KSADP-SAA

NEWSLETTER

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A development initiative by

From the COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Dear Readers,

I am delighted to introduce the latest edition of our monthly newsletter, highlighting the impactful work of the Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP) in partnership with Sasakawa Africa Association. This issue showcases the project's progress, successes, and commitment to transforming agriculture in Kano State.

In this edition, we feature KSADP's participation in the 49th Soil Science Society of Nigeria Conference, where we emphasized the importance of soil health and resilience. We also highlight our beneficiary identification exercise, which aims to support smallholder farmers with targeted interventions.

Our success stories demonstrate the positive impact of KSADP's initiatives, from improved storage solutions and solar-powered irrigation to local Agro-input kiosks and fabrication workshops. These efforts are designed to enhance productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and increase income for farmers.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Kano State Government, the Islamic Development Bank, and the Lives and Livelihoods Fund for funding the KSADP Project and for their continued support. I also appreciate the dedication of our project team and consortium partners in driving these initiatives forward.

I hope you find this edition informative and inspiring. We look forward to continuing our work together to build a more sustainable and prosperous agricultural sector in Kano State.

Dr Godwin Atser
Country Director, Sasakawa Africa Association

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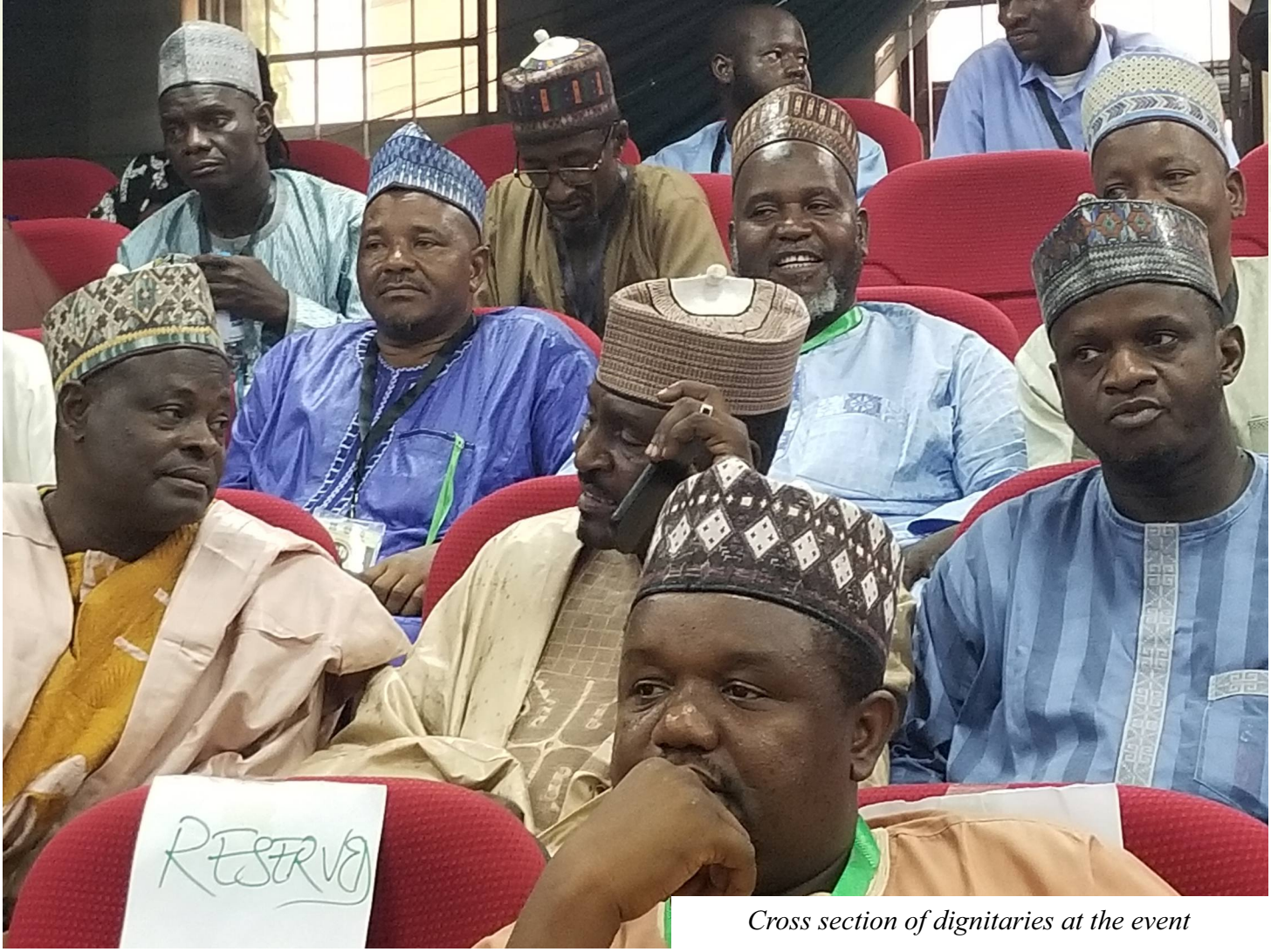

