WOMENIN
AGRICULTURE
FOR
SUSTAINABLE
AFRICA



20

22

MONTHLY AGRIBUSINESS EMPOWERMENT TRAINING PROGRAM ORGANIZED BY WASA NIGERIA

22nd January,19th February

12thMarch & 23rd April

Featuring

- Pig farming business
- · Catfish farming business
- Snail farming & Transformation
- Sweet Potato Farming Business













WASA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

8th March 2022

Exotic qoutes of WASA members from different countries in Africa









EDITORIAL

GCSAYN in Nigeria launched a 4month- Free Agribusiness **Empowerment training program on the 7th of January 2022. The** Agribusiness Training Program was anchored by WASA Leadership Team in Nigeria. It was designed for African Women located in different parts of Africa who wish to acquire the right skills and knowledge that is required to run a successful Agribusiness in their communities. It is also geared towards achieving one of the objectives of WASA which is - to train young girls and women to engage in profitable and efficient agriculture. This of course addresses SDGs 1, 2, 3, and 4 because it will lead to reduction in poverty, hunger and improvement in health standard when healthy foods are produced. The program was led by WASA Hub Coordinator for West Africa-Nigeria Mrs Chinenye Juliet Ejezie and the trainings kick-started with Pig farming business on the 22nd of January, 2022. This was followed by Catfish farming on the 19th of February, and Snail farming & Transformation on the 12th of March. It was concluded on the 12th of April 2022 with Sweet Potato farming business. All the trainings had different speakers who volunteered their knowledge and experience as it relates to their areas of specializations. Participants joined from Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, Algeria, Cameroon, Kenya, Zambia, Namibia, South Africa, Ivory Coast, etc. About 123 women registered and participated in the trainings. The highlights of the trainings are contained in this newsletter which also features the International Women's Day celebration observed by WASA.

Empowering
African
Women in
Sustainable
Agriculture

Chinenye Juliet Ejezie

Country coordinator GCSAYN Nigeria &

Hub coordinator WASA West Africa- Nigeria



ABOUT GLOBAL CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE YOUTH NETWORK (GCSAYN)

GCSAYN is a dynamic network of youth-serving individuals and partner organizations with a strong interest in Climate Smart Agriculture and sustainable agriculture. Our network encompasses 124 countries in Africa, Asia, USA, Latin America and Europe, through connection utilizing online platforms, where members share findings and seek practical advice for their projects and activities. The primary objective of GCSAYN is to create awareness and build the capabilities of young people on CSA concepts to strengthen their abilities to adapt to and mitigate emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) while sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and food security.

VISION

Youth around the world empowered to lead actions in climate-smart agriculture to nourish human-kind while diminishing agriculture's environmental footprint.

MISSION

Raise awareness on CSA among young men and women to make informed decisions that counter current and future threats to sustainable, climate-smart agriculture. Youth are better positioned to make contributions in climate resilient agriculture by influencing policy and on-the-ground practices enhancing integrated Agro-ecological farming systems: crop production, livestock management, managing aquatic production systems and sustainable forestry.

OBJECTIVES

- To encourage youth to develop their own ways of contributing to sustainable development at the local, regional, national and international levels by applying a social agenda to actions in Climate-Smart Agriculture.
- •To create a platform for the youth to share information about Climate-Smart Agriculture practices.
- To engage youth and other partners in agriculturally related sectors through impactful training activities that integrate societal concerns with climate smart technologies.

ABOUT WASA



Women in Agriculture for Sustainable Africa (WASA) is a flagship program of Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network Global (GCSAYN) initiated to equip women in agriculture in achieving their goals, to improve communication among other women in agriculture and to broaden their knowledge on good agricultural practices that are eco-friendly and sustainable.

GOALS

- To reduce poverty, hunger, improve health standard by producing healthy food which addresses the SDG number 1, 2, and 3
- Reduce the unemployment rate in our local communities SDG 8
- Practice agriculture in a way that is friendly to the environment SDG 13, 14, and 15
- Encourage women to be agripreneurs through setting up of individual agribusinesses

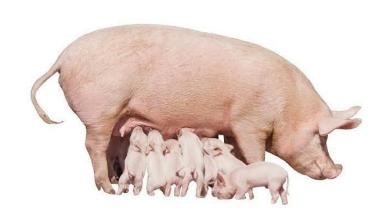
MISSION

Our mission is to empower girls and women in agribusiness, to establish enterprises that will positively influence their society, country and world at large. Improve the life style of women through poverty relief, encourage rural women by providing them with trainings and workshops on modern techniques in agriculture.

