Postharvest Monitoring of Farm Inputs Distribution to Small-Scale Farmers in Borno State in 2019

Presentation at
Borno FSS Agric. & Livelihood Coordination Meeting,
19th February, 2020
Introduction

• Action Against Hunger (AAH) (or Action Contre La Faim (ACF) in French) is a Nonprofit organization

• A Global Humanitarian Organization which originated in France and is committed to ending world hunger.

• Works to save lives by combating hunger and diseases that threaten the lives of vulnerable communities, through nutrition, food security, water and sanitation, health and advocacy.

• The Small Holder Farmers’ scheme is a component of the EU FSL Project that is working simultaneously as the social protection scheme

• It targets 2,417 Small Holder Farmers, who have been receiving support with trainings and farm production inputs.

• In 2019, the beneficiaries received farm inputs in the form of Seeds and farm tools, to support their nutrition sensitive agriculture.

• The objective of this study is to assess the effectiveness of the Small Scale Farmers Activity; and, to track the beneficiaries’ satisfaction, with a goal of ensuring accountability and quality control for further programming.

• This presentation reviews the effectiveness of the distribution and the production cycle in the year.
Methodology

• The study population comprised of **2,417 households**, who had benefited from the project Small Scale Farmers activity in July 2019, (1,524 in Monguno and 893 in Nganzai LGAs, respectively).

• A minimum sample size of **366 beneficiaries** were selected using Raosoft sample size calculator ([http://www.raosoft.com/samplesize.html](http://www.raosoft.com/samplesize.html))
Key Findings

• **Demography:**
  
  The demographic information revealed that:
  
  • 91% (n=311) of the household head were male, while
  
  • 9% (32) were female, as shown on the chart below.

*Figure 1: Age category of BNF households*
Inputs Received

- Seeds distributed included Arable Crops and Vegetable seeds.
- Some farmers collected both, while majority collected the Arable component only.
- The 3% who did not collect the Arable component are not accounted for here.
- Each of the BNFs received 5 Kg of

Figure 2: Inputs received
Quality of Seeds Received
(Based on Farmers’ Assessment)

- A response of 96.1% obtained is an indication that the seeds were of good quality.
- However, the response of 3.9% is an indication that there were impurities in the seed lot, which might be a result of damages during transportation and/or pests and rodents infestation during storage at the ACF facility.
- The quality attribute referred to by the respondents are the physical appearance of the seeds (damaged seeds, impurities, diseased and weeds seeds)

Figure 3: Quality of the Agro inputs received
Farmers’ Satisfaction with the Inputs given to them

• On the satisfied with the seeds (variety) given to them:
  • 92% (n=315) – Satisfied; while
  • 8% (n=28) - Not Satisfied.

• Reason for dissatisfaction:
  • 11% (n=3) - bad quality;
  • 86% (n=24) - not appropriate for them; and,
  • 4% (n=1) – Inappropriate to local culture.

• This indicates the need for a Pre-Distribution Needs Assessment to ensure inputs meet the needs of the farmers.
Timeliness of Distribution

• The seeds were distributed in May 2019 to all verified farmers.
• This is early enough judging by the Monguno/Gajiram seasonal calendar.
• The rains were also delayed in 2019 in these areas.
• However, some beneficiaries whose land are close to the town usually plant early enough between end of April and early May.
• Such beneficiaries may see the seeds distribution in May as late.
• Those who planted immediately saw delay in rainfall after the first rain which greatly affected their yield.
Planting of Inputs:

% of Seeds Planted

- The implication of the above is that, only 22% of the beneficiaries actually planted all their seeds; the remaining 78% planted part or, possibly none at all. 37% obviously planted less than 70% of the seeds.

- Givin out to relation and neighbors:
  - 17% (n=57) - Yes
  - 83% (n=286) Did not

- Selling away the items they received:
  - 0.3% (n=1) - Yes
  - 99.7% (n=342) Did not sell.

