
- https://www.ifpri.org/blog/short-term-policy-considerations-respond-russia-ukrainecrisis-disruptions-fertilizer





# Promoting multidimensional and digital agricultural extension in Africa

Dr. Kristin Davis
Development Strategies and Governance Division
International Food Policy Research Institute

SAA-IFPRI-AFAAS Side Event | TICAD8

### **Key Messages**

- African producers face many challenges today
- Extension services are critical to supporting producers
- Extension services are multidimensional
- Digitalized extension holds promise
- Roles for extension in Africa going forward imply need for more capacity, investment, innovation



### **Extension Characteristics**

Governance structures and funding

Organizational and management capacities and cultures

Methods

Clientele engagement

#### **Extension Performance**

Timeliness

Access

Quality

Effectiveness

Relevance

### **Outcomes and Impacts**

Change of:

Knowledge

Attitudes

Behavior

Productivity

Empowerment





### Multidimensional Services – a Snapshot

- Institutional options for structuring, organizing, financing
- Increasing pluralism
  - Private sector
  - Village agents
  - Farmer extensionists
  - Public services
- Increasing methods of outreach







### Digital Approaches – A Snapshot



Photo: B. Van Campenhout/IFPRI

- Wider reach, greater knowledge
- Fit for purpose
- Some groups may not access
- Skills are lacking for extension to effectively use digital tools











### **Extension's Role Going Forward**

- Provide <u>smart</u> information using smart tools
- Be aware of different social groups and their needs
- Help farmers diversify
- Go beyond information and education to empowerment



### What Can We Do to Make Extension More Effective?

- Increase investment and support to agriculture and to extension
- Support implementation of policies and strategies that support and capacitate extension
- Innovate
- This must happen at national, regional, and global level



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### Effectiveness of a Multidimensional Agricultural Extension System

### Max Olupot, Director Programmes & EA Field Schools Hub Coordinator

### **AFAAS Secretariat**

TICAD8: Side event on: Multidimensional digitally-enabled agricultural extension in Africa: Accelerating agricultural transformation in the face of global crises

August 26, 2022



### Presentation Outline

- 1. AFAAS Strategic Orientation
- 2. Multidimensional Agricultural Extension System-Pluralism
- 3. Lessons and Conclusion



### **AFAAS Strategic Orientation**

### **GOAL**

Enhanced utilization of improved knowledge and innovations by agricultural value chain actors for improving productivity oriented towards their individual and national development objectives.

### **MISSION**

Promote lesson
learning and
professionalism, and
add value to national
agricultural extension
and advisory service
systems.

### **VISION**

Agricultural Advisory Services that effectively and efficiently contribute to sustained productivity, profitability and growth of African agriculture for poverty reduction.











### Strategic Orientation ... Contd



Strengthening and expanding network and knowledge management capacities



Developing capacities for scaling up & out technologies, Innovations and Practices



Facilitating advancement of AEAS- Policy and Thought Leadership







### AFAAS Thrusts ...

- 1. Scaling up and out Technologies, Innovation Management practices
- 2. Strengthen Country For a and National AEAS systems
- 3. Knowledge Management for Development
- 4. Partnerships for Innovations
- 5. Capacity building and professionalisation
- 6. Proving Thought Leadership in AEAS Policy
- 7. Support Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Biennially Reviews
- 8. Climate Smart Agriculture; Gender and youth in Agriculture.



### Multidimensional Agricultural Extension System

- The next generation of rural women and men need capacities and skills, very different from those of their parents (IFAD, 2021);
- Food systems are shaping progress in three fundamental areas: People Planet and Prosperity;
- AEAS play a crucial role in boosting agricultural productivity, increasing food security, improving rural livelihoods, and promoting agriculture as an engine of pro-poor economic growth;
- Extension brings and fosters growth and rural incomes; by Accelerating the diffusion process of improved knowledge, technologies, innovations and practices.



### Multidimensional Agricultural Extension System

- Pluralistic extension recognizes the inherent differences that exist between farmers and farming systems and the need to address challenges in agriculture development with different approaches.
- Thus, provide governments and other stakeholders to find new ways to work together, breathing new momentum into the diverse and rich ecosystem within the multilateral arena in Agri-food systems.