PIG FARMING TRAINING

The Pig farming training organized by WASA Nigeria took place on the 23rd of January 2022 via zoom. The guest speakers invited to train the Women are;

- Mrs Chinenye Juliet Ejezie, CEO of Dozliet Anim farm Nigeria, an animal scientist and an experienced pig farmer.
- Mr Olasupo Ayobami, Founder, Agrobreeders Nigeria, an Agribusiness expert in Pig farming.
- Mrs Rose John, an Agricultural-economist with special interest in pig farming.



The training which was titled "Amplifying The involvement of African women in pig farming business" was geared towards revealing the factors that makes a pig farming business venture in Africa successful. Several management practices in piggery were also explained and questions entertained at the end



"Running a Pig farm as a Business" by Mrs Chinenye Juliet Ejezie – CEO Dozliet Anim Farms Nigeria (Pig Farm)

Pig is a warm blooded mammal like human beings. It has a simple stomach and is therefore a mono-gastric animal like human. It can feed on almost anything edible for humans and more, like cereals, vegetable, and brewery wastes, vegetables, and kitchen wastes, Palm Kernel Cake (PKC), Palm Oil, blood meal, meats, and so on. Pig has high growth rate and high fecundity. A Sow/Gilt can produce 5 to 14 piglets in a single birth, two birth cycles in a year. It also has shorter gestation period compared to ruminants. The average pregnancy period is 114days (3months, 3weeks and 3days). Also, mortality rate is very low with proper farm management

Basic Things to Consider before setting your own Pig Farm

- 1) Availability of Capital
- 2) Type of Pig farming enterprise to specialize on; a) Farrow to wean (breeding to produce weaners for sale) b)Wean to finish (fattening of weaners to finisher pigs for sale) c) Farrow to finish (breeding ,weaning and fattening of finisher pigs for sale)
- 3) Choice of Pig Breeds:

Indigenous breed —They have very strong immune system but low growth rate and low reproductive rate. It's not advisable to use this breed in commercial farming because the productivity tends to be very low.

Exotic breeds — These breeds are generally characterized by their high performance on the farm when managed very well. They are the preferred parent stock for commercial pig farming. They are differentiated based on their genetic composition. In Nigeria the most popular breeds used for commercial production are the Large White, Landrace, Duroc, and Cambourough.

- 4) Possible sources of feed, their cost, availability and formulation
- 5) Housing (design, materials, and cost)
- 6) Pig health management

Find out how pig farming business is done in your location. This will help you a lot to enjoy the prospects. You may need to find out how they sell their pigs (scaling method or just by bargain), how much it is being sold, the kind of pig farming enterprise prevailing in your area (farrow to wean enterprise, wean to finish enterprise or farrow to finish enterprise.

All these information will enable you to identify your customers and know how much they are willing to pay, how profitable your business will be and will eventually help you know your expected cost of raising yours pig so you won't exceed it or run at a loss.

Housing: Pig houses in Nigeria are open sided houses with dwarf walls and open upper portion. You can decide to rent a farm house or if you have the money you can purchase a plot of land and construct your own farm.

The building should be constructed with a good drainage for effective management and easy disposal of waste.

For permanent pig houses, the flooring must be concrete (neither too rough nor too smooth) and a bit sloppy (but not steep) to allow for easy cleaning and minimize occurrence of parasites and diseases. The pens should have a wallow filled with water, where the pig can easily cool off during harsh weather.

Pigs do not have sweat glands. During hot weather, they cool off in the wallow as a way of regulating their body temperature and avoid heat stress. The pens should also have feeder where the pigs access their feed.

Pig feeding: For optimum performance, pigs should be fed balanced feeds. It should be such that it meets the nutrient requirement of pigs. Protein is needed for growth, formation of muscle, repair of worn out tissues and for reproduction.

Energy is the largest single dietary need of pigs, and it turns out to be the most costly item in the diet of pigs because of the amount required. Dietary energy sources are derived from carbohydrates and fats. When pigs feed on a diet low in energy, they tend to lose weight and produce less milk than it should. Mineral elements are equally required in significant amounts in pig diet. Mineral deficiencies will generally result in depressed growth and poor feed efficiency.

