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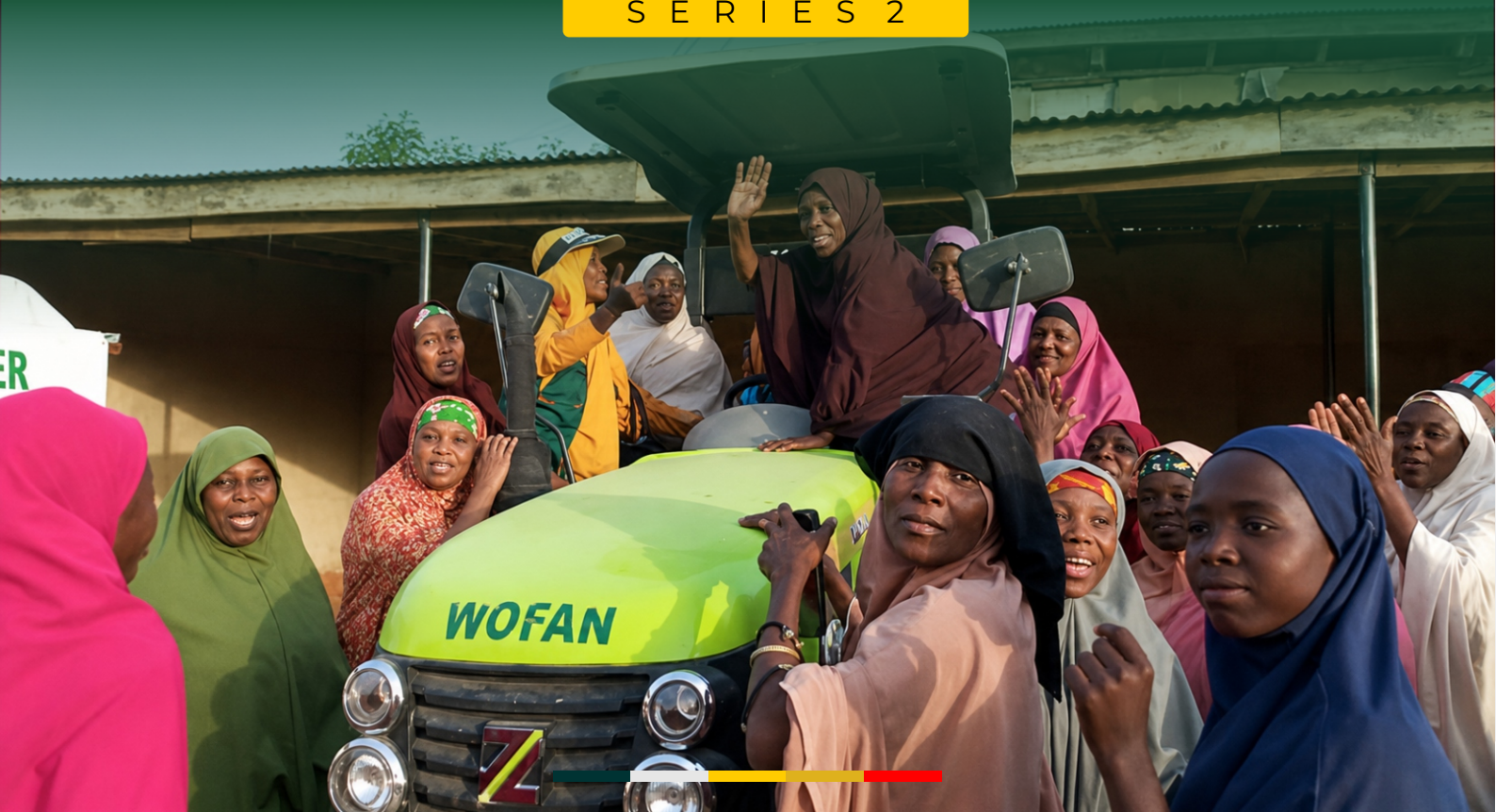
WOFAN-ICON2

WOMEN FARMERS ADVANCEMENT NETWORK

Newsletter

Y4 (VOL 10) Q2, FEBRUARY 2026 - APRIL 2026

SERIES 2



Empowering Women, Strengthening Communities



Economic empowerment remains one of the most effective pathways to building resilient families and thriving communities. This edition focuses on the remarkable journeys of women who are transforming opportunities into sustainable livelihoods through enterprise development, agricultural value addition, financial inclusion, and market participation.

