WOFAN ICON2

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WOFAN ICON-2

WOMEN FARMERS ADVANCEMENT NETWORK

Newsletter

Y3 (VOL 5) Q4, NOVEMBER 2024 - JANUARY 2025

Strengthening Communities, Creating Opportunities

As we progressed through another impactful quarter, the WOFAN-ICON2 Project continued to drive transformation across communities, fostering resilience, empowerment, and progress. This edition brings inspiring stories of triumph, collaboration, and innovation—highlighting the tangible impact of our collective efforts.

From the remarkable success of Bauchi PWD Special Education School students in seizing new opportunities through the ICON2 Project to the adoption of produce standardization by community partners, each milestone reflects the unwavering commitment to sustainable growth. Our cooperatives are scaling up with dry season farming inputs, reinvesting grants to expand their agricultural ventures, and contributing to the nation's food security.

We also celebrate powerful success stories—Aliyu's journey of restored hope, the transformational strides of WOFAN women in Gombe, and the courage of Ikara women rising to new heights. As we reflect on our progress, we also set the stage for the future, with strategic planning for Year 3 activities, the onboarding of new extension workers and facilitators, and continued investments in value addition through the WOFAN Gargai Processing Center.

This edition is more than a report; it is a testament to the power of resilience, partnership, and vision. Together, we are not just witnessing change—we are shaping it.



Hajia Dr.
Salamatu Garba

Founder/ Executive Director
Women Farmers Advancement Network- WOFAN
Country Director, WOFAN-ICON2 Project



WOFAN-ICON2 Input distribution to Farmers

WOFAN ICON2 Project Overview

WOFAN ICON2 (Integrated Community-led Network) is a flagship project funded by the **Mastercard Foundation**, designed to empower smallholder farmers, especially women and youth, by enhancing agricultural productivity, financial inclusion, and market access. The initiative aligns with WOFAN's mission to strengthen rural economies and improve livelihoods through capacity building, technology adoption, and sustainable farming practices.

The Integrated Community-led Network of Hope Scale-up (ICON2) Project is a five-year initiative designed to create sustainable and decent employment opportunities for young Nigerians between the ages of 18 and 35. As part of the Mastercard Foundation's *Young Africa Works (YAW)* strategy, the project aims to empower youth through skill development, agribusiness support, and economic inclusion, ultimately improving their quality of life.

PROJECT DURATION: **5 YEARS**
START DATE: **NOVEMBER 1, 2022**
END DATE: **OCTOBER 31, 2027**

ICON2 is being implemented across 10 Nigerian states, focusing on equipping young people with the necessary resources, training, and market access to build profitable careers in agriculture and related sectors. The project integrates digital financial tools, climate-smart farming practices, and mechanization support to enhance productivity and economic resilience.

Through strategic partnerships with cooperatives, private sector stakeholders, research institutions, and government agencies, ICON2 fosters an inclusive, community-driven approach to development. By strengthening entrepreneurial capacities and facilitating access to funding, the project ensures that youth beneficiaries can transition from subsistence livelihoods to sustainable enterprises.

ICON2 is committed to driving long-term transformation by empowering young Nigerians with the skills and opportunities needed to thrive in a competitive economy, ultimately contributing to national and regional development.

Objectives:

- To economically empower 675,000 youth aged 18–35 to engage in and benefit from decent and sustainable livelihoods
- To enhance 22,500 farmer groups and producer associations to influence change processes supportive of economic advancement of youth
- To improve the performance and inclusiveness of selected market systems that are important for youth

Priority/Main Activities:

- Capacity Building – training, demonstration of technologies, coaching and mentoring
- Input Grant to support group production:
  - Improved Seeds
  - NPK Fertilizer
  - Urea
  - Pesticides
- Labor-saving equipment grant to support group production:
  - Hand-held tillers
  - Hand-held multi-crop harvesters
  - Hand-held transplanters/fertilizer broadcasters
  - Multi-crop shelling machines
  - Water/irrigation pumps
  - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Makeshift women processing and convergence centers for group processing, training and other group activities:
  - Wet/Dry Milling Machines
  - Rice Parboiling Equipment
  - Fabricated Stoves with Chimneys
  - Rice Milling Machines
  - Destoners
  - Hand-operated Briquette-making Machines with Carbonizers
  - 3-seater wooden benches
- Year 2 Highlights, Achievements, Successes
- (Youth in Work)

  Total Outreach – 686,893
  Outreach Female – 546,208
  Youth in Work (YIW) – 598,736
  Youth in Work Female – 484,135

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Bauchi People with disability (PWD) Special Education ICON2 Participants Celebrate Success and Opportunity

At the heart of WOFAN-ICON2's mission lies the commitment to creating inclusive opportunities for all. This quarter, students of the Bauchi PWD Special Education Center proudly celebrated their remarkable progress, marking a new chapter of self-reliance and empowerment.