Pigs also require vitamins because it is essential for the maintenance and functioning of the respiratory, digestive, reproductive and urinary systems. Most importantly, they need clean drinking water in high quantity. It is highly necessary to have a source of clean water in the farm.

BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF NEW STOCK

- Wash and clean the pen properly
- Ensure that there is feed and water available for them
- Ensure that the pen is big enough to house them and the feeder and drinker is big enough to give the pig enough access during feeding
- Due to stress resulting from transport, the pigs will also be needing multivitamins to ease stress and give them appetite for feeding.

ARRIVAL OF NEW STOCK

Carefully bring the animals out from the vehicle and put them in the individual pen. If you notice that there are big difference in the sizes of the new animals, group or pen them according to their size. Bigger ones should stay together while small ones should be grouped in a different pen.

Provide clean water first. They need to drink enough water after a long journey to the farm.

Administer multivitamins, some might not want to eat or may not be eating much as expected, maybe because of the change of environment. Multivitamins makes them to have appetite for food.

Give them feed to eat. Once you give multivitamins, do not delay in making feed available for them.



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<u>"Managerial Aspect of Pig Farming" by Mrs Rose John. A – An Agricultural Economist and Extensionist, a Researcher, an Agripreneur and an Agribusiness consultant</u>

Management is geared towards:

- Faster growth rate
- High meat quality
- Disease resistant capacity and
- Climate smart agriculture

Therefore quality pigs should be purchased preferably from known Research and Development agencies, State Vet. Departments, NGOs and other breeder farmers.

The different categories of management in pig farming are as follows:

- Breeding mgt.
- Care during pregnancy and farrowing
- Feeding mgt.
- Housing (concrete floor/ deep litter housing)
- Waste mgt.
- Diseases and health care, and
- Record keeping.

Other management practices include:

- Culling of (unproductive) animals
- Castration of piglets (just after weaning)
- Segregation of diseased animals
- •Recycling or zero waste practices to mention but a few.



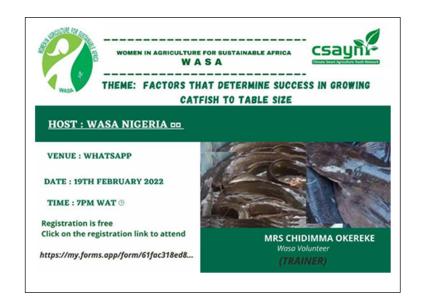
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CATFISH FARMING

The catfish farming business training organized by WASA Nigeria happened on the 19th of February 2022 at WASA training WhatsApp group. The invited speaker discussed "the factors that determines success in growing catfish to table size".

Speaker



"Factors that Determine Success in growing catfish to table size" by Mrs Chidimma Okereke – Experienced Catfish farmer

The following factors determine a successful table sized catfish production;

SEED

Your fingerlings are your seed and must be obtained from a disease free parent (brood stock) and the brood stock to be used must attain the weight of 2.5kg to 3kg to ensure fastest growth of the fish.

FEED

Feed recommendation varies as the size of the fish increases

- a. Fingerlings (3 to 4 grams) 1mm to 1.5mm feed
- b. Post fingerlings (4 to 6 grams) 1.5mm to 1.8mm.
- c. Juvenile (6 to 10 grams) 2mm to 2.5mm
- d. Jumbo (20 to 50 grams)2.5mm to 3mm.

The feed sizes varies from 0.7mm to. 10mm. The bigger your fishes the bigger the size of feed they are fed

NOTE: Any brand of feed chosen must be of the best quality with high level of protein.

WATER

The water source must be of good quality and free from harmful micro nutrients like iron and zinc. It must be of pH value of 6.5 to 8.0 with dissolved oxygen content within the range of 4 to 8mg/litre.

MANAGEMENT

The important factors to consider under management includes;

Feeding

Sorting

Stocking density

Flood

Feeding: Catfishes are fed twice per day during the warm weather and once a day during cold weather... It is strictly advised that we use floating feeds to avoid overfeeding and feed wastage.

Sorting: Always sort your fishes after the first month of stocking, this will help to minimize cannibalism. It is also advised that we must have at least two ponds before venturing into fish farming so that we can easily restock into pond after every sorting according to the different sizes.

Stocking density: Very important, the best recommended stocking density is 500 fishes into 17,000 to 20,000 litres of water for both concrete and earthen ponds.

Flood: Ponds must be constructed at places without flood or that has no flooding history to avoid economic waste.



