WOFAN ICON2

In partnership with

mastercard foundation



WOFAN-ICON2

WOMEN FARMERS ADVANCEMENT NETWORK

Newsletter

Y3 (VOL 6) Q2, FEBRUARY 2025 - APRIL 2025

Driving Change, Deepening Impact

In this edition, as implementation enters the third year, we spotlight the continued impact of the WOFAN ICON2 Project across our project states, capturing the heart of our advocacy, sensitization, and mobilization efforts. From robust monitoring visits to community partners and wheat farms managed by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), to inspiring stories of transformation and empowerment, this edition reflects how strategic partnerships and inclusive development are reshaping communities.

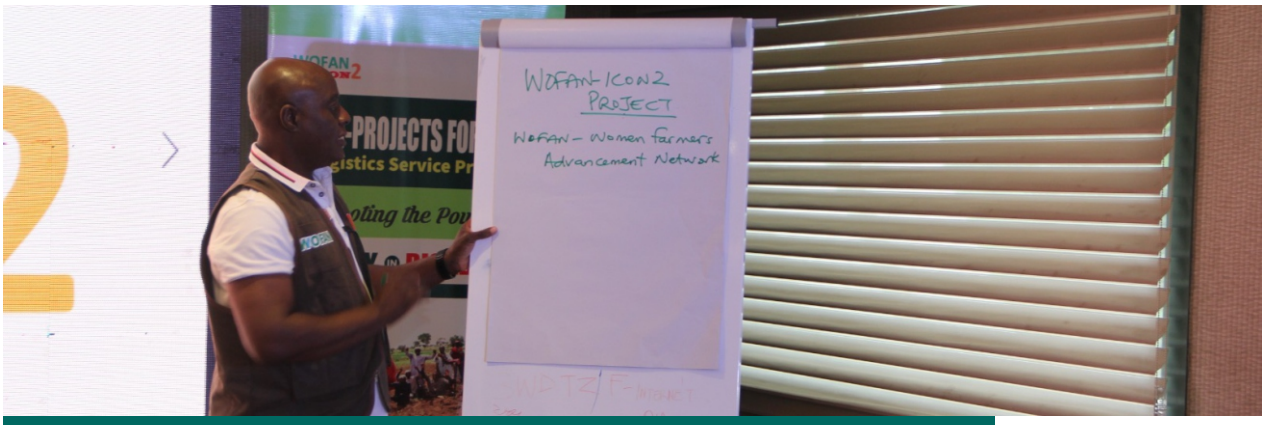
We share highlights from our engagement with stakeholders, including a new collaboration with the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) to tackle climate-related challenges and initiatives addressing farmer-pastoralist conflicts. You'll read about dynamic leadership trainings, innovations in smart agriculture, the remarkable rise of micro-produce marketers, and the power of women turning waste into wealth.

From the resilient fields of Lajagara to the emerging clusters of Aujara, Ningi, and Bagauda, this edition celebrates the spirit of change-makers, men, women, and youth, who are breaking barriers, transforming lives, and redefining possibilities for food security, climate action, and inclusive economic growth.



HAJIA MAIMUNA LAWAL

WOFAN Strategy, Innovation and Sustainability Director



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

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Advocacy, Sensitization & Mobilization Visits 5

Registration of Year 3 Community Partners Across Project States 6

Monitoring Visits to Community Partners and PWD Wheat Fields 9

Group Formation and Dynamics Training for Leaders of Micro Produce Marketers 10

Partnership with NiMet to Mitigate Climate Impact on Farmers 12

WOFAN, UN- POLAC engage stakeholders to address farmers, pastoralists conflict to boost food security, national economy 13

IWD 2025: Flag-off of WOFAN ICON2 Mini project 14

Step-down training sessions for micro-produce marketers 17

WOFAN Stories 19

- WOFAN ICON2 Project is Nurturing Change-makers 20
- From Struggle to Success: Lajagara Women Center Thrives in Rice Production 21
- Farming Beyond Seasons: Growing Food, Income & Opportunities 22
- Youth-Led Climate Action: 1,800 Youth Tackle Seasonal Poverty Through Irrigation Farming 24
- 300 PWDs in Kano Achieve Economic Independence Through Farming 25
- Lajangara Women Turn Waste to Wealth by Making Briquettes from Rice Husk 27
- Enhancing Livelihoods Through Smart Agriculture and Strategic Community Support 28
- Advancing Mechanization and Group Prosperity Through Shared Agricultural Assets 30
- Supporting Micro Produce Marketers with Tools for Hygiene, Dignity, and Income Growth 32

Advocacy, Sensitization & Mobilization Visits

As part of the preparations for the Year 3 (Y3) take-off of the WOFAN ICON2 Project, facilitators, super trainers, and extension workers embarked on strategic mobilization visits across the selected target areas.