Through the ICON2 Project's Community Growth Initiative, over 300 students have gained hands-on vocational skills, transforming education into a launchpad for self-sufficiency. With startup donations of welding, carpentry, and farming equipment, the school's acquisition center has become a hub of practical learning, equipping students with life-changing skills to build their futures. These interventions not only promote self-employment but also lay the foundation for dignified, sustainable livelihoods that will serve them beyond the school walls.



Students of Bauchi special Education Center celebrating bumper harvest

This initiative goes beyond skill development—it fosters confidence, independence, and a renewed sense of purpose. As one student leader aptly expressed, *"WOFAN has given us the chance to stand on our own, and for that, we are forever grateful."* The impact of this program is already being felt, as students begin to apply their knowledge in real-world scenarios, producing useful items and agricultural products that can generate income and sustain their ambitions



Students of Bauchi special Education Center during Carpentry workshop

By investing in the potential of every individual, regardless of physical limitations, WOFAN-ICON2 continues to break barriers and open doors to new possibilities. This celebration of success is not just about the skills gained—it's about the dreams reignited and the futures reshaped. With continued support and commitment, these students are proving that with the right opportunities, no challenge is insurmountable.



Welding and Fabrication by Students of Bauchi special Education Center

Raising the Bar: Community Partners Embrace Produce Standardization

One of the key milestones of the WOFAN-ICON2 Project this quarter is the successful adoption of produce standardization by community partners. Through Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training, farmers have learned and embraced internationally recognized standards that enhance the quality, value, and marketability of their produce.

By integrating proper measurement and weighing techniques, farmers are ensuring consistency and fairness in market transactions, increasing their bargaining power, and securing higher premiums for their goods. The use of moisture meters and scales provided by the project has been a game-changer, allowing farmers to accurately determine moisture content, prevent post-harvest losses, and improve storage conditions. Additionally, the introduction of improved bagging systems has not only enhanced produce preservation but also contributed to meeting the stringent requirements of buyers and processors.

This shift towards standardization is strengthening trust and transparency within agricultural value chains, paving the way for better pricing, reduced post-harvest losses, and increased economic gains for smallholder farmers. With this newfound knowledge and resources, community partners are well-positioned to access larger markets, establish long-term trade relationships, and drive economic prosperity within their communities.

By promoting these best practices, WOFAN-ICON2 continues to empower local farmers with the tools and skills needed to compete in modern agricultural markets. This is not just an achievement in training—it's a transformative step towards sustainable agribusiness and enhanced food security.



WOFAN Groups ensuring produce standardization

WOFAN ICON2 Cooperatives Empowered for Bumper Harvests as they Receive Dry Season Farming Inputs

As part of its ongoing commitment to boosting agricultural productivity and ensuring food security, WOFAN-ICON2 has distributed dry season farming inputs to 270 cooperative groups, collectively managing 540 hectares of farmland. This intervention is set to directly impact 8,100 community partners, equipping them with the essential resources needed to maximize their yields and secure sustainable livelihoods.

With timely access to high-quality seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation support, these farmers are better positioned to optimize their farmlands, enhance soil fertility, and improve overall crop production. This initiative not only strengthens agricultural sustainability but also mitigates the risks posed by climate variability, ensuring that smallholder farmers can cultivate and harvest crops all year round.

Beyond input distribution, WOFAN-ICON2 continues to provide farmers with technical training and best practices, enabling them to adopt efficient farming methods that increase productivity and profitability. This holistic approach—combining input support, knowledge transfer, and capacity building—ensures that farmers not only achieve bumper harvests but also gain the skills needed for long-term agricultural success.

By empowering cooperatives with timely interventions and innovative solutions, WOFAN-ICON2 remains steadfast in its mission to transform farming communities, drive economic growth, and build resilience in the face of evolving agricultural challenges.



WOFAN Groups during inputs collection

Scaling Up for Success: WOFAN-ICON2 Year 1 & Year 2 Cooperatives Expand Farming Through Hard Work

Building on the solid foundation laid by WOFAN-ICON2, the Year 1 and Year 2 cooperatives in Jigawa State have taken remarkable strides towards agricultural self-reliance. With profits generated from the WOFAN-ICON2 input grant, these cooperative groups have successfully scaled up their production capacity, expanding their farmland by 50%—from one hectare to two hectares per group.



