

YOUTH AGRIPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT (YADP)



CBI INNOVATIONS LTD.

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YADP YEAR – 01 ANNUAL REPORT

CBIL

ABUJA

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BACKGROUND

The average age of maize farmers in Nigeria is now about 53 years in a country where the average age of the citizen is 18 years. Food processors fear that if something is not done urgently, the supply chains will become unreliable over the next decade. Processors have complained of insufficient quantities of acceptable quality produce on the market and are now tending towards traceability of produce they purchase. Companies like Nestle Nigeria PLC would therefore like to see youth come into agriculture to replace the ageing producers.

The Youth Agripreneurship Development project (YADP) is a partnership with Nestle to develop 400 youth and women Agripreneurs in Kaduna to increase their income, yield of maize and provide services to other farmers. The project successfully registered, trained and supported 372 farmers in increasing their productivity of maize (short of the 400 target as a result of disruptions due to COVID-19 lockdown prior to the season) and also recruited and trained 39 Community Life Agents (Village Based Advisors) who served as Agric extension support to the various farmers (under 4 experienced Extension workers who supervised them). 68 females were trained as Agripreneurs. Each of the Agripreneurs were provided a complete set of inputs for cultivating 1 hectare of land by CBI Innovations Ltd and six training interventions throughout the crop cycle.



Fig 1: Agripreneurship training

PROJECT SUMMARY

Title	Youth Agripreneurship Development Project (YADP)
Start Date	May, 2020
Duration	10 - Months (May, 2020 – February, 2021)
Target Area	Ikara, Markafi, Sabon Gari, Soba, Giwa, Kubau, Zaria, Zuntu2/Soba
Beneficiaries	(372) Farmers benefiting Inputs, Training with Guidance from (39) Community LIFE Agents (CLAs) and Supervision from (4) Supervisors overseen by (1) Coordinator.
Total Yield	11,904 Bags of 100Kg Maize (11.904tonnes) was produced by 372 farmers
Average Yield/Hectare	32 Bags (3.2tonnes) of Maize
Total Recovery	4,154 bags (4.154 tonnes) Maize was recovered from farmers as (93%) loan repayment out of 4,464 bags owed
Project Objective	Year1: To develop (400) youth and women Agripreneurs to increase their production of maize and provide services to other farmers.

YADP PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The Youth Agripreneurship Development Project (YADP) pre-farming activities started in Q4 of 2019 with design, development of project plan in line with project objectives, training module developments and initial farmers registration. Activities continued in first quarter of 2020, which was disrupted by COVID-19 at the point of confirmation of farmers' list

CLA's and Supervisors recruitment and training: This involved the identification of the Coordinator, Supervisors and CLAs the output was the selection of (1) Coordinator, (4) Supervisors and 39 CLAs. These participants were trained on the use of the handheld devices and the various training modules.

Identification, recruitment and registration of Agripreneurs: Community sensitization was carried out to get the buy – in of the community, identify the Agripreneurs and recruit them for the project.



Fig 02: Distribution of Inputs to Agripreneurs

Training on Module 1 (The CBIIL Business Network): Introducing CBIIL's Business Network and the need for a business orientation to farming. The opportunities available to all stakeholders, more especially the participants in the business of agriculture.

Trainings on Module 2 (Coordination & Support) & 6 (Field Data Collection): Explaining the needs and benefits for farmers to be clustered around a CLA and the roles of data that is being collected by CLAs. How and why groups are formed and coordinated to achieve scale. The place of data management in sustainable agricultural business. Network Coordination & Support:

Trainings on 1st half of Module 04 (Extension Support): This explains the Good Agronomic Practices (GAPs) to the farmers. It stated the protocols to be applied to maximize yield, minimize losses, achieve quality and food safety standards and minimize rejection. Specifically, the training

covered land preparation, planting, spraying operations, fertilizer application and Aflasafe application. It also covered diseases and pests and how to recognize and control them.



Fig 03: Cross –section of agripreneur training session

1st monitoring of Youth Agripreneurs Plot: The objective was to provide a progress assessment of farmers and their farms. It was also to evaluate the impact of the trainings and the agripreneurs ability to implement the lessons learnt. One of the lessons learnt from the monitoring was the impact of the delay of the Covid – 19 pandemic on the project. The need for cluster of farms, the need for early and uniform planting, the creation of a platform for farmers and the organisation to interact directly.



Fig 04: Maize cob

Trainings on Module 03 (financial literacy) and Module 05 (Lifestyle management): The training exposed the farmer to the importance of proper records keeping and appreciates what financial management is all about. Module 05 teaches the farmers about keeping healthy and engaged in order to fully benefit from the economic growth taking place.

2nd monitoring of Youth Agripreneurs Plot: The objective of this monitoring was to estimate the yield expected from the farms, to provide a progress assessment of farmers and their farms and to evaluate the impact of the project on the agripreneurs. One of the findings was that the project introduced twenty – seven new agripreneurs to maize farming.



Fig 05: 2nd monitoring visit

Training on 2nd half of Module 04 (Harvest and Post – harvest Operations) and a refresher on Module 01 (Introduction to the CBiLL Network): This course intimated the Agripreneurs on the best available practices to be observed during harvesting, threshing, cleaning, sorting, bagging and storage of the maize.



Fig 06: Training of Female Agripreneurs

Harvest and storage of Produce: A total of 372 farmers cultivated on 342.21 Ha of land and produced an estimated 11.904 tons of maize. The average produce was 3.2 tons/Ha. One of the learnings from the harvest was the need for a further strengthening of the field compliance management of the farming process and activities. Upon a further confirmation of actual yield from 158 agripreneurs, 36 female cultivated an average of 3.248 tons/Ha, male agripreneurs below 35 years cultivated 3.407 tons/Ha and male agripreneurs above 35 years produced 3.481 tons/Ha. CBIIL has recovered 93% of the total loan disbursed to farmers in the form of 4,154 bags of maize.