TABLE SIZE

For further question on the topic, contact Mrs Chidimma Okereke



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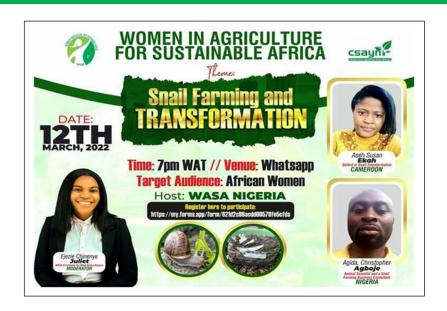
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SNAIL FARMING & TRANSFORMATION

The training on Snail farming and Transformation held on 12th of March 2022 on the WASA training group. The training had two speakers as trainers and was moderated by WASA West African Coordinator.

1st Speaker; Agida, Christopher Agboje (Animal Scientist and a Snail Farming Business Consultant)

2nd speaker; Aseh Susan Ekah (skilled in snail transformation)



<u>How to establish and manage a successful Snail Farming Business by Mr</u> <u>Agida Christopher – Animal scientist and Snail Farming Business Consultant</u>

What is snail farming about?

Snail farming also known as heliciculture is a process of raising land snails for food or other purposes by humans and Industrial utilisation. Examples, edible fleshy part, Caviar (from snail eggs), biofermentation, enzymes production, poultry feeds, and aesthetics.

Classification of snails

Snails can be classified into two major types, base on their habitats.

Aquatic

- a. Salt water
- b. Fresh water

Terrestrial

- a. Flood water
- b. Land snails

What kind of snail can you farm?

You can rear snails that live on land and are good to eat.

They are categorised into two breeds;

- i. Helix species
- ii. Achatina species

But the most common in Africa profitable for farming is the Achatina species. They include:

Achatina fulica

Achatina achatina

Key basic steps/processes involved in successfully running a snail farming business.

✓Education (Awareness about the business).

✓Site selection/Physical environment of the farm.

√The soil type and texture.

√Housing (snailry).

✓Sourcing for snail.

√Feeding.







Common pest of snail

Mice, rats, shrews, mole rat, ants, beetles, frogs, toads, snakes, snail eating birds, and human thieves.

Benefits of snail farming

- ✓Easy to handle and manage.
- ✓Not capital intensive
- ✓Snail meat is used in the production of local herbs to be used by pregnant women.
- ✓Snail shells can be used for ornaments.
- ✓Create employment.
- ✓Snail meat contains anti-tuberculosis.
- ✓Snail farming can be done as par time.
- √Snail farming can be combined with grasscutter farming and fish farming.

For further question on the topic, contact Mr Agida Christopher Agboje

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Snail Transformation by Aseh Susan Ekah - Skilled in snail transformation)

Snail meat, also called Escargot is high in protein and also good sources of Iron, Calcium, Vitamin A.

Snail meat helps your immune system fight off diseases and helps cells in your body to grow. Snail meat is a lucrative business.

Key procedures on how to transform snail.

1) Removal of snails from its shells using snail pointed tool. Position the snail in your hand and insert the pointed tool inside the snail and remove the snail from it shells.



2) Wash the snails to remove snails slime. Add Alum to the water and then wash the snails. Alum helps to eliminate slime from snails.



3) cut the tongue of the snail using knife (to open snail). Cut the tongue of snail and to remove the intestines. Endeavour to use knife and position in the middle of the snail and cut as shown in the photo below.



4) Season the Snail to your taste. Season with salt, Maggie and pepper. Steam or cook it for few minutes.



6) Package the snails. Store and use anytime you want.



5) Smoke the snails: after steaming it you put it in the oven (smoke).





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SWEET POTATO FARMING

The sweet potato farming training organized by WASA Nigeria was done on the 23rd of April 2022 and the invited speaker was Dr Okoye Amala C. She is a Research Scientist and an agribusiness specialist in sweet potato programme at NRCRI, Umudike, Abia State. Dr Okoye taught on sweet potato farming as a business. The training was moderated by WASA West African hub coordinator.



Sweet Potato Farming Business by Dr, Okoye Amala C. – Research scientist and Agribusiness specialist in sweet potato programme

About Sweet Potato

Botanical name - *Ipomoea batatas*

It is a root crop and it has different varieties and cultivars. It Mature within the period of 3-5 months depending on the variety. Predominantly grown by resource farmers such as women. It is also a Cheap source of energy and provides nutritional and health benefits. It Grows in marginal conditions with relatively low inputs and has high potential for increased yields.