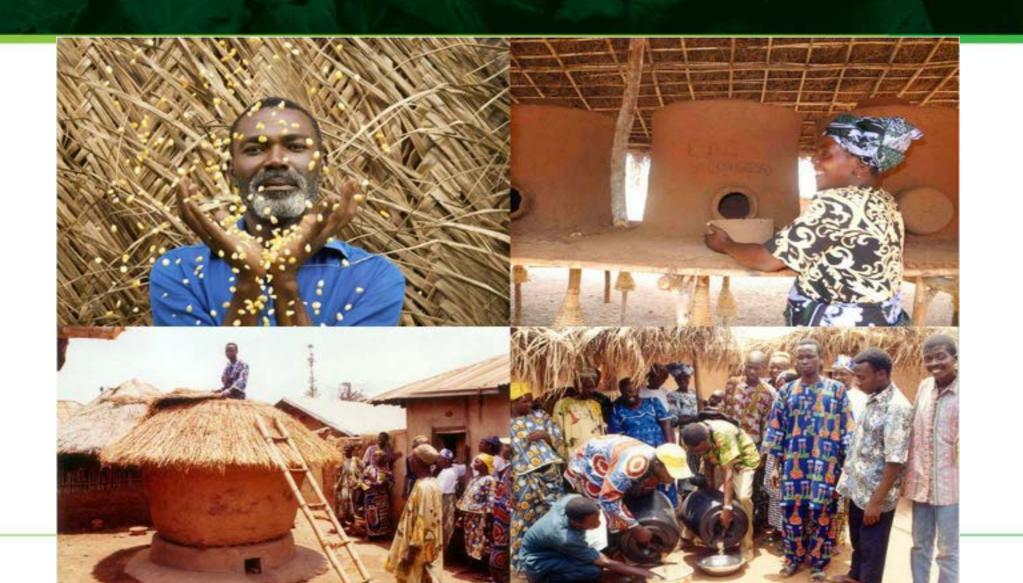


### Multidimensional Agricultural Extension System

Examples of Extension Approaches from Multi Dimensional Lens



### **Examples ...PHM in SSA** (Benin and Mozambique)





### Examples...

### Sustainable Digital Advisory Platforms (Farm Radio International)



### Examples...Sustainable Digital Advisory Platform

- Enhancing harmonized pluralistic Advisory Services 'Sustainable Digital Advisory Services Platforms'
- Platform brings together different digital tools and approaches in an Integrated fashion to meet information needs of smallholder farmers;
- Piloting of this continental wide approach, has started in Ghana & Uganda with support from the Global Affairs Canada and IKEA Foundation respectively;
- Approach allows multiple actors in the Digital Advisory space to work together by ensuring harmonized content and feedback mechanisms



### Examples ....Village Agent Model: MAAIF, Uganda



#### Also known **as**

- Producer
- Producer organization
- Farmer groups
- Rural producer organization
- Area Cooperative Enterprise

#### Also Known as

- Village service agents
- Buying agents
- Rural aggregators
- Village procurement officers
- Village brokers
- Village loan sharks

#### Also known as

- ❖ Trader
- Farmer organizations
- Cooperatives
- Processor

### Also known as

- End buyer
- Big buyer
- Processor



### Examples.. AGRA Extension Approach VBA – Private sector led, and public sector enabled approach

### To address key challenges

#### Low numbers of Extension Agents

- ✓ Extension agent: farmer ratio in most countries 1:+3000 gets to 10000 in some places
- Inadequate training of Extension Agents with limited opportunities to access new technologies
- Lack of content and systems for effective use of ICT in extension to reach large numbers of farmers
- Inadequate extension infrastructure that enables information and skills flow to smallholder farmers
  - Lack of awareness of improved technologies that can increase cereal farmer yields from only 2 MT/ha.
  - Lack of access to improved technologies
  - Current Extension Methodology does not address farmers' needs

### Strategy

- Increase awareness among farmers and catalyze the adoption of improved varieties and other yield-enhancing technologies.
- Reduce extension: farmer numbers to 1 to less than 500 farmers

#### **Approach**

- is relevant to the way smallholder farmers' process information on new crop varieties and improved agronomic practices,
- Breaks down barriers between public and private sector actors and
- Allows hundreds of thousands of farmers in remote villages to learn by doing
- Ensures "last mile" access to inputs and markets



#### Reminder: AEW2021 Call in context of Pluralism ...

- 1. Innovative approaches for resilient and practical actions by all AEAS actors;
- 2. Professionalization of AEAS systems in Africa;
- 3. Role of AEAS in Agro-industrialization and trade regimes- Agri-food Systems;
- 4. Harnessing Agripreneurship opportunities for youth and women; Private Sector
- 5. AEAS Resilience to Pandemics and Emergencies
- **6. Regulation and Coordination** of multiple stakeholders



# Lessons in context

- Building on existing Systems;
- Pluralistic Extension mixed/ blended approaches and tools;
- Coordination and Harmonization at national level hence role of CFs
- Capacity and policy are key for Agricultural transformation;
- Institutionalisation of different approaches;
- Partnerships and collaborations Synergy;
- Policy and Capacity;
- Digitalisation with realistic technologies;
- Accountability.



# Conclusion

#### Multi Dimensional Extension Effectiveness:

- Content
- Communication
- Capacity
- Coordination-Country Fora
- Collaboration





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### ~Digitalization of agricultural extension in Africa, Sasakawa Africa Association Experience~







#### Mel Oluoch

#### **TICAD 8 Side Event on**

Multidimensional digitally-enabled agricultural extension in Africa: Accelerating agricultural transformation in the face of global crises



#### **SAA Strategy (2021-2025)**

Vision

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

Mission

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

# Strategic Focus Areas

- Sustainable, Resilient and Regenerative Agriculture in response to Soil Degradation and Climate Change
  - Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture for Children and Adults Health
    - Market-Oriented Agriculture for securing Farming as a business

#### **Strategic Approach**

- Knowledge Generation
  - Knowledge Packaging
    - Knowledge Transfer and Adoption

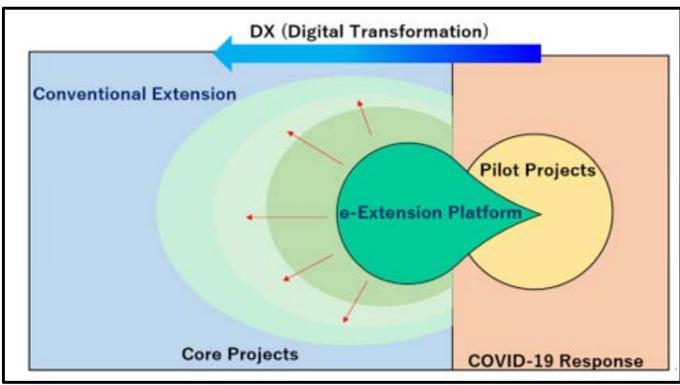
#### **Cross-cutting Issues**

- Development of business capacity and entrepreneurship of Youth/Women/PwDs
- Strengthening of partnerships with governments, research institutions and private sector

