



COMPREHENSIVE BASELINE DATA COLLECTION FOR STRENGTHENING NUTRITION, ENTERPRISE GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTHS AND WOMEN THROUGH THE VITAMIN A MAIZE VALUE CHAIN IN KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA (SNEEM) PROJECT.



SNEEM PROJECT

Implemented by: the Freehearts Africa Reach Out Foundation (FAROF)

Co-Funded by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the European Union

September 2025

Table of Content

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
PURPOSE OF BASELINE:	5
OBJECTIVE OF BASELINE:	5
SURVEY QUESTIONS.....	6
METHODOLOGY	6
○ Qualitative Data Collection.....	6
○ Data Analysis	6
BASELINE FINDINGS	7
INTRODUCTION.....	7
CHIKUN.....	26
FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION.....	28
Data validation workshop	33
Methodology.....	33
Key Findings and Observations	34
Agreed Actions and Recommendations.....	34
Outcomes.....	35
Conclusion.....	35
OVERALL CONCLUSION	36
Challenges	37
Recommendations	37
1. Access to Finance & Inputs	37
2. Infrastructure & Post-Harvest Management	37
3. Capacity Building & Extension	37
4. Market Linkages & Value Addition.....	38
5. Gender & Youth Empowerment	38
6. Policy & Partnerships	38
ANNEX A: PICTURES	39
ANNEX B: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS (VALIDATION WORKSHOP)	41

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This baseline assessment was conducted by the Freehearts Africa Reach Out Foundation (FAROF), a non-profit organization and member of the SNEEM Consortium implementing the *Strengthening Nutrition, Enterprise Growth, and Employment for Youth and Women through the Vitamin A Maize Value Chain in Kaduna State, Nigeria (SNEEM) Project*. The assessment was implemented in collaboration with the Kaduna State Agricultural Development Agency (KADA), a public institution mandated to deliver agricultural extension services, strengthen farmer capacities, facilitate access to inputs, and promote improved agricultural technologies across the state.

To ensure methodological rigor, objectivity, and alignment with international best practices, KADA provide support to mobilized trained extension agents who served as independent enumerators. These enumerators conducted the field data collection using standardized tools (Kobo collect tool) and protocols, while FAROF provided overall technical oversight, supervision, and quality assurance throughout the assessment process.

The assessment identified **critical gaps and opportunities** within the Vitamin A maize value chain, some of which extend beyond the immediate scope of the SNEEM project. These insights will inform adaptive programming, strategic decision-making, and future resource mobilization efforts. FAROF, in collaboration with consortium partners, will actively pursue partnerships with additional donors and philanthropic organizations to address these gaps and scale impact.

The project Consortium partners/implementing partners are the Freehearts Africa Reach Out Foundation (FAROF), others are the SuperTech Foods (STF), Lutam Farms and Dehydrator Hub, **referred** as the SNEEM Consortium.

This assessment establishes the current status of value chain actors within the Vitamin A maize value chain to inform project design, set measurable benchmarks, and guide interventions over the 18-months implementation period.

The main findings from the baseline survey are summarized below:

- Majority of respondents were female (**67.4%**).
- Main locations: Zaria LGA (**66.6%**), followed by Chikun LGA (**33.4%**).
- Most of the respondents are self-employed (**84.1%**)
- **84.1%** rely on farming as their major source of livelihood.
- Farmers (**84.6%**) outnumber processors (**15.4%**).
- About **51.9%** are involved in agricultural processing.
- Maize is the dominant crop (**99.3%**), in which the white maize (**56.6%**) more common than yellow maize (**43.4%**).

- Major issues include fertilizer access and cost (**over 10%**), lack of seeds (**8.1%**), finance/capital constraints (31% combined), and marketing problems (**5.1%**).
- Key infrastructure constraints affecting MSMEs include inadequate storage facilities, poorly equipped processing centers, and unreliable energy supply (**44.8%**), all of which significantly limit productivity and value addition. Additionally, transportation challenges (**17.0%**) and high transportation costs (**23%**) further restrict efficient market access and distribution, increasing operational costs and reducing overall competitiveness of MSME actors.
- Quantitative data under the FGD conducted in Zaria and Chikun shows that **98%** of participants say they do not have access to a processing facility within their Local Government Area. However, in the Quantitative analysis states **55.9%** of respondents have access to processing facilities; however, these facilities are poorly equipped and are not up to standard, limiting productivity and food safety compliance. In Chikun LGA specifically, 64.1% of respondents indicated no access to processing facilities. Overall, these **findings highlight a critical infrastructure gap**, particularly in Chikun, underscoring the need for targeted investment in functional, well-equipped agro-processing facilities to strengthen MSME productivity and value chain efficiency
- **70.3%** are engaged in milling and packaging activities, indicating strong MSME participation in value addition but constrained by inadequate infrastructure, technology gaps, and limited access to modern processing systems required for efficient and competitive agro-processing.
- Digital proficiency is largely through social media (**73.5%**) and phone usage (**20.6%**).
- **70.9%** have an inadequate knowledge of modern farming techniques; only **29.1%** reported awareness.
- Techniques known: bookkeeping (15.8%), drying methods (16.5%), planting vitamin A maize (**6.3%**), and some climate-smart practices.
- **69.3%** have a limited knowledge of the Vitamin A maize, though **30.7%** do have a little.
- **Over 67%** of respondents rely on open sun-drying for grains, exposing products to contamination from insects, dust, and other environmental factors, which compromises food safety, quality, and shelf life.
- **68.9%** plant yellow maize, mainly using conservation tillage (**41.2%**), cover cropping (**26.5%**), contour plowing (**20.1%**), and others(**12.2**).
- **61.7%** do not have easy access to seeds; main barriers are market scarcity, high cost, and lack of information.
- **70.3%** of the respondents are interested in training on processing techniques with Priority areas such as post-harvest handling & storage (**39.4%**), pest/disease management (**12.7%**), and climate-smart crop varieties (**9.5%**), preferred methods include field demonstrations (**49.5%**) and in-person workshops (**43.1%**). The motivation for attending training includes; increasing income (**52.7%**), learning new technologies (**21.3%**), and improving production skills (**14.3%**).
- Few have received training on Vitamin A maize (**17.1%**) or management skills (18.9%).
- There is strong willingness to adopt agribusiness knowledge if training/support is provided

In summary, this assessment reveals that most respondents are female, self-employed farmers in maize production, facing serious challenges with fertilizer, capital, and seed access. Despite interest in processing and training, knowledge of modern/agricultural technologies remains low,

with reliance on traditional methods like sun drying. There is strong demand for training in post-harvest handling, climate-smart practices, and agro-processing, driven by MSMEs' motivation to increase income and improve product quality. Respondents also emphasized the need for standard, well-equipped processing facilities with reliable 24-hour power supply to enhance productivity, reduce losses, and ensure consistent operations.

PURPOSE OF BASELINE:

To establish baseline values for key project indicators and other relevant donor metrics, enabling effective tracking of progress and measurement of outcomes over the 18-month implementation period. **While the assessment identified broader needs beyond the current scope of the SNEEM project**, these findings will inform future programming and resource mobilization efforts. FAROF and her partners will actively seek partnerships with additional donors and philanthropic organizations to address uncovered gaps and scale impact.

OBJECTIVE OF BASELINE:

- Collect baseline data for key project outcome and output indicators.
- Assess beneficiaries' existing knowledge, practices, and capacity gaps in VAM production, processing, climate-smart agriculture, and enterprise growth.
- Establish gender- and age-disaggregated benchmarks for employment, enterprise participation, and nutrition-related outcomes.
- Identify barriers to access (finance, training, technology, market).
- Provide recommendations for project implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

The survey questions encompass several key areas including:

- Demographic characteristics
- Livelihood
- Challenges faced
- Awareness and technology adoption
- Crop cultivation and Yield
- Processing and value addition
- Training and capacity building

METHODOLOGY

The methodology section of this report describes how the survey was conducted and how the data was analyzed. The following are the main steps involved in the methodology:

- **Data collection**
 - Quantitative Data Collection: structured questionnaires were administered to farmers and processors in the Maize value chain by engaging Field Enumerators, drawn from KADA's and SMEDEN's beneficiary database, including independents Enumerators.
 - Qualitative Data Collection
 - FGDs: Separate FGDs for Women, and youth (female and/or Male youth) Processors, and farmers per LGA (10 participants per group).
 - KIIs: Interviews with KADA officials, community leaders, MSME processors, and financial service providers.
 - Data Analysis

- The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics to summarize the data and present the frequency distribution of the variables. The data analyses was performed using SPSS.
- **Validation Workshop**
 - State level stakeholders comprising of Agricultural Field Extension Agents, Agricultural research Institute, farmers, processors and other State Agricultural Ministries were drawn to validate the findings from the Data Collected through a one day validation workshop.

BASELINE FINDINGS

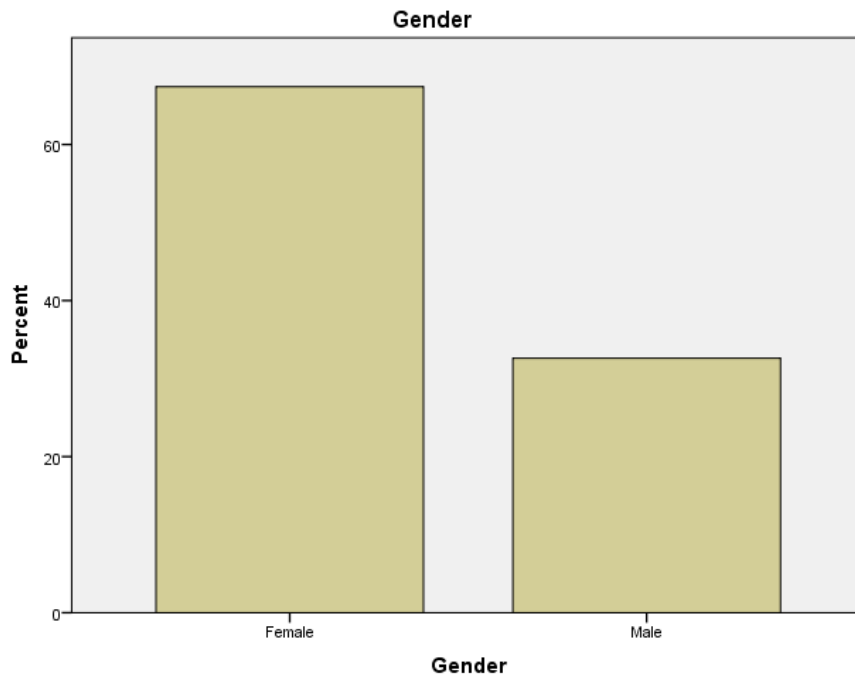
INTRODUCTION

This report presents findings from the survey conducted among 732 respondents in Kaduna State, focusing on farming and processing practices, challenges, infrastructural issues, awareness of modern agricultural technologies, climate resilience and training needs. Below are the baseline findings using tables and charts:

Demographic characteristics

- **Gender:** the majority of respondents were female (67.4 %) while male respondents accounted for 32.6 %. This data shows that the majority of the respondents are females which aligns with the project's target group of at least 70% percent women.