Cross section of dignitaries at the event

KSADP-Sasakawa Africa Association Participates in 49th Soil Science Society of Nigeria Conference at BUK.

The Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP) team of Sasakawa Africa Association Nigeria joined other key stakeholders in agriculture at the 49th Annual Conference of the Soil Science Society of Nigeria (SSSN), held from April 7–11, 2025, at Bayero University Kano (BUK). The conference was co-hosted by the Centre for Dryland Agriculture and the Department of Soil Science. The high-level event brought together experts from across Africa under the theme of

> "Promoting Soil Health and Resilience through Research and Innovation for Sustainable Development.

The Honorable Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Dr. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, officially launched the conference. In his opening remarks, he highlighted the importance of healthy soil as a cornerstone for sustainable agriculture. "Healthy soil, with strong structure and rich organic content, plays a crucial role in retaining water during dry periods and managing excess water during heavy rainfall," he noted. He further emphasized that with over 60% of Africans depending on agriculture for their livelihoods, soil degradation poses a serious threat to food security and national development.

Senator Dr. Abdullahi reaffirmed the Federal Government's commitment to promoting agroecological practices, conservation agriculture, and soil testing for improved nutrient management. He also called for increased collaboration between the government, research institutions, and development partners under the Renewed Hope initiative, particularly the Soil Health Resilience Scheme.

The conference featured a cross-section of academic and industry leaders, including Professor Jibrin Jibrin, National President of the SSSN and Director of the Centre for Dryland Agriculture at BUK. He underscored the role of healthy soils in mitigating the effects of climate extremes and boosting food security across Nigeria. Similarly, the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at BUK, Professor Muhammad Hussein, expressed optimism that the conference would foster valuable knowledge exchange for agricultural development.

A highlight of the event was the exhibition showcasing various innovations and interventions in soil science and sustainable agriculture. The KSADP-Sasakawa Africa Association Nigeria team made a notable impression by presenting a range of agricultural tools and implements designed to support small-scale farmers, especially in regenerating soil health while improving productivity. The stand drew interest from participants and demonstrated the project's ongoing commitment to empowering rural communities and strengthening food systems in Kano State.

The 49th anniversary of the SSSN not only reaffirmed the critical importance of soil health in Africa's agricultural future but also served as a platform for collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing, values at the heart of KSADP and Sasakawa Africa Association's mission.

Farmers at the Identification Exercise in Dawakin Kudu LGA

KSADP–Sasakawa Conducts Beneficiary Identification Exercise Across Kano State

The Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA), under the Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP), has continued the 4th round of beneficiary identification and screening exercise across 44 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Kano State. The exercise, which began on March 19, 2025, aims to strengthen beneficiaries and update data on smallholder farmers to guide the 2025 intervention phase of the project.