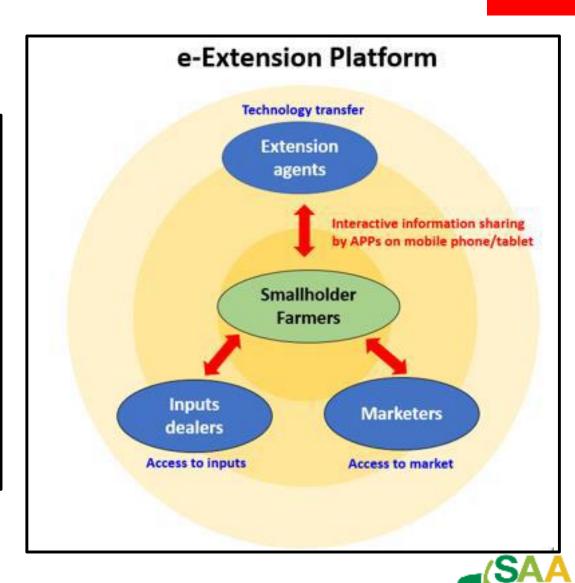


#### **Mainstreaming of e-Extension Platform in Agriculture Operations**

#### Assessment of the impact of **COVID-19** on extension delivery



Scaling up technologies through Digital **Transformation to bridge the Extension worker** to Farmer ratio



#### Scaling up technologies through Digital Transformation

# Short, medium and long-term solutions

- Facilitate technology transfer mechanisms for farmers by using ICT
- Strengthening the supply chain by using ICT to improve farmers' access to services
- Integrate Youth into Agriculture –
   Innovation
- Establish E-Learning Platforms in Agriculture Universities



#### **Digitalization of Extension Services in Ethiopia**

#### **Establishment of Extension Resource Centers**

 Provided digital tools and internet access to Local Government agricultural extension services and Agriculture Technical Vocational Education and Training (ATVETs) Centers

#### **Video-mediated extension Learning**

PICO Pocket Projector, and Digital
 Classroom System (DCS) - portable LED
 projector used to train farmers and
 accelerate extension services by
 screening practice videos





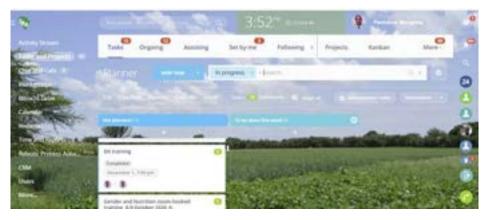


#### Digitalization of Extension Services in Ethiopia

#### **Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform-**

#### **(BITRIX 24)**

 a bidirectional platform that allows information to be transferred remotely between program staff and extension experts



#### **Crop-based Extension and Advisory Services Mobile App**

#### (Maed)

 used to digitalize training materials, provide weather information and market/mechanization advisory services, registration of farm operation and farmer profiles



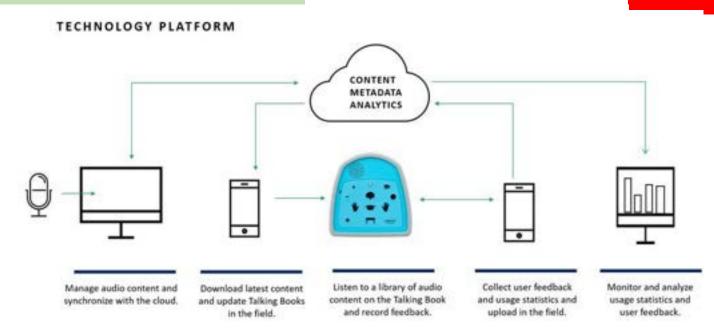
#### Digitalization of Extension Services in Ethiopia

#### **Talking Book (TB)**

 audio-enabled device that can work as a standalone radio.
 Used to directly reach out to low-literate farmers using local languages

#### Radio and TV key spot messaging

 provide farmers and the wider community with basic agricultural innovation information







#### **Digitalization of Extension Services in Uganda**

#### **M-Omulimisa**

 Mobile and web based platform that enables farmer and extension worker engagement to obtain agronomic and market information

#### **Ezy-Agric**

- mobile based app that enables farmers to access inputs, advisory services, loans, farm management, and markets; and analyze profitability
- Provides linkage services





One-stop Shop for All Genuine Agro Inputs and Services.





#### **Digitalization of Extension Services in Uganda**

#### **Akaboxi**

 App that enables farmers to digitally conduct financial transactions (saving and borrowing)

#### **E-Extension Activities**

- Extension agents and farmers trained on the use of the apps
- Farmer groups registered on the digital platforms
- Smart phones distributed to extension workers to ease use of the technologies
- Farmers linked to the markets







#### **Digitalization of Extension Services in Nigeria**

#### **Excellence in Agronomy (EiA) 2030 Use Case**

(in partnership with IITA, AfricaRice, CIMMYT)

- Decision based app/tool to integrate fertilizer recommendations with relevant agronomic advisories
- Site-specific nutrient management primarily intended for extension agents
- Validated for maize (Nutrient Expert), cassava (AKILIMO), and rice (RiceAdvice)
- provides tailored agronomic recommendations and advice on investment prioritization between the three crops

#### **Rural Farmers Hub D4Ag platform**

 enable networking to deliver crop health advice, soil quality, weather information, crop suitability, fertilization map, mechanization and digital financial services to local farmers



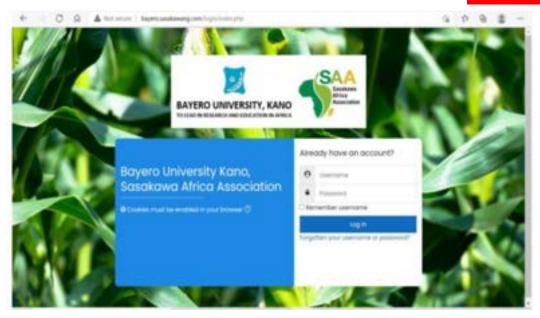




#### **Digitalization of Extension Services in Nigeria**

#### **E-Extension activities**

- Development of on-line training videos
- WhatsApp groups and Facebook Platforms
- DevPro Data-base Management System ebase solution to extension service delivery
- The use of bulk SMS and radio programs
- National farmer help-line (in collaboration with NAERLS) - solutions to farmer questions
- Linkage to Financial Institutions using SABEX
   to promote warrantage system
- Radio Programs promoting technologies, extension models and approaches
- Training of extension agents, CATs, CBFs and farms on the use of e-extension platforms