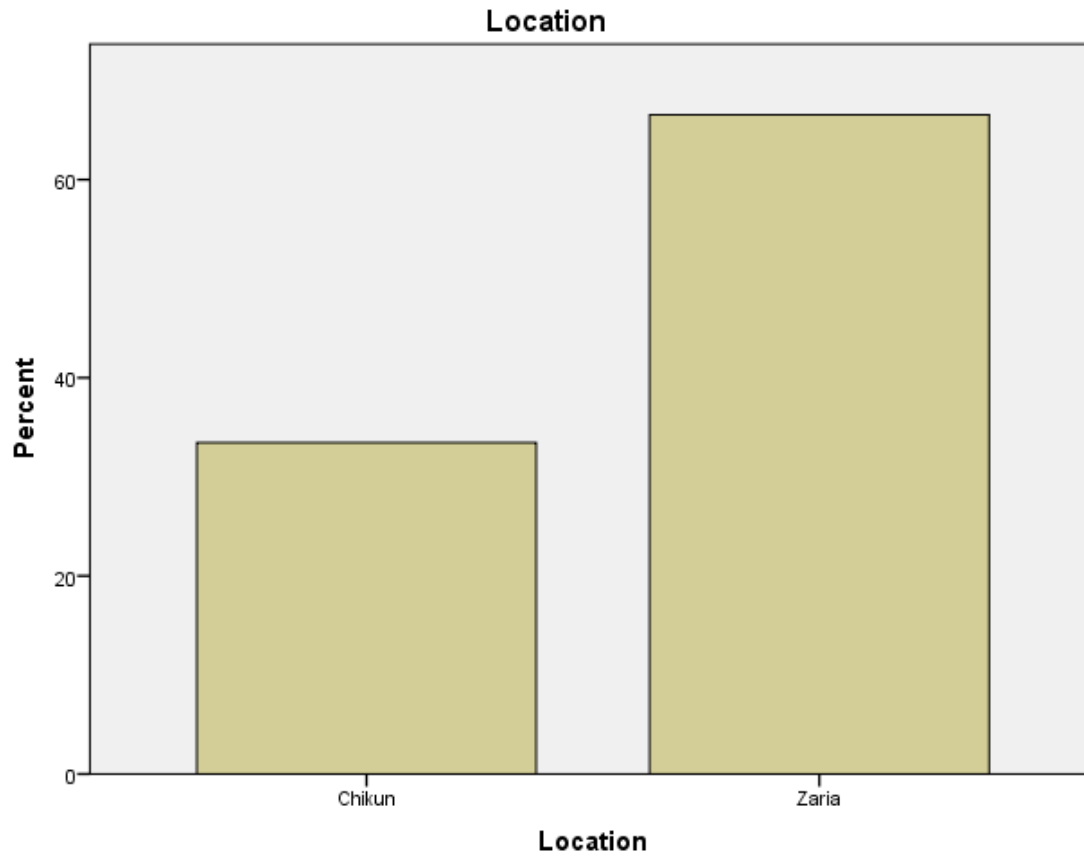
Gender				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Female	399	67.4	67.4	67.4
Valid Male	193	32.6	32.6	32.6
Total	592	100.0	100.0	



- Location: most respondents were from Zaria (66.6%), followed by Chikun (33.4%) and other LGAs (19.1%). The data shows that there are more responses from the target local government areas.

Location

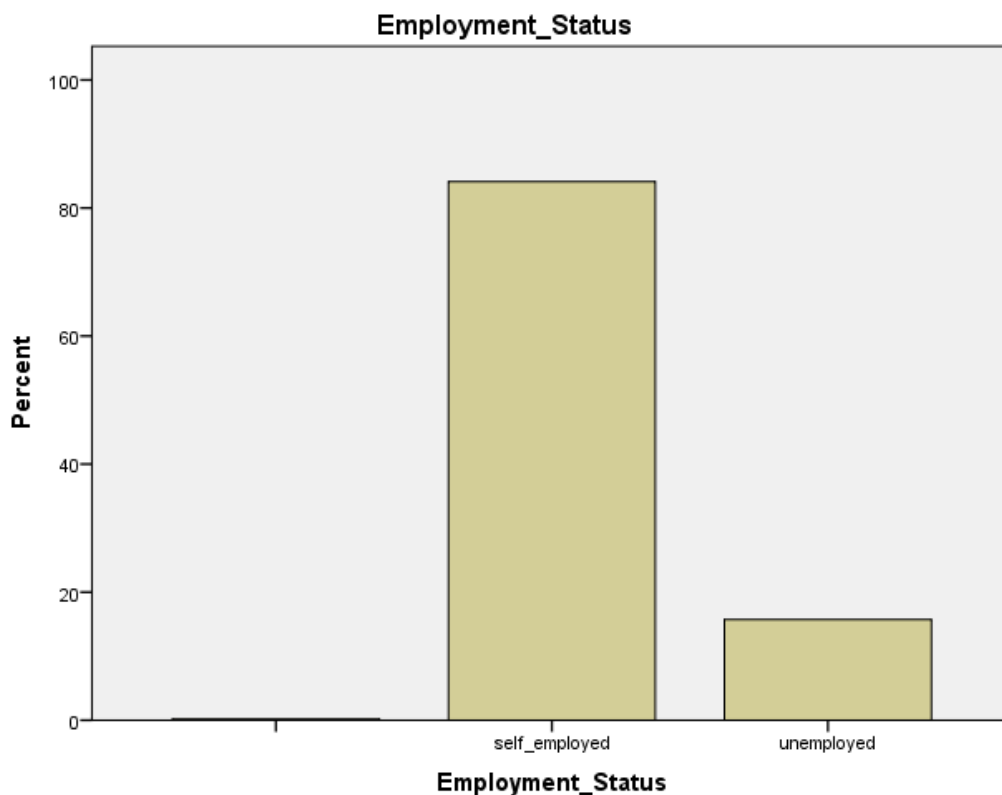
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Chikun	198	33.4	33.4	33.4
Zaria	394	66.6	66.6	100.0
Total	592	100.0	100.0	



- Employment: A significant proportion of the respondents were self-employed (84.1%), while 15.7% were unemployed.

Employment_Status

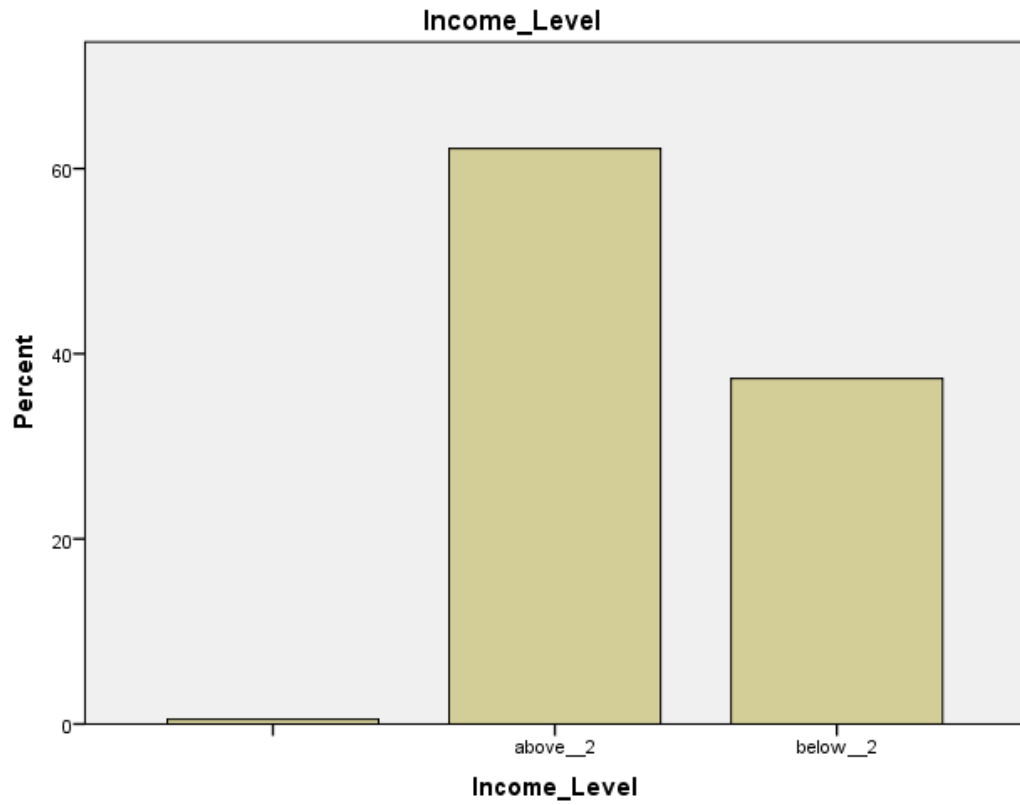
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	.2	.2	.2
	Self employed	498	84.1	84.3
	unemployed	93	15.7	100.0
	Total	592	100.0	



- Income levels: This data shows that more than half (62.7%) of the respondents reported an income of above #200,000 annually, while 37.3% earned below this threshold. This shows that monthly income is the average monthly is below the Nigerian minimum wage of #70,000. This data is important because the project aims to boost income through capacity building for farmers and processors and also to boost production capacity of vitamin A maize value chain by at least 20,600kg/month which will in turn boost the farmers and processors' income.