Inputs set for distribution

Through their collective efforts and financial discipline, the groups pooled resources to purchase:

2,160 bags of NPK fertilizer

1,080 bags of Urea fertilizer

50kg of rice seed per cluster

This strategic reinvestment ensures not only increased yields but also long-term sustainability for farmers, reducing dependency on external funding. These cooperatives will now serve as mentors to the incoming Year 3 cohort, guiding them through the process of maximizing the input grant and scaling their agricultural ventures.

KEY IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS:

01 **50%** increase in farmland cultivation

02 Sustained growth through reinvestment of profits

03 Stronger cooperative networks fostering mentorship

04 Improved food security and economic stability

These achievements underscore WOFAN-ICON2's mission to empower farmers with not just resources, but also the skills and mindset to **thrive independently.**



Loading of inputs to Community partners at WOFAN Value Addition center

WOFAN-ICON2 STORIES

HOPE RESTORED: How WOFAN-ICON2 Changed Aliyu's World

For 18-year-old Aliyu Habibu, life had been a continuous struggle. Born with physical disabilities that affected his movement and speech, his challenges were further compounded when his father became paralyzed, leaving Aliyu as the sole provider for his family. His world was confined to an old adaptive tricycle, his only means of transportation between Ja'en and the Sabon Titi underpass in Kano metropolis, where he relied on begging to survive.

Despite his deep desire for education and a stable livelihood, Aliyu's dreams seemed unattainable—until WOFAN-ICON2 stepped in. Recognizing his potential and determination, WOFAN mobilized him to join a group for Persons with Disabilities (PWD), a decision that transformed his life in ways he never imagined.



Aliyu Habibu WOFAN PWD Sharada



Aliyu Habibu WOFAN PWD Sharada received Electric Tricycle

Through the ICON2 project, Aliyu was given the opportunity to return to school while also being connected to the Kano chapter of the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPD). He was provided with a customized solar-powered tricycle, which not only restored his mobility but also allowed him to commute to school with dignity.

Beyond education and mobility, Aliyu, along with 10 other PWDs in his community, benefitted from a solar-powered phone charging center established by WOFAN-ICON2. This facility, equipped with 180 charging points and the capacity to charge two motorcycles at a time, became a source of sustainable income. Charging fees of N100 per phone and N200 per tricycle have enabled the group to generate daily revenue.

The impact of this intervention extends beyond financial independence. Aliyu and his peers now have a newfound sense of purpose and confidence. No longer dependent on begging, they are contributing meaningfully to their community, demonstrating that disability does not mean inability. Their business is gaining traction, and with continued support, they hope to expand their services to offer additional vocational opportunities for other PWDs.

To ensure long-term sustainability, the group was linked to a financial institution, enabling them to open accounts, save earnings, and access financial literacy training. Furthermore, JONAPD enrolled Aliyu and his family in a free medical care program, providing essential healthcare support. This has greatly improved their quality of life, allowing them to focus on their future without the constant burden of medical expenses.

With WOFAN-ICON2's intervention, Aliyu's life has taken a remarkable turn. No longer confined to survival mode, he is now a student, a business owner, and a beacon of hope within his community. His journey is a testament to the power of opportunity and the impact of inclusive development. Through his story, others are inspired to believe that with the right support, lives can be rebuilt, and entire communities can rise.



Group Photograph

Phone Charging





Aliyu Habibu empowered by WOFAN with a phone charging shop and financial Inclusion

Financial Inclusion





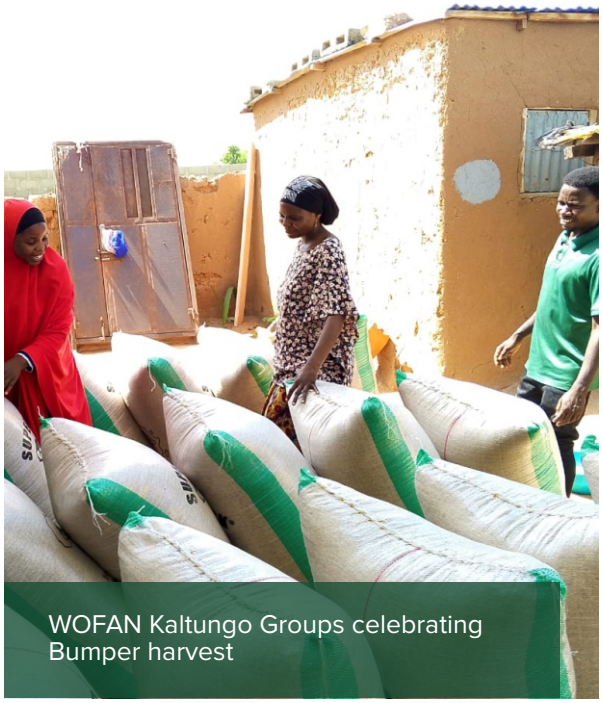
The Transformational Journey of WOFAN Women in Gombe State

