

ADDRESSING DROUGHT CHALLENGES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN NIGERIA

Participatory Approach for empowering women



In Ikwo local government area of Ebonyi state of Nigeria, several stages of stakeholders engagement with traditional authority, women group leaders, extension officers and community leaders helped to build trust and use a participatory approach to jointly identify knowledge gaps and generate diverse innovative outputs.

Local songs have for example been developed by women groups on a particular issue they want to escalate, to be played on the radio as jingles to create awareness and address severe drought challenges in rural areas.

Women have been motivated with free drought-resistant and high-yielding crop varieties and cuttings, as well as being linked with marketing information for better prices and bulk sales.

Partnerships with the Faculty of Agriculture resources center of AE-FUNAI (Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu Alike Ikwo) helped with the dissemination of innovative information on drought management and adaptation.

Also, collaborating with the Agricultural Development Agency, helped to transform raw scientific research information into the local dialect for local consumption.

Networking with the Nigerian Girl Guides Association, assisted to advocate on the need for girls and young women to adapt digital climate information by mainstreaming it in their guiding programmes to fill the climate information knowledge gap, with the support from the Local Government Council Area. Depending on the different type of approach, significant resources such as time, finance, confidence and patience are required to sustain their operation.



About 10 million people are affected by drought in Nigeria. However, women are the most vulnerable group with about 14% more likely to suffer from hunger than men.