Income_Level

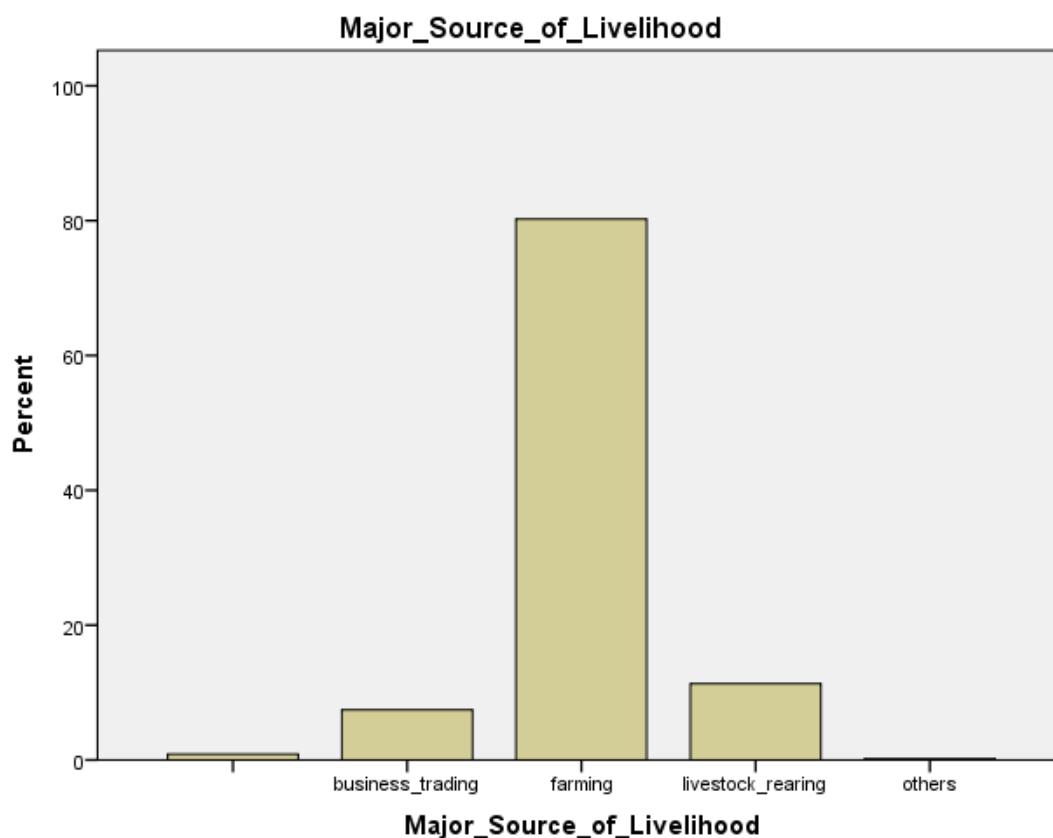
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	3	.5	.5	.5
Valid above__2	368	62.2	62.2	62.7
Valid below__2	221	37.3	37.3	100.0
Total	592	100.0	100.0	



Major_Source_of_Livelihood				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	5	.8	.8	.8
Valid business_trading	44	7.4	7.4	8.3
farming	475	80.2	80.2	88.5
livestock_rearing	67	11.3	11.3	99.8

others	1	.2	.2	100.0
Total	592	100.0	100.0	

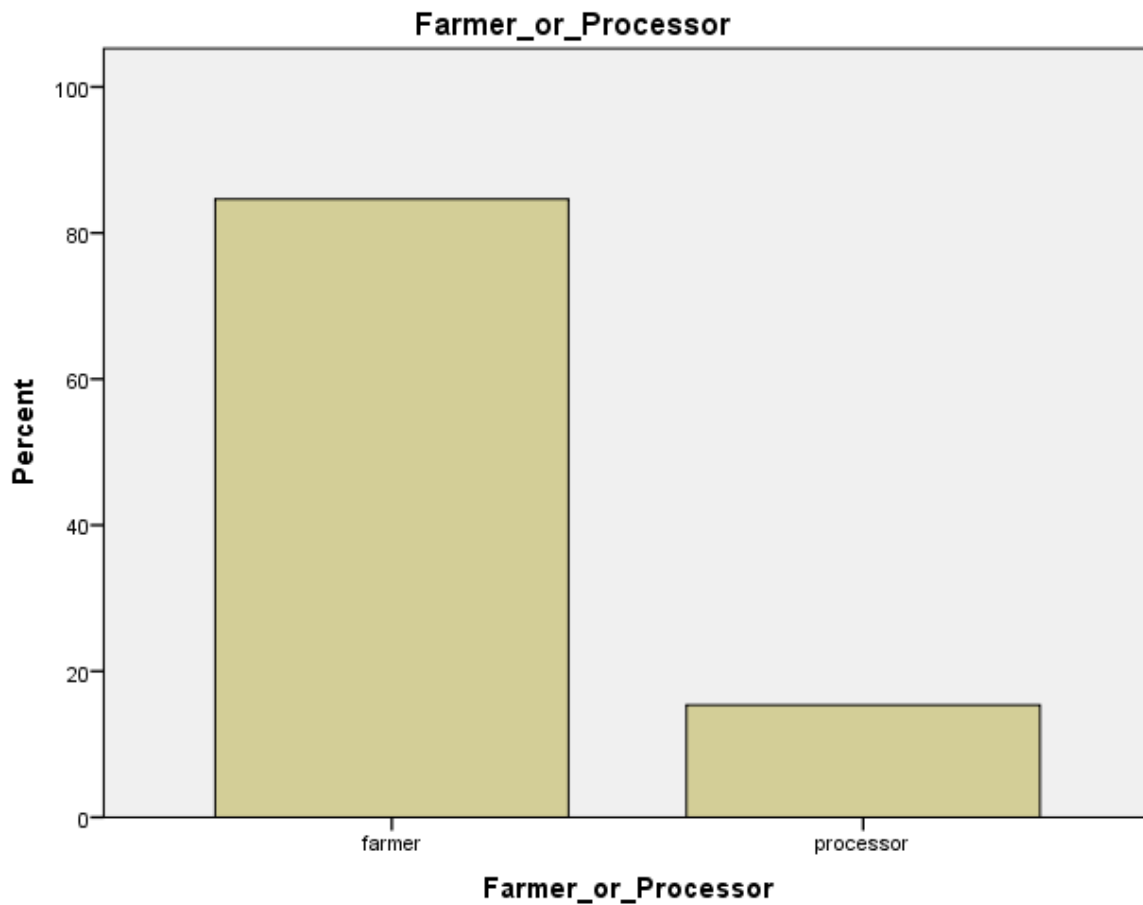
- **Source of livelihood:** This data shows that farming combined with localized processing practices was the primary source of livelihood for a majority of the respondents (80.2%), livestock rearing at 11.3% and business/trading at 7.4%. This is a crucial factor to consider as farming is a source of livelihood that this project is focused on, training activities will be tailored to build farmers capacity in the vitamin A maize value chain.



- **Occupation in the value chain:** The data shows that 84.6% of respondents identified primarily as farmers, while 15.4% identified as processors. However, many farmers also engage in basic processing activities using localized, low-efficiency methods such as open sun drying. To address the low proportion of technically skilled processors, the project will adopt a cascade (step-down) training approach, equipping trained processors to transfer knowledge and skills to MSMEs within their communities, thereby expanding the pool of competent and market-ready processors.

Farmer_or_Processor

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid farmer	501	84.6	84.6	84.6
processor	91	15.4	15.4	100.0
Total	592	100.0	100.0	



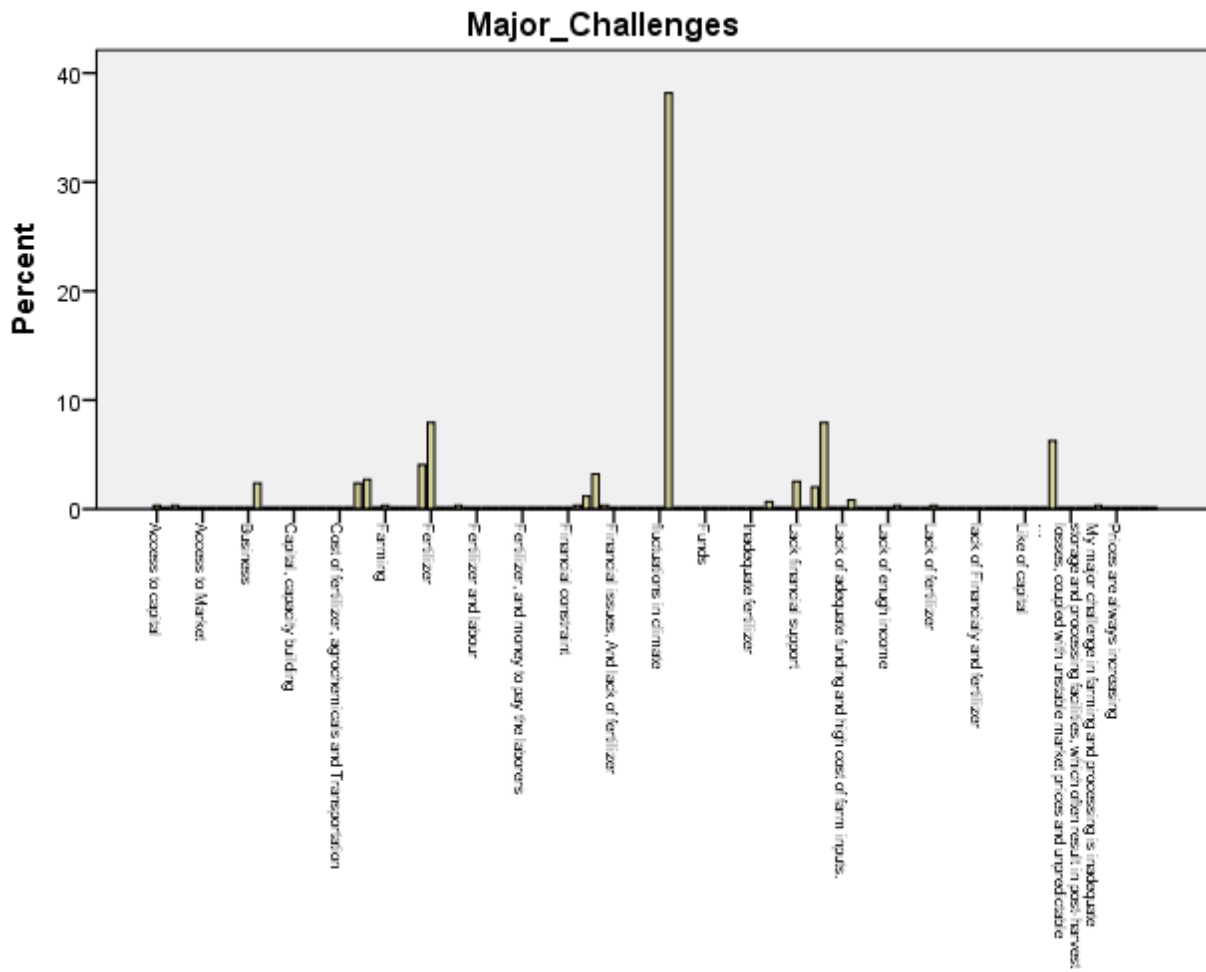
- **Major challenges:** The data indicates that the most frequently cited constraint is limited access to finance (31.4%), followed by fertilizer shortages (10.4%) and inadequate access

