USAID LAHIA Project - Niger
Supporting Poor, Smallholder Farmers’ Entry into the Cowpea Value Chain

The Livelihoods, Agriculture and Health Interventions in Action (LAHIA) Project (2012-17) is managed and implemented by Save the Children, with its partner World Vision, in the Maradi Region of Niger. The five year project is funded by the USAID Office of Food for Peace with the goal to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition among poor, rural households. The project is improving the nutritional status of children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women, increasing access to food for vulnerable households, reducing vulnerability to shocks, and improving women’s participation at household and community levels. Among other interventions, the project includes promotion of essential health and nutrition practices; CLTS-based WASH activities, savings and lending groups; business and market skills; income-generation activities; and agricultural strengthening.

Success Elements

- Existing demand
- Motivated value chain actors
- Successful adoption of improved production and preservation practices
- Integrated crop production and diversified income streams
- Financial literacy & business skills improved
- Stakeholder meetings to enhance value chain literacy
- SBCC activities targeting household decision-making on income and consumption
- Integration with USAID REGIS-AG Project to help women improve marketing and packaging of products & with value chain linkages

Initial Results

- 300 Mata Masu Dubara Groups (“Women on the Move”) formed. 8,540 women received savings & lending coaching
- Conflict management training
- Social cohesion and collective action skills strengthening

- Tailored training for individual & group Business Plans
- Farmer Field School training & introduction of improved cowpea varieties and climate-resilient crop production
- Income Generation Activities: sheep fattening, food stands, peanut oil extraction, cowpea processing
- Cooking demonstrations integrating cowpea into local foods and infant porridge and nutrition coaching to encourage consumption

- Continued production, processing and marketing support
- Further SBCC on decision-making & consumption
- Data collection, monitoring and results reporting

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* USAID REGIS-AG: Resilience and Economic Growth in the Sahel-Accelerated Growth