Across project communities, women are demonstrating extraordinary determination and innovation.

Through support provided under the WOFAN-ICON2 Project, participants are strengthening their businesses, improving household incomes, building savings, acquiring productive assets, and contributing significantly to local economic growth. Whether as farmers, processors, marketers, or entrepreneurs, these women are proving that when the right support systems are in place, economic empowerment becomes a catalyst for broader community development.

The stories captured in this edition highlight the importance of access, not only to resources, but also to knowledge, networks, markets, and opportunities. From women-led cooperatives driving savings initiatives to micro-produce marketers expanding their businesses, we see clear evidence that financial empowerment creates lasting ripple effects across households and communities.

As we celebrate these achievements, we also recognize the collective effort of community leaders, implementing teams, partners, and participants whose commitment continues to make these successes possible. Together, we are contributing to a future where women are not merely participants in economic development but leaders shaping it. We hope the stories in this edition inspire continued investment in inclusive economic opportunities and demonstrate the transformative power of empowering women to achieve their full potential.

ABDULRASHEED ABDULAZEEZ
Financial Manager – WOFAN

WOFAN-ICON2 Project Overview

WOFAN-ICON2 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:	START DATE:	END DATE:
5 YEARS	**NOVEMBER 1, 2022**	**OCTOBER 31, 2027**

ICON2 is being implemented across 9 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 1,914,000 (up from 675,000) youth aged 18–35 to engage in and benefit from decent and sustainable livelihoods
- To enhance 63,800 farmers groups and other value chains actors' 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 3 Highlights, Achievements, Successes
- (Youth in Work)

  Total Outreach – 1,046,294
  Outreach Female – 881,749
  Youth in Work (YIW) – 1,046,294
  Youth in Work Female – 881,749

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PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Supporting Productivity Beyond the Rainy Season Continuous Field Support Sustains Dry Season Farming Activities

As dry season farming operations continue across project communities, WOFAN-ICON2 agronomists and Extension Workers remain actively engaged with farmers to ensure sustained productivity and resilience throughout the dry spell.

Field teams have continued to provide technical support on irrigation management, crop monitoring, water usage, and climate-responsive farming practices designed to help farmers maximize yields despite challenging environmental conditions.

Beyond technical guidance, Extension Workers are also assisting community partners in identifying and resolving emerging crop challenges early, ensuring that farmers maintain healthy production cycles and reduce potential losses.

This continuous engagement reflects WOFAN-ICON2's commitment to strengthening year-round agricultural productivity while supporting farmers with practical, responsive solutions tailored to their local realities.

By maintaining close field presence, the project is helping communities sustain food production, improve income generation, and build stronger resilience against climate-related farming disruptions.



Extension Workers providing guidance for stronger farm productivity.

PHOTOS SPEAK



Sustaining livelihoods through ongoing agricultural support.



Supporting dry season farming through regular field engagement.

Monitoring Women's Enterprise Centers Field Visits Support Productivity, Quality Control, and Income Sustainability

Alongside farming support activities, WOFAN-ICON2 field teams have continued monitoring visits to women's makeshift processing and marketing centers across several project states.

These monitoring exercises are designed to ensure that women-led enterprise activities continue to operate efficiently while maintaining quality standards, smooth coordination, and steady income generation for beneficiaries.

Extension Workers and field teams provide on-the-ground supervision, technical guidance, and real-time support aimed at helping women address operational challenges quickly and effectively. Their presence also creates opportunities for mentorship, follow-up training, and continuous engagement with community partners.

The monitoring visits further reinforce accountability and encourage stronger enterprise management practices among women groups participating in processing, packaging, and marketing activities.