Initially, resistance was a major obstacle to women's participation in the WOFAN ICON2 project in Kaltungo, Gombe State. Traditional beliefs held that farming was strictly a man's duty, while women were confined to labor-intensive roles with little decision-making power. Many husbands actively discouraged their wives from engaging in the program, convinced that their place was in the background.

However, the women, determined to break these stereotypes, sought inspiration from a neighboring community where WOFAN ICON2 interventions were already making waves. Seeing the tangible results achieved by women there, they persistently advocated for change. As their success stories spread, the same men who initially resisted the project soon became its strongest advocates, urging for its implementation in their own community. With this shift, all eligible women were enrolled, setting the stage for a remarkable transformation.



WOFAN Kaltungo Groups celebrating Bumper harvest



WOFAN Kaltungo Groups celebrating Bumper harvest

Today, the women of Kaltungo stand as a beacon of empowerment. From their first harvest alone, they collectively produced over 40 bags of rice and maize—a feat that not only proved their capabilities but also altered community perceptions. Each woman trained under WOFAN ICON2 now harvests between 12 and 15 bags of paddy rice through their cooperative farming efforts. This once-unthinkable achievement has shattered long-standing biases, making these women symbols of success, resilience, and financial independence.

Maryam Yusuf, a proud member of the Kaltungo group, reflects on her transformational journey: *"I am now seen as a successful woman by my husband and my community. I promise to continue encouraging more women to uplift their status, believe in themselves, and strive to become role models for fellow women and the youth in our community."*



The impact of this empowerment extends beyond the women themselves. The husbands who once resisted their involvement now stand in admiration, recognizing their wives as key contributors to household income and community development. With newfound confidence and economic stability, these women are not only securing better futures for their families but are also inspiring a new generation of young girls to dream bigger.

The WOFAN ICON2 project has done more than teach agricultural skills—it has redefined gender roles, strengthened households, and fostered an environment where women and men can thrive together. This success story from Gombe State is a powerful reminder that true progress happens when communities embrace inclusion, challenge outdated norms, and empower individuals—regardless of gender—to reach their full potential.

WOFAN-ICON2 Project Y2 Annual Review Meeting and Strategic Planning for Y3 Activities with Implementing Partners



WOFAN ICON2 Project Country Director Hajia Dr Salamatu Garba during the annual review meeting with IPS

The WOFAN-ICON2 Project Year 2 (Y2) Annual Review Meeting brought together implementing partners from various regions for a critical assessment of the project's progress. Held in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, the gathering served as a platform for partners to share insights, evaluate impact, and refine strategies for the upcoming year.

During the review, each partner presented updates on their respective activities, highlighting notable successes, key milestones, and areas requiring further improvement. Discussions centered on the effectiveness of interventions, lessons learned, and the evolving needs of project beneficiaries. The session also provided an opportunity to analyze challenges encountered during Y2 implementation, with a collective focus on developing adaptive solutions to enhance project efficiency.

Beyond reviewing past activities, the meeting set the stage for Year 3 (Y3) planning. Implementing partners collaborated to outline strategic goals, fine-tune operational frameworks, and identify innovative approaches to further empower farmers, cooperatives, and marginalized communities under the WOFAN-ICON2 initiative.

A major outcome of the meeting was the reinforcement of partnerships and commitment to project sustainability. Participants reaffirmed their dedication to scaling up interventions, expanding community reach, and ensuring long-term impact through a more integrated and efficient approach.

As WOFAN moves into Y3, the project remains steadfast in its mission to drive agricultural transformation, empower women and youth, and foster economic resilience across target communities. The insights gathered from this review will play a crucial role in shaping a more impactful and sustainable implementation strategy for the year ahead.



Cross-sectional view of participants during the annual review meeting

WOFAN-ICON2 Project Enhances Food Security and Job Opportunities through Rice Value Addition Initiatives

As part of its strategic planning for Year 3 (Y3) implementation, the WOFAN-ICON2 Project convened a crucial meeting with Heads of Women in Agriculture (WIA) and key value addition actors along the rice value chain. The objective was to explore how value addition in rice processing can be leveraged to enhance food security, boost economic opportunities, and create more jobs, particularly for young women in agriculture.