The objective of beneficiary identification and screening of farmers under the Kano State Agro-pastoral Development Project (KSADP) across the 44 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in 2025 is to ensure the equitable and efficient selection of genuine, active smallholder farmers who meet project criteria for targeted support. This process aims to prioritize vulnerable but productive individuals, including women and youth, while aligning with value chain priorities such as grains and vegetables. It also seeks to enhance transparency, avoid duplication, and facilitate the

delivery of appropriate interventions, including inputs, mechanization support, training, and market linkages, that will drive inclusive agricultural growth, improve livelihoods, and contribute to food security and income generation in the state.

The activity focuses on collecting key information and a needs assessment of farmers. It focuses on collecting farmers' information related to their socio-economic status, experience in farming, the tools and equipment they use, and the specific support they need to improve their productivity. This assessment is essential for ensuring that support from the KSADP-Sasakawa initiative is targeted, relevant, and impactful.

In Tarauni and Nassarawa LGAs, the team visited Daurawa Primary School and the Hisbah Board Office at Kawaji, respectively. Farmers from local communities gathered in groups to participate in the data collection. In his welcome remarks, the Project Coordinator, KSADP-SAA, Mr Abdulrasheed Kofarmata, introduced the KSADP-Sasakawa intervention, highlighting its focus on improving productivity for seven strategic crops (Rice, Maize, Sorghum and Soybean) and vegetables (Onion and Cabbage) in Kano State.

The Project Officer in charge of Market-Oriented Agriculture, Dr. Nasir Umar, who led the team, emphasized the importance of accurate information during the questionnaire process. He assured participants that the data would be used to

SAA- StaffAdministering Questionaire at the Idenfication Exercise in Gwale LGA

address their needs, as has been the practice since the project's inception. Farmers outlined their challenges, including a lack of modern equipment, noting that most rely on farming as their main livelihood. The 2025 intervention is expected to include farming tools such as solar pumps, rice threshers, maize shellers, parboilers, rice destoners/polishers, tarpaulins, and flour mills for the 3000 targeted farmers.

On the second day of the exercise, March 20, the team continued the identification and verification activities in Fagge and Dala Local Government Areas (LGA). At the Waje Office in Fagge and the LEA Dala facility in Gwammaja, registered farmer groups turned out in good numbers, presenting their group certificates and other necessary documentation for verification. The use of an updated questionnaire proved effective in capturing deeper insights into local farming practices, existing irrigation systems, and the gender dynamics within farming communities. Notably, many female farmers participated

actively in the exercise, particularly those engaged in small-scale processing and marketing activities, highlighting their critical role in the agricultural value chain.

In Fagge, several respondents demonstrated familiarity with mechanized farming equipment, reflecting the area's growing exposure to modern agricultural technologies. Meanwhile, farmers in Dala, who are primarily focused on irrigation-based farming, showed strong knowledge and appreciation of previous interventions implemented by Sasakawa, underscoring the sustained impact of past support. The day's activities provided valuable field-level data that will inform future programming and ensure that interventions are responsive to the distinct needs and strengths of each community.

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Staff administering Questionaire to a Woman Farmer in Danbatta

The exercise continued on March 21 in Kano Municipal and Gwale LGAs. At the Sharada Agriculture Department, turnout was especially high, with female farmers outnumbering their male counterparts. Similarly, a total of 26 males and 14 females attended the exercise in Gwale, where they shared detailed information about their farming practices, challenges, and expectations for support. Many were already familiar with the KSADP-Sasakawa initiative, and all participants expressed strong interest in the upcoming interventions.

On March 24, the team conducted the exercise in Danbatta and Makoda LGAs. In Danbatta, 48 farmers from the communities were identified. Most had not previously benefited from the project but were aware of its existence. Farmers actively engaged in the identification process, with some going the extra mile by using videos on their mobile devices to showcase their farming activities.