#### **Development of E-learning platforms in Universities**

 Establishment of Pilot E-learning Centers and web-based platforms at Bahir Dar University in Ethiopia, and University of Segou in Mali

 Development of e-learning programs and modular videos for course delivery

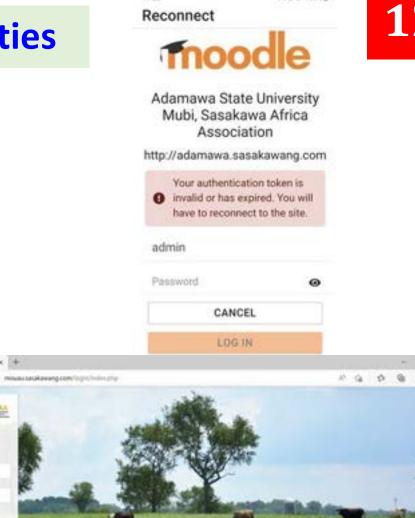
 Training and experience sharing on application of E-learning and production of e-modules

 Expansion of the E-learning platforms to Universities in Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Uganda



#### **Development of E-learning platforms in Universities**

- Learning Management Systems deployed for e-learning and distance learning in Nigeria and Sierra-Leone
- Extension training modules available online on curriculum related to Extension Services in 9 universities in Nigeria, Njala University in Sierra Leone and University of Segou, Mali
- Moodle Mobile apps deployed to disseminate information to value chain actors





Sign In





#### **Challenges**

- Poor network coverage and slow internet connectivity
- Capacity development requirement for farmers and extension agents
- Limited number of e-extension apps and tools

#### **Lessons learned**

- Digital platforms can help reduce the cost of extension delivery at farm level and Universities
- Strengthening E-extension and e-learning has promoted access to more agricultural extension officers and reduced extensionfarmer ratio for effective service delivery





"Walking with the Farmer"





# An example of innovative digital technology on cassava production in Nigeria

Keynote at the side-event of TICAD8 – 26 August 2022

# Locally-relevant agronomy at scale









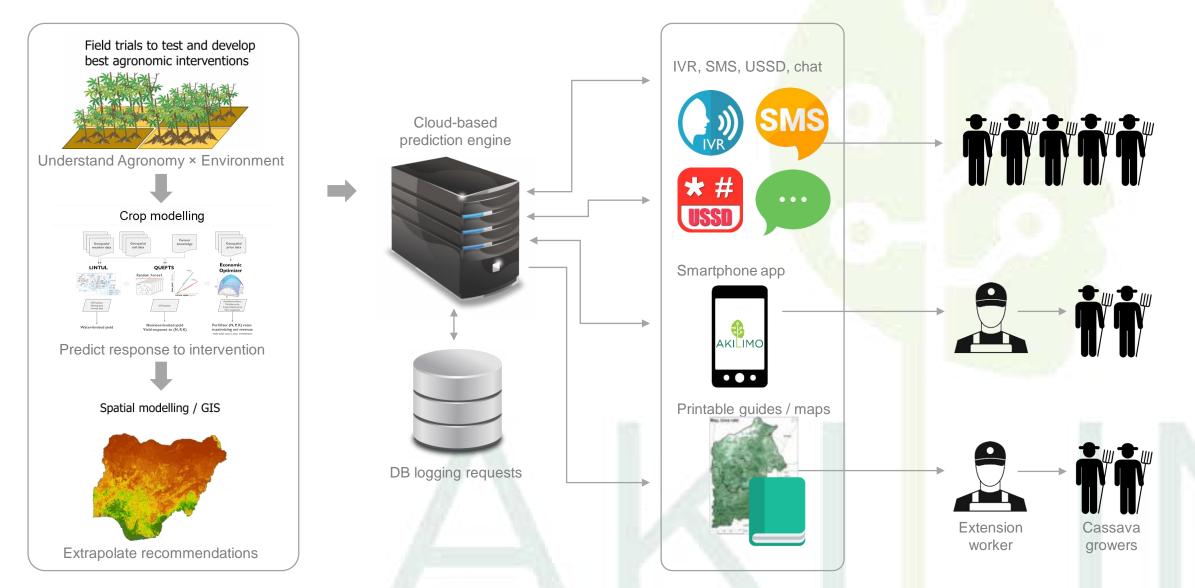
# How can we advise farmers?