These visits were designed to engage key community stakeholders, raise awareness, and establish a solid foundation for effective and inclusive project implementation. During the engagements, traditional rulers and other influential local figures in the newly selected communities were sensitized on the project's objectives, the roles they play, and the expected outcomes.



WOFAN Ikara Team, During advocacy visit

The advocacy efforts not only built mutual understanding but also fostered local ownership, strengthened trust, and ensured stakeholder alignment. These early engagements are proving essential in promoting smooth rollouts, deeper collaboration, and long-term sustainability of project interventions.



Sensitization of Community partners

Registration of Year 3 Community Partners Across Project States



Sensitization of Community partners

As part of the rollout of Year 3 of the WOFAN ICON2 Project, a total of **500 extension workers** and **567 facilitators** are actively driving the registration of **480,000 new community partners** across all participating project states.

Kano and Jigawa are currently leading in enrolment numbers, reflecting strong community interest and proactive mobilization. The registration process begins with participants providing informed consent, after which they submit key documents—including cooperative certificates, national identification cards, and contact information—to complete their enrolment.



During the onboarding of community partners



Community partners onboarding

The growing success of the ICON2 Project in nearby communities has sparked increased interest, with long queues of eager community partners ready to join the initiative. This wave of enthusiasm is a testament to the credibility and impact of the project.

Beyond data collection, the registration phase serves as an early opportunity to reinforce project values such as inclusion, transparency, and accountability. Facilitators are also using the platform to sensitize partners on their roles, responsibilities, and the benefits of active participation, ensuring not just enrollment, but informed and empowered engagement throughout the project lifecycle. The registration exercise is expected to be concluded by the end of the month, aligning with project timelines and targets.



Onboarding of community partners

Group Formation and Dynamics Training for Leaders of Micro Produce Marketers

WOFAN organized a targeted capacity-building training in Kano for leaders of micro-produce marketing groups. The session focused on essential aspects of **group formation, dynamics, and leadership development**, equipping cluster leaders with the skills needed to manage their teams more effectively and drive sustainable business growth.

Participants explored key topics such as **group development strategies, leadership roles and responsibilities**, and **best practices for team coordination and accountability.** The training emphasized the value of cohesion, trust, and collective vision in achieving shared economic goals.

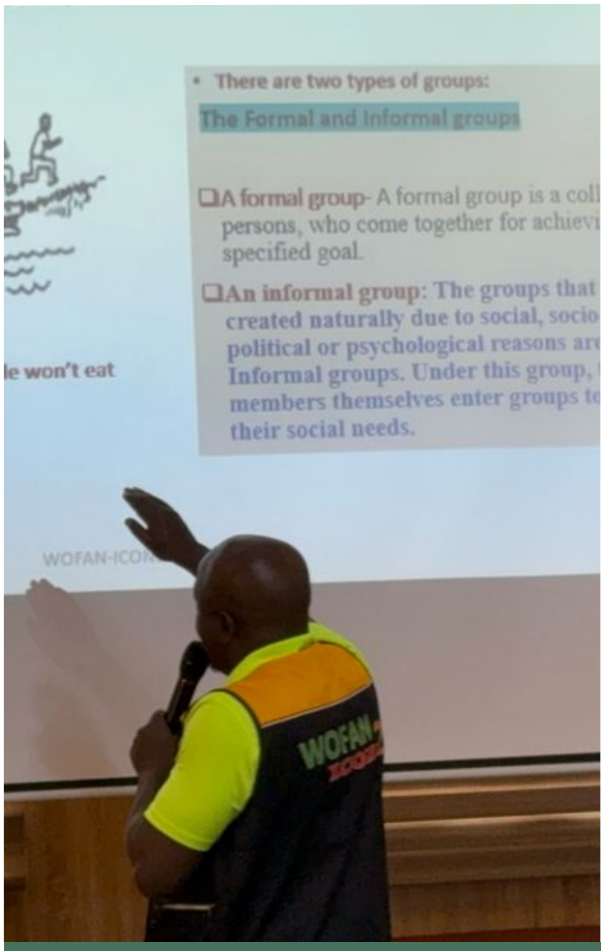
Traditional leaders were also present, enriching the discussions with culturally grounded insights and offering practical guidance on managing community-based enterprises. Their involvement underscored the importance of local wisdom in sustaining organized group efforts.



