

# Nigeria: Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in the Savanna Zones of Northern Nigeria

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# COVID-19 status and implications for projects efforts

- No travel sanctions imposed in Nigeria during this reporting year
- Implementation of activities continued under careful observations of Covid-19 protocols
- Remote & Physical monitoring and mentoring have been carried out continuously through out the reporting period
- At national and state levels, meetings, workshops, and all capacity building activities have been executed in compliance with protocols.
- Covid-19 restricted international technical support physically to the project, for example UNEP could not come to Nigeria to establishing & Train multi-stakeholder advocacy platform.





## Project Highlights June 2020 - August 2021

1. Trained farmers on Erosion Control. Total beneficiaries = 5,320 (M=3213, F=2,107)
2. Trained Farmers on Agroforestry. Total beneficiaries = 8,241 (M=5798, F=2,443)
3. Trained Farmers on Community Suitable Crops and Sustainable Agricultural Practices. Total beneficiaries = 8,368 (M=4,014, F=4,354)
4. Trained beneficiaries on Group Dynamics and Farmers Cooperative Management. Total beneficiaries = 3,900 (F= 2,382 , F= 1,518)
5. Trained farmers on Aflatoxin Management Technology. Total beneficiaries = 4,170 (M= 2,164 , F= 2,006 )
6. Trained beneficiaries on Good Agronomic Practices. Total beneficiaries = 3,058 (M= 1,565 , F= 1,493 )
7. Trained beneficiaries on Compost Making. Total beneficiaries = 3,941 (M= 1,925 ,F= 2,016 )



Pouvoir  
Full Display 4 Days Standby



## Project Highlights June 2020 - August 2021

8. Trained beneficiaries on Food Demonstration to improve Family Nutrition especially for Pregnant Women and Children under age 5. Total beneficiaries =719 (M=48 , F=671 )

9. Additional Jobs Created in the area of :

- a) Beekeeping 1,307 (M= 788 , F=519)
- b) Ram Fattening 323 (M= 311, F= 12)
- c) Goat Dairy/Production 349 (M=0, F=349)
- d) Seed Multiplication = 1,748 (M= 1,102 , F=646)
- e) Agro-input dealing 318 (M=275 , F=43)

10. Trained Extension Agents on Rice Advice and Weed Manager. Total beneficiaries = 77 (M=46, F=32)

11. Farmers benefited from “Farm Advisory Services”. Total beneficiaries = 6,114 (M= 3,235, F= 2,879)

12. Farmers benefited from improved farm inputs such as improved seeds, Aflasafe etc. Total beneficiaries = 20, 123 farmers (M = 11,230, F= 8,893)

## Project Highlights June 2020 - August 2021

13. Up to 25,348 seedlings of 16 different species of economic trees were distributed to interested farmers to plant in their farmlands.

14. As many as 14.47291 hectares of eroded land have been reclaimed from soil erosion in farmers plots.

15. Project beneficiaries have got an average increase of 18.56 % in crop production across rice, groundnuts, cassava, maize, sorghum.

16. The project recorded 23.9% (10,038 farmers) adoption of new production and post-harvest technology such as:

- a) Use of Aflasafe as bio-pesticide
- b) Use of inoculant in soya beans for nitrogen fixation
- c) Earth and stone bunding in steeply farmlands
- d) Micro dosing of inorganic fertilizer with organic manure
- e) Use of treadle pumps to control water in the farmlands

17. Beneficiaries trained on Waste to wealth 77 (M=46, F=32)



## Project Highlights June 2020 - August 2021

17. The project reviewed and harmonized national policies on food and nutrition security into one document that contains National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP), and National System for Food and Nutrition Security (NSFNS) which was integrated into National Sustainable Food Security Resilience Framework (NSFSRF) with an implementation action plan.

18. Established one national and seven states' multi-stakeholder, gender-sensitive and inclusive (men, women, youth, civil society.)

19. As many as 216,869.4 hectares of land have been recorded as observing gender sensitive and integrated sustainable land and water management and climate smart agricultural practices.

20. The project signed a contract with seed value company and two of the project states on buy back arrangement for rice and maize i.e (Contract farming)



## Project approach and accomplishments related to gender/youth transformation and mainstreaming

The project by design targets only women and youths as the direct beneficiaries which means that every project activities that beneficiaries participate are women 33% while youth( Male=50%, Female=50%) take 67%. Logically and in general, males participate at 33.5% while females participate at 66.5%

Another approach the project uses is that, some activities are exclusively for female participants with some support of males. These activities include beekeeping, goat dairy, food demonstration, rice and groundnut processing and so on.

Regarding the accomplishment so far, a total number of 38,901 women benefited from both on-farm and off-farm livelihood activities.

Significant increase in women turnout is recorded due to awareness and increase in their economic life

Significant improvement in the wellbeing of the women beneficiary, this leads to great change in the nutritional status of their children.

✓ Many women are now acquiring/purchasing / increasing their farm lands due to series of benefits provided by the project. They are now bold to take on crop production alongside men especially in the case of rice production.

Women now have income of their own and are paying school fees and taking up financial roles in supporting in their families

Women now contest for post in their mix cooperative groups now and participate in decision making during community meeting



# Challenges faced and how they were addressed

The main challenge faced by the project in this reporting year is the sad news that non of the co-financing from both the federal government and the participating states has been paid to date.

In addressing this challenge, the state ADPs staff have been used for lobbying towards getting the fund. To this end, some few states have given approval and awaiting release.

# Most important lessons learned from the project

1. Beneficiaries are happier with project activities that come with short term results-manifestation than those with long term. For example, they prefer erosion control activity which its result can be seen in the following year than abstinence from deforestation which its impact takes years.
2. Government civil servants attached to the project tend to learn and accumulate new knowledge and gather experience quicker through project execution than through normal daily working career in their government offices.
3. Beneficiaries just need some reinforcement and motivation on sense of ownership to produce result. For example, a mere training and verbal encouragement without any material support made many of the beneficiaries adopted a technology on production and utilization of compost manure in their farmlands.

## What part of your project would you want to feature as a case study for RFS to inspire others?

Beekeeping being the most successful of all the off-farm activities has a total of 1,307 (Male=519, Female=788) persons with up to 5,200 hectares of land used for pollination through beekeeping practice (where bees fly from their hives to look for nectar and pollinate vegetation cover along its way). So far, one harvest has been completed in Benue state with an estimated 546 liters (worth \$ 1,997) of honey collected from 70 hives at 52 locations across 10 different project communities.

Following the above success there is a paradigm shift of this activity as it changes from individual ownership to family businesses, where the whole household is considering it as additional means of livelihood for coping mechanism. The individual family members are assigned responsibility accordingly from production to harvest of the honey.

The project is viewing potential of beekeeping business in participating communities to become their main and common livelihood.



# Planned activities 2022

The year 2022 being the closure phase of the project, the main activities to be carried out are:

1. Conduct of sustainability analysis through dip stick assessment to ascertain the potentials of the project activities to be sustained after the closure of the project.
2. Series of evaluations on different component and aspect that project covers to make technical judgements.
3. Conduct of end line survey to compare the successes attained with the benchmark values that were obtained during the baseline survey at inception phase of the project.

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