Extension Workers providing guidance at women's enterprise centers.

Most importantly, the ongoing field support reassures beneficiaries that they are not navigating challenges alone. Through consistent engagement, WOFAN-ICON2 continues to strengthen women-led enterprises while ensuring that livelihood interventions remain active, sustainable, and impactful at the grassroots level.

The visits also provide valuable opportunities for field teams to assess progress, identify emerging needs, and document success stories within the enterprise centers. By maintaining close interaction with beneficiaries, WOFAN-ICON2 is able to provide more responsive support while encouraging continuous improvement in productivity, product quality, teamwork, and market readiness. This hands-on monitoring approach remains essential in helping women-led businesses grow from small community operations into more stable and resilient enterprises.



Field visits helping women businesses grow and stay productive.

Refreshing Knowledge, Reinforcing Community Capacity

Leadership and Financial Management Trainings Strengthen Enterprise Sustainability



Refreshing knowledge for stronger and more sustainable businesses.

Beyond routine monitoring activities, WOFAN-ICON2 field engagements continue to serve as valuable opportunities for refresher trainings and continuous capacity development across project communities.

Extension Workers and field teams are actively retraining community partners, particularly women-led groups, on critical leadership and financial management skills aimed at strengthening enterprise sustainability and improving group coordination.

These refresher sessions reinforce earlier trainings by revisiting essential topics such as leadership responsibilities, accountability, communication, record keeping, savings culture, and responsible financial decision-making. The sessions also provide opportunities for community partners to discuss practical challenges, share experiences, and strengthen collective problem-solving within their clusters.



Building stronger communities through training and mentorship.

By continuously revisiting these foundational modules, WOFAN-ICON2 ensures that learning does not end after onboarding or initial training sessions. Instead, knowledge becomes embedded in daily practice, helping women-led enterprises grow stronger, more organized, and better positioned for long-term success.

The refresher trainings are also strengthening confidence and leadership capacity among women within the clusters. As participants deepen their understanding of financial planning and group management, they are becoming more active in decision-making and better equipped to manage enterprise activities independently. This continuous learning approach remains essential to sustaining strong, resilient, and growth-oriented community enterprises.

Food Safety Starts With Everyday Practices Extension Workers Promote Practical Food Hygiene Across Project States



Supporting healthier businesses through food safety awareness.

Across project communities, WOFAN-ICON2 Extension Workers are intensifying food hygiene sensitization and practical training sessions for agro-produce marketers, helping beneficiaries adopt safer and healthier food handling practices within their businesses.

The trainings focus on simple, practical, and low-cost hygiene measures that can significantly improve food safety, product quality, and consumer confidence. Through demonstrations and hands-on guidance, participants are learning how proper hygiene practices contribute not only to public health, but also to stronger business reputation and improved market demand.

The food hygiene sessions cover several key areas, including:

Key Hygiene Training Areas

- Safe handling and storage of produce
- Proper food covering and packaging
- Maintaining clean work surfaces and utensils
- Environmental sanitation and waste disposal
- Safe marketing and transportation practices

The trainings are helping marketers become more conscious of how cleanliness and food safety directly affect customer trust, product quality, and long-term business growth.

WHY FOOD HYGIENE MATTERS

The impact of improved hygiene practices extends beyond individual businesses to entire households and communities.

By adopting safer food handling methods, agro-produce marketers are contributing to:

- Reduced risk of food-borne illnesses
- Safer food supply for households and local markets
- Increased consumer confidence in marketed produce
- Better reputation for WOFAN-ICON2-supported marketers
- Improved livelihood opportunities for women, youth, and families

As awareness grows across communities, many marketers are beginning to see hygiene not simply as a health requirement, but as an important business advantage capable of increasing customer trust and strengthening profitability.

Through these practical interventions, WOFAN-ICON2 continues to promote healthier communities while helping small-scale marketers build more professional and sustainable enterprises.

Monitoring for Sustainability and Accountability Field Monitoring Visits Strengthen Logistics Clusters Across Project States



Monitoring visits strengthening rider safety and cluster performance.

