



Lives and Livelihoods Fund



KSADP-SAA

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FROM THE PMU

Dear Reader...

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

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

Other key beneficiaries are actors involved in the value chain of agro-pastoralism, namely, agricultural produce

processors, marketers, input suppliers, and financial institutions. The program will directly benefit over 1.26 million people.

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

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

Have a great read...

Ibrahim Garba Muhammad

State Project Coordinator.

Kano Agropastoral Development Project, KSADP.



MD KNARDA and SPC KSADP attended the commissioning of SAA office in Abuja

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KSADP SAA Sorghum demonstration plot in Janruwa Community Bagwai LGA

KSADP/SAA HOLDS 61 FARMERS' FIELD DAYS IN 44 LGAS IN KANO TO SHOWCASE IMPROVED CROPPING TECHNIQUES

The Kano State Agropastoral Development Project (KSADP) has kicked off the hosting of 61 mega and mini field days in the 44 Local Government Areas of Kano state, to expose farmers to the latest techniques and technologies in maize, rice, sorghum, and millet farming. The Mega Field Days which include green and brown field days, are some of the several avenues farmers experience and appreciate the results of the improved farming techniques and technologies being promoted by the KSADP.

The KSADP, funded by the Kano State Government, through the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and Lives and Livelihoods Funds (LLF), aims to impact 450,000 direct smallholder farmers across the 44 local government areas of the Kano state. The crop value chain component of the project is being implemented by the Sasakawa Africa

Speaking at the kickoff event in the Buri community,

Tudun Wada Local Government, SAA Country Director Dr. Godwin Atser, described farmers' field days as veritable platforms for farmers to learn about new technologies and farming practices, share their experiences with each other, and interact with agricultural experts.

He said: "We are excited to be hosting these events in Buri community, Tudun Wada LGA, and we hope that they will help to transform agriculture in the community and beyond. The Mega Brown Field Days we are organising offer unique opportunities for farmers to experience the benefits of sustainable agricultural practices on a large scale. This will help farmers to improve their productivity and income and reduce the environmental impact of their activities since they are also being introduced to climate-smart agricultural practices".

Mr Aminu Kunya, on whose farm the event was held, said he was glad to offer his farm to host the maize demonstration plot which served as a learning platform for farmers in the

Buri community. “I’m impressed with what I’ve seen with the OPV maize variety on the farm,” said Mr Kunya. “I’ve learned a lot about new agricultural practices that can help me to improve my yields and reduce my costs. I’m especially interested in the demonstrations on sustainable land management and climate-smart agriculture.”

**“The Mega Brown Field Days we are organising offers unique opportunities for farmers to experience the benefits of sustainable agricultural practices”
-GODWIN ATSER**



KSADP beneficiary at the mega field day

FARMERS RELISH 100% MAIZE AND RICE YIELD INCREASE FROM KSADP/SAA DEMO PLOTS

Yield data from the recently harvested KSADP/SAA maize and rice demonstration plots have shown a 100% increase in yield per hectare compared to the numbers farmers in the host communities were used to. The project recently harvested some of the demonstration plots and community-based seed multiplication plots it established across the state, releasing yield data that accentuate the benefits of regenerative agriculture and the use of improved seeds.

Yield analysis results released by the Regenerative Agriculture team of the project showed that the maize demonstration plots produced an average yield of 4.4

tons per hectare as against the two tons per hectare farmers in the area were used to. The rice yields recorded 5.6 tons per hectare, more than 2 tons from what the farmers usually recorded.

“The essence of the demonstration plots was to let farmers know that they can do far more than they were getting if they adopt the sustainable agricultural practices we are promoting,” said Albert Taru, the KSADP/SAA Program Officer for Regenerative Agriculture. “The results have shown that GAP and improved seeds are key for improved yield”

“There is also increased adoption of technologies showcased such as strip cropping in cereals and legumes, line transplanting of rice within 14 days of sowing the seeds in nursery beds, efficient use and timely application of fertilizer, application of Urea Super Granules USG in maize and rice, and relay cropping”.

- ALBERT TARU

Taru explained that while the demo plots were dedicated to promoting good agronomic practices and regenerative practices like strip cropping and legume intercropping, the project also collaborated with seed companies to establish community-based seed multiplication plots to help diffuse improved varieties of seeds in and around the communities.

“The harvest results from the CBSM fields were also impressive. We had 3.9 tons per hectare for maize and 4.9 tons for rice. The plots are majorly for seed production but the yields still surpassed the usual average. I’m glad that farmers can now see that good yield comes from good agronomic practices, fertile soil, correct application of inputs, and use of improved varieties of seeds”.

The project has established 1,216 demos and 346

CBSM plots across the 44 LGAs which are boasting successes like better crop performance, yield increase, and reduced need for input. Demos harvested include 395 plots of maize in strip cropping with soybeans and 170 plots of millet in strip cropping with groundnut. CBSM plots harvested include 123 plots of maize and 64 plots of millet.