The engagement provided a unique opportunity for collaboration between WOFAN-ICON2 and rice value addition experts from the National Cereals Research Institute (NCRI). Through in-depth discussions, participants analyzed various rice processing innovations, packaging improvements, and market expansion strategies that could significantly increase the value of locally produced rice while ensuring higher profitability for farmers and processors.



The WOFAN-ICON2 Project Country Director launches a cake made with rice flour to mark the Rice Value Addition initiative.

A major highlight of the meeting was the identification of key value addition opportunities that could be pursued under the Y3 phase of the ICON2 project. After evaluating different options, stakeholders narrowed the list down to ten promising initiatives, which will be further refined in the next planning session. These initiatives aim to maximize the potential of rice production, enhance quality standards, and strengthen market linkages, ultimately leading to greater food security and economic empowerment for women and youth in the sector.



Group photo with value addition chain actors

By integrating innovative rice processing techniques and strengthening partnerships, WOFAN-ICON2 continues to play a pivotal role in transforming Nigeria's rice value chain, ensuring that farmers, processors, and entrepreneurs can thrive in a more sustainable and profitable agricultural ecosystem.

WOFAN Boosts Support for Persons with Disabilities in Garun Malam

As part of its commitment to inclusive empowerment, the WOFAN-ICON2 Project has expanded financial support for 180 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Garun Malam, providing them with the means to scale up their businesses and improve their livelihoods.

Initially, each PWD received ₦10,000 as startup capital, which many utilized to launch or expand small businesses. Inspired by their dedication and remarkable progress, ICON2 has now reinforced this effort with additional financial support, ensuring that beneficiaries can achieve greater self-reliance and financial stability.

Beyond direct financial assistance, WOFAN has implemented a holistic approach to empowerment, investing ₦3,600,000 in group support alongside the provision of essential agricultural resources. These include fertilizers, pesticides, modern farming tools, tricycles, and motorcycles, which not only ease daily mobility and operational challenges but also enhance productivity in farming and trade.



WOFAN PWD Group members in Garun Mallam, Kano State

Through these interventions, WOFAN-ICON2 is fostering independence, dignity, and economic inclusion for PWDs in Garun Malam, ensuring they can actively participate in their communities while securing sustainable livelihoods. By providing both financial and infrastructural support, WOFAN continues to break barriers and create opportunities for marginalized groups, reinforcing its vision of a more inclusive and economically empowered society.



PWDs of Garun Mallam receiving support from WOFAN

WOFAN Commences 2025 Wet and Dry Season Inputs Distribution: Scaling Up Agricultural Productivity Across Regions

As part of its Year 3 project implementation, WOFAN has officially launched the 2025 wet and dry season inputs distribution, ensuring that farmers have access to essential agricultural resources well ahead of the planting season. This initiative is designed to enhance productivity, improve food security, and strengthen the agricultural value chain across multiple states.

Strategic Input Distribution for Maximum Impact

WOFAN's implementing partners (IPs) are at the forefront of this effort, ensuring that the right inputs reach the right hands at the right time.

Farm Innovation (Adamawa State) received:

- **1,600 bags** of NPK fertilizer
- **1,200 bags** of Urea fertilizer
- **400 bags** of improved rice and maize seeds
- **Agrochemicals** to enhance crop protection



L-R Zayyad Jafaar, Godwin Oluwadare and Sadik Hassan Zakariyya during inputs handover to Farm Innovation

Palm Valley Nigeria Limited (serving Southern Kaduna, Benue, and Nasarawa) received a larger allocation due to increased demand:

- **6,934 bags** of NPK fertilizer
- **5,200 bags** of Urea fertilizer
- **1,733 bags** of improved rice and maize seeds
- **Agrochemicals** for disease and pest control

These inputs have been safely stored in various warehouses, ensuring that community partners will have timely access as onboarding progresses.

Why This Matters: The Impact of Timely Distribution

The early distribution of farm inputs is critical for success, as it allows farmers to prepare adequately before the rainy season, ensuring optimal yields. By equipping smallholder farmers with high-quality seeds, fertilizers, and agrochemicals, WOFAN:

- **Improves soil fertility and crop yields**
- **Reduces post-harvest losses**
- **Strengthens food security at the community level**
- **Empowers rural economies through increased agricultural output**



Inputs handover to Farm Innovation

Future-Proofing Agriculture with Sustainable Practices

Beyond input distribution, WOFAN is committed to sustainable farming by training farmers in climate-smart agricultural techniques, efficient fertilizer use, and responsible pesticide application. These efforts will maximize productivity while minimizing environmental impact.