WOFAN-ICON2 State Teams have continued field monitoring engagements with logistics service riders across project communities to assess operations, strengthen accountability, and ensure the long-term sustainability of the logistics intervention.

The monitoring visits focus on evaluating day-to-day cluster activities while providing technical guidance and operational support to riders managing tricycle-based logistics services within their communities.

The engagements also create opportunities for direct interaction between field teams and logistics clusters, enabling real-time feedback, troubleshooting, and reinforcement of operational standards.

WHAT THE MONITORING TEAMS ASSESSED

During the visits, field teams focused on several critical operational areas, including:

Assessment Focus Areas

- Operational condition of tricycles
- Safety and maintenance practices
- Compliance with agreed cluster standards
- Functionality and usage efficiency
- Sustainability and accountability measures

The monitoring exercises are helping ensure that logistics riders continue to operate safely, responsibly, and effectively while maximizing the long-term value of the intervention.

Impacts: Sustaining Dignified Jobs

- Improved operational efficiency and rider safety
- Reduced downtime through better maintenance practices
- Strengthened sustainability of logistics clusters
- Increased reliability in transportation services
- Enhanced long-term impact of the WOFAN-ICON2 logistics model



Keeping logistics clusters productive through continuous field support.

Celebrating Progress, Unity, and Transformation

Y1–Y4 Community Partners Unite to Celebrate Shared Impact



Community partners celebrating years of shared growth and transformation.

Across all WOFAN-ICON2 project locations, community partners from Year 1 through Year 4 came together in a vibrant celebration of unity, resilience, and collective progress. The gatherings served as a powerful reflection of how the project has evolved from a development intervention into a movement transforming lives and strengthening communities across states.

Women groups, youth clusters, logistics riders, Extension Workers, and community leaders gathered to celebrate milestones achieved through years of collaboration, empowerment, and shared commitment. Songs, cultural displays, testimonies, and moments of gratitude filled the atmosphere as beneficiaries reflected on the journeys that brought them from uncertainty to opportunity.

For many participants, the celebration represented more than an anniversary or ceremonial gathering. It was a moment to acknowledge how WOFAN-ICON2 has helped communities rebuild confidence, strengthen livelihoods, and create new possibilities for families across generations.

From Year 1 beneficiaries who witnessed the earliest interventions to newly onboarded Year 4 partners beginning their own journey, one message echoed clearly across the celebrations: **WOFAN-ICON2 did not simply provide support — it transformed lives.**

FCT Celebration Highlights Stories of Growth and Community Transformation

In the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), the celebration was led by WOFAN Gender Specialist, Hajia Maryam, who presided over a lively and emotional gathering of women clusters and community partners.

The event brought together women from different communities who shared personal testimonies of economic growth, improved livelihoods, increased confidence, and stronger social inclusion resulting from their participation in the project.

As women danced, celebrated, and exchanged stories of transformation, many reflected on how the interventions had changed the direction of their lives, from improved business opportunities and financial independence to greater participation within community leadership and decision-making structures.

The gathering also reinforced the strong sense of solidarity and sisterhood that has emerged among WOFAN-ICON2 women clusters over the years. What began as support groups have evolved into powerful networks of women working collectively toward shared prosperity and sustainable growth.

For many attendees, the celebration became both a testimony of impact and a declaration of hope for an even stronger future.



FCT communities celebrate stories of growth and lasting impact.



Community voices reflecting the impact of WOFAN-ICON2 interventions.

A Celebration of Multi-Dimensional Impact From Livelihood Support to Lasting Community Change



Transforming lives through enterprise, logistics, water, and skills support.

One of the defining highlights of the celebration was the recognition of the broad and multi-dimensional impact WOFAN-ICON2 has continued to create across communities.