to quality seeds (8.1%). The project will address these gaps by enrolling participants on the Atingi agribusiness e-learning platform (ABF e-Academy), where they will receive structured training and opportunities to pitch for financial support. In addition, trained farmers will be supported with improved Vitamin A maize seeds to boost productivity. Remaining gaps beyond the current project scope will be addressed through continued resource mobilization and partnerships.

Major_Challenges

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Financial issues	2	.3	.3	32.1
	Financial issues, And lack of fertilizer	1	.2	.2	32.3
	Financial problems	1	.2	.2	32.4
	Financial y	1	.2	.2	32.6
	financially constrain	1	.2	.2	32.8
	Fertilizer	1	.2	.2	32.9
	fluctuations in climate	1	.2	.2	33.1
	Found	226	38.2	38.2	71.3
	Fund	1	.2	.2	71.5
	Fund income	1	.2	.2	71.6
	Funding	1	.2	.2	71.8
	Funds	1	.2	.2	72.0
	High transportation costs	1	.2	.2	72.1
	How to store my grands	1	.2	.2	72.3
	Implement/machinery's	1	.2	.2	72.5
	Inadequate capital	1	.2	.2	72.6
	Inadequate fertilizer	1	.2	.2	72.8

income	1	.2	.2	73.0
Income	4	.7	.7	73.6
Inputs and climate control	1	.2	.2	73.8
Insecurity, fund, accessibility to the farm.	1	.2	.2	74.0
Lack financial support	15	2.5	2.5	76.5
lack for fertilizer and plant diseases	1	.2	.2	76.7
Lack of capital	12	2.0	2.0	78.7
Lack of seeds	47	7.9	7.9	86.7
Lack of adequate fund	1	.2	.2	86.8
Lack of adequate funding and high cost of farm inputs.	1	.2	.2	87.0
Lack of capital	5	.8	.8	87.8
Lack of Capital	1	.2	.2	88.0

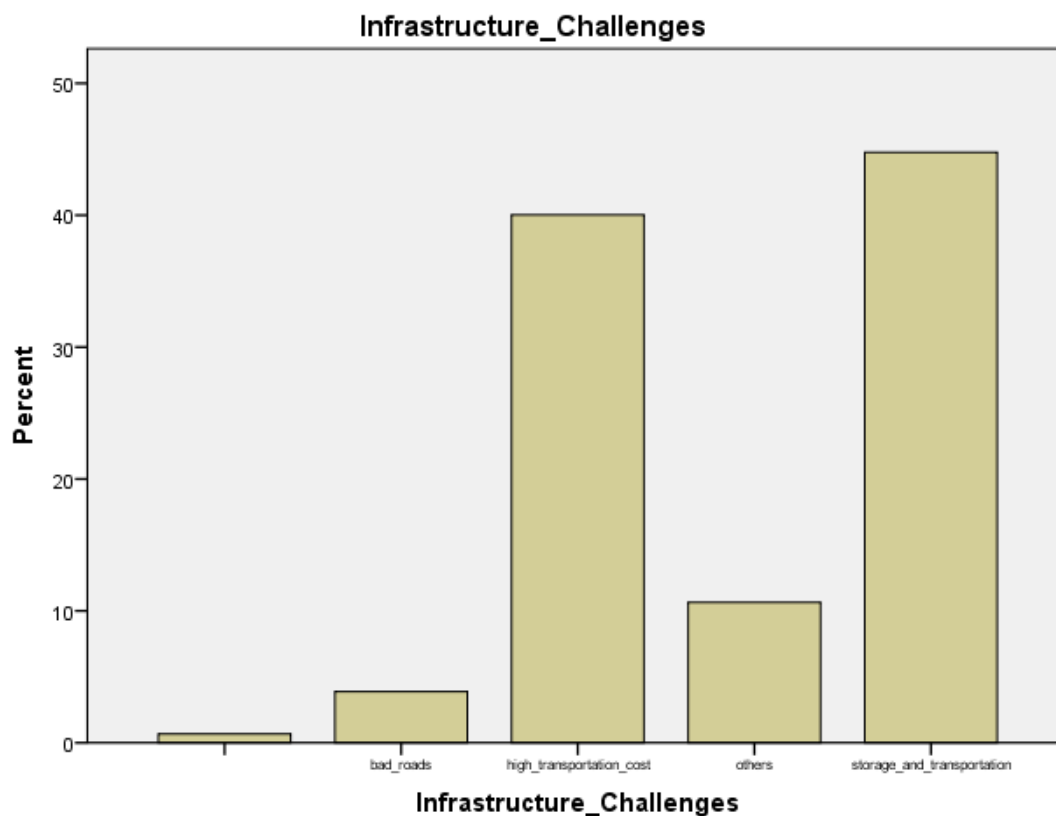


• **Infrastructural challenges:** Key constraints affecting MSMEs include inadequate storage facilities, poorly equipped processing centers, and unreliable energy supply(44.8%), all of which limit productivity and value addition. Transportation barriers (17.0%) and high transport costs (23%) further constrain market access, increase operating expenses, and reduce competitiveness.

The project will address these gaps through targeted training for farmers and processors on climate-smart storage and post-harvest management practices, alongside strengthening local supply chain linkages to enable easier, cost-effective access to raw materials within communities. However, the energy-related constraints (44.8%) fall beyond the current scope of this project and will be addressed through future partnerships and resource mobilization efforts.

Infrastructure_Challenges

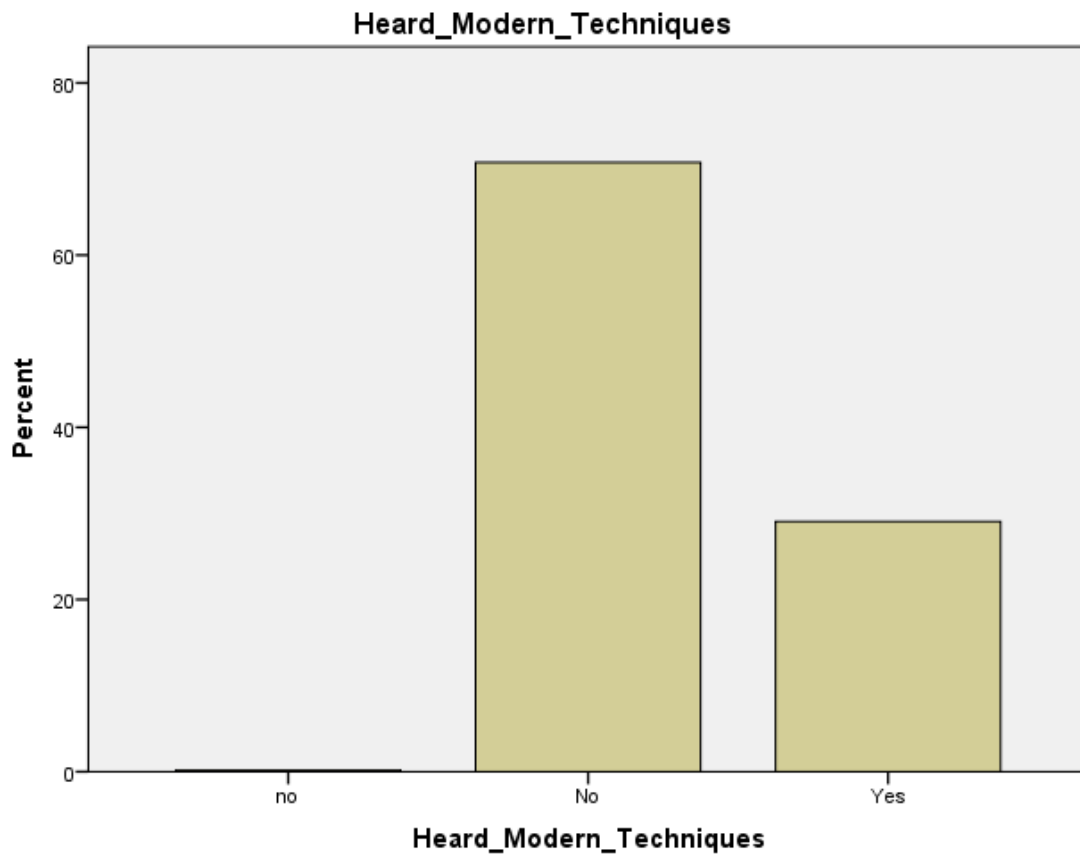
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	4	.7	.7	.7
bad_roads	23	3.9	3.9	4.6
storage_and_transportation	100	23	23	27.6
high_transportation_cost	137	17.0	17.0	44.6
others	63	10.6	10.6	55.2
poorly equipped farmers and processing centers, and unreliable energy supply	265	44.8	44.8	100.0
Total	592	100.0	100.0	



- Awareness of modern techniques: over half of the respondents at 70.9% had an inadequate knowledge of modern agricultural techniques, though 29.1 said yes and others listed specific practices. The finding underscores the need for intense training on modern agricultural practices.