During the training of community partners on group dynamics in Kano state

One of the standout outcomes of the training was the successful facilitation of cluster account openings with recognized financial institutions. This marks a pivotal step in improving the financial inclusion of micro-produce marketers, enabling them to access credit, manage earnings transparently, and scale their operations more strategically.

Additionally, the training created an opportunity for peer learning and mentorship among cluster leaders. Participants shared personal success stories, challenges faced in group coordination, and innovative approaches to managing market linkages and logistics. This exchange of experiences fostered a stronger sense of collaboration and community ownership across the participating clusters.



The finance manager Mr. Abdulrasheed Abdulazeez facilitating a topic on financial inclusion and the various credit schemes



Account opening for community partners

To ensure continuity, WOFAN committed to providing post-training follow-up and mentorship support. Extension workers and field officers will continue to engage these leaders through periodic check-ins, refresher sessions, and access to business development tools—ensuring that the knowledge gained is translated into measurable impact at the grassroots level.

WOFAN Begins Collaboration with NiMet to Mitigate Climate Impact on WOFAN-ICON2 Farmers

In its continued drive to combat the effects of climate change and strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers, WOFAN has launched a strategic collaboration with the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet). This initiative is designed to support sustainable agriculture and economic growth across WOFAN-ICON2 Project implementing states.

During a high-level meeting between the leadership of WOFAN and NiMet, both parties agreed to jointly develop systems that deliver timely, accurate, and accessible climate and weather information to project participants. This partnership aims to equip farmers—particularly those in vulnerable rural communities—with actionable forecasts and advisory services that will help them make informed decisions on planting, irrigation, harvesting, and risk management.



Hajia Dr. Salamatu Garba during the meeting between the leadership of WOFAN and NiMet

By aligning modern meteorological insights with local agricultural practices, the collaboration seeks to boost productivity, reduce climate-related losses, and promote long-term adaptability in farming systems. It also underscores WOFAN's commitment to integrating technology and science into grassroots agricultural development.

The partnership is expected to roll out pilot climate-smart advisory services in select communities before scaling across other project locations. This proactive move sets a new standard for resilience planning, offering hope and practical tools to farmers navigating the realities of a changing climate.

WOFAN, UN–POLAC Engage Stakeholders to Address Farmers–Pastoralists Conflict to Boost Food Security and the National Economy



Group Photo: during National Dialogue on Peace building

As part of its ongoing national advocacy to enhance food security and socio-economic stability, **WOFAN convened a National Dialogue in collaboration with the United Nations Positive Livelihood Award Centre (UN–POLAC)**. The event brought together a diverse array of stakeholders—including representatives from government, civil society, academia, the private sector, and international organizations—to discuss integrated approaches to peace-building and climate-smart agriculture (CSA) within Nigeria's development agenda.

The dialogue underscored the **interdependence between peace-building, CSA, economic growth, and sustainable food systems,** stressing the urgent need for multi-sectoral collaboration. Stakeholders shared best practices, field experiences, and innovative solutions that have successfully mitigated conflict while enhancing agricultural productivity and resilience across various regions.

A key highlight of the dialogue was the presentation of concrete policy proposals and strategic recommendations for embedding peace-building and climate-responsive agriculture into both national and sub-national development frameworks. These strategies included scaling inclusive agricultural extension services, improving natural resource governance, and promoting dialogue platforms between farmers and pastoralists.

In her remarks, the Executive Director/CEO of WOFAN-ICON2 emphasized the power of language in shaping public perception and conflict outcomes. She urged journalists and media practitioners to adopt more neutral and constructive terminologies when reporting on farmer–pastoralist clashes, promoting understanding rather than division. The session reaffirmed WOFAN's leadership in fostering dialogue, building resilient communities, and advancing sustainable agriculture as a path to national unity and prosperity.

