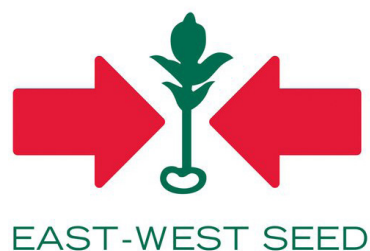




**SEEDS FOR CHANGE:
INVESTING IN FOOD
SECURITY**



PARTICIPATING COMPANIES



PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



COORDINATOR



ABOUT NABC

NABC is the main Africa-focused business community in the Benelux. Our network consists of more than 250 diversified and engaged members; a wide community of African and Dutch Ambassadors, sector associations, Chambers of Commerce, Investment Promotion Agencies and over 10,000 Africa focused business contacts.

NABC strongly believes that the private sector has a crucial role to play towards an Africa that is economically thriving and globally competitive in trade and investment. We aim to inform and connect businesses with Africa's opportunities and enable our community to make confident business decisions and succeed in Africa.

INTRODUCTION

Through high-quality hybrid vegetable seeds, biological crop protection and backed by world-class training and expertise, Seeds for Change (S4C) works together with Nigerian farmers to ensure larger yields of higher quality.

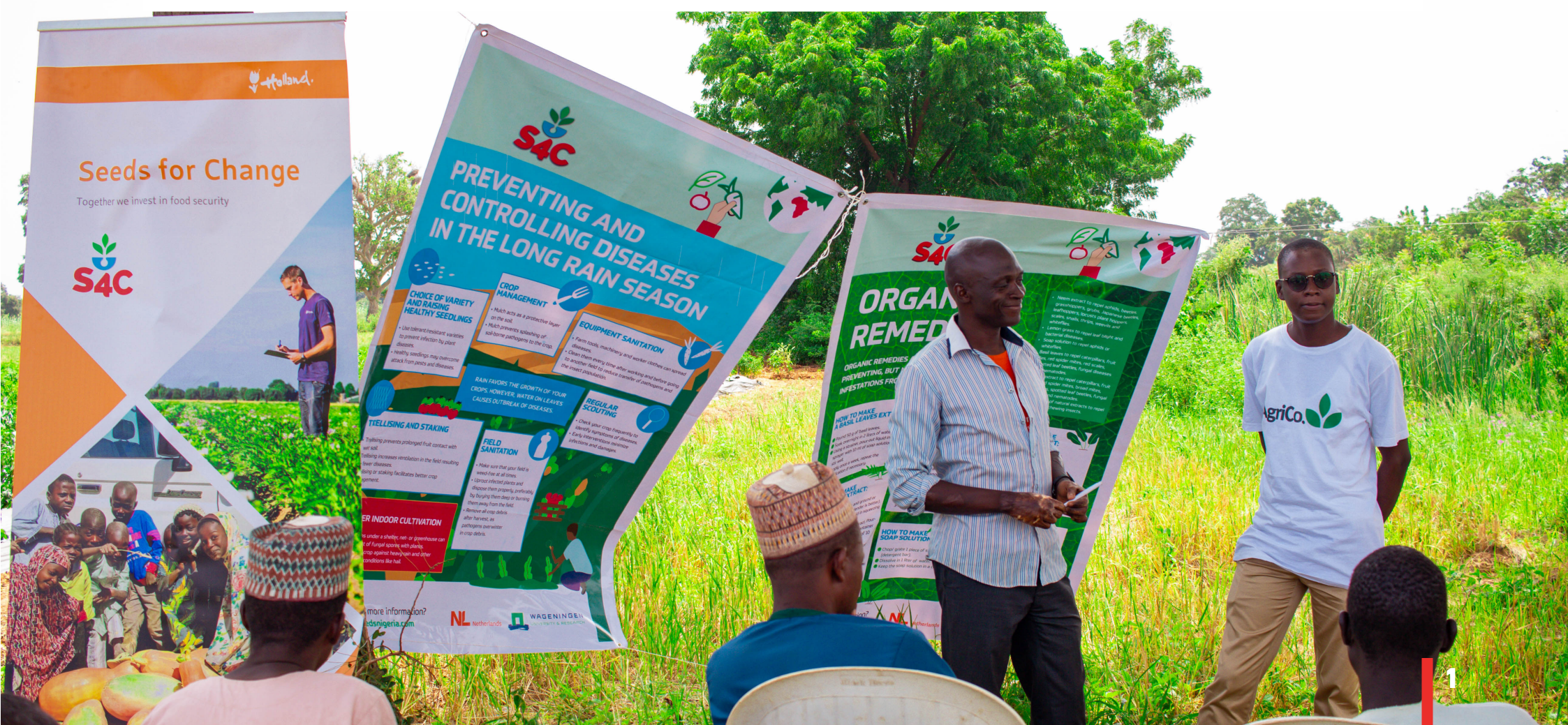
Nigeria is Africa's largest economy and one of the fastest growing countries in the world, with a population of over 200 million, estimated to grow to 400 million in 2050. Smallholder farmers are the backbone of the agricultural production supplying 95% of all food in Nigeria. Vegetables are extremely important for human nutrition and development and because of the growing population there is a higher demand for nutritious food and diversity in fruit and vegetables. In addition, there is a need to preserve the health of producers, consumers and environment by applying cropping system with more and more organic inputs.

Biological crop protection solutions and high-quality seeds, selected for tropical agronomic circumstances, and resistant to pests and diseases, are vital. In addition, there is a need for resilience in the face of erratic climatic conditions. But seeds alone are not enough. That is why we have set up the S4C Impact Cluster to collaborate with the horticulture sector in the Kano region and provide smallholder and medium-scale farmers with access to the best hybrid vegetable seeds and biological crop protection.

Why Seeds for Change?