Heard_Modern_Techniques

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
no	1	.2	.2	.2
Valid No	419	70.8	70.8	70.9
Yes	172	29.1	29.1	100.0
Total	592	100.0	100.0	

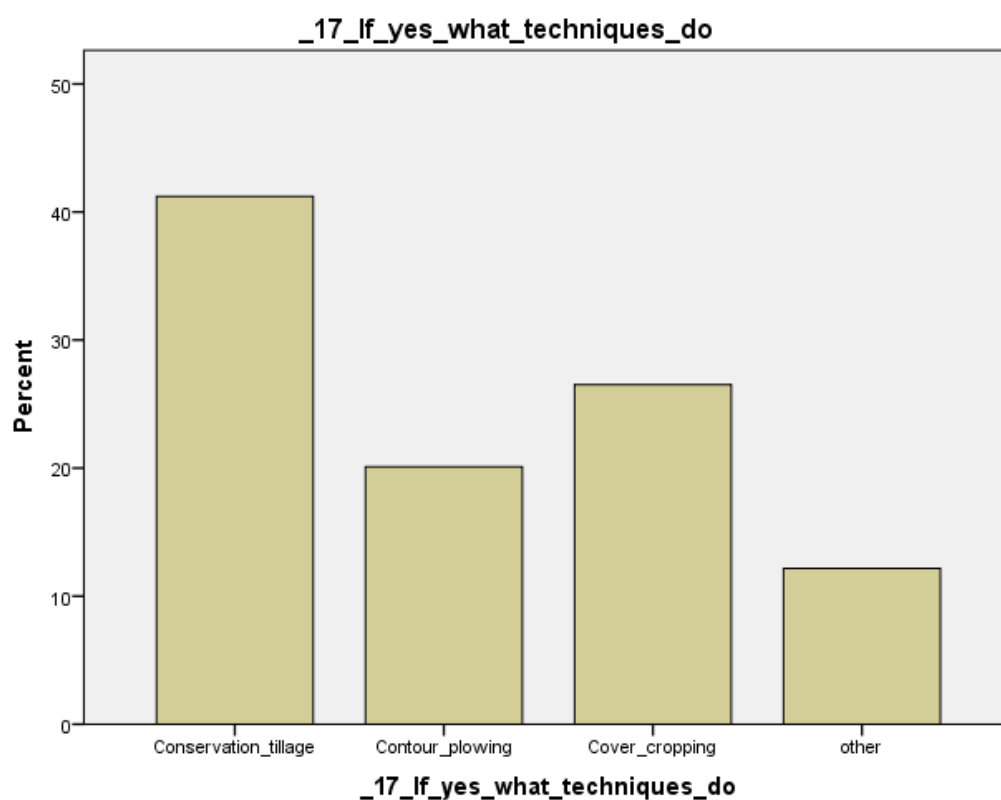


- Climate-smart practices: some respondents indicated some awareness of climate-smart agricultural practices, mainly citing conservation tillage at 41.2%, cover cropping at 26.5% and contour plowing at 20.1%. This finding indicates that some of the respondents have some knowledge of climate-smart agricultural practices which will be enhanced upon during trainings.

_17_If_yes_what_techniques_do

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Conservation_tillage	244	41.2	41.2	41.2
	Contour_plowing	119	20.1	20.1	61.3

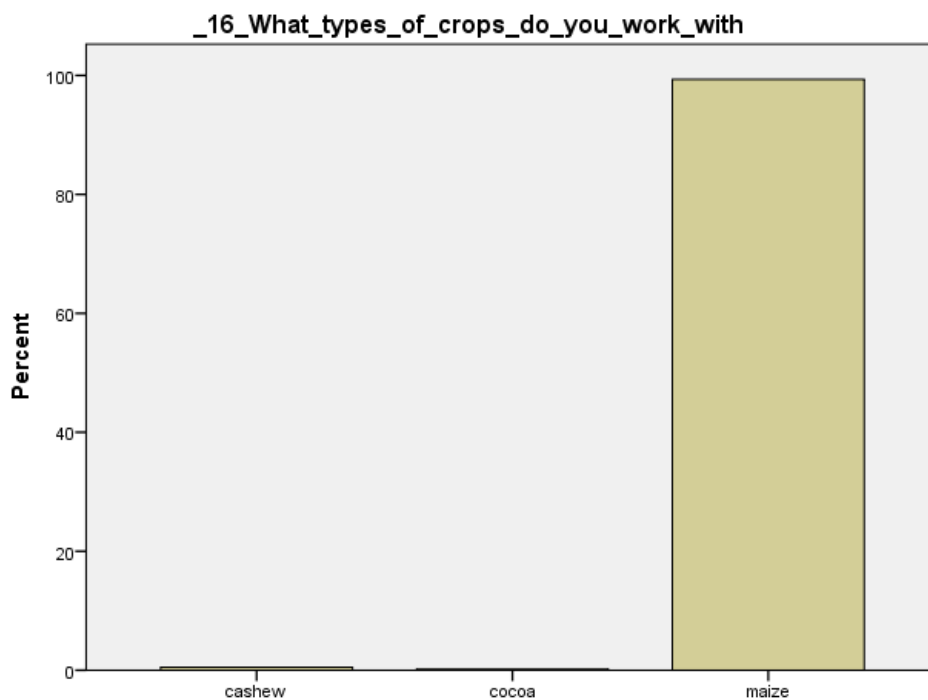
Cover_cropping	157	26.5	26.5	87.8
other	72	12.2	12.2	100.0
Total	592	100.0	100.0	



- Crop focus: the data shows that nearly all the respondents 99.3% are into maize cultivation. This finding is relevant because the project is mainly focused on maize cultivation. For the crop type, white maize 56.6% was more common than the yellow maize 43.4%. Two-thirds of the respondents reported planting yellow maize. The average crop yield is at 5-20 bags per harvest this is reflecting differences in farm sizes and practices.

_16_What_types_of_crops_do_you_work_with

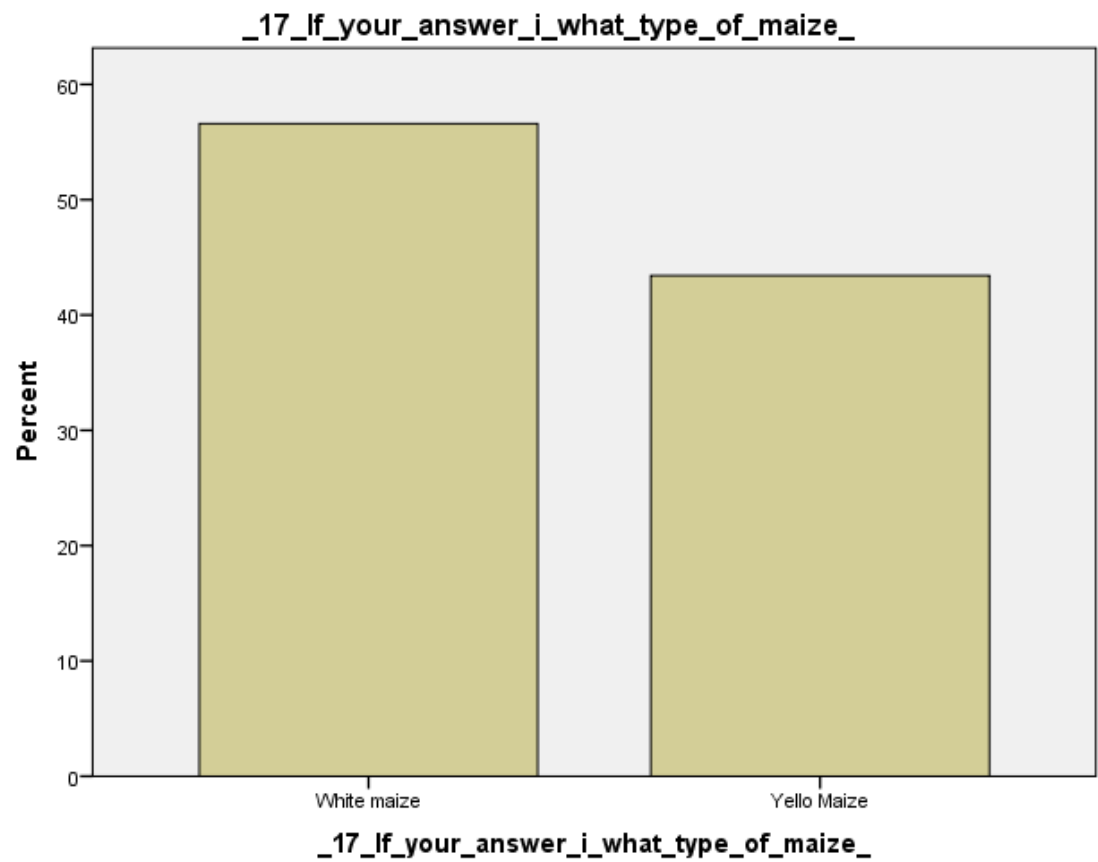
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid				
cashew	3	.5	.5	.5
cocoa	1	.2	.2	.7
maize	588	99.3	99.3	100.0
Total	592	100.0	100.0	



_17_If_your_answer_i_what_type_of_maize_

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid				
White maize	335	56.6	56.6	56.6
Yello Maize	257	43.4	43.4	100.0