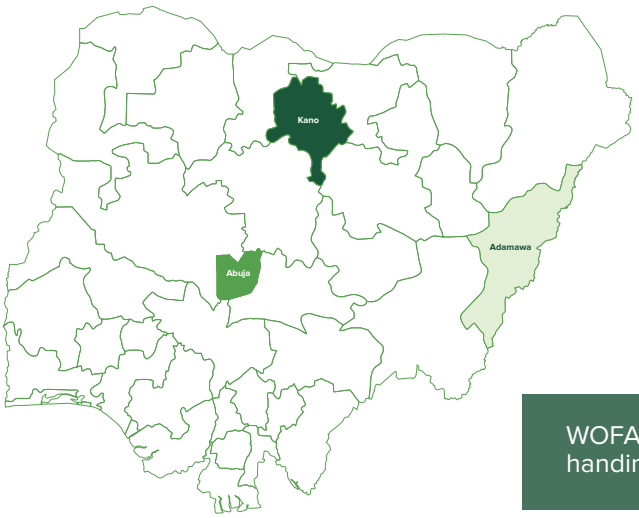


L-R Zayyad Jafaar, Habila Jennif of Palm Valley Nigeria Limited during handover of inputs at WOFAN Centre Kano

Onboarding and Training of Year 3 Extension Workers and Additional Facilitators

As part of WOFAN-ICON2's Year 3 initiative, the onboarding and training of **1,067 Extension Workers (EWs) and Additional Facilitators were successfully conducted across three key locations: the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Adamawa State, and Kano State.** This critical exercise was aimed at strengthening the agricultural extension system, equipping facilitators with essential skills, and enhancing support for smallholder farmers to drive sustainable agricultural development in targeted regions.

The training was facilitated by WOFAN staff in collaboration with strategic partners, including Sane Konsult, Palm Valley, and Farm Innovation teams. These organizations brought their expertise in modern agricultural techniques, digital data collection, and agribusiness development, ensuring that participants gained hands-on experience and practical knowledge essential for improving rural farming systems.





WOFAN Finance Manager Abdulrasheed Abdulazeez handing over ICT tools to Extension workers

Capacity Development for Agricultural Extension Workers and Facilitators

The program focused on 500 Extension Workers (EWs) and 567 Additional Facilitators, providing them with in-depth knowledge and hands-on training to enhance their ability to support farmers effectively. Given the vital role of extension workers in bridging the gap between research institutions and farmers, this training emphasized knowledge dissemination, innovative farming techniques, and sustainable agricultural practices.

To ensure efficiency and reliability in fieldwork, participants were equipped with modern data collection tools, including:

1. **Smartphones:** Essential for digital data collection, communication, and farmer outreach.
2. **Power Banks:** To ensure that devices remain charged in rural areas with limited electricity access.



Training on the use of Commcare App

These tools are crucial in improving the efficiency of data gathering, farm monitoring, and real-time reporting, which are key to making informed agricultural decisions and interventions.

Core Areas of Training

The training program covered a diverse range of technical and practical areas tailored to the specific needs of smallholder farmers and the agricultural value chain. Some of the core training areas included:

01

Digital Data Collection and Analysis: Training on how to collect, process, and analyze agricultural data to enhance decision-making and planning for farmers and stakeholders.

02

Gender and Social Inclusion: Ensuring that women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) are fully integrated into the agricultural value chain, promoting economic empowerment and community development.

03

Community Engagement and Farmer Mobilization: Equipping participants with skills in community outreach, leadership, and participatory decision-making to foster stronger relationships between farmers and extension agents.



Training on the use of Commcare App

Expected Impact of the Training

With over 1,067 trained personnel now empowered with new knowledge and tools, the impact of this initiative is expected to be far-reaching:

- **Improved Farmer Support:** Extension workers will provide more effective guidance and advisory services to farmers, helping them implement best practices and increase productivity.
- **Stronger Rural Networks:** Facilitators will strengthen collaboration among farmers, cooperatives, and agricultural stakeholders, fostering knowledge exchange and community-driven solutions.
- **Enhanced Data-Driven Decision Making:** Digital tools will enable real-time data collection, monitoring, and evaluation, allowing for better resource allocation and policy development in the agricultural sector.