Participants reflected on a wide range of interventions that have contributed to transforming livelihoods and strengthening local resilience, including:

01 Capacity-building and enterprise development

02 Access to safe drinking water

03 Financial inclusion initiatives

04 Timely farm input support

05 Empowerment of women, youth, and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

06 Logistics and transportation support systems

07 ICT gadgets and digital tools for data collection

08 Continuous extension and technical support services

The celebration underscored how the project's integrated approach continues to touch multiple aspects of community life, economic, social, environmental, and institutional.

Women, youth, and Persons with Disabilities are no longer positioned at the margins of development conversations. Through WOFAN-ICON2 interventions, they are increasingly becoming active participants, decision-makers, entrepreneurs, and drivers of local economic growth.

This holistic approach remains one of the defining strengths of the WOFAN-ICON2 Project: building systems that do not only respond to immediate needs, but create pathways for long-term dignity, resilience, and sustainable prosperity.



Building stronger communities through inclusive and sustainable interventions.



Community impact reaching every part of daily life and livelihoods.

Communities United by Shared Progress

Beyond the speeches, activities, and celebrations, the gatherings revealed something deeper, a growing culture of community ownership and shared purpose.

Across project states, beneficiaries spoke openly about increased cooperation among women groups, stronger relationships between communities and traditional institutions, and the confidence that comes from being part of a system that values inclusion and collective growth.

The cross-year celebration also served as a reminder that sustainable development is strongest when communities move forward together. By bringing together partners from different implementation years, WOFAN-ICON2 created a platform where experience, mentorship, and inspiration could flow naturally between older and newer beneficiaries.

The result is a growing network of empowered communities connected not only by support received, but by a shared belief in progress, dignity, and possibility.

Expanding Mobility, Expanding Opportunity
Tricycle Distribution Continues Across Bauchi, Gombe, Nasarawa, Kaduna, and Benue States



Tricycle distribution expanding opportunities across project states.

WOFAN-ICON2, alongside its implementing partners, has continued the rollout of tricycle distribution to logistics service providers' clusters across Bauchi, Gombe, Nasarawa, Kaduna, and Benue States, further strengthening the project's commitment to improving transportation systems within rural agricultural communities.

In this latest phase of the intervention, a total of 100 logistics rider clusters received tricycles designed to support the movement of agricultural produce, improve market access, and strengthen last-mile delivery services for farmers, processors, and agro-produce marketers.

The distribution represents another major step toward addressing one of the most persistent barriers facing small-scale agricultural communities, the challenge of transporting goods efficiently from farms and processing centers to markets and buyers.

For many beneficiaries, the tricycles are more than mobility tools. They represent income opportunities, business expansion, and a pathway toward dignified and sustainable livelihoods. The intervention also strengthens the broader agricultural value chain by ensuring that products reach consumers faster, reducing post-harvest losses and improving local market efficiency.



Strengthening mobility and market access through logistics support.

Across participating communities, the logistics riders are increasingly becoming critical connectors between production and commerce, helping rural economies function more effectively while creating employment opportunities for youth and vulnerable groups.

Traditional Leaders Endorse the Logistics Intervention

The handover ceremonies across the participating states were graced by respected traditional rulers and community leaders who offered royal blessings, encouragement, and strong endorsements for the initiative.



Expanding transportation support for stronger community enterprises.

Their presence reinforced the importance of community ownership and highlighted the growing recognition of logistics riders as essential contributors within local agricultural systems.

Beyond ceremonial participation, traditional leaders actively encouraged beneficiaries to manage the tricycles responsibly and use the opportunity to build sustainable livelihoods that benefit both their families and communities.

The endorsement of traditional institutions continues to strengthen trust in the WOFAN-ICON2 Project while encouraging stronger community participation and accountability around project-supported interventions.

The ceremonies also reflected a growing collaboration between traditional structures, project teams, and local stakeholders working together to create inclusive economic opportunities at the grassroots level.



New tricycles helping riders build sustainable livelihoods.

Step-Down Trainings Continue Across Project States

Knowledge Transfer Strengthens Grassroots Implementation

Across all project states, Extension Workers continue to deliver step-down trainings directly to community partners, ensuring that knowledge and technical guidance flow effectively from project leadership to grassroots beneficiaries.