These practical demonstrations provided the team with valuable visual evidence, enabling a clearer assessment of each participant's level of engagement, capacity, and specific support needs. The interactive nature of the session not only enriched the data collection exercise but also fostered a sense of ownership among the farmers. Adding further significance to the visit, the Sarkin Noma of Danbatta was in attendance. In his remarks, he commended the ongoing efforts and encouraged farmers to fully support the exercise,

emphasizing its potential to bring lasting benefits to the farming communities. His presence and endorsement added weight to the process, boosting farmer confidence and participation.

In Makoda LGA, the exercise was held at Tukui Agricultural Training School. Unlike Danbatta, 17 females and 29 males, including youths involved in processing and marketing activities, participated in the exercise. Their enthusiasm reflected a deep understanding of the project and a readiness to benefit from its 2025 interventions.

This beneficiary identification exercise marks a crucial step in ensuring the next round of interventions reaches the right farmers with the right tools, creating impact where it matters most.

Section B: Post-Harvest Management and Loss Reduction Interventions

In Nigeria, post-harvest losses have long posed a serious threat to both national food security and the livelihoods of farmers, particularly among smallholder producers of perishable crops such as onions, tomatoes, and fruits. These losses, often reaching alarming levels, are largely driven by farmers' limited access to modern storage infrastructure. As a result, many continue to rely on inefficient traditional storage methods that leave their harvests vulnerable to spoilage, pest infestations, and damage from extreme weather conditions. The consequences are severe, reducing farmers' incomes, undermining market stability, and constraining agricultural growth.

Some of the farmer Group at the Identification Exercise in Dawakin Tofa LGA

Recognizing the magnitude of this challenge, the Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP), through Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) as the implementing partner for its crop component, launched a targeted intervention to address the issue in Dan Amale community, located in the Gwarzo Local Government Area of Kano State. Backed by funding from the Kano State Government, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF), the project provided farmers with transformative post-harvest solutions. These included Aerated Onion Storage Technology

(AOST) units, solar-powered cold storage facilities, and airtight hermetic storage bags—all designed to minimize losses, preserve produce quality, and enable farmers to store their crops until market conditions are more favorable. Through this intervention, KSADP is not only reducing post-harvest losses but also empowering smallholder farmers to achieve better incomes, food security, and resilience.

These technologies were introduced to mitigate post-harvest losses and extend the shelf life of produce, empowering farmers to store crops during periods of market surplus and sell during periods of higher demand, thereby increasing their profit margins.

Dan Amale Onions Storage Technology Centre in Gwarzo LGA

Dan Amale Farmers Reap Big from Improved Storage Solutions

Among the many notable achievements recorded under this intervention, the story of Malam Aminu Magaji Wanzam, Chairman of the Dan Amale AOST Centre, stands out as a shining example of impact and transformation.

During the peak harvest period, when market prices are typically at their lowest due to supply glut, Malam Aminu sold a bag of onions for just ₦25,000. However, through his engagement with the AOST initiative, he accessed improved post-harvest storage facilities that

allowed him to safely preserve his onions for an extended period. Six months later, as the market experienced a supply shortfall and prices surged, he sold the same bag of onions for an impressive ₦120,000—an almost fivefold increase in value.

This remarkable turnaround not only enhanced his immediate income but also enabled him to reinvest in other productive assets. With the profits realized, Malam Aminu purchased a robust bull worth ₦350,000, which he intends to fatten and sell at a premium. Encouraged by this cycle of profit and reinvestment, he now projects that his earnings in the next sales season will surpass ₦1,000,000. His success illustrates the powerful role that improved storage, market timing, and value addition can play in lifting smallholder farmers and rural entrepreneurs toward greater economic empowerment, resilience, and sustainability. The case of Malam Aminu is a testament to the transformative potential of the AOST intervention in changing livelihoods and strengthening local agricultural economies.
"Without proper storage, crops are exposed to harsh weather conditions that accelerate spoilage," he explained. "This technology has changed our lives."