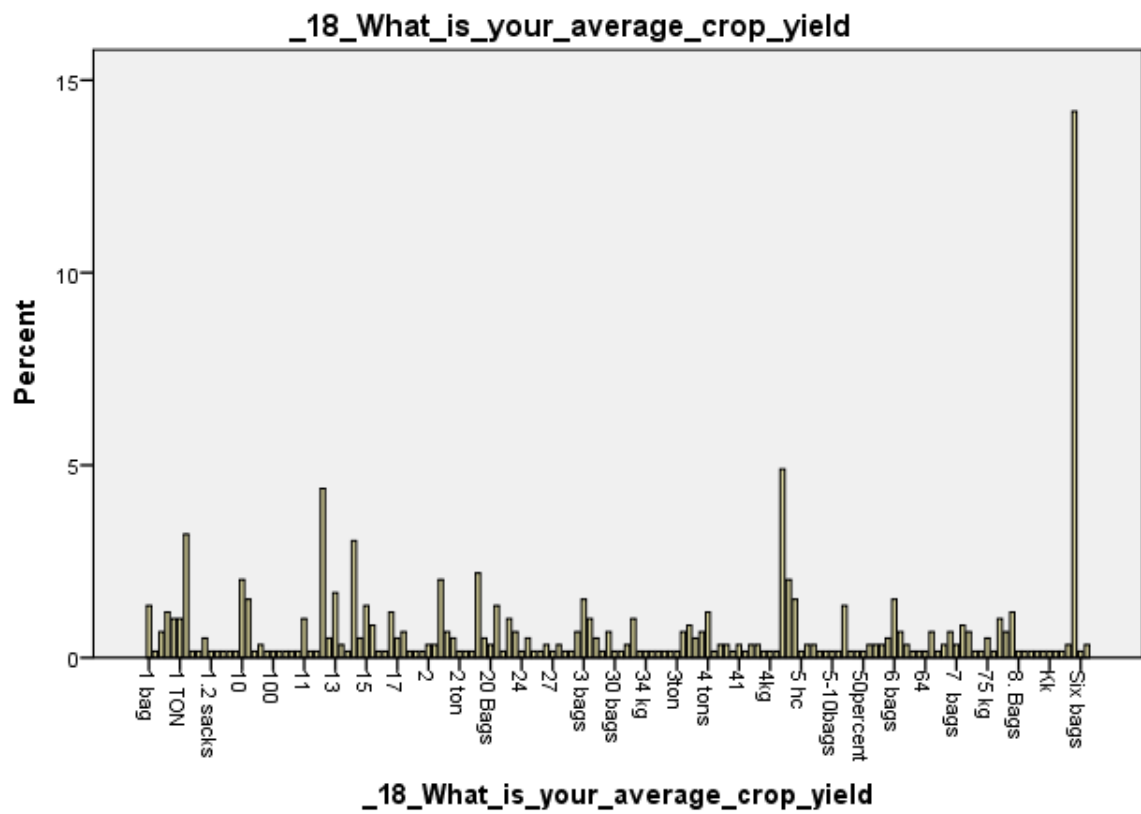
Total	592	100.0	100.0
-------	-----	-------	-------



_18_What_is_your_average_crop_yield

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 6yield	2	.3	.3	77.2
7	4	.7	.7	77.9
7 bags	2	.3	.3	78.2
7 bags	5	.8	.8	79.1
7 hectres	4	.7	.7	79.7
7 sacks	1	.2	.2	79.9
70 (100kg) bags	1	.2	.2	80.1
75 kg	3	.5	.5	80.6
7tons	1	.2	.2	80.7
8	6	1.0	1.0	81.8
8 bags	4	.7	.7	82.4
8 sacks	7	1.2	1.2	83.6
8. Bags	1	.2	.2	83.8
9 bags	1	.2	.2	84.0
Bankrate	1	.2	.2	84.1
Below 50%	1	.2	.2	84.3
I process not farm	1	.2	.2	84.5
Kk	1	.2	.2	84.6
Maize	1	.2	.2	84.8
Minimum	1	.2	.2	85.0
No	2	.3	.3	85.3
Ok	84	14.2	14.2	99.5
Six bags	1	.2	.2	99.7

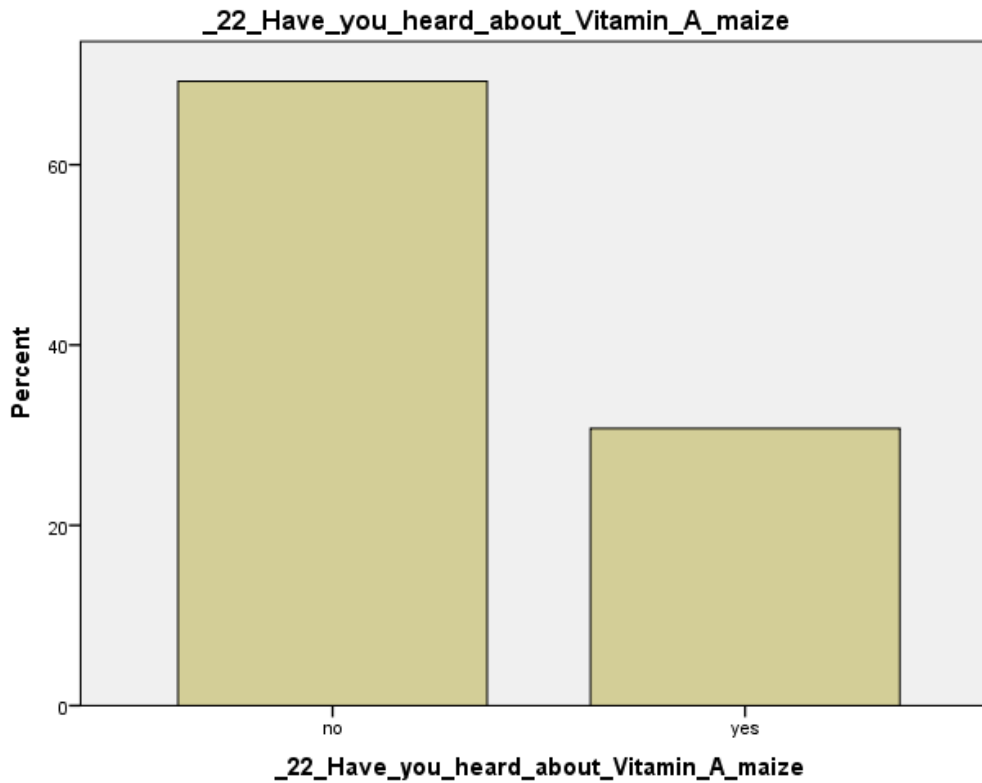
Yes	2	.3	.3	100.0
Total	592	100.0	100.0	



Vitamin A maize awareness: majority of the respondents have a limited knowledge of the vitamin A maize with 69.3% while 30.7% of the respondents have the knowledge of the vitamin A maize. This shows the need for awareness/demand creation for the vitamin A maize which will be done through training for farmers and the provision of agricultural inputs which involves the provision of the vitamin A maize seeds.

_22_Have_you_heard_about_Vitamin_A_maize

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	no	410	69.3	69.3
	yes	182	30.7	100.0
	Total	592	100.0	

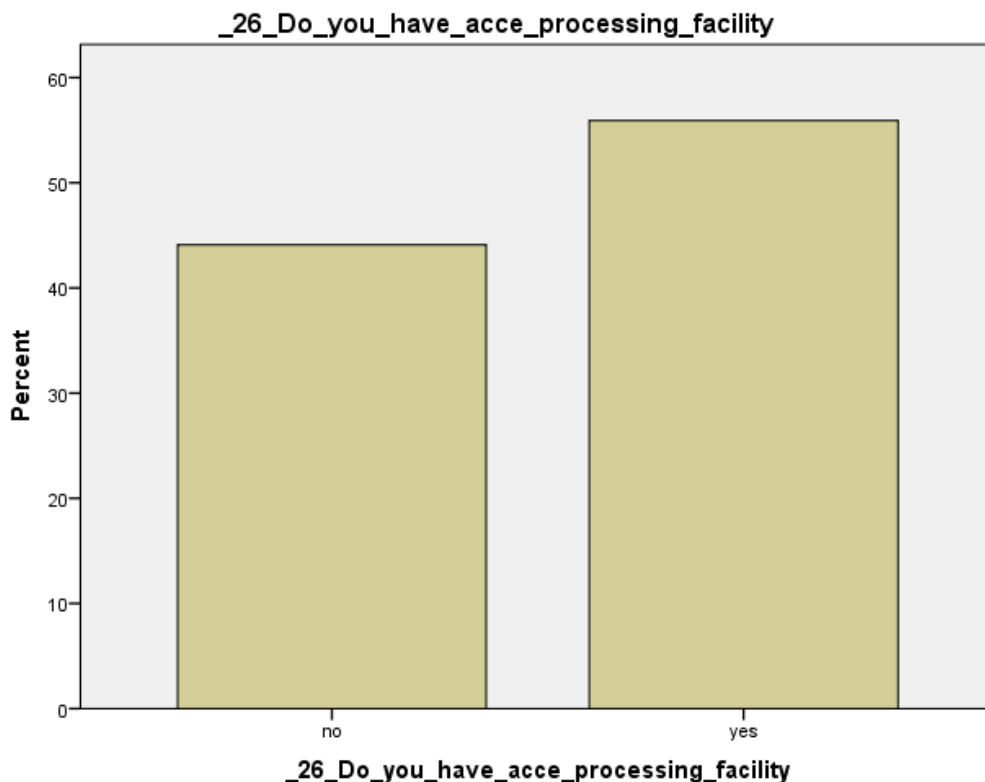


- MSME processing involvement and access to facilities:** The data shows that 44.1% of respondents are directly involved in agricultural processing, while 55.9% report having access to processing facilities, though these facilities are largely poorly equipped and below standard, limiting efficiency and value addition. However, disaggregated findings reveal significant disparities in access: FGD results from Zaria and Chikun indicate that approximately 98% of participants reported no functional processing facility within their local government areas. At the LGA level, access varies, with 66.0% reporting access to some form of processing facility, while 34.0% report no access. In Chikun LGA specifically, 64.1% of respondents indicated no access to processing facilities. Overall, these **findings highlight a critical infrastructure gap**, particularly in Chikun, underscoring the need for targeted investment in functional, well-equipped agro-processing facilities to strengthen MSME productivity and value chain efficiency.

