

Objectives of the project

The project promotes agricultural innovations that contribute to climate change resilience, food security and close collaboration between small-scale rice producers and agro-pastoralists in selected rural areas in Nigeria



Background

Nigeria's agricultural sector is characterised by low productivity and unsustainable practices; therefore, food imports must meet the local demand gap. Factors contributing to the low crop productivity include poor crop management practices, high post-harvest losses, reliance on rain-fed agriculture, limited access to markets and production inputs, poor support to small farmers

Through the Agricultural Promotion Policy (APP) and the National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP), the Nigerian Government prioritises and aims at boosting the production of nine major agricultural value chains, including rice. The NLTP will transform and intensify the livestock sector and reduce farmer-herder conflicts.

Intensifying agricultural practices and increasing food production through crop and livestock farming has largely been achieved at the expense of reductions in other ecosystem services. Furthermore, intensification of the livestock sector and land-use change to establish farms increase the competition for land and water resources for crops and livestock and result in escalating conflicts between farmers and herders.

The Joint Action InACC is addressing these challenges. It is part of the EU initiative DeSIRA and the global project "Green Innovation Centres in the Agriculture and Food Sector" of the global BMZ special initiative "ONE WORLD – No Hunger" (SEWOH).

The theory of change

Based on the principles of agroecology, the project aims to contribute to sustainable rural development through innovations in the rice value chain and the farmer – agro-pastoralist nexus. It moreover aims to contribute to development of inclusive markets and business models and strengthened public policies to support transition of food systems

The project's approach utilizes a wide range of agroecological principles to achieve the objectives including participation, co-creation of knowledge, recycling, soil health, biodiversity, and governance of land and natural resources. The other agroecological principles considered in the project approach also ensures economic diversification, participation and synergies among actors.

Addressing climate change requires a combination of mitigation and adaptation actions and requires collaborative research with local communities to identify locally appropriate solutions to address climate change in the rice value chain, to develop new business opportunities and to improve the conflictive relationships between rice farmers and agro-pastoralists.

The project will strengthen collaboration between research and local communities to identify and test locally applicable solutions to address climate change in the rice value chain. It will experiment with stakeholders new arrangements to address the often tense or even conflictive relationships between