# Why tailoring agronomic advice?

## AKILIMO: a digital service to provide tailored agronomic advice



# Agronomic advice from 6 use cases

ACAI works on priority use cases identified by development partners



Fertilizer blends for cassava







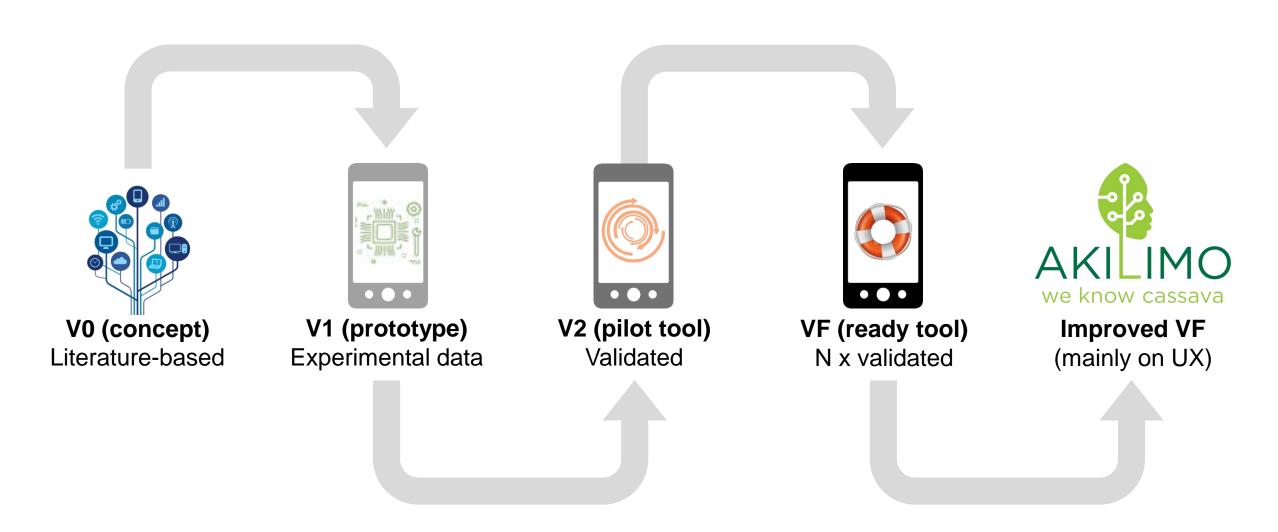
Tailored fertilizer recommendations



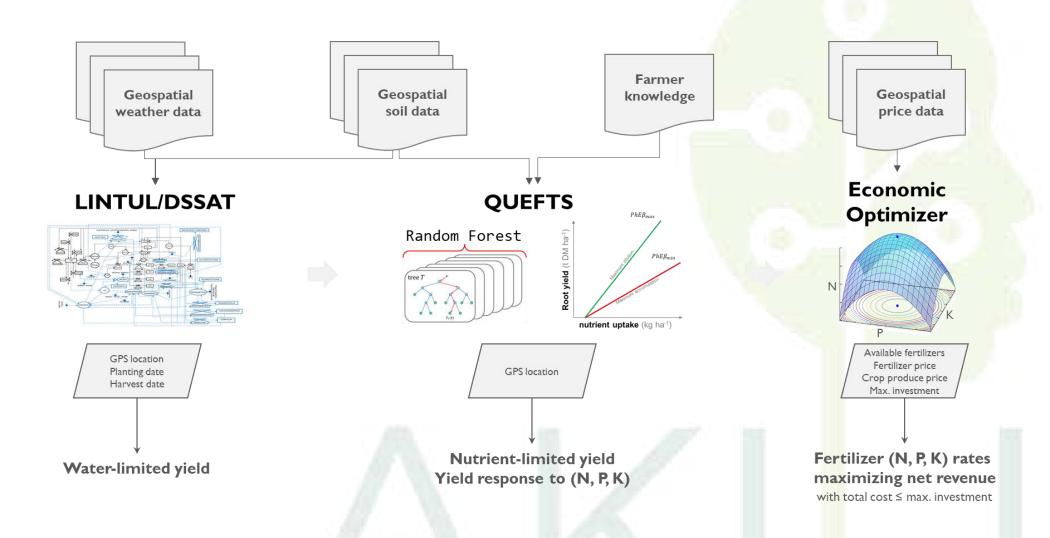
Planting practices incl. tillage and weed control