IWD 2025: Flag-Off of WOFAN ICON2 Mini Project



Inputs for micro produce marketers set for distribution

To commemorate International Women's Day 2025, WOFAN launched a bold new phase of empowerment under the WOFAN-ICON2 Mini Project, starting with the distribution of produce grants to 54,000 underserved women—part of a broader plan to reach 162,000 women across project states.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

- **162,000** Targeted Beneficiaries
- **54,000** Women Empowered in Phase One
- **Widows, Street Vendors, and Micro-Producers**
- **Multiple Project States**
- Integrated into **Rice Value Chain**

This impactful intervention targets widows, street food vendors, and other vulnerable women in agribusiness, providing them with essential resources and the financial support needed to thrive. The initiative is aimed at bridging gaps in the agricultural value chain and enabling dignified, sustainable livelihoods for grassroots women entrepreneurs.

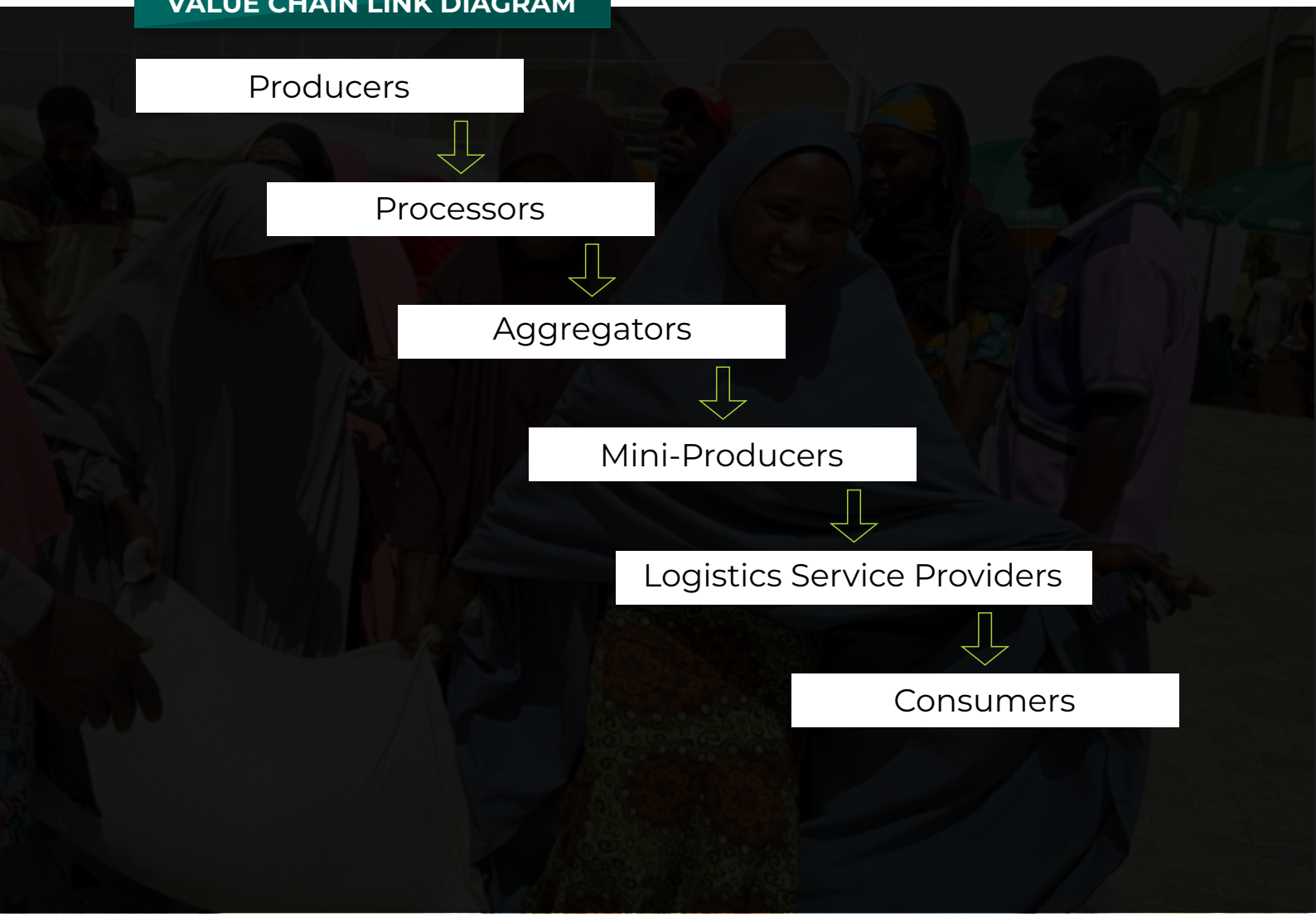
"We must go beyond just talking and take meaningful steps to uplift women by giving them confidence, opportunities, and economic independence," said the WOFAN-ICON2 Executive Director/CEO during the launch ceremony.

