



Hajiya Mairo Shafiu prunes her tomato plants

Nigeria

Spotlight: Advancing Entrepreneurial Opportunities for Women Farmers

In Nigeria, women are often responsible for the day-to-day work of farming—sowing, weeding, harvesting, and more. Yet their full inclusion in the agricultural sector is limited by cultural and religious biases, along with inadequate access to finance, land, and agricultural training.

To promote entrepreneurship among women farmers, the EWS-KT Nigeria team not only provides training in sustainable and profitable agronomic practices but also educates women on the business aspects of farming. Training women in record keeping, business planning, and how to

identify market risks and opportunities enables them to participate in decision-making and planning.

We encourage women farmers to set up their own businesses, whether establishing seedling operations, producing neem oil, or becoming agro-input dealers to serve other women farmers. These approaches are already yielding good results, with women able to build income, gain access to vegetable markets, and improve their household nutrition and finances.

Becoming a Seedling Entrepreneur

Every day, 39-year-old Hajiya Mairo Shafiu sold fried awara (tofu) in front of her house, but this did not bring in much income, and she longed to do something more fulfilling. She had always admired farming, but she didn't know how to get started.

Everything changed one afternoon when she came across an EWS-KT training on seedling production. Curious, she drew closer. She began to come regularly to watch the EWS-KT trainer practice improved farming techniques with the assembled men. The trainer noticed her interest and began to involve her, even though she was the only woman.

When she was selected as a key farmer, she chose to grow tomato and faithfully implemented the techniques from each training. Soon her tomatoes were ripe, and she was humbled by the bountiful harvest.

The income from her tomato crop moved her family from poverty to a better standard of living. With part of her profit, she bought a goat and onion seeds for the next season.

Having come this far, Hajiya Mairo was not about to stop. She and five other women she had introduced to vegetable farming built a protected nursery, purchased seeds and seedling trays, and went into business together to raise seedlings to sell to other farmers.

“My heart is full of gratitude for all I have learned, for bringing my dream into a reality, and for changing my status from poverty to an income earner.”

- Hajiya Mairo Shafiu

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2022 Results

42,181

FARMERS TRAINED



1,007

DEMO PLOTS ESTABLISHED

4,138

TRAINING EVENTS

AVERAGE NET PROFIT

US\$ **205.29** per crop cycle, 500 sq. m. plot

HIGHEST NET PROFIT TOMATO

US\$ **317.89** AVERAGE NET PROFIT, per crop cycle, 500 sq. m. plot