

Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector Programme (GIAE) - Nigeria

Innovations for food security, employment, and incomes in Nigeria

Challenge

Nigeria is Africa's largest economy with a gross domestic product of 398 billion US-Dollars. However, economic development is characterized by significant inequalities. Agriculture is the livelihood of more than 40% of the population. The conditions for agriculture are very favourable, but the demand for food from Nigeria's population of 190 million just cannot be met, so the country has to import foods such as rice and wheat. The agricultural land cultivated by each farmer is usually small in size and manual techniques prevail. Planting and cultivation recommendations suggested by agricultural research are only rarely adopted.

High-quality seeds, fertilisers, and knowledge about good farming practices and the proper storage of food for marketing are all lacking, and therefore crop yields and farmers' incomes remain far below the possibilities offered by innovations and markets. More than 80% of the rural population live in absolute poverty.

At the same time, the demand for processed food products is increasing, especially in the cities, where additional opportunities for new jobs in the agricultural industry and higher incomes for farmers can be created. Together with government and private sector partners, the Green Innovation Centre helps farmers and micro, small and medium enterprises to grasp these opportunities in seven of 36 states.

Our Approach

Together with government, private companies and the Agricultural Development Programmes (ADPs), the Green Innovation Centre introduces scale-up inclusive business models and good agricultural practices for smallholders, associations, and trading and processing enterprises. The goal is to support rice, maize, cassava and potato smallholder farmers in Nigeria to increase income and enhance productivity through job creation and improved access to education and training programmes and information services.



Project Name	Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector Programme - Nigeria
Funded by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project Region	Nigeria (Benue, Nassarawa, Kaduna, Kano, Ogun, Oyo, Plateau States, Cross Rive)
Executing Partner Agency	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Project Duration	05/2014 – 09/2024
Funding Budget	€ 40.15 million

- Introduction of innovations in cultivation, such as crop rotation, mechanised tillage, improved varieties and the correct use of fertilizers and pesticide through *Good Agricultural Practice* (GAP) training in four value chains.
- Knowledge and information sharing on innovations between research and advisory institutions, cooperatives, and associations improving the distribution of innovations.
- In *Farmer Business Schools* (FBS) training, smallholders learn business fundamentals based on many practical examples, which they then transfer to their farms.
- Advising Nigerian companies to improve processing and make it more economical.



Left: Picture: FBS Training Participant
Right Picture: Sessions on GAP for Maize
Photos: © GIZ GIAE Nigeria



Left Picture: GAP training complemented by 3D animation video session.
Right Picture: Cassava processing and packaging plant
Photos: © GIZ GIAE Nigeria

Impact in figures

Capacity Development: 504 State Extension Agents have been qualified as GAP and FBS trainers. This is a way of institutionalising knowledge and transfer functions.

Disseminating Good Agricultural Practice: Currently 22,878 Farmers are enrolled in the 2021 GAP training cycle and a total of 216,823 have already successfully completed the training in total. Out of which 33% are female participants who have benefitted from these trainings. The trainer delivers the training in modules along cropping cycles. This ensures that farmers receive comprehensive information at the time they need it most.

Agriculture as a business: 240,501 Farmers (of which 35% are women) have improved their business and management skills during FBS training.

Making cottage industry fit for business: Over 3,300 small-scale processors of rice and garri (68% and 91% of them women respectively), have participated in the *Processor Business School* (PBS). This empowers them for business and economic independence.

Information and communication technologies: 168,929 smallholder farmers have employed ICT tools to increase their productivity and income.

- 3D animated videos provide proper cultivation and post-harvest practices or fertilizer recommendations via smartphone to over 162,260 farmers;
- RiceAdvice is an Android App developed by AfricaRice. It has helped 6,369 farmers to use fertilizer more efficiently.
- Interactive Radio Programme: In cooperation with Farm Radio International and PRTV in Plateau State GIAE designed an interactive radio show to provide agricultural information to farmers in the Irish potato value chain. Over 300 farmers have so far actively contributed to the show while thousands more have listened.

Business linkages between producers, input suppliers and off-takers are strengthened through the contract farming approach. This ensures producers' access to markets and services providers and enhances the business of up and downstream enterprises.

...and in stories



“A bumper harvest this year.”

Shamsiyya Magaji, a Maize farmer from Kudan, Kaduna State, is a mother and a businesswoman. Her yield is “5 tons of Maize per hectare rather than just 2 tons like in the last year. I owe this entirely to the new methods I’ve learned at the FBS. My family is looking forward to a better future”.



“We often wasted our fertilizers.”

Ibrahim Abdullahi Mohammed is a Rice farmer and user of the RiceAdvice in Lafia, Nassarawa State. “I can hardly describe how much the information provided by the new RiceApp has helped me to increase my yield. I’ve learned that agriculture is a lucrative business. My family won’t suffer hunger anymore”.



“I learned how to apply hygienic processing methods”

Aisha Ishola, Garri Processor from Baale-Ogunbayo, Ogun State is very enthusiastic about best practices learnt at the Processor Business School (PBS). “These new methods have really convinced me. Everything is much more hygienic than the processes we used in the past”.



Value addition from contract farming

Nike Tinubu, Eagleson Cassava production and processing. “My impact story starts with the value-added training of 450 smallholder farmers by FBS to produce for us as contract farmers. The guaranteed off-take and higher yield of the farmers helped create trust between the farmers and us. Both parties are happy with the collaboration, and I am optimistic that this partnership will continue”.

Published by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
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Layout: GIZ
As at: October 2021

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

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