# WOFAN Newsletter.

VOL 1, Q1/Q2. Nov 2022-April 2023



Dear friends and partners,

It brings me great pleasure to present to you our newsletter for Q1 and Q2, 2023. In this edition, we will share with you how our collaboration with the Mastercard Foundation is making a significant impact on the lives of farmers in Nigeria. In the first quarter, we trained more than 600 extension workers in ten states in northern Nigeria to provide support to smallholder farmers. Our efforts resulted in 225,000 young farmers and processors across ten northern states receiving inputs for dry season production. In spite of a flood in Jigawa state, WOFAN women demonstrated resilience. WOFAN Bagauda branch commissioned a borehole to enhance access to safe drinking water. WOFAN also marked International Women's Day with a DigitAll training on innovation and technology for gender equality. WOFAN also conducted group formation and leadership training to equip the extension workers with the skills and knowledge required to establish and lead effective farmer groups in their respective communities. In Q2, we trained and provided extension workers with the necessary tools to utilize ICT-led agricultural applications to enhance agricultural productivity.

We are proud to report the progress and successes achieved. We remain committed to empowering smallholder farmers, particularly women and youth, to improve their livelihoods and enhance food security in Nigeria. We appreciate the support and partnership of the Mastercard Foundation and all our stakeholders who have contributed to the achievement of our goals. As we look to the remaining half of the year, we are optimistic about the prospects for further progress and impact. Thank you for your continued support.

**Hajia Salamatu Garba**
Founder/Executive Director, WOFAN

## WOFAN trains 600 Extension Workers on the use of ICT to enhance data capturing, agricultural productivity, and linkages to market.



To enable farmers carry out accurate input distribution, improve the accuracy of data related to farmlands through geo-mapping, creating a group of well-trained advisors to support farmers, and enabling WOFAN to efficiently measure and evaluate their projects in real-time, WOFAN trained over 600 extension workers over a 13-day period to acquire skills necessary to effectively use the Comcare Mobile Application. The Commcare app was designed to track and manage the implementation of WOFAN's project efforts among the farmers in their respective regions, which would in turn help the management make informed decisions.

The success of this training event has already begun to foster stronger relationships between extension workers and farmers, leading to more productive and sustainable agricultural practices. With these positive outcomes, we are confident that the ICON2 project will continue to support the growth and development of smallholder farmers in Nigeria.




## WOFAN and Bagauda Community Collaborate to Restore Access to Safe Drinking Water

To address the issue of inadequate access to safe drinking water in the Bagauda community of Kano state, WOFAN partnered with local women from the community to restore a school borehole that had been non-functional for years. The project was a success as it not only provided water for the school but also for community members who had been struggling to access clean water for domestic use. Through skills acquired from WOFAN's capacity building sessions, the women's groups were able to raise funds and execute the project. This borehole rehabilitation initiative is an inspiration to other communities facing similar challenges. Thanks to their hard work and determination, children no longer have to trek for long distances to fetch water from neighboring communities, and community members can access safe drinking water once more. This project is a testament to the power of grassroots initiatives and community-driven solutions, and WOFAN Bagauda's borehole serves as an example of the positive impact such initiatives can have on communities.

## WOFAN Celebrates International Women's Day with "Queens of WOFAN" and DigitAll Training

March is a special month for women globally, and WOFAN ensured to commemorate International Women's Day in grand style! We recognized the exceptional "queens of WOFAN" who have exhibited remarkable resilience in the face of adversity, in alignment with the Embrace Equity theme. These women are leading the charge for gender equality in their respective communities and serve as a source of inspiration to many.

To culminate the celebrations, a "DigitAll" training session was conducted in Barnawa, Kaduna, which focused on innovation and technology for gender equality, specifically digital marketing for women farmers. The training aimed to equip women farmers with the skills and knowledge necessary to leverage digital marketing tools to expand their businesses, develop their brand, and broaden their market reach.

