

Women-friendly technology demonstrations



# 1. Pioneer partnership

The partnership between Faranaya and 2SCALE is in the sorghum value chain in Ghana. It is meant to introduce new technologies and on-farm innovations to sorghum farmers through demonstration farms aimed at transferring knowledge for further adaptation by farmers.

Faranaya is an aggregator of sorghum and works with agribusiness clusters in seven districts in the Upper East Region, with Guinness Ghana Limited as the main off taker. The quality of the grains is as important as the quantity Faranaya supplies to the offtaker.

New technologies and innovations are introduced to farmers to address the challenges in the quality and quantity demanded by the offtaker and also to increase income levels of farmers, through increased yields and quality. Sorghum is a staple in the locality as well as an economic crop for the farmers, and women process the sorghum into a variety of different products for sale.

The overall ambition in establishing demonstration farms by the partnership as fields for testing and scaling on-farm innovations and new technologies was to ensure that they equally reached and benefited young and old men as well as women. These demonstration farmers were established in the farming season of 2020 and were operational from May 2020 to September 2020. The demonstrations were hosted by 14 farmers (including two women).



Ghana - Harvesting of sorghum

## 2. Replicable practice

To encourage the participation of women and promote their empowerment, some of the demonstration plots were women-led. Field days were organised not too early in the morning and not too late in the evening to make it convenient for the participation of more women. Information on field days was relayed through women-friendly platforms. The Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) which are often dominated by women, were used to inform women about field days.

Field days were not organised on market days when women would need to go to the market. 670 women participated across activities with 29% of them being aged 35 years and below. With all these measures put in place, more women than men participated and the aim of giving men and women equal opportunities to interface with new technology, innovation and make choices to adapt was achieved.

The innovations introduced to farmers on the demonstration farms in 2020 included Micro-dosing, Aflasafe treatment, Green field days (days when farmers compare the demonstration farms with others when the crops are near maturity to ascertain the difference) and Brown field days (days farmers compare the demonstration farms with others when the crops are ready for harvesting). These are the practices that were meant to be replicated on farmers' fields. These activities resulted in knowledge transfer from the expert to farmers. The practical nature of on-farm demonstrations allowed farmers to learn and understand the processes better, irrespective of their level of education. There was transfer of knowledge on new technologies for farmers to replicate on their own farms in the near future.

As part of field days on the demonstration farms, the women within this partnership also gained new knowledge and skills to help empower them in their farming.

The produce from the two demonstration farms that are female led, are owned by women. This therefore gives them ownership and authority to make decisions about the proceeds from the demonstration farms. This equally brings reward to the women since they either sell the produce for income or use it for consumption.

The practice is appropriate in the sorghum value chain in terms of increasing quantity and improved quality for the off-taker. Thereby ensuring food safety and improved nutritious value of the sorghum.

# 3. Preconditions for replication

For the replication to be successful, some preconditions are necessary. The actors should be briefed on the practice, in terms of the objective of the practice and intended benefits. The roles of the farmers should be known to them and idea should be accepted by the farmers and they should be willing to commit to it. There should also be an expert in the innovation or technology and the process should be showcased practically on the farm. Demonstration farms should not be too far from the communities to allow more women to be reached, to benefit and to be empowered from the practices.

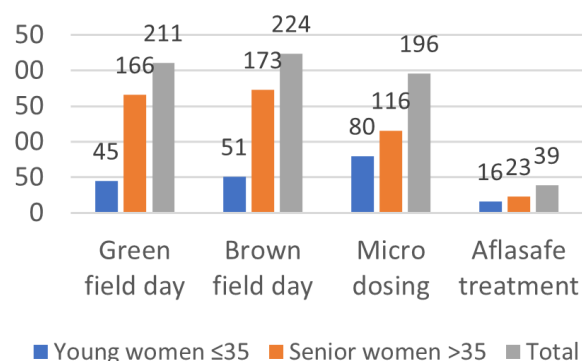
The result in terms of yields from demonstration farms are higher than that obtained using the farmers' traditional practice even with the same farm size and the quality of the grains is far better (see Figure 2 below). The difference in the yields and quality can be attributed to the innovations, good agricultural practices and the application of new technologies that were carried out on the demonstration farms but not on the other farms (Table 2).