Another shining example of the positive impact of this intervention is the success story of Nura Saleh, a beneficiary who has strategically leveraged his increased earnings to diversify into livestock fattening. Recognizing the lucrative opportunities presented by the Babbar Sallah market season, Nura invested in purchasing and fattening livestock, positioning himself to maximize returns during this high-demand period. Reflecting on his journey, Nura highlighted the challenges he and other farmers faced in the past, where traditional storage methods often resulted in significant post-harvest losses and unstable incomes. However, with the introduction of modern aerated and cold storage facilities under the intervention, those days of uncertainty are fading.

According to Nura, these improved storage solutions have not only preserved the quality of farm produce but have also allowed farmers to time their sales to coincide with favorable market conditions, leading to more stable and enhanced incomes. For him, the ability to reinvest profits into livestock fattening has opened up new streams of revenue, contributing to the financial security and growth of his household.

His success underscores the broader impact of the initiative in transforming the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, reducing post-harvest

Malam Aminu Wanzam Leader of Onion Storage Centre in Dan Amale

losses, and promoting income diversification as a pathway to rural prosperity.

For Malam Ibrahim Muhammad Na Uwani, the benefits of the intervention have gone far beyond mere income generation; they have laid the foundation for sustainable growth and expansion in his farming enterprise. As a dedicated full-season farmer, Malam Ibrahim successfully leveraged the profits earned from storing and selling his onions at peak market prices to make a significant investment in his future. With his increased earnings, he acquired a new plot of farmland, thereby expanding his production capacity and positioning himself for larger-scale operations in the seasons ahead.

In preparation for the upcoming wet-season farming, he has already begun land preparation and procurement of inputs, confident that his expanded farm will yield even greater returns. Reflecting on this transformation, Malam Ibrahim remarked, "The change in my farming journey is visible. This would not have been possible without access to proper post-harvest storage." His story illustrates how access to improved storage solutions not only stabilize incomes but also empowers farmers to reinvest, scale up, and move toward greater agricultural productivity and self-reliance. The ripple effects of such progress are beginning to be felt across the community, as more farmers are inspired to adopt best practices and seize new growth opportunities.

The Dan Amale Onion Storage Centre now stands as a model of innovation and farmer-led enterprise, showcasing how scalable, climate-smart technologies can revolutionize rural livelihoods.

The KSADP, through its crop component implemented by SAA, aims to reach 450,000 smallholder farmers with innovations that enhance productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and improve income generation across Kano State. This success story from Dan Amale is one of many demonstrating the power of appropriate technology and market-oriented agriculture in transforming rural economies.

Beneficiaries of Onions Storage Technology in Dan Amale

Onion Traditional Stored at Kasuwar KUka, Ghari LGA

Son of a Farmer who mastered repairing Solar Water Pump at work in Watarai Farm

Solar-Powered Irrigation Boosts Agricultural Productivity and Income in Watari Dam Valley

In the heart of the Watari Dam, located in Dausayi Community, Ungogo Local Government Area of Kano State, solar energy is transforming agriculture, livelihoods, and rural resilience. Thanks to the intervention of the Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP) crop component, implemented by the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA), farmers like Alhaji Ibrahim Musa are experiencing firsthand the power of renewable energy to catalyze productivity and profitability.

Before the intervention, Alhaji Ibrahim's farming operations were heavily dependent on diesel-powered water pumps—a costly and unsustainable approach that strained his resources and limited the long-term viability of his agricultural activities. The high expenses associated with fuel purchases and frequent maintenance created a financial burden that ate into his profits and restricted his ability to expand. However, through the support provided by KSADP-SAA under the Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project, Alhaji Ibrahim's fortunes took a significant

turn. A solar-powered irrigation pump was installed on his farm, granting him reliable, year-round access to water drawn from the nearby Watari River, without the ongoing expense of fuel or the hassle of mechanical breakdowns.

This solar irrigation technology, which utilizes photovoltaic (PV) panels to convert sunlight into electricity and power electric motors that pump water from rivers or wells, has proven particularly effective in off-grid rural communities like Dausayi. Blessed with abundant solar irradiation but lacking access to conventional power grids, farmers in such areas can now harness clean, renewable energy to sustain their crops throughout the year.