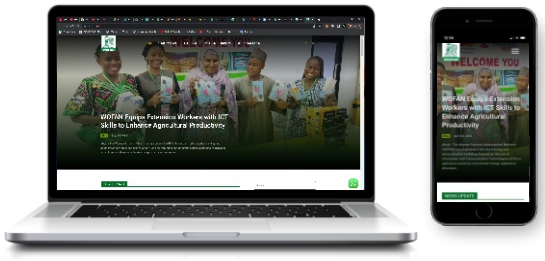
The training was highly successful, with participants expressing their satisfaction and gratitude for the opportunity to learn and grow.




## Empowering Young Farmers and Processors for Dry Season Production




WOFAN empowered young smallholder farmers and processors in 10 Northern states, preparing them for the dry season production in 2023. With the ICON2 Project, WOFAN distributed farm inputs, including improved seeds and processing tools, to 225,000 young farmers and processors. This initiative aimed to create employment opportunities and improve employability for youth in the agricultural sector. During the project, WOFAN provided training and capacity building for the young farmers and processors to ensure they could effectively utilize the distributed inputs and tools. The project resulted in increased agricultural productivity and income generation, creating a positive impact on the livelihoods of the young farmers and processors and contributing to the development of the agricultural sector in Northern Nigeria.




## WOFAN Launches New User-Friendly Website

We are excited to announce the successful launch of our new website, www.wofan.org. Our website was designed with our users in mind, providing them with a seamless experience and making it easier than ever to access information about our organization and the sustainable agriculture initiatives we undertake in Nigeria to empower women farmers. The website boasts of a modern, user-friendly design with easily navigable menus that enable visitors to quickly find the information they need. With our new website, visitors can learn more about our mission and vision, explore our programs and initiatives, and stay up-to-date with the latest news and events. We welcome everyone to visit our website and explore all the exciting features for themselves.




## Providing Dignified Working Conditions for Underprivileged and People with Disabilities

WOFAN is committed to creating an enabling and dignified environment for underprivileged individuals and people living with disabilities to carry out their daily vocations and generate income. As part of our outreach program, we distributed more than 2000 marketing canopies to provide shade for food vendors and other low-income earners who rely on their daily earnings to make ends meet, despite the harsh weather conditions. These canopies will provide much-needed relief from the scorching sun and heavy rain, allowing individuals to continue their work without being subjected to extreme weather conditions. This initiative is part of WOFAN's broader efforts to support vulnerable communities and promote sustainable livelihoods. By providing these canopies, WOFAN aims to empower individuals and help them build resilience in the face of challenging circumstances, enabling them to work with dignity and pride.

## WOFAN equips Extension Workers with ICT Skills to Enhance Agricultural Productivity

In April, we organized a training and demonstration workshop on the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in agriculture practices and climate change adaptation. Participants from FCT, Nasarawa, Benue, Southern Kaduna, and Adamawa states were trained on the use of various ICT-led agricultural applications, including Survey123, the RiceAdvice app, and moisture meters. The event aimed to equip Extension Workers with skills required for GIS mapping and to understand the framework of the software for effective mapping of cooperative farms in the WOFAN-ICON 2 project. The training successfully equipped extension workers with essential skills to effectively use ICT-led agricultural applications and devices, enabling them to communicate these technologies to farmers in their respective communities.









## Special Feature: Celebrating the resilience of women farmers in Jigawa state

Following devastating floods that destroyed farms and businesses in Jigawa state, many may have thought it was the end of the road. However, for WOFAN women in Jigawa State, this wasn't the case. These exceptional women showed extraordinary resilience and determination by not only continuing their income-generating activities but also sharing their profits with their families and communities. Despite losing a lot, many of these women refused to give up. They opted for innovative solutions such as underground water and irrigation to cultivate a range of crops, including vegetables, wheat, maize, and early-maturing cowpea. These incredible efforts helped the women to recover and inspired their communities to join in rebuilding. The WOFAN women of Jigawa State are a shining example of humanity's unyielding spirit in the face of adversity. Their story serves as a reminder that no matter what life throws our way, we can always find a way to rise above it and emerge stronger.




### Don't miss a beat!

Stay connected to our radio broadcast Mu Rungumi Noman Zamani ( Let's embrace modern farming) every Saturday 10.00am - 10.30am on Freedom Radio 99.5 Kano

Also catch up on every episode on **Spotify.**

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