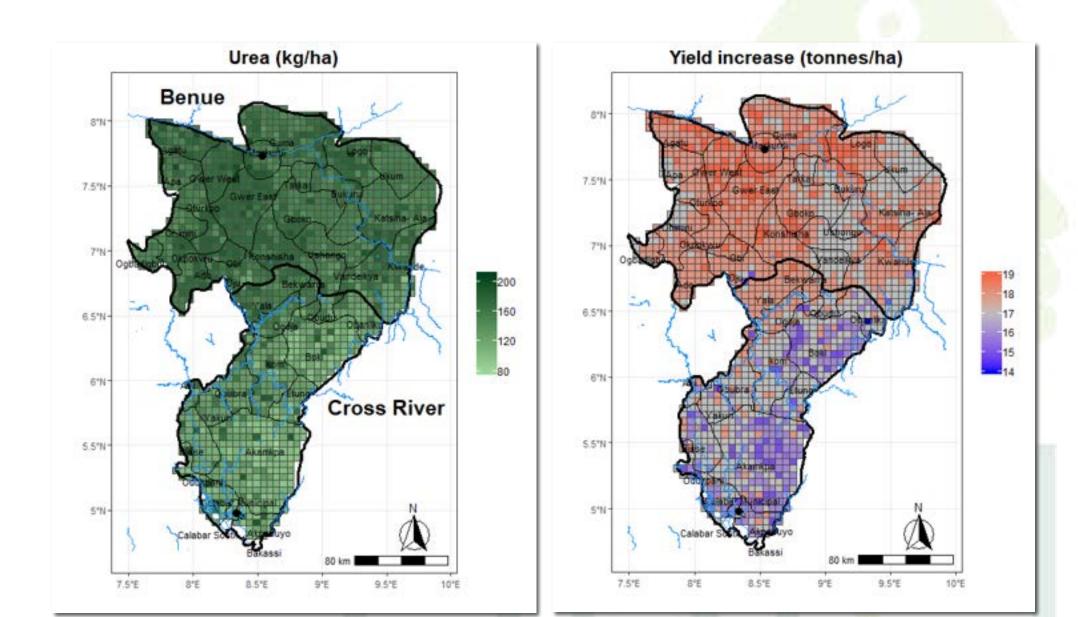
# Stepwise co-creation process



# An example: tailored fertilizer advice



# An example: tailored fertilizer advice

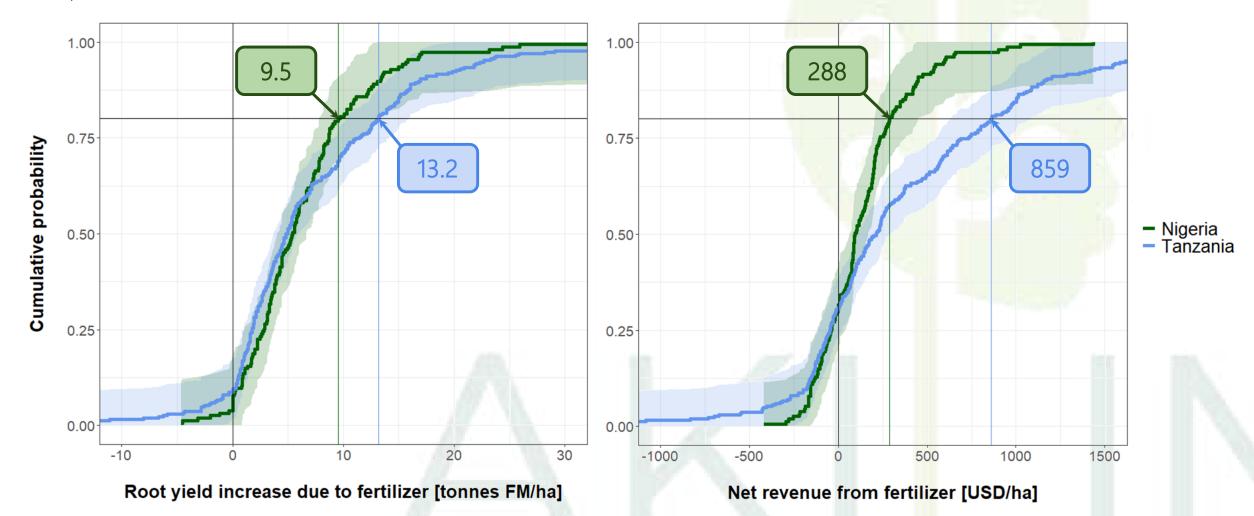


# On-farm validation of recommendations Technical validation of AKILIMO Over 5,000 farmers tested against current practice. Over 75% recorded increases in yield and profit. Only 2% recorded negative impact.

#### Calculation of benefits

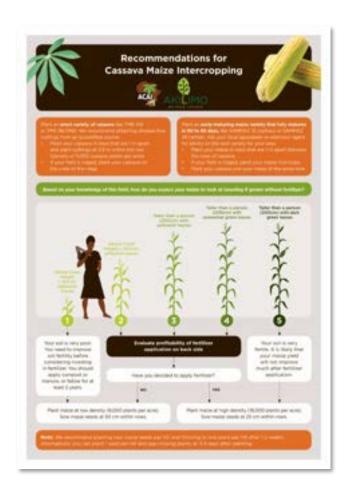
Example: Observed yield and revenue increases in validation exercises for FR use case (season 2)

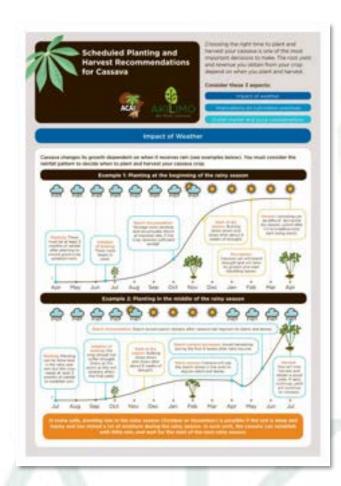
80th percentile is assumed to represent the attainable yield increase ( $\Delta RY_{P80}$ ) or revenue gain ( $\Delta NR_{P80}$ ) if the DST is fully and correctly implemented.

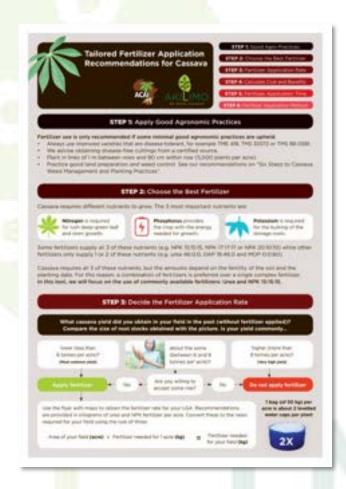




# Printable guides to deliver recommendations







Available in English, Swahili, Yoruba, Ibo, Hausa and Pidgin

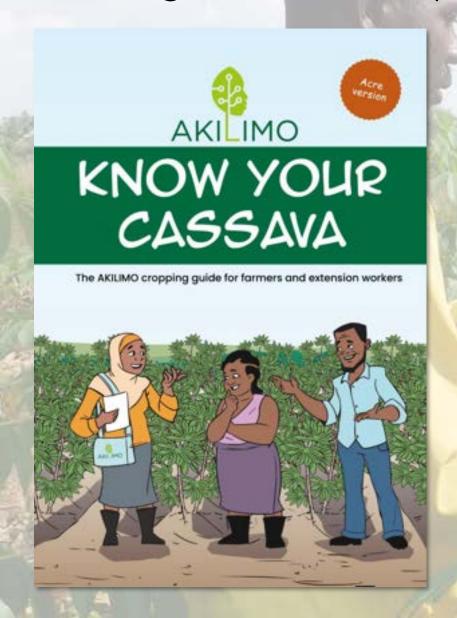
# The AKILIMO app





Available for android on Google Play Store

#### Training materials to support AKILIMO users



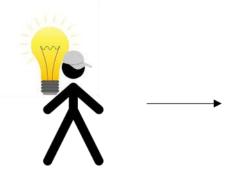


Training and promotion for cassava growers and extension workers

- AKILIMO cropping guide
- Instructional slide decks
- Video series (>80 short videos)
- Farmer-friendly videos
- Hands-on exercises
- Radio guide
- Flyers and banners

#### Learning mechanisms along the impact pathway

# What drives use and uptake?



...gained insights

- Registration of training events
- multiple-choice SMS tests
- Rehearsals and evaluations



...were reached

- Registration of dissemination events
- Subscription for AKILIMO content
- SMS invitation to use digital advisory tools



...continued using the advisory tools

- Structured phone interviews
- Completed learning journeys on logs of digital tools



...changed their farming practices

- Structured phone interviews
- SMS surveys
- In-person interviews by partners



...benefited

- Quantification through validation exercises
- Partner- reported yield benefits
- RCTs