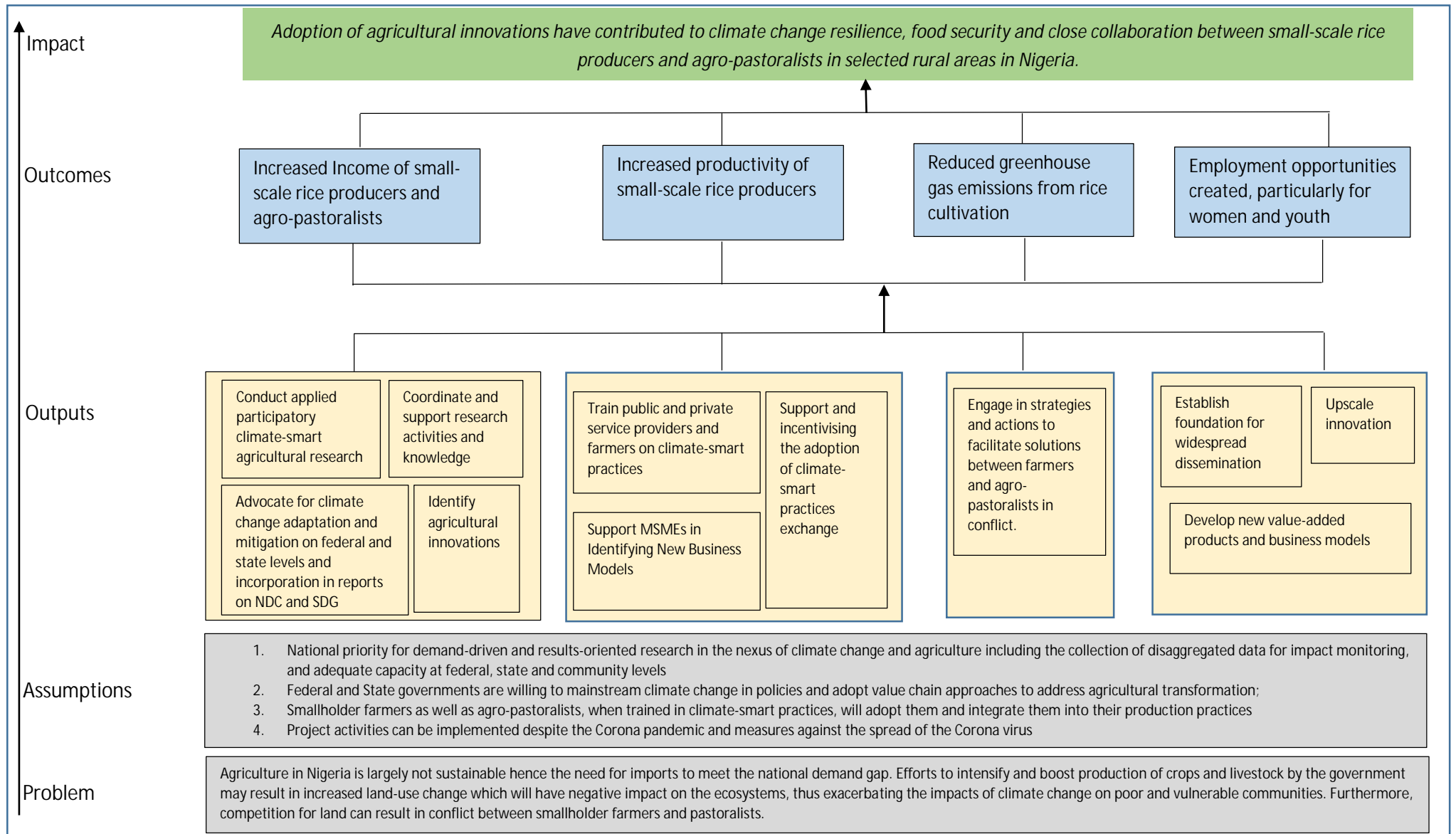


rice farmers and agro-pastoralists. Furthermore strengthened partner structures on integrated land management concepts will facilitate resource management arrangements between farmers and agro-pastoralists.

Additionally, strengthening value chain actors' capacity such as extension agents, rice buying companies' technicians, local government officers, and facilitators of NGOs is necessary to co-design and scale innovation with the stakeholders. Through a multi-level approach, relevant governmental, private, and civil society actors at local, regional, and national levels will facilitate knowledge exchange and provide guidance on climate-smart innovations and practices in rice and agro-pastoral systems.

Once climate-smart innovations and natural resource management arrangements between farmers and agro-pastoralists are identified, introduced, and proven beneficial, they can be scaled to a larger target group through training and dissemination of information.

The support to smallholder farmers and MSMEs among rice farmers and agro-pastoralists will increase yields, incomes and the number of jobs in the local agri-food sector like extension agents, technicians of rice buying companies, local government officers, and facilitators of NGOs. The project's approach also aims to improve the situation of women and young people, especially with regard to (youth) employment in the upstream and downstream sectors with the social values, fairness and participatory principles of agroecology.



Main activities

- ✓ Conduct applied participatory climate-smart agricultural research to identify research gaps, innovative climate mitigation and adaptation strategies on the agriculture, livestock/ agro-pastoralism nexus, promote their dissemination and use.
- ✓ Identify agricultural innovations to lead to the identification of new or adaptation of existing climate-smart practices. This will include among others innovative approaches in fodder production using crop rotation, management of pasture, trees and crop residues. Agroforestry for rice-production landscapes will be a key approach. The Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation will be a repository for potential climate-smart solutions in rice production that can be used by applied research and involved farmers and agro-pastoralists. In addition to agricultural practices the project will aim to identify innovations in fodder production such as the use of crop residues for grazing herds which provide dung in exchange.
- ✓ Foster policy initiatives and knowledge exchange through various exchange formats and support (e.g. Communities of Practice, South-South and North-South exchange).
- ✓ Advocate for climate change adaptation and mitigation on federal and state levels and incorporation in reports on NDC and SDG by designing a strategic plan for the agriculture sector
- ✓ Train public and private service providers and farmers on climate-smart practices to strengthen capacities and to ensure dissemination of the project's innovations through a trainer-of-trainer approach.
- ✓ Support MSMEs in Identifying New Business Models by exploiting market opportunities and diversification within livestock and farming systems through successful approaches like the SME Business Training & Coaching Loop and contract farming arrangements implemented by GIZ projects and adapt them to the local context of MSMEs and the needs of the communities.
- ✓ Develop an integrated land resource management approach in a participatory way facilitating the collaboration between farmers and agro-pastoralists.

Organisation

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) chaired by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) with members representing all the involved partners and other relevant stakeholders shall govern the project.

The PSC will meet bi-annually (and when relevant) to review progress in the implementation of the project and provide strategic guidance and recommendations to the management of the project. The PSC will also receive, review and discuss external monitoring reports and evaluations, when applicable.

Additionally, at the state level, Project Stakeholders Coordination Committees may be set up. Membership of the committees shall be from representatives of public, private and research institutions, farmer organisations and civil society in the respective states.

The the coordination of project activities will be from Abuja.

Implementing organisations

The project will be implemented by GIZ as part of the Special Initiative ONE WORLD - No Hunger and the Global Programme Green Innovation Centre for the Agriculture and Food Sector, Nigeria (GIAE NG).

Partners of the project

The project will collaborate with a range of partners and stakeholders from research and academia, civil society and government organisations. Notable stakeholders include; Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Federal Department of Agricultural Extension (FMARD - FDAE), the State Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Development Programme, International/European research institutes and Nigerian research institutions under Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria.

Other main stakeholders

The project will also engage with civil society organisations, interest groups, farmers associations and cooperatives, MSMEs, and agro-pastoralists, including youth and women.

Localisation

Nigeria, States of Benue and Nasarawa;

Funding and co-funding

EU	€ 4,100,000
AICS	€ 1,000,000
Total budget	€ 5,100,000

Duration

August 2021 to September 2024 (38months)



Co-funded by the European Union



Implemented by