The trainings are carefully tailored to address the specific realities and operational needs of different groups, including agro-produce marketers, logistics riders, women cooperatives, and community-based enterprise clusters.

Topics covered during the trainings include financial management, leadership development, hygiene practices, operational accountability, market engagement, and enterprise sustainability.



Step-down trainings strengthening grassroots implementation across communities.

By maintaining regular knowledge-sharing sessions at the community level, WOFAN-ICON2 is building a well-informed network of beneficiaries equipped with the practical skills and confidence required to succeed within their respective value chains.



Practical learning supporting effective project implementation.

The continuous training approach also strengthens project sustainability by reinforcing learning, improving implementation quality, and ensuring that community partners remain actively engaged throughout the project lifecycle.

Step-Down Trainings Continue to Strengthen Grassroots Enterprises

Hygiene and Marketing Skills Empower Agro-Produce Marketers

Across project communities, WOFAN-ICON2 Extension Workers continue to intensify step-down trainings focused on two critical drivers of enterprise success, environmental hygiene and effective marketing strategies.

The trainings are helping agro-produce marketers understand that business growth is not determined by production alone, but also by how products are handled, presented, packaged, and marketed to consumers.

Participants are receiving practical guidance on safe produce handling, hygienic storage practices, clean work environments, and proper packaging techniques aimed at reducing spoilage and maintaining product quality. These improvements not only protect consumers, but also increase buyer confidence and strengthen the market reputation of community marketers.

Alongside hygiene practices, marketers are also being trained on smarter marketing approaches designed to improve visibility, attract customers, and strengthen pricing opportunities within competitive markets. Through these sessions, participants are learning how strategic product presentation, customer engagement, and quality assurance can directly influence profitability and business expansion.



Clean practices and smart marketing supporting enterprise growth.

The combined focus on hygiene and marketing is helping community partners build more professional, customer-focused enterprises capable of generating sustainable income and long-term growth.

More importantly, the trainings reinforce the understanding that successful businesses thrive not only on production capacity, but also on trust, quality, and consistency.



Equipping agro-produce marketers with practical business skills.

Financial Literacy Strengthens the Logistics Sector

WOFAN-ICON2 Equips Logistics Riders With Financial Management Skills



Financial management trainings helping riders build stable businesses.

As logistics service providers continue to play a growing role within local agricultural value chains, WOFAN-ICON2 is strengthening their capacity through targeted financial management trainings designed to promote sustainability and long-term economic independence.

The trainings are helping logistics riders move beyond daily income generation toward more structured and professional business management practices. Participants are learning essential skills such as:

- Income and expense tracking
- Savings and budgeting
- Maintenance planning
- Reinvestment strategies
- Financial accountability within clusters



Equipping logistics riders with skills for smarter money management.

For many riders, these sessions represent an important shift in mindset, transforming logistics services from informal transportation work into organized enterprise operations capable of supporting stable livelihoods and future growth.

The trainings also emphasize the importance of responsible asset management, ensuring that riders properly maintain project-supported tricycles and plan financially for repairs, operational costs, and expansion opportunities.

By strengthening financial literacy among logistics clusters, WOFAN-ICON2 is helping beneficiaries build dignity, professionalism, and sustainability within the growing community logistics ecosystem.

The intervention reflects the project's broader understanding that true economic empowerment involves not only creating opportunities to earn income, but also equipping beneficiaries with the skills needed to manage and grow their resources wisely.

Radio Waves Carry Agricultural Knowledge Across Communities

Adamawa State Team Takes Extension Services to the Airwaves



Radio programs bringing farming knowledge closer to communities.

In Adamawa State, where Farm Innovation is implementing the project, WOFAN-ICON2 adopted an innovative communication strategy to expand the reach of extension services, radio broadcasting.

As step-down trainings continued across project states, the Adamawa team leveraged local radio stations to deliver timely agricultural guidance directly to community partners, particularly farmers preparing for the upcoming rainy season farming activities.