The onboarding and training of Extension Workers and Facilitators mark a significant milestone in WOFAN-ICON2's efforts to transform agriculture in Nigeria. As the trained personnel begin their fieldwork, they are expected to drive positive change, enhance rural livelihoods, and contribute to the long-term goal of food security and economic sustainability.

Through this initiative, WOFAN remains committed to empowering rural communities, fostering agricultural innovation, and creating lasting impact in the lives of farmers and their families.

Commencement of Registration and Onboarding of Year 3 Community Partners and Groups

WOFAN, in collaboration with its Implementing Partners (Ips), has commenced the registration and onboarding of Year 3 (Y3) community partner groups across nine project states. This initiative is designed to strengthen grassroots participation in agribusiness, ensuring that smallholder farmers, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), logistics service providers, and micro-produce marketers gain access to essential resources and opportunities. By expanding its reach, WOFAN aims to enhance food security, create jobs, and foster economic empowerment within rural communities.

The onboarding process includes registering new community partners, verifying their business activities, and equipping them with relevant agricultural knowledge and skills. Training programs focus on sustainable farming practices, financial literacy, and value chain integration, ensuring that participants are well-prepared to maximize their productivity. Additionally, WOFAN provides access to improved agricultural inputs, market linkages, and financial support to enable small-scale farmers and traders to scale up their operations effectively.



Registration of micro-community partners

A key focus of this phase is the increased inclusion of PWDs in agricultural activities, promoting self-reliance and economic independence. By addressing accessibility challenges and providing tailored support, WOFAN is ensuring that PWDs are not left behind in the agricultural value chain. Logistics service providers are also being integrated into the program to enhance the transportation and distribution of farm produce, reducing post-harvest losses and improving market efficiency.



Through this initiative, WOFAN is fostering a more inclusive and sustainable agricultural ecosystem. By strengthening community participation and ensuring that all stakeholders—regardless of background—have access to resources and opportunities, the organization is paving the way for long-term economic growth. The engagement of micro-produce marketers further supports rural entrepreneurship by improving market access and ensuring fair pricing for farmers.

With the ongoing registration and onboarding, WOFAN remains committed to creating lasting impacts in the agricultural sector. By leveraging partnerships, scaling up interventions, and addressing key challenges, the organization continues to drive meaningful change across its project states. The expansion of the program is expected to improve livelihoods, boost productivity, and contribute significantly to national food security.



On boarding of PWD community partners

WOFAN Gargai Processing Center: A Rising Star in Commercial Rice Processing

The WOFAN ICON2 Gargai Processing Center has emerged as a major player in commercial rice production and packaging, solidifying its role in Nigeria's agricultural value chain. By securing strategic partnerships with off-takers and two school feeding initiatives, the center has ensured a steady market for its rice products. This achievement not only guarantees financial sustainability but also strengthens the local economy by creating jobs and fostering community engagement in agribusiness.



Processed paddy by WOFAN Gargai groups

In just a short span, the Gargai Processing Center has experienced remarkable financial growth, increasing its annual profits from year one to an impressive ₦1.2 million. This success has been fueled by the commitment of the cluster members, who have embraced innovation and efficiency in rice processing. By reinvesting their earnings into advanced machinery, such as a rice de-husker, they have significantly improved the quality of their output, making their rice more competitive in the market.

The introduction of high-quality processing equipment has also enabled the center to meet premium standards, ensuring that their rice meets the expectations of both consumers and institutional buyers. This advancement has positioned Gargai as a benchmark for excellence in local rice production, proving that smallholder-driven enterprises can achieve commercial success with the right support and strategic investments.

Beyond financial gains, the Gargai Processing Center exemplifies sustainability and self-sufficiency. The project has provided employment opportunities for women and youth in the community, empowering them with the skills and resources needed to thrive in agribusiness. By incorporating modern processing techniques, the center is contributing to food security while reducing post-harvest losses, a critical challenge in Nigeria's agricultural sector.

With its steady growth trajectory and commitment to quality, the WOFAN ICON2 Gargai Processing Center stands as a beacon of progress in Nigeria's rice industry. It showcases the power of collective effort, innovation, and strategic planning in transforming local agriculture into a profitable and sustainable enterprise. As the center continues to expand its operations, it sets a precedent for similar initiatives, inspiring more communities to embrace value-added processing for economic development.