According to Taru, “there is also increased adoption of technologies showcased such as strip cropping in cereals and legumes, line transplanting of rice within 14 days of sowing the seeds in nursery beds, efficient use and timely application of fertilizer, application of Urea Super Granules-USG in maize and rice, and relay cropping”.

Farmers in most communities were also trained on some of the proven technologies showcased in the demos.



KSADP Farmers display bumper harvest of OPV Maize during KSADP Farmers field day in Kano



KSADP SAA Maize CBSM Demo harvest and threshing in Bichi community



Ado Yau, a young sorghum farmer in Ranawa village, Gezawa LGA, Kano

YOUTH FARMER BATTLES ERRATIC RAINFALL WITH DROUGHT-RESISTANT CROPS

Erratic rainfall, with periods of severe drought and sudden downpours, is disrupting traditional farming practices and lead to significant declines in crop yields in Ranawa village, a small farming community in Gezawa Local Government Area of Kano State. Ado Yau, is a young farmer in the community. His once-thriving sorghum fields struggled to survive the prolonged dry spells, resulting in meagre harvests and financial hardship.

Yau however found a solution through the crop value chain intervention of the Kano Agropastoral Development Project (KSADP) implemented by the Sasakawa Africa Association. The project is empowering farmers with climate-smart agriculture practices. Through the intervention, Yau gained valuable knowledge about drought-resistant, early-maturing crop varieties, such as sorghum and millet, specifically chosen for their ability to withstand harsh environmental conditions.

Yau learned about drought-resistant crops, and replaced his traditional sorghum varieties with drought-resistant cultivars. The results were remarkable. The resilient sorghum crops thrived, producing yields that exceeded his expectations. His harvest increased by up to 40 bundles on his one hectare field.

“I was amazed at how well the sorghum grew, even during the dry periods,” he said. “My harvest was much better and earlier than I had ever expected.”

Yau’s success story has inspired other farmers in Gezawa to embrace drought-resistant crops, leading to a collective improvement in agricultural productivity and a decline in food insecurity. Together, they demonstrate the resilience of farming communities in climate change, proving that adaptation and innovation are essential to sustainable agriculture.

WOMAN RECORDS BUMPER HARVEST AFTER ADOPTING IPM ON RICE FARM



Mrs Laraba Muhammad

Like many farmers in her village in Kura community, Kano state, Mrs Laraba Muhammad, was grappling with pest infestations that ravaged her rice fields and other crops, causing significant financial losses and threatening her livelihood. The traditional pest control methods she relied on, depended heavily on chemical pesticides and still proved ineffective amid concerns about environmental contamination, the development of pesticide-resistant pests, and potential health hazards for both farmers and consumers.

“I was losing so much of my rice to pests,” Laraba recalled. “I was using more and more pesticides, but nothing seemed to work.”

Seeking a more sustainable and effective approach to pest control, Laraba sought assistance from the Kano State Agropastoral Development Project (KSADP) funded by the Islamic Development Funds IsDB and the Lives and Livelihood Funds, LLF. Through the KSADP’s training on

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, conducted by Sasakawa Africa Association SAA, Laraba gained insights into a holistic approach that combines various pest control techniques to control pests with minimal environmental impact.

After the training, Laraba implemented the strategies, regularly monitoring her crops to identify potential pest infestations early on. She utilized natural pest control methods, resorting to targeted pesticide applications when necessary, with the use of only the least toxic and environmentally friendly options such as Neem Extract.

“The results were amazing”, she said. “Pest infestations reduced significantly giving room for healthier crops with high yields. My yields have increased from 15 to 38 bags this farming season, so I am indeed grateful to KSADP”.

As more farmers adopt IPM practices, the collective impact on crop health, environmental protection, and farmer livelihoods is becoming increasingly evident.



Inside the parabolic solar dryer

TOMATO FARMERS GET 3 PARABOLIC SOLAR DRYERS TO MITIGATE POSTHARVEST LOSSES IN KANO

A group of vegetable farmers in Kano State are significantly improving their postharvest handling of tomatoes and other vegetables, thanks to the parabolic solar dryers installed for them by the KSADP/SAA project. The facilities are being installed in three local government areas in the state - Bagwai, Makoda, and Garum Mallam LGAs.

The parabolic solar dryer of one metric ton capacity each is a system that uses solar power to dry agricultural products such as vegetables, grains, etc. The system consists of a parabolic reflector that generates high temperatures by concentrating sunlight onto a drying chamber to speed up the drying process. The parabolic solar dryer reduces drying time, cuts down post-harvest losses, and offers an effective and eco-friendly solution for the drying and preservation of agricultural produce.