Varieties of Sweet Potato

According to Fleshed colour

White/cream Fleshed eg. TIS 0087/087, TIS 8164, butter milk, Nwaoyirima, etc

Orange fleshed eg. UMUSPO 1, 3 and 4

Yellow fleshed eg. Ex-Igbariam, Kwara etc.

Purple fleshed – still at the clonal line

Business opportunities in Sweet potato production

Seed/Vine Producers (DVMs)

Root Producer

Marketer of Seed/Root/processed products

Processor

Technical service provider

Seed/Vine production as a business



Steps involved in rapid multiplication of sweet potato vines

Source disease free vines from the right source (DVMs or NRCRI)

Select a good site that is close to source of water

Prepare the a sunken bed and incorporate organic manure

Apply pre and post emergence herbicide before planting

Plant the vines (2-3 node cuttings) at a spacing of 20cmX10cm

Remove out weeds as need arises by hand picking

Harvest the vines at 6-8 weeks after planting

Dry Season Vine production



Root production

You need to have sweet potato crop calendar to embark on root production. It will show:

Rainfall pattern;

Activities; and

Gender responsible for the activities

ORANGE FLESHED SWEET POTATO ROOT PRODUCTION

Sweet potato is a root crop widely grown in different parts of the world. OFSP roots mature in relatively short duration of about 3 to 4 months. OFSP still yields in sub-optimal growth conditions and under low level of input.



The Production practices include

Site selection: sweet potato is best grown in well drained loam or Sandy Liam soil. Clayey, heavy and water-logged soils are not good for sweet Potato production.

Land preparation: OFSP is best planted on ridges or mounds that are free from thrashes for easy root expansion. Post and preemergence herbicides should be applied before planting to control weeds. (Follow manufacturer's recommendations when applying herbicides).

Planting: space your sweet potato stands. Plant sweet potato stands 30cm apart (or worm apart if you want smaller marketable roots) on ridges; or plant 3 stands on a mound. Plant at the crest of the ridge in a slanting position.

Weeding: weed at 4weeks after planting. Earthen up during weeding to cover the exposed roots. Continuously rogue out weeds as need arises subsequently.

Fertilizer application: Apply 400kg/ha NPK 15:15:15 at 4 weeks after planting.

Harvesting: All the 3 varieties of OFSP mature within 3 to 4 months. Adequate care should be taken when harvesting OFSP roots to limit post harvest losses.

Always cure your roots by removing the foliage for about 1 to 2days before harvesting. This will make the root to acclimatize to the environment before harvesting.

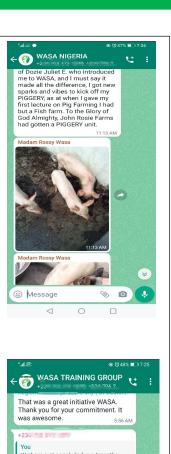
Use digging fork to harvest OFSP roots to avoid sustaining wounds.

For further questions on the topic, contact
Dr, Okoye Amala C

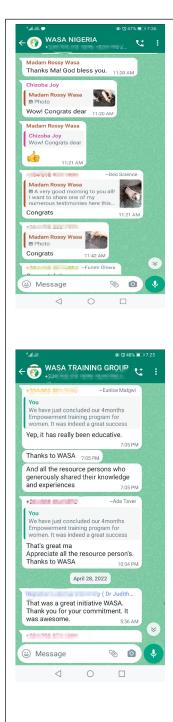
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SCREENSHOTS OF TESTIMONIALS FROM PARTICIPANTS











NOW, WHAT'S NEXT?

Here is the big question for all the Women who just participated in WASA Agribusiness empowerment training program! What are you going to do with all you have gained? What will be your excuse for not leveraging on the knowledge you just acquired through these trainings to successfully engage in any of the Agribusiness opportunities? The agro sector needs more women to take up distinguished roles. Don't let anything stop you.

"It is now the era for women to become leading agripreneurs in their communities and abroad"

If you are already in agribusiness, this is now the time to double your efforts and level up your scale. If you are yet to start, you can start small and grow big. Yes! It is not bad to start small, in fact it is ideal to begin that way as someone who is going into a new business. However it is very important not to remain small. Women needs to be seen and for this to happen fast in the agro industry, we must be rightly positioned and be action oriented.



This is no longer the time we are allowed to farm for family consumption only. Rather, it is now the era for us to become leading agripreneurs in our communities and abroad. The change begins with you and I.