From Small Beginnings to Great Achievements: The Journey of Bebeji LGA Clusters

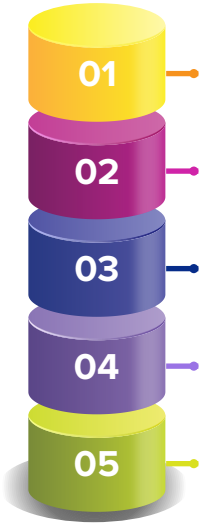


WOFAN Bebeji groups celebrate as they purchase 8 hectares inputs

The journey of the Bebeji LGA Clusters is a powerful testament to how small beginnings, when met with dedication and opportunity, can lead to remarkable success. What started as a modest 2-hectare farming start-up grant from the WOFAN ICON2 Project has now evolved into a thriving 8-hectare agricultural enterprise. The transformation of these five clusters in Bebeji LGA, Kano, is a story of resilience, hard work, and strategic reinvestment, proving that with the right support, smallholder farmers can achieve extraordinary growth.

The success of the Bebeji LGA Clusters was not accidental—it was built on the principles of resourcefulness and sustainability. Instead of relying solely on external assistance, the farmers strategically reinvested the profits from their harvests to expand their farming operations. By purchasing additional inputs and adopting improved farming techniques, they effectively increased their production capacity, ensuring not only growth but also long-term stability for their clusters.

KEY FACTORS BEHIND THEIR SUCCESS:



Initial Support from WOFAN – The 2-hectare grant provided a starting point.

Reinvestment of Profits – Earnings from early harvests were used to purchase seeds, fertilizers, and tools.

Adoption of Modern Techniques – Training on improved farming methods increased yield.

Cluster Collaboration – Farmers worked together to optimize resources and increase efficiency.

Mentorship & Knowledge Sharing – WOFAN-supported training empowered the farmers with better management skills.

Beyond the increase in land size, the expansion of the Bebeji clusters represents something far greater—the empowerment of local farmers to take control of their economic future. Through training and mentorship provided by WOFAN, these farmers have gained the knowledge and confidence to manage larger agricultural enterprises, optimize productivity, and strengthen their financial independence. Their ability to sustain and scale their operations speaks volumes about the power of self-driven development.

This success story extends beyond the farms themselves; it has inspired neighboring communities to see agriculture as a viable pathway to prosperity. As the clusters continue to thrive, they serve as living proof that transformation is possible, motivating others to take bold steps toward self-sufficiency. Their achievements are not just about increasing hectares but about changing mindsets, proving that small-scale farmers can drive substantial economic change with the right mindset and resources.



Rahama Salisu, a cluster member of the Bebeji group, celebrates as they scale up their farming by purchasing inputs for 5 hectares.

Ikara Women Rising: A Story of Courage, Community, and Progress

In the heart of Ikara, Kaduna State, a powerful transformation is taking place. What began as a simple start-up grant under the WOFAN ICON2 Project has blossomed into a thriving processing center, empowering women, strengthening communities, and creating economic opportunities. The women of Ikara have demonstrated resilience, innovation, and an unyielding commitment to success, turning their once-small initiative into a beacon of progress.

With strategic investments in raw materials and the adoption of modern processing equipment provided by WOFAN ICON2, these women have successfully established a high-functioning agro-processing hub. Their facility now efficiently produces high-quality rice, maize flour, and other market-ready food products, catering to growing consumer demand while ensuring food security in the region.



Rice processing by WOFAN Ikara women



Rice processing by WOFAN Ikara women

This shift from subsistence-level production to commercial-scale output marks a significant milestone in their journey.

The success of the Ikara Women Processing Center goes beyond access to funding—it is rooted in knowledge, training, and adaptability. Through targeted capacity-building sessions facilitated by WOFAN, the women have learned essential business skills, quality control measures, and value addition techniques. These trainings have equipped them with the confidence to navigate the competitive marketplace, ensuring that their products meet industry standards and attract higher market value.

Beyond financial success, the impact of this initiative extends deep into the fabric of the Ikara community. By engaging in profitable agro-processing, these women have improved their household incomes, provided better education for their children, and enhanced their overall quality of life. More importantly, they have become mentors, guiding and inspiring other women to take charge of their economic destinies. Their collective progress fosters a spirit of unity and resilience, igniting hope for broader community transformation.

The journey of the Ikara women is a testament to the power of community-driven development. Their ability to scale up operations, sustain profitability, and uplift others within their locality is a model for inclusive growth. With continued support from WOFAN ICON2, the center is poised for even greater achievements, exploring new markets, expanding production capacity, and reinforcing its role as a catalyst for change.

The story of Ikara is one of determination, vision, and empowerment. These women are not just processing food—they are processing hope, progress, and a brighter future for generations to come.

WOFAN ICON2

In partnership with

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