For Alhaji Ibrahim, the benefits were both immediate and remarkable. Within just 100 days of operating the solar irrigation system, he saved approximately ₦350,000 in fuel and maintenance costs—savings that went directly into boosting his profitability. The reduction in input costs allowed him to scale his farming activities and diversify his income streams. From cultivating lotus used in beverage production, he realized an annual profit of

Solar Powered Pump watering at Watari Irrigation Farm in Ungogo LGA

₦900,000. Additionally, his ventures into onion production and certified seed multiplication generated an impressive ₦1,200,000 in extra income. Alhaji Ibrahim's experience stands as a powerful testament to how renewable energy solutions can transform smallholder agriculture, enhancing profitability, sustainability, and resilience against rising operational costs.

Moreover, the intervention sparked a ripple effect in knowledge transfer and youth engagement. Ibrahim's son, having developed hands-on expertise in operating and troubleshooting the solar pump, now provides technical services to other farmers in the area. His skills in solar system diagnostics and maintenance have not only enhanced the reliability of the technology but also created a new source of income for the family.

This success story is a testament to the KSADP's strategic investment in sustainable agricultural technologies. Funded by the Kano State Government through the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF), the project aims to uplift 450,000 smallholder farmers across the state. Through interventions such as solar-powered irrigation, the crop component led by the Sasakawa Africa Association is delivering scalable, climate-resilient solutions that are transforming agriculture into a profitable and dignified enterprise.

By integrating modern technology with capacity building and market-driven production systems, KSADP-SAA is not just irrigating fields, it is cultivating futures.

Solar powered pump at Watari in Ungogo LGA

Alhaji Ibrahim Dausayi a Beneficiary of Solar Pump with EA Leader Ibrahim Nagodi

Kiosk Vendor with EA Leader Alkasim Makole

Local Agro-Input Kiosks Bridge the Gap for Remote Farmers in Sumaila LGA

In the remote farming community of Gomo, nestled in the Sumaila Local Government Area of Kano State, approximately 150 kilometres from the state capital, the introduction of agricultural input kiosks has significantly improved farmers' access to critical production inputs.

The terrain is rugged, and the journey from the capital can take over 2.5 hours, a barrier that has long hindered timely access to certified seeds, quality fertilizers, crop protection products, and other essential inputs. This challenge often forced farmers to delay planting or rely on substandard inputs, compromising yields and income.

Thanks to the intervention of the Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP) crop component, implemented by the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA), a strategically located agricultural input kiosk (Agro-Kiosk) was established in Gomo. This innovation has become a game-changer for the local farming population.

Hussaini Kabiru Muhammad, the kiosk vendor supported under the KSADP-SAA model,

Kiosk Vendor in GOmo village of Sumaila LGA

plays a pivotal role in ensuring that inputs are not only available and affordable but also properly utilized.

> "Farmers can now get everything they need right on time, especially during the critical planting season,"

Hussaini says. Beyond just sales, he offers technical guidance and good agricultural practices (GAP) to help farmers make informed decisions on input application, crop protection, and productivity enhancement.

> "Extension agents tell us to act as community-based agricultural advisors, and I take that responsibility seriously,"

he explains. His regular interaction with farmers has earned him trust and influence in the community, reinforcing the role of kiosks as both input access points and knowledge hubs.

Since the kiosk was established, farmers in Gomo have reported a marked improvement in crop yields and farm efficiency. The availability of high-quality, certified inputs at

affordable prices has led to better input use efficiency, reduced transportation costs, and minimized delays, directly contributing to improved farm productivity and increased household income.

Zonal Extension Agent, Alkasim, who regularly collaborates with Hussaini, emphasizes that the kiosk model has significantly extended the reach of extension services in underserved areas.

> "This is a sustainable and scalable solution that addresses one of the biggest bottlenecks in rural agriculture access,"

This success story illustrates the impact of KSADP's holistic approach to rural agricultural transformation. Funded by the Kano State Government, with support from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF), the project is targeting the livelihoods of 450,000 smallholder farmers.