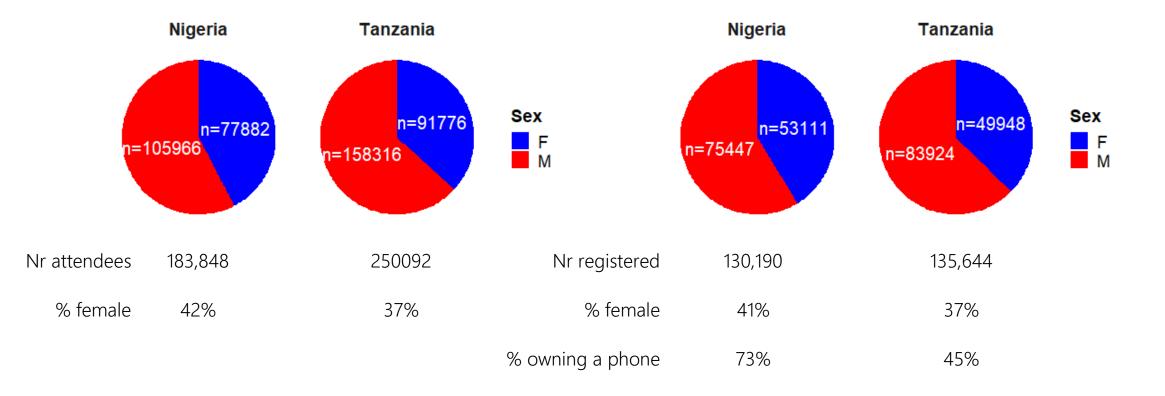
Over 430,000 farmers have been exposed to AKILIMO during partner events. AKILIMO has over 260,000 registered users today.

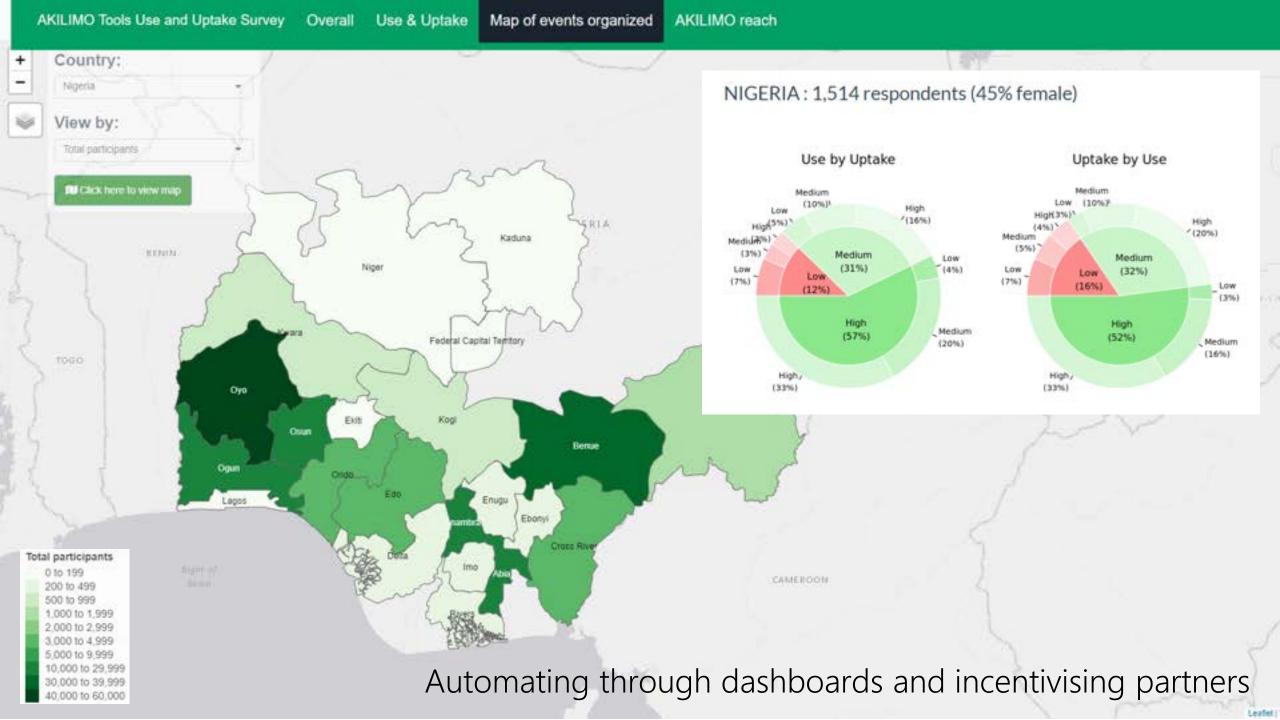
# Reach through prim & sec partner networks

February 2021: overall reach

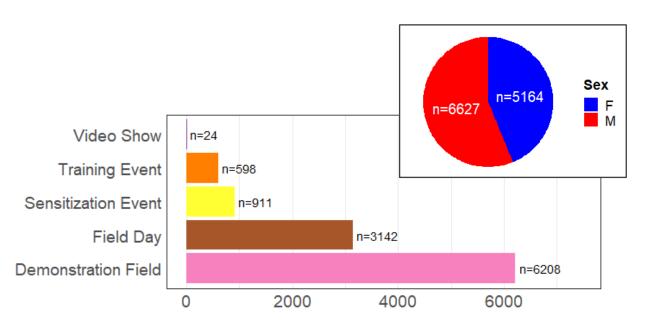
433,940 farmer attendees at partner dissemination events

265,834 unique farmers + EAs registered on participant lists





# Learnings from SG2000 on AKILIMO use and uptake



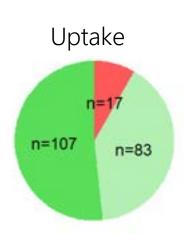
Demo field

N=139

Use

n=38

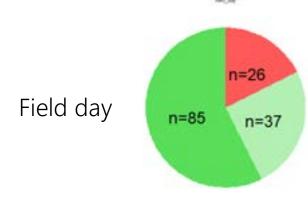
n=30

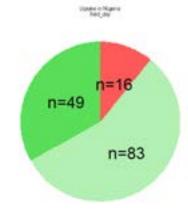


10,883 cassava growers of SG2000 have registered with AKILIMO, of which 47% female. Most farmers are reached through field days and demonstration field activities.