The radio-based extension approach allowed the project to reach remote and underserved communities where physical access may be limited, ensuring that critical agricultural information remained accessible to women, youth, and farmers across different locations.

Through interactive radio programmes, community partners received practical guidance on:

- Rainy season preparation
- Land preparation techniques
- Input management
- Climate-smart farming practices
- Crop planning and timing

The broadcasts also created opportunities for farmers to call in with questions, seek clarification, and engage directly with extension experts, transforming radio into an accessible, community-centered learning platform.

This innovative approach demonstrates WOFAN-ICON2's adaptability and commitment to ensuring that no community partner is left behind in the flow of knowledge and agricultural support.

By combining traditional extension methods with mass communication platforms, the project continues to strengthen information access, improve preparedness, and build resilience within farming communities.

Timely Guidance Strengthens Rainy Season Preparedness

Radio-Based Extension Services Equip Farmers for the Planting Season

Through its innovative radio extension initiative in Adamawa State, WOFAN-ICON2 continues to provide farmers and community partners with timely agricultural guidance aimed at improving preparedness for the upcoming rainy season.

Using interactive radio programmes broadcast through local stations, farmers received practical advice on land preparation, timely planting, input utilization, and climate-smart farming practices designed to improve productivity and reduce farming risks during the season.

The broadcasts simplified technical agricultural information and delivered it in local languages and culturally relatable formats, making it easier for rural farmers, women, and youth to understand and apply the lessons within their daily farming activities.

Beyond one-way communication, the radio sessions created an interactive learning environment where listeners could call in with questions, seek clarification, and engage directly with agricultural experts and extension teams. This approach transformed radio into a community-centered knowledge platform capable of reaching even remote farmers who may have limited access to physical training sessions or extension visits.

By combining accessibility, local language communication, and practical knowledge sharing, WOFAN-ICON2 is helping farming communities strengthen preparedness, improve resilience, and make more informed agricultural decisions ahead of the rains.

Planting for the Planet

Community Partners Launch Tree Planting Campaign for International Earth Day 2026

In commemoration of the 2026 International Earth Day, WOFAN-ICON2 community partners across project locations launched a tree planting initiative focused on environmental conservation, biodiversity protection, and climate resilience.

The exercise reflects the project's growing commitment to integrating environmental sustainability into community development activities while encouraging women and youth to take active roles as environmental stewards within their communities.

Across participating locations, community members planted trees in strategic areas as part of broader efforts to address rising temperatures, environmental degradation, and the growing impact of climate change on livelihoods and agricultural systems.

The initiative also served as an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of environmental protection and the direct connection between healthy ecosystems, food security, and sustainable livelihoods.

By involving communities directly in climate-responsive action, WOFAN-ICON2 continues to promote a culture of environmental responsibility and long-term resilience at the grassroots level.



Tree planting activities promoting climate action and sustainability.

Greening Communities for Long-Term Resilience
Tree Planting Supports Climate Adaptation and Environmental Protection



Tree planting helping communities build climate resilience.

The ongoing tree planting exercise is already contributing to wider environmental and community benefits across project areas.

Community partners understand that environmental sustainability is closely linked to economic stability and agricultural productivity. Through tree planting activities, communities are helping reduce the effects of extreme heat, improve air quality, restore degraded environments, and strengthen protection against climate-related threats. The initiative also reinforces the understanding that climate resilience requires collective action and long-term commitment from communities themselves.

For many women and youth participants, the exercise has become more than a symbolic activity, it represents an investment in healthier environments, stronger agricultural systems, and safer futures for coming generations. By integrating environmental sustainability into community activities, WOFAN-ICON2 continues to demonstrate that development and climate responsibility must go hand in hand.

Building Inclusive Futures Through Community Partnerships

WOFAN Engages Traditional Leaders on PWD Communal Farming Initiative



Traditional leaders supporting inclusive farming initiatives for PWDs.

WOFAN teams have commenced courtesy visits to traditional rulers and community leaders across project states to strengthen support for the planned communal farming initiative targeting Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

During the engagements, project teams explained the vision behind the intervention, which seeks to move Persons with Disabilities from dependency toward productive farming, vocational participation, and dignified livelihoods through access to communal farmland and structured community support systems.