Through innovative input delivery mechanisms like Agro-kiosks, the crop component of KSADP, led by the Sasakawa Africa Association, is driving inclusive, demand-driven, and sustainable agricultural development in Kano State.

Hussaini a Kiosk Vendor providing Technical Guidance to Farmers and Good Agricultural Practices GAP to Farmers in Gomo

SAA_KSADP Team B during a faility tour of Sonalika Tractors Limited

Exploring India: A journey of discovery for SAA, KSADP and Kano

India, often celebrated for its vibrant culture, rich history, and breathtaking landscapes, has also emerged as a global leader in technology and agriculture. With a population of over 1.4 billion, the "land of diversity" continues to offer invaluable inspiration to those seeking growth and innovation. For a group of staff from the Sasakawa Africa Association Nigeria (SAA Nigeria), the Kano State Agropastoral Development Project (KSADP) and officials from the Kano State Government, a recent study tour to India was not just an eye-opening professional experience, it was a journey that deepened their sense of connection, learning and shared purpose.

The study tour aimed to explore leading agricultural institutions and build partnerships to enhance the Kano State Agricultural Development Project (KSADP) across key focus areas such as agricultural mechanization, farm machinery development, water management, regenerative agriculture, extension services, capacity development, and agribusiness. Conducted in two phases, from February 8 to 15 and February 22 to 28, 2025, the tour also provided participants with an

SAA_KSADP Team B visit ICRISAT HQ in Hyderabad_India

opportunity to explore India's diverse traditions, thriving cities, and centuries-old heritage while engaging with its modern innovations and socioeconomic advancements.

Learning from Leaders in Agricultural Advancement

The delegation's first stop was Solanika International Tractors Ltd, a major force in agricultural mechanization. Visits to the company's manufacturing plant in Hoshiarpur, Punjab, and its corporate office in New Delhi offered firsthand exposure to cutting-edge technologies that could significantly enhance KSADP's mechanization strategies.

According to the State Project Coordinator of KSADP, Mohammed Ibrahim Garba, who led the first group alongside SAA Nigeria's KSADP Project Coordinator, Abdulrasheed Kofarmata, the insights from Sonalika were invaluable: "The visit gave us firsthand insights into cutting-edge tractor and farm machinery manufacturing processes that could significantly enhance mechanization strategies for KSADP".

Another highlight was the visit to Punjab Agriculture University and the Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University in Ludhiana. These engagements offered valuable lessons in agricultural research, livestock management, and veterinary sciences, insights that could benefit the farming system in Kano State.

The team also flew to Hyderabad to visit the headquarters of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). There, the delegation interacted with experts on climate-resilient agriculture, regenerative farming techniques and agribusiness strategies that align with KSADP's vision for a more sustainable and market-driven agriculture sector.

Connecting Through Culture and Shared Experience

Beyond institutional visits, the team's journey through cities like Panipat, Kurukshetra, Ambala, Ludhiana, and Jalandhar gave them a deeper appreciation of India's rural farming practices and vibrant local markets.

> India and Nigeria share many agricultural challenges and opportunities. Within these similarities lie differences that we can learn from, especially in supporting smallholder farmers and agribusinesses,

" said the Managing Director of the Kano State Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (KNARDA), Dr Farouk Kurawa, who led the second delegation with the SAA Nigeria Deputy Country Director, Dr Abdulhamid Gambo.

Cultural immersion was also a significant part of the tour. From testing India's iconic dishes reach in spices, cereals, pulses, and sauces to a soul-stirring visit to the Taj Mahal in Agra, the delegation experienced India.

Reflecting on the 480km road trip between New Delhi and Agra, Kofarmata shared:

> "It was a long journey, but the visit offered us a break from the technical engagements and helped us to appreciate India's rich history and artistic heritage."

Building Bonds and Looking Ahead

One of the key takeaways from the tour was the opportunity for strategic partnerships. Discussions with institutions like Sonalika and ICRISAT opened promising avenues for technology transfer, collaborative research, and capacity-building programs.