CHIKUN

_26_Do_you_have_access to_processing_facility

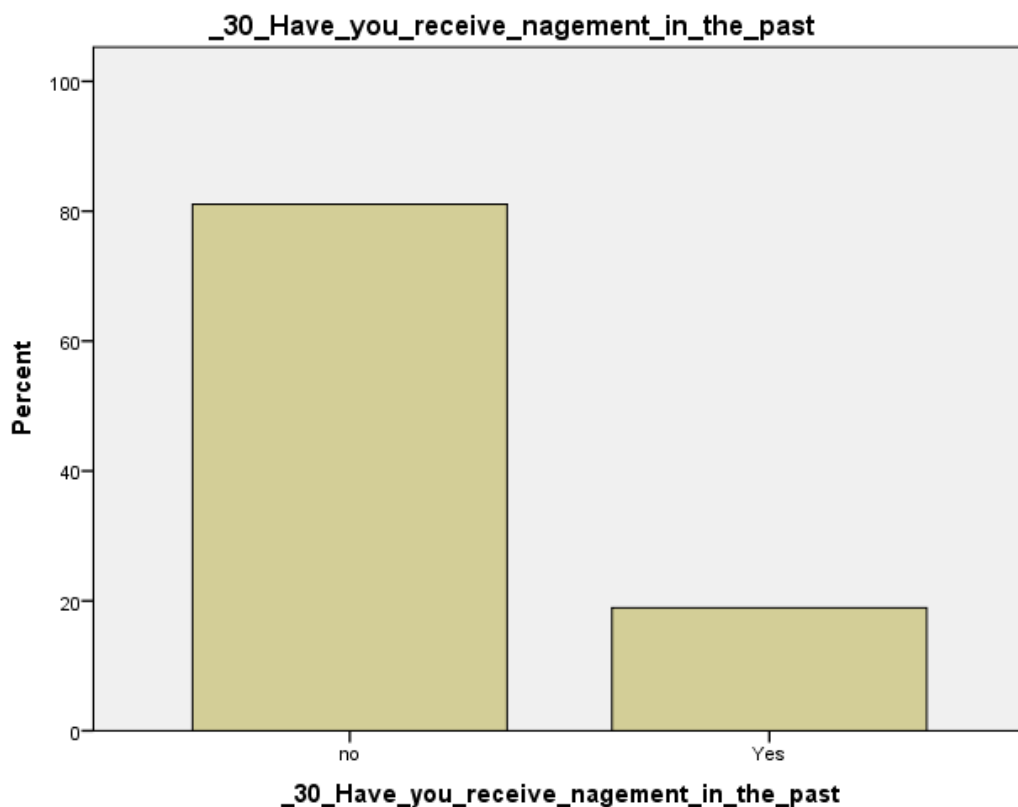
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
no	261	44.1	44.1	44.1
Valid yes	331	55.9	55.9	100.0
Total	592	100.0	100.0	



- Previous training: Only 18.9% of the respondents had received training on management while 81.1% have never had any training on management skills and 17.1% received training on vitamin A maize farming while 82.9 reported that they have never received training on vitamin A maize farming. . The data shows that percentage of those that have received previous training is still very low and will require further trainings

_30_Have_you_receive_nagement_in_the_past

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
no	480	81.1	81.1	81.1
Valid Yes	112	18.9	18.9	100.0
Total	592	100.0	100.0	



- Interest in training: a very high percentage of the respondents 84.6% expressed interest and willingness to learn new processing techniques, with preferred training areas such as post-harvest handling and storage 39.4, followed by pest and disease management 12.7% and climate-smart agricultural practices 9.5%.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

To collect the quantitative data, a focus group discussion was carried out in Zaria and Chikun Local Government Areas:

Objectives:

- To understand community perceptions on the vitamin A maize farming and processing practices
- To understand key challenges faced by farmers and processors

- To gather insights on opportunities for training, finance and technology adoption
- To document community priorities for improving the maize value chain.

Participants

Farmers: 10 from each local government

Processors: 10 from each local government

Key findings: these are findings from participants from Chikun LGA

SECTION	DETAILS
Processing/farming Challenges	Contamination of Vitamin A maize with white maize occurs due to the absence of dedicated processing equipment, while frequent power outages disrupt grinding and processing activities. High costs associated with NAFDAC certification further limit product formalization and market expansion. In addition, the absence of local processing facilities forces processors to travel long distances for milling services, resulting in increased costs, time losses, and significant post-harvest losses for some actors.
Market Access	Sales mainly within communities, families, and friends; supermarkets and institutions require NAFDAC certification, which most processors lack.
Support & Capacity Building	Some processors trained on food safety, record keeping, and packaging; farmers trained on planting, spacing, fertilizer application, and storage; few received equipment or financial aid.
Awareness Sensitization &	Majority of the participants are aware of the vitamin A maize but they is still a limited knowledge within the community, some of the farmers have planted the vitamin A maize but due to lack of training, there was no sustainability.
Nutrition Impact	Participants believe Vitamin A maize can reduce malnutrition if scaled up.
Gender Roles	Women dominate processing but lack capital, equipment, and certification support have limited their market reach.
Farming Practices & Improvements	Participants are willing to shift from grain planting to certified seeds for improved yields; smart farming techniques adopted; better storage reduced losses, though aflatoxin remains an issue.

QOUTES FROM PARTICIPANTS

- “Sometimes we take our maize to the machine, but because of no light, we can wait a whole week.”
- “If you take your Vitamin A maize to grind, they will not allow you to grind it first. Their white maize will change color.”
- “Without NAFDAC, we only sell to our community. We cannot scale up to bigger markets.”
- “With the training we received, we now plant one seed per hole and our yield has improved.”
- “People are calling from radio programs, but they don’t even know where to buy the Vitamin A maize.”



FGD Participants (Chikun)

ZARIA LGA

SECTION	DETAILS
Processing and farming Challenges	The findings indicate that participants primarily cultivate and process white maize, with little or no awareness of Vitamin A maize varieties. Post-harvest handling is largely rudimentary, with grains typically sun-dried under open conditions, exposing them to contamination and quality loss. There are no functional processing facilities within the communities, and maize processing is limited to small-scale milling into flour mainly for

	household consumption, with minimal commercial or value-added processing activities.
Market Access	Sales mainly within communities, families, and friends, access to grains is seasonal.
Support & Capacity Building	Some processors have received very little training on processing the training they have received is mostly just for household consumption.
Awareness Sensitization &	Many community members unaware of Vitamin A maize; radio sensitization increased interest but access is limited.
Nutrition Impact	Participants believe Vitamin A maize can reduce malnutrition if scaled up.
Gender Roles	Women dominate processing but only for domestic purposes and not for marketable purpose, there are few women farmers among the participants.
Farming Practices & Improvements	Farming practice is mostly traditional and many of the farmers have not received any training on modern farming techniques. The farmers do not also have access to certified seeds.

QOUTES FROM PARTICIPANTS
● “We only know of the yellow maize and we have not heard of the vitamin A maize.” ● “we don’t have an easy access to purchase seeds, sometimes we get them at a very high cost” ● “we dry our grains by the roadside under the sun to dry before processing” ● “when there is an intervention where agricultural inputs are provided for farmers, it hardly gets to us, the community leaders hardly involve we the grassroots farmers”
CONCLUSION Farmers and processors recognize Vitamin A maize’s potential to reduce malnutrition but face systemic challenges. Farmers lack affordable inputs and storage, while processors face equipment shortages and regulatory barriers. Despite capacity building, both groups need stronger institutional and financial support to scale production and processing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

GROUP	RECOMMENDATIONS
Farmers	- Provide subsidized access to improved seeds and fertilizers. - Expand training on climate-smart farming and post-harvest storage. - Establish stronger linkages with processors to secure markets.
For Processors	-Support access to dedicated and standardized processing equipment to prevent cross-contamination and improve efficiency. -Facilitate simplified and subsidized NAFDAC certification processes to enhance product formalization and market entry. -Strengthen capacity in food safety, hygienic processing, packaging, branding, and market development to improve product quality and competitiveness.
For both	- Facilitate farmer and processor cooperatives to strengthen the value chain. - Expand sensitization through media and community leaders. - Provide microcredit and revolving funds. - Integrate Vitamin A maize into agricultural and nutrition policies.



FGD Participants (Zaria)

DATA VALIDATION WORKSHOP

Introduction

The Baseline Assessment Data Validation Workshop was conducted at the Kaduna State Agricultural Development Agency (KADA) conference room. The purpose of the workshop was to review, validate, and finalize the baseline data collected for the SNEEM project implemented by SNEEM Consortium in Kaduna State.

The workshop brought together key stakeholders, including representatives from **[partner organizations, ministry of Agriculture, community leaders and Agricultural research Institutes.]**, to ensure the accuracy, reliability, and completeness of the data before final analysis and reporting.

The specific objectives of the workshop were to:

- Present preliminary findings from the baseline assessment.
- Verify the accuracy and consistency of data collected.
- Identify and address data gaps and anomalies.
- Gather stakeholder inputs to improve data quality.
- Agree on next steps for finalizing the baseline report.

Methodology

The workshop was structured around presentations, group discussions, and plenary validation sessions.

Presentation of Findings: The M&E team presented the key findings from the baseline survey, highlighting major trends and inconsistencies.

Plenary Discussions: Participants presented feedback and corrections, which were discussed and consolidated.

Action Planning: The workshop concluded with an agreement on next steps for data cleaning, verification, and reporting.

Key Findings and Observations

Stakeholders confirmed the overall validity of the data but recommended the following:

- The use of lack of awareness or knowledge especially regarding vitamin A maize awareness, climate-smart agriculture should be changed to inadequate because there have been some sensitization carried in some of the locations but the reach is limited and this could be as a result of language barrier.
- Access to finance: consortium should set up feasible strategies to address access to finance through linkage to SMEDAN and the Bank of Agriculture. Work with banks to provide interest free loans for farmers and processors.
- Liase with field agents for practical climate smart trainings.
- The participants observed that there is an awareness gap and information should be translated to local dialects.
- Trainings for processors should focus more products such as corn flakes, custard etc due to its market demand.