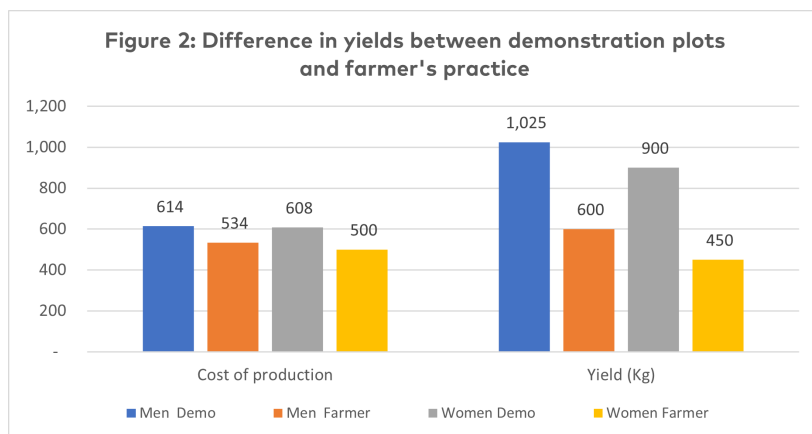
The farmers who after harvesting, realised the good quality and higher yields from the demonstration farms, are now willing to adapt these practices beginning with the next farming season.

**Table 1: Number of women participating in knowledge transfer activities carried out on the demonstration farms**

| Activity        | Women ≤35 years | Women ≥35  | Total      |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| Green field day | 45              | 166        | 211        |
| Brown field day | 51              | 173        | 224        |
| Micro dosing    | 80              | 116        | 196        |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>192</b>      | <b>478</b> | <b>670</b> |

**Fig 1: Number of women participating in knowledge transfer activities carried out on the demonstration farms**





| Farmer           | Sex | Harvest Area | Community | Practice | Cost of Production | Yield(Kg) |
|------------------|-----|--------------|-----------|----------|--------------------|-----------|
| Abugbilla Bukari | M   | 4000         | Piolok    | Demo     | 847                | 1200      |
|                  |     |              |           | Farmer   | 800                | 900       |
| Dobila Yakubu    | M   | 4000         | Kumpalgog | Demo     | 626                | 950       |
|                  |     |              |           | Farmer   | 599                | 600       |
| Dampori Mumuni   | M   | 4000         | Binduri   | Demo     | 763                | 900       |
|                  |     |              |           | Farmer   | 512                | 450       |
| Akugri Moses     | M   | 4000         | Podaguur  | Demo     | 516                | 1250      |
|                  |     |              |           | Farmer   | 403                | 700       |
| Garu station     | M   | 4000         | Garu      | Demo     | 710                | 1300      |
|                  |     |              |           | Farmer   | 645                | 750       |
| Abass Amosi      | M   | 4000         | Asikiri   | Demo     | 660                | 1000      |
|                  |     |              |           | Farmer   | 580                | 700       |
| Dasmani Aku-dugu | M   | 4000         | Badabod1  | Demo     | 600                | 1000      |
|                  |     |              |           | Farmer   | 520                | 450       |
| Ayam Anabiga     | M   | 4000         | Kuka      | Demo     | 535                | 1000      |
|                  |     |              |           | Farmer   | 480                | 500       |
| Musah Akolog     | M   | 4000         | Tonde     | Demo     | 680                | 1200      |
|                  |     |              |           | Farmer   | 520                | 750       |
| Avoka Roland     | M   | 4000         | Zong      | Demo     | 300                | 650       |
|                  |     |              |           | Farmer   | 215                | 350       |
| Adewin Abinpoa   | F   | 2000         | Gozieg    | Demo     | 690                | 900       |
|                  |     |              |           | Farmer   | 600                | 450       |
| Akapier Abugri*  | F   | 4000         | Badabood  | Demo     | 525                | 900       |
|                  |     |              |           | Farmer   | 400                | 450       |
| Abugri Apalyam   | M   | 4000         | Napaad    | Demo     | 650                | 1000      |
|                  |     |              |           | Farmer   | 595                | 450       |
| Anyagri Sule     | M   | 4000         | Asikiri   | Demo     | 480                | 850       |
|                  |     |              |           | Farmer   | 400                | 450       |

\*Red color in some of the rows in the table above indicate women-led learning farms

## Want to know more?

The 2SCALE staff to be contacted for further insights and more information is Mr. Gulbi Nelson Junior Consultant, Innovation via email on [ngulbi@2scale.org](mailto:ngulbi@2scale.org)

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