The parabolic dryer dries tomatoes and other related vegetables effectively within three days instead of the usual seven days the traditional methods take. In addition to efficiency, the technology extends the shelf life of tomatoes, maintains the original colour, and retains the

quality and nutritional value of the vegetables

“The traditional method of drying tomatoes on bare sand has not been helpful to farmers, neither has it been good for the produce,” said the KSADP/SAA Project Coordinator, Abdulrasheed Hamisu Kofarmata. “Those traditional methods lead to loss of nutritional value and loss of produce due to spoilage and contamination.”

According to Kofarmata, the parabolic dryers are being installed in communities where tomato production and marketing are done at a large scale.



Parabolic solar dryer installed in Dan Dabino market, Bagwai LGA Kano State



Inside the building housing the artificially aerated onion storage technology in Bagwai, LGA, Kano State

KSADP/SAA INSTALLS 20 ADDITIONAL UNITS OF AERATED ONION STORAGE FACILITIES TO COMBAT POSTHARVEST LOSSES IN KANO

As part of efforts to mitigate the postharvest losses being recorded by onion farmers in Kano state, the Kano State Agro-pastoral Development Project (KSADP), through Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA), has installed 20 additional units of the Aerated Onion Storage Technology (AOST) facilities with 5 metric tons capacity each. The facilities were installed in October through November in six major onion markets in the state. The communities where the facilities were installed according to the number of farmers in the beneficiary groups, are: Darki in Wudil LGA (4 units), Karfi in Kura LGA (6 units), Kwanar Dongora in Kiru LGA (4 units) and Badume community, Bichi LGA (3 units). The system is helping onion farmers and distributors reduce storage losses while maintaining a higher quality of onions.

The AOST offers a simple yet effective way to preserve onions for an extended period without compromising quality. The technology works by preventing excess moisture and promoting proper air circulation around the stored produce.

The KSADP/SAA Project Coordinator, Abdurashed

Hamisu Kofarmata, said the traditional storage methods most farmers use result in substantial losses, with Kano experiencing approximately 40% loss of onions after harvest. His words: "The issue of postharvest losses in the onion value chain is giving farmers a lot of sleepless nights. So, through the KSADP and the SAA Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture pillar, we decided to make the technology available to farmers through the major onion marketers/dealers' associations in the state. So, we're installing these equipment across five different communities."



Onion farmers using the artificially aerated onion storage technology in Bagwai, LGA, Kano State



Kabiru Yusuf, maize farmer in Kutama community, Kano state

FARMER BOOSTS YIELD BY ADOPTING CONSERVATION TILLAGE

Farmer Kabiru Yusuf, from the Kutama community in Kano state, grappled with the deteriorating health of his farmlands due to prolonged droughts and years of excessive tillage practices. The once-fertile soils became compacted and depleted of nutrients, reducing crop yields and increasing susceptibility to pests and diseases.

Seeking solutions to revitalize his farm, Yusuf turned to the Kano State Agropastoral Development Project (KSADP), which provides training and support for climate-smart agriculture to farmers in the community to mitigate the effects of climate change on crop production. Through KSADP training conducted by the Sasakawa Africa Association, Yusuf discovered minimum tillage, a sustainable practice that minimizes soil disturbance and promotes soil health restoration.

“The soil on my farm was so depleted that it could barely support any crops,” Yusuf recalled. “I was afraid that I would lose my farm altogether and not be able to care for my family.”

After learning about minimum tillage from the project, Yusuf decided to try it. The results were immediate and dramatic. “The soil is now healthier than ever, and I got 35 bags of maize compared to the 15 Bags I harvested the previous year on my 0.5 h/a plot.”

Minimum tillage involves leaving crop residues on the soil surface after harvest, rather than tilling the land, which helps to protect the soil from erosion, retain soil moisture, and enhance soil organic matter content. Soil organic matter is essential for soil fertility, providing crop nutrients, improving soil structure, and increasing water retention capacity.

Embracing conservation tillage, Yusuf drastically reduced the number of times he tilled his land, saving pre-planting costs by over 50% and allowing crop residues to remain on the surface. This protective layer helped retain soil moisture, suppressed weeds, and enhanced soil organic matter content.

Within a single season, the results were evident. Yusuf’s crops flourished, with improved germination rates, more robust root systems, and increased resistance to pests and diseases. His harvest yields soared and greatly surpassed his expectations.

“Practicing minimum tillage helped me save money for land cultivation: I acquired another piece of land from the savings to cultivate Millet; I got five bags from there too,” Yusuf revealed.

PHOTO NEWS



KNARDA MD and other dignitaries at the opening of SAA office in Abuja



KNARDA MD SPC Mohammed Garba and KSADP Beneficiaries during the KSADP side event at AAEW 2023 in Abuja



The KSADP/SAA Project coordinator, Abdurasheed Hamisu Kmata, presents farm equipment to farmers



A beneficiary of the input stockist empowerment by KSADP/SAA



Abdullahi Adamu Dan Gwani Bichi Maize CBSM host farmer



KSADP officials inspect the parabolic solar dryer installed for farmers in Bagwai LGA, Kano State.

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

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