In alignment with the Mastercard Foundation's goal of creating 30 million dignified work opportunities in Africa by 2030, this program contributes to the inclusion of 10 million young Nigerians aged 18–35 in economically productive activities. The initiative focuses not just on rice distribution but on integrating women into the entire rice value chain. from production and processing to aggregation and retail, thus creating structured pathways to sustainable income and growth.

At the heart of the Mini Project is WOFAN's strategy of linking mini-produce marketers with producers, processors, aggregators, and the WOFAN-ICON2 Logistics Service Providers, forming a resilient supply ecosystem. This approach fosters long-term success, community cohesion, and equitable access to opportunities.

The flag-off, conducted at the community level, is a clear statement that no one is left behind, ensuring that even the most marginalized women are reached and empowered.

VALUE CHAIN LINK DIAGRAM



IWD 2025: Distribution at State levels

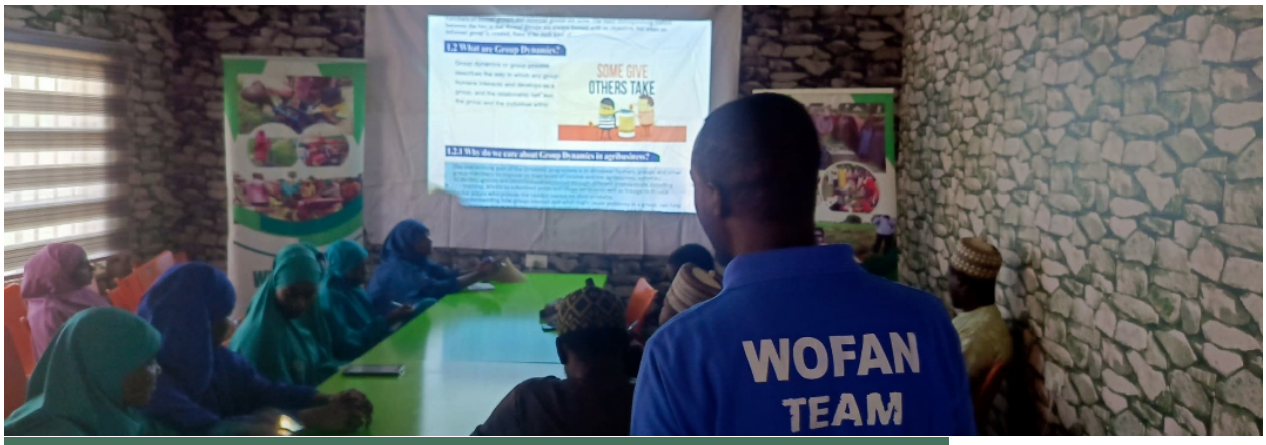


Distribution of produce grants to micro-produce marketers in Kaduna State



Distribution of produce grants to micro-produce marketers in Benue State

Step-down training sessions for micro-produce marketers



Step-down training session with micro-produce marketers in Zaria

WOFAN facilitators have successfully trained Extension Workers (EWs) on key areas including group formation and dynamics, leadership skills, and financial management, critical components in strengthening rural agribusiness networks. These foundational training sessions mark a key milestone in preparing EWs to become catalysts for sustainable agricultural growth across communities.

The training covered two of the five thematic areas that EWs will be trained on this year, ensuring they are well-equipped to drive the development of strong, resilient, and profitable farming communities.



Step-down training session with micro-produce marketers in Ikara

Now, the trained Extension Workers have commenced step-down training at the grassroots level, directly empowering micro-produce marketers with practical skills necessary for business growth. Topics covered in these step-down sessions include:

- **Effective Group Management –** Strengthening organizational structures for better collaboration and productivity
- **Leadership & Teamwork Development –** Fostering strong, inclusive leadership to guide and inspire groups
- **Financial Literacy & Discipline for Business Growth –** Building skills for managing finances, budgeting, and scaling up operations

These trainings are an essential part of WOFAN's holistic approach to empowering rural communities, laying the groundwork for sustainable agribusiness growth and economic independence.