Fig 07: Harvested maize grins stored in warehouse

SUCCESS STORIES

- Of the twenty best producing farmers, a female of the age of 25 years produced 50 bags/Ha (5 tonnes/Ha)
- 17 male youth below the age of 35 years old produced an average of 58.47 bags/Ha (5.847 tonnes/Ha)
- 2 over – aged farmers produced an average of 76 bags/Ha (7.60 tonnes/Ha). These farmers combined the good agricultural practices with their experience to increase their total output.

CHALLENGES

- Restriction of movement due to Covid – 19 was a challenge, first the lockdown resulted in inability to reach the farmers. This meant that most of the originally selected farmers had planted on their prime lands and those still inclined to continue had to plant our grains in remote areas. This resulted in farm lands being far apart and some being smaller in size than required.
- In a bid to meet up with the project target, over – aged beneficiaries (i.e male above 35 years) took advantage of the loophole caused by the supervisors need to meet their quota and registered on the program, this was not detected till after the beneficiaries had planted.
- The distance between the farmlands made the use of mechanisation and monitoring more difficult.
- In some areas, there were cases of banditry activities, these limited the number of visits that the agripreneurs could make to their farms and the monitoring visits that the compliance team could make.
- At the point of harvest, agripreneurs were pressured to sell their maize in the open markets due to the high price being offered in the market. This resulted in agripreneurs harvesting their maize while they were wet and above required moisture level to enable them sell in the market, despite our promises to buy at a premium if they waited.

- At the point of harvest, there was limited warehouse space due to unprecedented buying of maize by AFEX and other stakeholders
- Due to apparent collusion between the supervisor and some agripreneurs, inaccurate information was fed back to the company, while the agripreneurs were encouraged to take advantage of the high prices and sell their excess produce to the open market

LEARNINGS

- Based on the yield of the performing over – aged farmers, the organisation will be building a cluster of youth around them. These farmers will support the youth with their experience and knowledge skills.
- The organisation has blocked the loopholes to ensure the recruitment and registration of male youth agripreneurs between 18 and 35 years
- To increase the recruitment and participation of women on the project, the organisation will as much as possible select women agripreneurs in the various communities.
- The organisation will be strengthening the field compliance and monitoring team on the project.
- The year 02 project will be start early to ensure prime selection of land and cluster of farmers, thereby enabling the use of mechanization on the project

GLOSSARY



Fig 08: Maize planting by farmers using handheld planters



Fig 09: spraying of herbicide using backpack Spayer



Fig 10: Fertilizer application



Fig 11: Aflasafe broadcasting on the farm



Fig 12: field visit to Corteva demo plot



Fig 13: Stacking of maize on field for further drying



Fig 14: threshing of maize



Fig 15:Sorting and bagging of maize grains

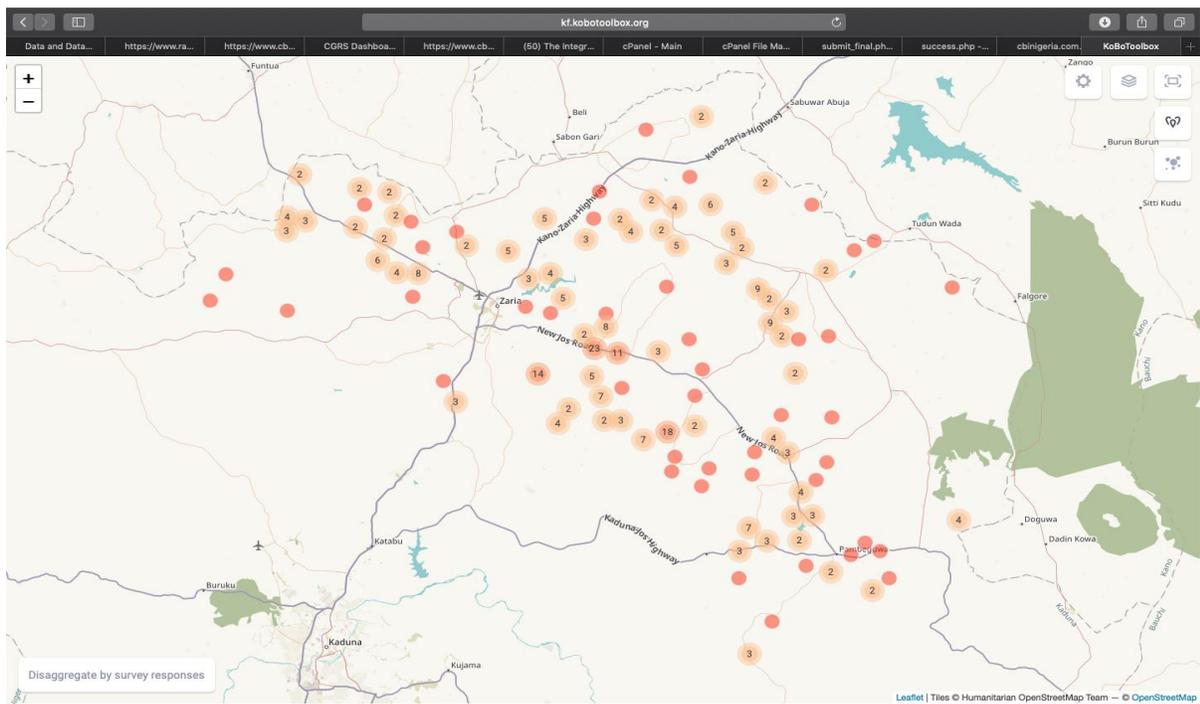


Fig 16: Pictorial locations of Agripreneur farms