Participants emphasized the need for improved data triangulation and follow-up verification in the next phase.

Agreed Actions and Recommendations

Action Item	Responsible person/institution	Timeline
Data cleaning and verification	M&E Team	Within 2 week
Update baseline report with corrections	Consultant/data analyst	Within a week
Circulate revised report for final validation	Project manager	2 weeks
Archive validated and share with partners	M&E unit	2 weeks

Outcomes

1. Validated baseline data: data reviewed, cross-checked, and accuracy confirmed, completeness and consistency of the baseline data collected under the SNEEM project.
2. Improved understanding of indicators: stakeholders gained a clear understanding of key project indicators, data sources and definitions to ensure uniform interpretation and reporting.
3. Identified gaps and errors: detected discrepancies, missing information, or errors in the baseline data-set and agreed on methods for correction and follow up.
4. Enhanced data quality assurance skills: strengthened participants' capacity in data verification, validation and documentation processes for project monitoring and evaluation.
5. Consensus on final baseline figures: Reached agreement among stakeholders on the validated baseline figures to serve as a reference for tracking project progress and impact.
6. Developed an action plan: Outlined next steps and responsibilities for finalizing, updating, and reporting the verified baseline data.
7. Strengthened collaboration: Fostered collaboration and shared understanding among implementing partners, M&E teams, and project stakeholders on data management and reporting standards.

Conclusion

The Baseline Assessment Data Validation Workshop successfully achieved its objectives. Stakeholders actively contributed to verifying and refining the data, ensuring that the final baseline report reflects accurate and representative information. The validated data will serve as a solid foundation for monitoring and evaluating project progress over time.

See annex for list of participants.



OVERALL CONCLUSION

The baseline assessment highlights that farming, particularly maize production, remains the dominant livelihood in the target communities, with 82% of respondents engaged as farmers and 18% as processors. Despite maize being widely cultivated (99.5% of respondents grow it), productivity, processing efficiency, and incomes remain constrained by limited access to capital, poor infrastructure, input shortages, and low awareness of modern practices.

Women and youth are actively involved in the value chain, yet they face systemic barriers in finance, technology access, and training. Processing remains largely traditional, with 75% of processors not using improved technologies, while storage and post-harvest handling challenges lead to significant losses. At the same time, awareness of climate-smart agriculture and nutrition-sensitive practices is low, though demand for training and innovation is strong, with 85% of respondents willing to engage in capacity building.

Overall, the findings underscore a clear opportunity to strengthen the maize value chain by improving access to finance, inputs, technology, and knowledge. With targeted interventions, the project can address malnutrition, create employment, and enhance resilience among smallholder farmers and MSMEs.

Challenges

1. Incomplete data: some data collected is either incomplete or not consistent with the question thereby making the data invalid.
2. Access and security: data was not collected in some fragile and remote areas.

Recommendations

1. Access to Finance & Inputs

- Establish innovative financing models (input credit schemes, revolving funds, and digital financial services) to ease capital constraints.
- Strengthen partnerships with seed companies and agro-dealers to ensure timely supply of quality Vitamin A maize seeds and fertilizers.

2. Infrastructure & Post-Harvest Management

- Invest in community-based storage facilities and promote affordable hermetic storage technologies to reduce losses.
- Support solar-powered and climate-friendly processing facilities that can serve multiple processors, including women and youth.

3. Capacity Building & Extension

- Provide training on modern and climate-smart farming practices, post-harvest handling, and food safety standards.

- Promote field demonstrations and in-person workshops, which were the most preferred learning methods.
- Integrate business management and record-keeping training to improve financial literacy and enterprise growth.

4. Market Linkages & Value Addition

- Facilitate cooperative structures and aggregation centers to improve bargaining power and reduce dependence on middlemen.
- Support linkages between processors, farmers, and off-takers to build trust and ensure reliable markets for Vitamin A maize.
- Encourage product diversification (e.g., corn flour, corn flakes, fortified maize products) to expand income opportunities.

5. Gender & Youth Empowerment

- Design interventions with a gender-sensitive approach, ensuring equal participation of women and youth in training, processing, and leadership roles.
- Provide targeted support for youth adoption of digital tools for marketing, extension, and financial services.

6. Policy & Partnerships

- Strengthen collaboration with state-level agencies (e.g., KADA, SMEDAN, Women in Agriculture groups) to institutionalize training and market access.
- Align with national and donor priorities on nutrition, food security, and climate resilience to ensure scalability and sustainability.

ANNEX A: PICTURES & VIDEO LINK

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS LINKS

S/N	ACTIVITY ITEM	PHOTOS LINK	VIDEOS LINK
	ABF Kickoff Meeting	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1f4TuRLJIW4ZJ1INyVVGI2l5gZ65CM4uK?usp=drive_link	N/A
1.	Baseline data validation workshop	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pgA60rGykUhWLaU0-qMS2_t1GpdruPb1?usp=drive_link	https://youtube.com/shorts/Mt7_8wPNSuQ
2.	FGD Zaria	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1qe5F0-mTUXCNHwwdrxb16YSnevHbCkrZ?usp=drive_link	N/A
3.	FGD Chikun	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1shFbhHf-f-QfznlnPkfw6BwGFEB0ur9S?usp=drive_link	N/A



Enumerator on the field

ANNEX B: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS (VALIDATION)

ATTENDANCE SHEET

WORKSHOP

german
cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

DATA PROTECTION

Photographs and video recordings might be taken during the event, on some of which participant will be clearly identifiable; these photographs and video recordings may be used in GIZ's internal and external communications, including being published on the GIZ website and passing them on to GIZ's project partners for use as part of their public relations work. The data will **not** be used for commercial purposes.

Event Title:	Validation Klorsho P
Venue:	KADA Conference Room
Name of MGF Partner:	SNEEM Consortium
Project Number:	19.2236.8-006.00

No	NAME	INSTITUTION COMMUNITY	GEN DER (M/F)	AGE (YEARS)		EMAIL (if applicable)	TELEPHONE NO.	SIGNATURE
				18-35	Above 36			
1	HALIMA ABUBAKAR GIBRIL	KABALA COM	F		✓	halimabubakar23@gmail	07037911468	
2	Suwaiya Asabaka	Rigasa	f	23		Suwaiyabubakar31@gmail.com	08165475143	
3	Yohanna Ayuba Ganku	Chikun	m	45	✓	yohanna78@gmail.com	08063142071	

Recording for day (date) 18/9/2025

Sign (GIZ rep)

Sign (GIZ rep)



No	NAME	INSTITUTION COMMUNITY	GEN DER (M/F)	AGE (YEARS)		EMAIL (if applicable)	TELEPHONE NO.	SIGNATURE
				18-35	Above 36			
4	Hulera Suleiman	NASRUS	F		✓	huleraSuleiman3@gmail.com	08062840118	
5	Solomon YANET	NARAYI	M		✓	Syanet321@yahoo.com	08063218817	
6	Ahyara Atukun	Chikun	F		✓	AhyaraAtukun@gmail.com	07039564411	
7	Muhammad T. Nkaka	Asaba ma-fom-fom B/Yoro			✓	mtfusa@nasr.us@gmail.com astandana@is-141@gmail.com	09036684465 09029122291	
8	SANTRU IEN MOHAMMED	KADA HQIS	M		✓	lennu6691@gmail.com	08060669582	
9	SHURIBU HARUNA BELU	ZARU	M		✓	shuribuharunabelu@gmail.com	081364670	
10	Annali A. Sambo	KADA	F		✓	AnnaliA@Gmail.com	07035626461	
11	Lam, Stephen	Chikun	F		✓	laminmady@gmail.com laminmady@gmail.com	08062067779	
12	Adams Usman Mada	KADA	M		✓	adamscheeb36@gmail.com	08143436031	
13	Blessed Sam - Mada	KADA	M		✓	blessedmada1@gmail.com	08065481114	

Recording for day (date) 18/9/2025

Sign (GIZ rep)

No	NAME	INSTITUTION / COMMUNITY	GEN DER (M/F)	AGE (YEARS)		EMAIL (if applicable)	TELEPHONE NO.	SIGNATURE
				18-35	Above 36			
14	Rakiya Abdul Na Abdul	KADA	F		✓	rakiyabul1@gmail.com	08032365549	
15	UCHE OKOHI	Lutani Farms	F	✓		Lutani farms@gmail.com	08066490452	
16	Hassan Saide G	KADA	F		✓	hassan.saide@gmail.com	0803644805	
17	Aishie Cududu	KADA	F		✓	aishiegcududu182@gmail.com	08262531629	
18	RABI YAHAYA	KADA	F		✓	rabiyaaya52@gmail.com	07064720425	
19	Mtshunzi Shu Shu	KADA	M		✓	mismail74@gmail.com	08033757170	
✓ 20	DANJUMA RISHAMA	Exbasin Africa	M	✓		r.monday@exbasin-africa.com	08165495805	
21	MUKHEAR / BRATHU	KADA	M		✓	mukhearkat@gmail.com	0803171818	
22	Isaku Sani	NAERLS	M		✓	saniiisaku2004@yahoo.com	08065513212	
23	Siifomus Philip	KADA	M		✓	philip.hilary1@gmail.com	08077954223	

Recording for day (date) 18/9/2025

Sign (GIZ rep)



No	NAME	INSTITUTION COMMUNITY	GEN DER (M/F)	AGE (YEARS)		EMAIL (if applicable)	TELEPHONE NO.	SIGNATU RE
				18-35	Above 36			
24	Eunice Idan	FAROF	F	✓		euniceidan@fars.org	07065096208	
25	Tsavid Kahagz Simon	FAROF	M	✓		kahagzsimon@gmail.com	0702566500	
26	Daniel Oluwatobi Elisha	FAROF	M	✓		daniel.elisha406@gmail.com	07073391121	

Recording for day (date) 18/9/2025

Sign (GIZ rep)