

AGRA Impact Series



Young Nigerian farmer becomes Agriculture Champion after training to increase productivity

Despite spending long hours cultivating rice, young Nigerian farmer Usman failed to register enough harvests for a comfortable livelihood.

Like most farmers in the Wushishi region of Nigeria's Niger State, Usman would have given up on the trade had he not been recruited for training on modern agriculture, a project by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the Partnership for an Inclusive Agricultural Transformation (PIATA).

In the program, Usman was trained on good agricultural practices and supported to mechanize his investment, as a result of which he is now inspired to expand his agricultural enterprise.

The introduction of mechanization, for instance, helped him reduce the time spent in cultivation and managing harvests, effectively increasing his profits per unit of time spent farming.

"We now just need three people and four hours to cultivate one hectare of land, an amount of work that previously needed 20 people and a full day to complete," Usman said.

The efficient farming practices have translated into increased harvests for Usman, whose yields have

doubled driving him to also increase the size of land under rice cultivation.

"Before the AGRA-PIATA training, I used to farm on just one hectare of land and I would record 1MT-2MT/ha at harvest. I have since increased to four hectares after getting 3MT- 4MT/ha of rice at harvest," he said.

Today, Usman is a model farmer in his village and is supporting others through the provision of extension services as a community-based advisor (CBA).

AGRA and PIATA are using the CBAs like Usman to reach more farmers with agricultural technologies. In the strategy, CBAs advance to become agro-dealers promoting improved seeds as extra businesses.

In 2020, over 188 CBAs had been linked with various seed companies as seed vendors and larger agro-dealers to sell 32,000MT of certified seeds.

Overall, 2,910 CBAs have been recruited through various programs to serve over 800,000 smallholder farmers across Nigeria.