Step-DownTrainings for Micro Produce Marketers

WOFAN STORIES

WOFAN ICON2 Project is Nurturing Change-makers

The WOFAN ICON2 Project continues to go beyond agricultural support—it is raising a generation of local champions and community builders who are not only transforming livelihoods but becoming symbols of leadership and positive change.

Last year, Alhassan Sadiq, the Kwali ICON2 Super Trainer, was honored with the traditional title of Sarkin Samarin Ubosharu in recognition of his dedication, leadership, and the transformative impact of his work within the community under the WOFAN-ICON2 Project.

This year, another trailblazer, Sani Usman, an Extension Worker from Abaji, was turbaned as Sarkin Samarin Tando Gawu—a remarkable milestone that highlights how WOFAN's grassroots empowerment model is producing not just farmers, but respected agents of change.

These traditional honors reflect the deep trust, respect, and admiration that community members hold for those leading the charge for development and empowerment. As they continue to inspire their peers, these change-makers are shaping a brighter future for their communities.

> **Long live Sarkin Samarin Tando Gawu!**



Sarkin Samarin Tando Dawu

From Struggle to Success: Lajagara Women Center Thrives in Rice Production

In the heart of Lajagara community, Gombe State, a remarkable transformation is underway. The women of the WOFAN ICON2 Women Center have journeyed from subsistence farming to becoming proud, commercial producers of high-quality, stone-free parboiled rice.

Before joining the ICON2 Project, these resilient women faced numerous hurdles, manual processing methods, low yields, poor market access, and minimal profits. Their rice was often undervalued, and the grueling labour brought little reward.

But today, the story has changed. Thanks to WOFAN ICON2's strategic interventions, capacity-building trainings, access to modern processing equipment, and organizational support, the women now produce clean, well-packaged, and nutritious rice that commands attention in local markets.

> **We used to dream of selling rice like this. Now, we are known across Gombe for the quality of our rice,"** said one of the center leaders.

Now seen as local entrepreneurs, the women proudly display their neatly branded bags of parboiled rice, symbols of self-reliance and transformation. The improved packaging, cleanliness, and taste have attracted a growing base of loyal customers.

The ripple effects are inspiring. Not only has household income increased, but the women now serve as mentors to younger women and girls in the community—proving that with the right support, rural women can thrive as agri-business leaders and contribute meaningfully to food security and local economies



Rice Harvest Lajagara Women

Farming Beyond Seasons: A Path to Growing Food, Income, and Opportunities

Across WOFAN-ICON2 project states, our dedicated community partners are breaking boundaries—embracing diversification and practicing climate-smart farming that stretches productivity beyond the traditional wet season.

By integrating a variety of crops—including tomatoes, wheat, garlic, onions, and leafy vegetables—between wet and dry seasons, farmers are now cultivating three productive cycles annually, transforming what was once a single-season routine into year-round farming success.

This remarkable shift, powered by Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), access to irrigation systems, and innovative techniques, is increasing food production, boosting household incomes, and enhancing rural resilience.



Freshly harvested tomatoes



Wheat farm ready for harvesting

The impact goes far beyond the fields: fewer youths are migrating to cities in search of work, while women and Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) are increasingly taking part in profitable agribusiness activities—strengthening inclusion and shared prosperity.

Together, we are building a future where agriculture thrives, communities flourish, and opportunity grows for all. WOFAN ICON2's approach is not just feeding families—it is creating sustainable livelihoods and fostering dignity through agriculture.

Youth-Led Climate Action: 1,800 Youth Tackle Seasonal Poverty Through Irrigation Farming

Under the WOFAN-ICON2 Project, 1,800 young men and women across Kano and Jigawa states have taken charge of their future by leading the dry season harvest of wheat, maize, and vegetables through an innovative two-system irrigation farming model.

This bold initiative is tackling the dual challenge of climate change and seasonal poverty, enabling young farmers to generate income between the wet and dry seasons, a period that was previously marked by low productivity and financial strain.

> **We now earn from our farms year-round. No more waiting for rain, shared one young farmer from Kano's super cluster.**



Freshly harvested maize from WOFAN Sintilmawa Cluster in Ringim L.G.A Jigawa State



The women farmers of Chiromawa supervising their wheat farm

With this system in place, participating youth are no longer held hostage by unpredictable rainfall or climate shocks. Instead, they are becoming agile, climate-smart entrepreneurs, maximizing every growing window and positioning themselves for long-term sustainability.

The initiative is a shining example of how youth-led agriculture, backed by strong community systems and responsive infrastructure, can drive inclusive economic transformation, create jobs, and build climate resilience from the ground up.