"We have seen real potential for impactful partnerships that can drive our efforts in agricultural mechanization, extension services, and foster agribusiness development both within the KSADP and across Sasakawa's broader work,"

Dr. Gambo Abdulhamid.

Members of Solanika management staff receive SAA_KSADP Batch A team in New Delhi_India

For Dr. Godwin Atser, SAA Nigeria's Country Director, the was more than a professional mission but a transformative Journey:

"This study tour blended learning, cultural immersion, and strategic networking in a way that will enrich how we implement agricultural innovations across Nigeria. The insights and shared moments will certainly strengthen our team spirit and improve collaboration across units.",

A Journey to Remember, A Future to Build Together

More than just an academic exercise, the India study tour fostered stronger ties among colleagues, deepened professional commitment, and provided fresh ideas for advancing agriculture in Nigeria. The journey also reminded all participants of the power of teamwork, shared experiences, and the importance of stepping outside one's comfort zone to grow both personally and professionally.

The team also visited the Red Fort in New Delhi_India

SAA_KSADP team B in ICRISAT HQ during a tour of facilities.

Local Machine Fabricated at Danbatta

Local Fabricators Powering Mechanization and Livelihood improvement in Rural Kano

In rural communities across 44 LGAS of Kano State, local fabrication workshops are emerging as engines of agricultural innovation, skills development, and economic empowerment. Thanks to targeted support from the Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP), implemented by the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA), 80 trained and empowered fabricators are designing and manufacturing vital farm implements tailored to the needs of smallholder farmers.

Fabrication technology is playing a transformative role in improving agricultural productivity and reducing drudgery. Tools such as disc ploughs, harrows, seed drills, and manual planters—once difficult or expensive to import—are now being locally produced, making them more affordable, accessible, and easily serviceable within rural communities.

One such success is Aminu Abubakar, a skilled fabricator from Dawakin Kudu LGA who was trained at NCAM Ilorin and supported by KSADP/SAA. “With KSADP-SAA's intervention, I've expanded my workshop operations. Farmers no longer have to wait weeks for repairs or spare parts. We provide instant solutions, keeping their farm activities uninterrupted,” he says. Aminu currently employs 10 apprentices, training them in machine design, production, and maintenance, helping to build a future-ready workforce in Agro-mechanical engineering.

KSADP -SAA Trained Fabricator at His Workshop

Fabrication is not limited to tillage tools alone. The intervention also encourages the development of post-harvest processing equipment, such as grain mills, threshers, grinders, and packaging units. These machines reduce post-harvest losses and allow farmers to add value to their produce, increasing marketability and incomes by transitioning from selling raw commodities to processed, shelf-ready goods.

In Danbatta LGA, fabricator Usama Sani produces cost-effective ploughs suited to local soil conditions, helping farmers increase field efficiency and reduce manual labour. Similarly, in Sumaila LGA, Ahmadu Idris Sitti has fabricated over 10 engine-powered units in the past year and is expanding his operations to a new cement-built workshop, a marked improvement from his previous mud-structure facility. "KSADP-SAA gave me the platform to grow. With increased income from fabrication, I'm building a modern home and relocating my workshop to meet higher demand," he proudly shares.

Beyond boosting agricultural productivity, local fabrication also stimulates rural industrialization. It supports economic diversification by creating employment opportunities for welders, machinists, and technicians, while encouraging innovation in machine design adapted to specific crops, terrain, and farming systems in Kano State.

This initiative aligns with KSADP's broader vision to enhance the livelihoods of 450,000

A trained Fabricator Constructing a house and new workshop in Sitti , Sumaila LGA

Aminu a Trained Fabricator by KASDP-SAA in Ilorin Practicing in Dawakin Kudu

smallholder farmers, as funded by the Kano State Government, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF). By strengthening local Agro-mechanization capacity, the crop component led by Sasakawa Africa Association is helping to foster a resilient, self-sustaining agricultural ecosystem, where farmers and fabricators thrive together.

KSADP-SAA

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