Innovation and highly-efficient production have made the Netherlands worldwide no. 2 exporter in food. We create high-quality products that are safe, reliable, and affordable. S4C is a cluster of Dutch companies that cooperates to increase access to markets, contribute to local private sector development, and improve the livelihoods of small- and medium-scale farmers in Nigeria.

First, by enhancing their yields and increasing the quality of their products, they can demand better prices. Secondly, by demonstrations, training, and knowledge transfer for vegetable farmers on how to employ Good Agricultural Practices for hybrid seeds and biological crop protection to maximise the benefits of these high-quality input materials.



SEEDS FOR CHANGE PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

In its four years of operation, the S4C Impact Cluster has achieved quite a remarkable impact in Nigeria in relation to programme exposure, outcomes for Nigerian farmers, outcomes for Dutch partners, and the overall programme outcome and impact.

Ultimately, the S4C Programme allowed for the improvement of the Nigerian seed sector enabling environment by linking seed companies with SMEs, the NASC, local seed distributors, and agro-dealers and transcending local seed sector challenges identified at the state and federal level.

PROGRAMME EXPOSURE

5

Rounds of variety demonstrations organised at 60 demo plots

6

Knowledge transfer radio broadcasts were organised

Topics focused on good agricultural practices, biological crop protection, crop nutrition and pest management, land preparation and irrigation and market linkages.

8

Business and market linkages established with vegetable off-takers, market aggregators, and agro-input dealers

10+

Business linkages established between commercial (large or mid-scale) growers, NGOs, and other potential clients and Dutch seed distributors

500

Stakeholders participated in 5 seed platform meetings, reuniting the vegetable sector in Kano

Topics varied from market linkages, dry season irrigation, seed quality, accessibility of fertilizers, biological crop protection, food safety and compliance, and good agricultural practices.

1M+

Listeners tuned in to the knowledge transfer radio broadcasts from **Dala FM**

3x

Increase in the local presence of Dutch seed companies in Kano

20%

Increase in wet season vegetable production around the Kano irrigation cluster resulting from the S4C capacity building and use of hybrid varieties.

OUTCOMES FOR NIGERIAN FARMERS

50,000

farmers have been reached by S4C demonstrations. Their awareness was raised on the importance of improved inputs and good agricultural practices.

1,750

farmers trained on good agricultural practices. 1,250 farmers were trained by the S4C team and Dutch and Nigerian company representatives, while 500 farmers were trained by the K2K trainees (during project duration).

150%

increase in the productivity of the 1,750 vegetable farmers involved in the project. Average yield of tomatoes from 0.5kg/plant to 1.25kg/plant.

30

horticultural super trainers have been trained in vegetable cultivation practices as part of a 18 months blended learning Training of Trainers program together with Wageningen University. *

* From 2022, the super trainers will continue training extension staff and key farmers in subjects related to high level vegetable cultivation using advanced varieties and cultivation practices and technologies, adapted to the local circumstances. The super trainers are from public, private and knowledge institutes across Nigeria.

SEEDS FOR CHANGE PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

OUTCOMES FOR THE DUTCH PRIVATE SECTOR

The Seeds for Change Programme enabled the cooperation of 5 Dutch seed breeder companies and 1 biological crop protection company on knowledge transfer to farmers, productivity increase and local vegetable sector development in Nigeria.



2

Dutch seed pavilions were organised at 2 Nigerian trade fairs.



8

business linkages established with market aggregators, transporters and agro-input dealers.



20%

increased market share for Dutch seed companies.



40%

increase in sales of hybrid varieties and biological crop protection.



3x

increase of presence of local Dutch seed breeder staff.

PROGRAMME OUTCOME AND IMPACT

Development of horticultural training and learning tool-box. Tool-kit consists of 4 crop manuals (tomato, onion, pepper (H/S), cabbage) and 14 technical cultivation guides adapted to the Nigerian context in English and Hausa language.

4

learning plots established with local knowledge institutes as part of the S4C educational, trial and demonstration activities.

40%

Increase in sales of hybrid varieties and biological crop protection as well as 20% increase in market share for Dutch seed companies.

Wet season vegetable production increased by 20% around the Kano irrigation cluster. As a result of the S4C capacity building and use of hybrid varieties.

57

young agricultural professionals offered internship and mentorship under the impact cluster in partnership with Young Africa Works Project with MasterCard-IITA and the National Youth Service Corp. In total 55% female interns and 45% male interns.

5

rounds of variety trials were organised, testing 55 varieties in total, selecting 25 varieties for the Nigerian market.

PROGRAMME TIMELINE

4 March 2019

5 Dutch Seed Pavilion @ The Agrofood West Africa, Lagos & S4C Project Launch

6

9

July 2019

S4C Scoping mission-
selection of project/demo sites

10

11

12

13

January 2020 - April 2021

K2K Training of Horticultural Trainers Program
in cooperation with the WUR

17

18

19

20

May 2021

Trainee graduation ceremony (30 trainees)

21

22

23

24

27

September 2021

Dutch Seed Pavilion@ Agricon Nigeria

28

29

30



CONCLUSION

The population of Africa is rapidly growing with Nigeria doubling its population by 2050. To provide healthy foods to the population, Smallholder farmers in Nigeria play a crucial role. However, decades of elementary production has shown fewer yields, soil depletion, malnutrition, and wastage. Promoting sustainable agriculture and supporting small-holder farmers is at the core of S4C.

By tackling these challenges, S4C and its Dutch partners have enhanced the yields, improved agricultural productivity thereby increasing the incomes of farmers and providing equal access to knowledge, resources, inputs, technology and market opportunities. S4C ensures sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that help maintain ecosystems contributing to the goal of Zero Hunger of the SDGs. Together with the Netherlands, we invest in Food Security in Nigeria.



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