WOFAN Farmers harvested their tomatoes farm

Redefining Ability: 300 PWD in Kano Achieve Economic Independence Through Farming!

In a groundbreaking achievement for inclusive agriculture, 300 People With Disabilities (PWD) in Kano State, organized into two dedicated clusters, have successfully begun the harvest of their 5-hectare wheat farms cultivated during the dry season.

This bold step is a flagship component of the WOFAN-ICON2 Project under the Mastercard Foundation's "WeCanWork" initiative—a multi-year program aimed at empowering PWDs with dignified work opportunities and financial independence.

Armed with training, access to inputs, and logistical support, these determined farmers are projected to yield up to 2 tons (40 bags) per hectare, a feat that sends a strong message: with the right support and opportunity, disability is not inability.

> **"For the first time, I can say I'm a farmer and a provider,"** said one of the PWD cluster members proudly.



The PWD wheat farm ready for harvest

Beyond the income and food security gains, this milestone is redefining societal perceptions, building self-worth, and expanding the participation of marginalized groups in the agricultural value chain. These empowered farmers are now role models in their communities—proof that inclusive agricultural development builds stronger, more resilient communities for all.

The clusters have also begun setting up internal savings groups, exploring agro-processing options, and establishing peer mentorship structures, creating a replicable model that can scale across other project states. With continued support from WOFAN-ICON2, these PWD clusters are becoming centers of innovation, leadership, and advocacy for inclusive economic empowerment.



The PWD wheat farm ready for harvest

Lajangara Women Turn Waste to Wealth by Making Briquettes from Rice Husk



Lajangara Women during briquette making at their women center

In Lajangara, Gombe State, a group of enterprising women are pioneering a sustainable solution that transforms agricultural waste into wealth. In preparation for the 2025 Small Salah celebration, they have begun producing eco-friendly briquettes from rice husk at their makeshift processing center—a brilliant example of grassroots innovation.

By converting rice husk, a common byproduct of rice milling, into clean-burning briquettes, these women are not only reducing waste but also providing an affordable alternative to firewood—a timely contribution to reducing deforestation and indoor air pollution during festive cooking periods.

This initiative, supported by WOFAN-ICON2, is part of a broader push to integrate climate-smart solutions into rural livelihoods. The women are being trained on briquette-making techniques, safety standards, packaging, and pricing strategies—ensuring their products are ready for both domestic use and market distribution.

As demand rises, the women are now planning to scale production, form cooperatives, and explore local partnerships with restaurants and event caterers. What started as a small innovation is quickly becoming a model for circular economy and climate resilience in rural communities.

Enhancing Livelihoods Through Smart Agriculture and Strategic Community Support

Across Jigawa and Kano states, WOFAN-ICON2-supported clusters are rewriting the narrative of rural agriculture through third-season wheat harvesting, which has recorded bumper yields. This success is credited to a holistic intervention model—a powerful combination of intensive training, provision of quality inputs, access to mechanized tools, and strategic community engagement.

A major highlight this season was the deployment of two modern tractors and a multi-crop combine harvester by the Kano State WOFAN-ICON2 Mega Clusters. Through a shared commitment, the 3,000-member cluster raised 50% of the cost via internal savings, while WOFAN provided the balance through a soft loan repayment plan over three farming seasons. This has drastically improved productivity, reduced harvest losses, and promoted community ownership of assets.

The addition of high-quality milling machines further boosted value addition and increased women and youth participation by easing post-harvest processing. With enhanced tools and techniques, farmers are not just growing more—they are earning more and transforming agriculture into a viable business.

Traditional leaders have also played a crucial role by encouraging youth to stay engaged in agriculture and fostering community-wide support. Together, these efforts are building a stronger, more resilient agricultural economy.



WOFAN Jigawa Team receive combine harvester as their harvest their season Starts off



ICON2 Logistics Service Providers ready to transport the harvested products

To further support productivity, WOFAN Logistics Service Providers have continued transporting produce from farms to homes, markets, and storage facilities, ensuring minimal post-harvest loss and enhanced market access. This not only boosts income for farmers but also creates job opportunities for logistics groups operating within the rural economy.

Immediately after wheat harvest, farmers seamlessly transitioned into dry season cultivation of other crops, supported by irrigation facilities. This shift aligns with WOFAN's promotion of a "Third Season Model", designed to ensure year-round productivity through climate-smart agriculture, crop diversification, and resilience building.

