

DELIVER Nigeria Project Update



Duration: July 2024 – June 2027

Implementing Partners: GAIN, EWS-KT, WUR

Focus States: Kano & Kaduna

Target: 50,000 Smallholder Farmers (30% Women & 50% Youth)

Project Title:

DEcent LIVelihoods for Small-Scale Producers Delivered through Economic & Resilient Food Systems in Nigeria (DELIVER Nigeria)

OVERVIEW & STRATEGY

The DELIVER Nigeria project is a three-year initiative designed to enhance livelihoods and food systems resilience among smallholder vegetable farmers. Funded by the Accelerating Resilient Food Systems in Africa (ARFSA), a programme from the Netherlands Enterprise Agency commissioned by the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Building on the achievements of the SDGP project (2019–2024), DELIVER Nigeria applies a three-pronged approach focused on supply, demand, and access to finance. Since its launch in July 2024, implementation has progressed steadily through partner mobilization, field entry, and roll-out of key interventions.



The project aims to improve productivity, promote vegetable consumption, and unlock financial opportunities for smallholder farmers. Emphasis is placed on inclusive participation, climate-smart practices, and strong market orientation.

COMPONENT HIGHLIGHTS

1. Demand Generation (Awareness Creation)

Led by GAIN and implemented by the Growing Businesses Foundation (GBF), this component aims to shift attitudes and behaviors toward increased vegetable consumption at both household and community levels. GBF targets all 50,000 farmers through:

- ✔ **Community Outreach:** Nutrition Cluster meetings have been designed to drive behavior change and dietary improvement through peer-led discussions.
- ✔ **Market Activation:** Cooking demonstrations, taste tests, and flyer distributions have begun shaping new norms around vegetable desirability in traditional markets.

2. Supply

EWS-KT and WUR lead the primary supply-side interventions which aim to strengthen smallholder farmer productivity and profitability by improving agricultural practices, reducing post-harvest losses, and enabling market access. Some of their recorded wins include:

- ✔ **Climate-Smart Vegetable Production:** Through 373 (296 commercial and 77 home gardens) demonstration plots, farmers were introduced to improved production methods, with average profits per 250m² plot reaching USD 97.25. Notable yield gains were seen for crops like cucumber (25MT/Ha vs. 0.7MT/Ha).
- ✔ **Farmer Engagement:** Over 11,622 farmers (35% women, 65% youth) were trained on key agronomic topics via plot-based sessions and 326 field days.
- ✔ **Knowledge Sharing Events:** A total of 12 Mega Field Days and several field exhibitions fostered learning and farmer-to-farmer knowledge transfer.
- ✔ **Market Intelligence:** Weekly price surveys (412 to date) inform farmers' production planning and help them better respond to demand fluctuations.
- ✔ **Sector Professional Training:** The VegSmart training program reached 89 sector professionals and 39 agro-dealers via a blended model, with the ABU Zaria Learning Site supporting hands-on learning (hosted 45 student interns).



3. Access to Finance

GAIN and Plus Incubation Hub (PIH) drive financial inclusion through a tiered model that builds financial capability from the ground up. By June 2025, the first batch of 300 farmers had been trained in financial literacy, setting the stage for deeper business training and investment-readiness support.

PIH's model ensures that at least 500 farmers will access formal finance by project end, with a larger cohort benefiting from VSLAs, business planning tools, and mentorship.

Success Story: From Backyard to Beacon – Intahal Isma'il's Journey

We are really excited to showcase one of the project's community-level impact story: Intahal Isma'il, a mother of three from Ungwan Hakimi in Lere LGA. After receiving 200 seedlings and training from the DELIVER Nigeria project, Intahal adopted the sack farming method combined with mulching in her home garden. She later expanded her garden with additional varieties including spinach, leafy onions, and lettuce.



Her garden has not only improved her family's nutrition but also turned her into a local change agent. More than 10 women in her community have expressed interest in starting their own gardens in the upcoming rainy season. Male household members have also shown support, with several men approaching Intahal to request training opportunities for their wives. This ripple effect illustrates the power of home gardening as both a nutritional and economic intervention.

Success Story: From Demo Plot to Thriving Farm: Mallam Usman's Story of Growth with DELIVER Nigeria Project

Mallam Usman Rabiou, a farmer from Dogon Salon in Birnin Lere, Kaduna State, was initially cautious about the DELIVER Nigeria project but was drawn by its promise of improved farming techniques. Starting with a 250-square-meter demonstration plot, he learned advanced practices such as nursery management, dry season bed preparation, and scheduled fertilizer use through hands-on training provided by the DELIVER Nigeria project. Encouraged by the success of his demo plot,



Mallam Usman expanded to a 1,500-square-meter farm, planting Platinum F1 and Diva F1 tomato seeds. His diligent application of new methods led to remarkable results: his tomato harvests grew from 10 crates to 35, significantly boosting his income and confidence. Despite challenges like sourcing materials for trellising, he remains determined to improve and diversify his farm. Mallam Usman's journey reflects the broader impact of DELIVER Nigeria, which has established over 1,200 demo plots and trained 25,000 farmers, fostering resilience and food security in rural communities.

Key Results & Milestones

The project recorded several key activities and results that laid a solid foundation for impact and scale in Year 2.


MILESTONES	RESULTS		
	Indicator	Target	Achieved
1. July 2024: Project kick-off, ABU Zaria Learning Site launched.	Demonstration Plots (Commercial)	960	296
2. October 2024: Launch events in Kano and Kaduna; field activities initiated.	Demonstration Plots (Home Gardens)	240	77
	Key Farmers Trained	600	288
3. November 2024: State advocacy visits to MDAs and partner harmonization meeting.	Core Farmers Trained	9,000	6,906
	Neighbouring Farmers Trained	9,000	5,536
	Agro-Input Dealers Trained	40	39
4. January 2025: Consortium review and strategic alignment.	Farmers Trained by Agro-Dealers	6,400	2,594
	Sector Professionals Trained	100	89
5. March 2025: GBF and PIH co-creation workshop and partner onboarding.	Total Farmers Directly Reached	18,600	12,730
	Market Surveys Conducted	-	412
	Technical Field Officers Deployed	-	13 across 7 LGAs
6. June 2025: GBF and PIH field teams mobilized and trained	Community Field Trainers Inaugurated	-	26

Project Visibility

 **15+ News Articles & Mentions** in the national dailies

 **3,500+ IEC Materials** Produced & Distributed

 **Featured on 3 national TV stations** NTA, Arise Tv, Silverbird Tv

 **Featured 344 times on** two state-run radio stations

Social Media Reach

Across GAIN and EWSKT Social Media Accounts



506,091

Long-term capacity development and community-driven systems are central to the project's sustainability strategy:

- ✓ **Community Field Trainers (CFTs):** 26 local trainers now serve as decentralized extension agents and aggregation organizers.
- ✓ **Private Sector Engagement:** Bunkasa Agritech will drive crate rental, aggregation center upgrades, and logistics innovation to reduce PHL by up to 30%.
- ✓ **Institutional Partnerships:** The ABU Zaria Learning Site is now embedded in academic programs, ensuring continuity and local ownership beyond project duration.