



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

# IMPACTFUL AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES IN NIGERIA



## What

The Feed the Future Developing Local Extension Capacity (DLEC) project engagement, in partnership with the Kano Agricultural & Rural Development Authority, demonstrates a participatory process to identify and promote impactful agricultural practices that are easy for farmers to apply at low cost and have the highest returns on yield.

## Why

Nigeria's National Rice Development Strategy estimates that smallholder farmers have the potential to increase their rice yields by 57%. Research also indicates that while Kano State is one of the largest producers of rice in Nigeria, smallholder farmer yields in Kano, and resulting incomes, are low. Establishing and training farmers on impactful practices can help them prioritize their effort to focus on practices with the highest potential for yield.

## Partners

Kano State Government Ministry of Agriculture, Kano Agricultural & Rural Development Authority (KNARDA), Popular Farms, Thrive-agric and FarmCrowdy



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## How

The engagement employed a participatory approach bringing together multiple stakeholders to ensure that the impactful practices for rice production identified were locally relevant and accounted for local constraints. Researchers, public sector, private sector, and farmers were brought together to identify these practices in a series of consultations. The consultations focused on:

**1** Identifying 1-3 easy-to-adopt practices specifically focused on increasing yield as opposed to those that promoted input use with the help of researchers and off-takers representing the market for rice. Practices identified were:



**Land preparation: ploughing, leveling, and bunding**



**Nursery establishment and transplanting seedlings at 14 days after seed planting**



**Line transplanting of seedlings using 20cm x 20cm**



**Water management through alternate wetting and drying**

**2** Conducting focus group discussions with rice farmers to understand barriers to adopting the identified practices to adapt training curriculum based on these challenges



**3** Disseminating the impact practices via demonstration plots and tracking adoptions within a subset of farmers



**4** Conducting a yield estimation comparison study to test the impact of the impactful practices on yield



## Results

The engagement resulted in yield increases between 23-35% with 67% of participating farmers reporting the ease of adoption of the limited number of impactful practices. Further, 90% of the surveyed farmers indicated their willingness to either start or continue implementing the practices they were trained on.

## Timeline

May 2018 – December 2018

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