This approach is helping communities transition from subsistence to sustainable agribusiness, with visible outcomes in food security, income growth, and reduced rural-urban migration.



Group photograph of WOFAN Community Partners

Advancing Mechanization and Group Prosperity Through Shared Agricultural Assets



Hajia Dr. Salamatu Garba celebrates with the mega cluster of Dorawa Sallau on their purchase of the Multiple Combine Harvester

WOFAN continues to champion rural transformation by advancing agricultural mechanization in Nigeria. A significant milestone was achieved as Kano State WOFAN-ICON2 Mega Clusters acquired two modern tractors and a multi-crop combine harvester, a strategic investment designed to promote inclusive, mechanized farming.

This bold intervention supports WOFAN's mission to reduce rural-urban migration, increase youth and women participation, and create dignified employment in agriculture. The deployment of this equipment aims to boost productivity, enhance efficiency, and eliminate drudgery for cluster farmers, paving the way for a sustainable and profitable agricultural enterprise.

In a remarkable show of self-reliance and sustainability, the mega cluster of 3,000 members (100 groups) mobilized 50% of the total equipment cost through internal group savings (a crowd-saving model). WOFAN matched this effort by providing the remaining 50% via a soft loan under its input revolving scheme, repayable over three farming seasons.

This approach reinforces the principles of financial inclusion, ownership, and accountability, placing the tools for prosperity directly in the hands of the communities.

It also serves as a scalable model for other clusters seeking to transition into mechanized farming through shared assets.



During the test run of the newly acquired tractors by the Dorawar Sallau Mega Cluster

During the handover, WOFAN's Executive Director urged cluster leaders to maintain trust, unity, and transparency, emphasizing that transformation thrives on teamwork and sincerity of purpose.

Local traditional leaders commended WOFAN-ICON2 for its community-led development model, which prioritizes local ownership, empowers youth and women, and champions long-term sustainability over dependency.

This milestone signifies a new era of agricultural modernization, one that enables clusters to produce more, earn more, and inspire more, setting a new benchmark for rural prosperity and cooperative growth.



Hajia Dr. Salamatu Garba celebrates with Community Partners

Supporting Micro Produce Marketers with Tools for Hygiene, Dignity, and Income Growth

In line with its mission to make micro-produce marketing dignifying, hygienic, and economically rewarding, WOFAN-ICON2 has launched a new intervention to equip micro food vendors with mobile workspaces, food warmers, and cartwheels across project states.

This initiative is a key step in transforming informal food vending by enhancing hygiene standards, preserving food quality, and boosting customer trust—factors critical to increasing daily income and improving the standard of living for underserved small-scale traders.

TOOLS FOR GROWTH & DIGNITY

- 300+ Mobile Workspaces Distributed
- Food Warmers for Safer, Hot Meals
- Cartwheels for Easier Mobility
- Training on Food Hygiene
- Boost in Sales, Hygiene, and Dignity

Sensitization on Food Hygiene

Before the distribution of equipment, WOFAN conducted a community-wide sensitization campaign on food hygiene and safety. This crucial step ensured that beneficiaries understood the importance of handwashing, sanitation, safe food handling, and contamination prevention.

These sensitization efforts were designed to strengthen food safety practices, enhance customer satisfaction, and increase the marketability of agricultural products processed and sold by the vendors.

Reinforcing a Legacy of Empowerment

This new phase of support builds on WOFAN's earlier March 2025 produce grant, which empowered hundreds of micro-produce marketers to grow their businesses. By providing physical tools alongside capacity-building efforts, WOFAN-ICON2 continues to bridge the gap between informal business survival and sustainable growth.

The mobile kits not only improve vendor mobility and hygiene but also help in attracting more customers, thus increasing daily turnover and building confidence and dignity in work, especially for women, widows, and youth-led businesses.

With this multi-pronged approach, WOFAN-ICON2 is redefining informal marketing—not just as a means of livelihood, but as a pathway to economic independence, inclusion, and respect.



Food thermocoolers and cartwheel ready for distribution to food vendors



Food thermocoolers and cartwheel ready for distribution to food vendors

WOFAN ICON2

In partnership with

mastercard foundation

No. 345 Danbare Layout, Opposite BUK New Site
Gate Along Gwarzo Road, Kano
www.wofan.org | info@wofan.org
+2348186620598, +2348093861739