"If you are yet to start, you can start small and grow big"

Let's break every bias stopping us from evolving today. The above notes is just a summary of all that was discussed during the trainings. You are free to contact any of the speakers for more. Take advantage of everything you have learned this few months and let's effect the change that is needed in our continent and the world at large. Thank you for being part of this empowerment program and see you at the Top.

Mrs Chinenye Juliet Ejezie

WASA hub coordinator West-Africa Nigeria and CEO Dozliet Anim farms Nigeria

Dr Nancy Nalova, the founder of Agriculture the Future common initiative group shares her view on women empowerment in Agriculture and about her organization.

"Agriculture the future"



Women make essential contributions to the agricultural and rural economies in all developing countries. Their roles vary considerably between and within regions and are changing rapidly in many parts of the world, where economic and social forces are transforming the agricultural sector. Yet, little action has been taken to ensure that they have the resources they need to improve their livelihoods, tackle food insecurity and build their communities' resilience to climate change.

Agriculture the future is a common initiative that is made up of local farmers that have come together to support each other so as to help improve yield growth.

Agriculture the future has 3 schemes of support program

With a unique support scheme offered only to women in farm called the "women in farm community "

In the Women in farm support program we offer support to young women farmers by offering them trainings in basic agricultural practices such as seed processing, pesticides control and post harvesting methods.

We Link the women to agricultural value chains as well, because We believe that When women are linked to agricultural value chains from production all the way to processing and marketing, they help make traditional farming more productive and commercially viable. We have Inclusive value chains that also offer work opportunities for the women even off the farm.

Contacts

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8th March 2022

WASA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

The international women's Day Celebration for March 2022 was marked and celebrated by WASA on the 8th of March 2022. The theme of Women's celebration according to the United Nations is "Gender equality today for a sustainable future". It aimed at recognizing women who are working to build a sustainable future. However, The international women's Day website announced it to be "Break the Bias" as this year's theme which expresses the importance of promoting a world free of bias and discrimination against women. The both themes is a call to applaud women already involved in working towards a sustainable future and also to break the bias or any form of limitations preventing women to evolve. To that effects, women in Agriculture for sustainable Africa participated by spreading the mantra through our dynamic quotes. It was shared across our social media platforms. (https://www.Facebook.com/111070431459220/posts/131439149422348/) or https://www.Facebook.com/Wasa2021.ng/

Exotic quotes of WASA members from different countries in Africa during the international women's day celebration, 8th march 2022

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

"

Women are real movers and shakers of the world. HAPPY WOMEN'S DAY.

EDUM, UCHECHUKWU N.
Wasa Volunteer Awka, Nigeria





HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

"

Women are strong and have the potentials to attain their goals and build empires. Just give us a chance. Happy international women's day.

FOMUJONG JOAN
Wasa Volunteer Douala, Cameroon





HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

11

A woman The most precious gift God gave to humanity. They are nation builders. The world is a better place, but would be BEST if a women is not left behind.

ACHALE MARVIS
Co chair for WASA





HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

11

Women in Agriculture, we "BREAK THE BIAS'. Happy International women's Day.

> OBI CHIKA OBIANUJU Wasa Volunteer Nnewi, Nigeria





HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

"

We are unique, special and talented . Our role cannot be undermine . Nothing can stop us . We will impact our world . Happy women's day

BETTYBEST

WASA Volunteer, Cameroon





HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

"

Women are wonderful wife, originally caring, motherly in nature, affectionate and nurturing being. Happy international women's day to us all.

> ARREY LOIS WASA Volunteer Kumba, Cameroon





HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

"

Every woman is special and endowed.
To all the women in the world, keep
breaking new grounds, keep those hopes
high and Don't stop winning!
Happy Women's Day

JULIET EJEZIE .C WASA Hub Cordinator For WestAfrica-Nigeria





HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

"

Women are longing to be free No longer in the shadows Happy Women's Day!

> OSITA JOY CHIZOBA Wasa Volunteer Nnewi, Nigeria









APPRECIATION

We sincerely thank the volunteers of Women in Agriculture for Sustainable Africa in Nigeria for the successful launch of this 4-Agribusiness Empowerment Training Program. Our heartfelt thanks goes to the invited speakers who volunteered their time and skills to train the African women in different agribusinesses. To all the participants, thank you as well for being part of the training sessions.

NTIOKAM DIVINE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GCSAYN.**