- Reasons for giving/ selling out the item(s):
  - 4% (n=1) said they do not need it/ or collected inputs by Peer Pressure:
  - 89% (n=51) – As Help to the persons that needed it;
  - 7% (n=4) – Need money

Fig. 5: % of Seeds Planted
Any Challenges?:

- 25% (n=85) – Agreed they had challenges during the season
- 75% (n=258) - said no challenges.

The Kind of Challenges Faced,

- 22% (n=17) - the rain fall was delayed/ Drought;
- 47% (n=48) - No access to farm land due to insecurity;
- 26% (n=27) - no enough farm tools;
- 6% (n=6) said other reasons.
Challenges Experienced During the Season

Germination Estimates

Figure 6: Estimated germination percentage

Incidences of Pests and Diseases

Figure 7: Pest/disease experienced
Time of Planting

Likely factors that contributed to variations in the planting dates:

• Instability of the Rains: Firstly, even though the rains came early, as earlier predicted the NiMET, it was however not stable until July, which is why most of the farmers planted during the month.

• The sudden change of policy on the reduction available land for planting outside the Military Perimeter to a distance of 5Kms in Monguno and Nganzai, stripped many farmers of their farmlands, and they had to make alternative arrangements to enable them find farmlands to cultivate.

• However, between late July and August, the military permitted farmers whose lands are located along Maiduguri road in Monguno, 5km radius, to assess their land through the intervention of the State governor and the Chairman of Monguno LGA as well as the FSL working group in Monguno.

Figure 8: Time of Planting
Harvesting and Post Harvest Reports

Crop Yields:

- The differences between the farmers’ expectations and the actual yields obtained might have been because of the poor germination results obtained in the fields, coupled with incidences of pests and diseases.

- Also, farmers might not have been able to take good care of their crops because of the security situation in the area, which limited their frequent access to the farms outside of the perimeters.

### Table 1: Farmer expectation before and after harvest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farm Input (s)</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Expectation in 50kg bag</th>
<th>Harvest in 50kg Bag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beans (Cowpea)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2 bags (50kg)</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3 bags (50kg)</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10 bags (50kg)</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 and above bags (50kg)</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Millet</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2 bags (50kg)</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3 bags (50kg)</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10 bags (50kg)</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 and above bags (50kg)</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Groundnut</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2 bags (50kg)</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3 bags (50kg)</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10 bags (50kg)</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 and above bags (50kg)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Utilization of Crop Yields by HHs

- The differences between the farmers’ expectations and the actual yields obtained might have been because of the poor germination results obtained in the fields, coupled with incidences of pests and diseases.

- Also, farmers might not have been able to take good care of their crops because of the security situation in the area, which limited their frequent access to the farms outside of the perimeters.

Figure 9: What was done with the yield harvested from the farm
Lessons Learned and Recommendations

• While due processes were followed at the procurement stage to ensure that quality inputs were supplied to the farmers, there were indications from the respondents that the seed materials supplied had about 3.9% undesirable contents. Therefore, going forward, in addition to a thorough procurement process, the following should also be ensured:
  • A confirmatory seed germination test following supplies by the vendor before accepting the products;
  • The programme team should also liaise with the Technical Team to validate the quality of the seeds (and other farm inputs before they are distributed to the beneficiaries.
  • ACF storage facilities should be properly cleaned and fumigated to reduce incidences of impurities and rodents during storage before distribution to the farmers.

• Seed procurement should be timely, with delivery taken latest in May, before the planting season, so as to ensure timely distribution of inputs to the beneficiaries, to enable them also plant early.

• It is also recommended that the programme team should conduct a land accessibility survey before selecting beneficiaries for agricultural inputs support. This will reduce the dangerous practice of farmers eating treated seeds, which also has health hazards.

• Programme teams should also work towards reducing the Farmer-to-Extension officer ratio, so as to enable more farmers have access to training on Good Agricultural practices to improve crop yield.
Thanks for your Action Against Hunger