Both demo field and field days result in high use: ~75% of users continue to use the AKILIMO tools after exposure during the dissemination event.

Demo fields are more effective in achieving uptake than field days: more than half of users fully apply recommendations in their farm after exposure during demo fields (versus 30% after exposure during field days).





#### The AKILIMO partnership has >200 active members today





# A success story of a pluralistic agricultural extension model: The One Stop Center Association model in digitally-enabled private service provision









Bbemba Joseph Paschal - Deputy Country Director TICAD8 virtual side-event 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022

SASAKAWA AFRICA ASSOCIATION

#### **Presentation Outline**

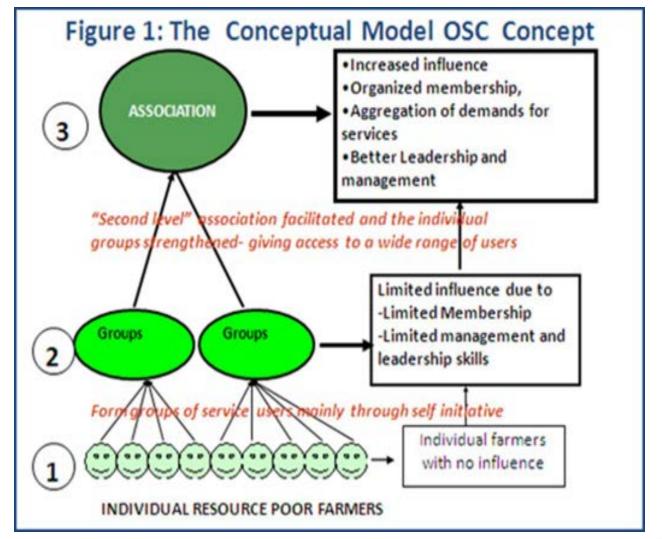
- ✓ Background to the OSCA model
- ✓ Objectives of forming the OSCA
- ✓ A case of Zirobwe Agaali Agribusiness Training Association (ZAABTA)

  OSCA
- ✓ E-extension and digital marketing at ZAABTA
- ✓ Success factors



#### **Background to the OSCA**

- The One Stop Centre (OSC) Concept was initiated to respond to a sustainability concern
- The approach aims at giving rural populations access to agricultural services through farmer owned and farmer managed associations





### **Objectives of forming OSCAs**

- Facilitate capacity building of groups/members on leadership, business mgt & entrepreneurship skills
- ➤ Enable farmers to access demand-driven agricultural value chain development support services
- ➤ Improve the quality of farmers' produce to meet the emerging market demands
- Foster collective action along the value chain (training, credit access, production, bulking & marketing
- Promote the development of income generating activities for the farmers' groups/members







#### **ZAABTA** and services offered

















- Established in 2004, Luweero District
- 4,922 registered farmers (52% F and 48%men), 45% are youth (96FGs)
- Offers services to over 20,000 farmers engaged in upland rice, soybean, maize, beans, & horticulture in 6 districts
- Employees 32 staff, 42 Village agents
- In 2021; bulked & sold 2,800MTs (\$560,000) of maize, 1,200MTs of soybeans (\$1,028,571), 640MTs of Beans (\$365,714) and 1,600MTs (\$1,142,857) of rice
- Soft loans to farmers for production US\$90,000



#### ICT4 Agriculture to enhance e-extension and digital marketing

- SAA has engaged several ICT4 Agriculture companies to enhance e-extension, digital trade and access to financial services
- Several Extension Agents and farmer groups have received smartphones to enable them access extension information, weather updates and market information, garden mapping, profiling....











#### AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN



Youths Agribusiness Support Services along the Agricultural Consumption Retailing **Trading Processing** Trading Agricultural Extension **Transport** Production input supply Post-harvest handling Agri-business training & support **Production** Financial services Input Supply

Market information and intelligence

#### E-extension and digital marketing at ZAABTA

- All members of ZAABTA are digitally profiled using EzyAgric application
- Input stocking and supply are made using the EzyAgric application
- ZAABTA is a member of the Network of producers and exporters of Uganda (NePEU) 37 registered members (28 cooperatives)
- Deals with 67 off-takers in Kenya under the Agro Processors Association of Kenya (APAK)
- Use WhatsApp to transact (orders are shared among members based on capacity)





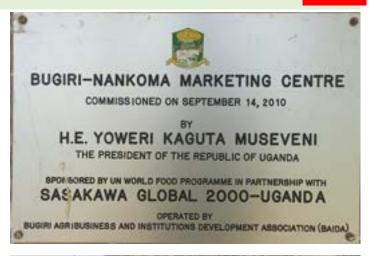
#### E-extension and digital marketing at ZAABTA cont'd

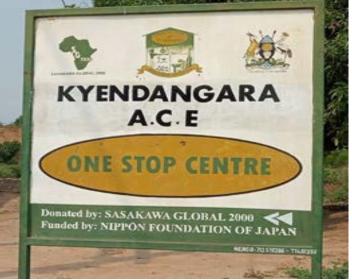
- Negotiation for the price is made between the buyer and the supplier
- Payment is made to the supplier or through the network's bank account
- NePEU works with a platform of transporters from Kenya
- They update NePEU on available trucks that are electronically tracked and engaged based on route and available orders
- NePEU works with clearing agents to ease movement and ensure timely delivery across borders
- No produce has ever been lost



#### **Success factors for OSCA model**

- Leadership
- Partnerships with Government (Central and District Local Government), other development partners and value chain actors for layering of interventions
- Understanding of the business model and value proposition of OSCA
- Membership
- Cooperation among Cooperatives
- Trust among value chain actors







## Thank you vey much





Walking with the Farmer