The meetings emphasized the importance of inclusion, collective responsibility, and community participation in creating opportunities for vulnerable groups who are often excluded from mainstream economic activities.

Traditional rulers welcomed the initiative warmly and expressed strong commitment toward supporting its successful implementation within their communities.

The visits further strengthened collaboration between traditional institutions and project teams while reinforcing the role of community leadership in driving inclusive development efforts.

Traditional Institutions Support Inclusive Farming Initiative

Royal Fathers Allocate Farmland for PWD Community Farming

In a remarkable demonstration of solidarity and commitment to inclusion, several traditional leaders offered between one and five hectares of accessible farmland within their communities to support the communal farming initiative for Persons with Disabilities.

The allocated farmlands, strategically located near accessible roads and community areas, are expected to provide safe and productive spaces where PWD beneficiaries can actively participate in agricultural activities and livelihood generation.

Traditional rulers also encouraged families and community members to support Persons with Disabilities throughout the farming process, reinforcing the message that inclusion and empowerment are shared community responsibilities.

This level of traditional endorsement transforms the initiative from a standalone development intervention into a community-owned movement rooted in dignity, participation, and collective support.

More importantly, it sends a powerful message that Persons with Disabilities deserve equal opportunities to contribute meaningfully to local economies and community development when provided with the right support systems and enabling environment.

Planning for Inclusive Agricultural Development WOFAN and Implementing Partners Hold Year 4 Q2 Review Meetings



WOFAN and partners planning for stronger Year 4 implementation.

WOFAN and its implementing partners convened Year 4 Quarter 2 review meetings across project states and the FCT, bringing together key stakeholders to assess progress, strengthen implementation strategies, and plan upcoming interventions focused on inclusion and sustainability.

The meetings created a platform for stakeholders to review ongoing activities, evaluate lessons learned from previous implementation phases, and develop practical strategies for expanding support to vulnerable groups, particularly Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

One of the major focus areas discussed during the engagements was the development of communal farming initiatives designed to move Persons with Disabilities from dependency toward productive farming and vocational engagement.

The discussions also explored strategies for improving farm management practices, strengthening community support systems, and ensuring that PWD-focused interventions remain practical, inclusive, and sustainable.

Stakeholders in attendance included traditional rulers, religious leaders, youth representatives, Extension Workers, Super Trainers, cooperatives, and implementing partner teams, all united by a shared commitment to building inclusive agricultural systems capable of creating opportunities for every member of the community.



Review meetings supporting better planning and community impact.

Hajia Salamatu Garba Calls for Innovation and Sustainability



Hajia Salamatu Garba encourages innovation for sustainable growth.

During the review meetings, WOFAN Founder and Global Advocate, Hajia Salamatu Garba, commended traditional leaders for their consistent support toward community interventions and acknowledged the important role families continue to play in supporting women's participation within project activities.

She also encouraged cooperative leaders and community groups to embrace creativity, innovation, and sustainability while scaling their enterprises and managing project-supported interventions.

Highlighting the importance of value addition and long-term impact, Hajia Salamatu Garba explained that revolving grants to agro-produce marketers' clusters would increasingly focus on in-kind productive assets such as dehydrators, grinding machines, and processing equipment capable of preserving produce and increasing market value.

This approach, she noted, would help communities reduce waste, strengthen processing capacity, and create additional income streams through value-added agricultural activities.

Her message reinforced WOFAN-ICON2's commitment to moving beyond short-term interventions toward systems that support enterprise sustainability, productivity, and long-term economic growth.

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Women Farmers Advancement Network (WOFAN) was established in June 1993 and was incorporated with the Kano State Government as a Community Development Association in 1995 with 28 community members.

The organization was later registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission in 2004 as WOFAN Associates and WOFAN Enterprise to engage in capacity development, consultancy and provision of corporate services and to develop the entrepreneurial skills and economic inclusion of the rural farming and processing communities, respectively.

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