

Indigenous Erosion Control through Climate-Smart Agriculture

Gella Community, Mubi South LGA, Adamawa State, Northeast Nigeria
12-month Intervention • \$40,000 GEF-SGP grant

SDG 2 — Zero Hunger SDG 13 — Climate Action SDG 15 — Life on Land SDG 5 — Gender Equality

4,200

VETIVER SLIPS PROPAGATED
(90% SURVIVAL)

403

FARMERS TRAINED
(60% WOMEN)

800+

MOBILISED IN WATER
CAMPAIGN

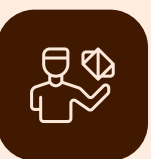
2 ha

UNDER CLIMATE-SMART
PRODUCTION

KEY RESULTS

- Erosion Reversal:** ~1.5 hectares planted with vetiver grass across erosion-prone sites; community nursery exceeded targets by 40%.
- Renewable Energy Irrigation:** 10 solar-powered water engines deployed across 10 ward clusters — first fossil-fuel-free irrigation in Gella.
- Governance Established:** 25-member Community Environmental Committee 12 women, 9 youth-drafting community environmental laws.
- Water Stewardship:** Community-led water point embankment and Water Champions sustaining dry-season water access.
- Girls' Economic Agency:** 20 girls (15–22) in sack farming; 30 women in dedicated soya bean cluster from marginalised households.
- Post-harvest Ssecurity:** 55 PICS bags distributed; 20 bags drought-tolerant wheat and rice seeds; chemical-free storage institutionalised.

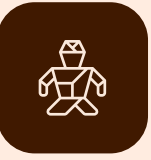
LESSONS LEARNT



SHOW, DON'T TELL: Hands-on demonstrations consistently outperformed classroom training in driving adoption – vetiver planting and composting were internalized through doing.



CHAMPION-FIRST: Water Champions and CEC members are the most cost-effective sustainability mechanism — invest in them early and deeply.



REMOVE BARRIERS: Baby-friendly spaces and targeted household mapping were the difference between nominal and genuine inclusion — equity is structural.



INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE WORKS: Vetiver grass and local composting materials accelerated adoption because the knowledge was already partly familiar.

MILESTONES REACHED

25-member CEC established with women and youth in leadership – 6 capacity sessions completed

403 farmers trained on CSA and financial literacy; baby-friendly space ensured nursing mothers participated

Community environmental local law development process initiated – participatory and gender-responsive

Community vetiver nursery surpassed 3,000-slip target 4,200 propagated within 60 days at 90% survival

10 solar irrigation units deployed; 10 demonstration clusters activated across 2 hectares

Co-financing: NGN 21.8M (Period 1) + NGN 19.3M (Period 2) in community and ACF contributions delivered

EROSION CONTROL

Indigenous vetiver grass
+ 1.5 ha restoration

CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Solar irrigation + CSA training + demonstration farms

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

Environmental committee + local environmental laws

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 01 Extend CEC technical support beyond project closure to maintain momentum on community environmental law enactment and governance sustainability
- 02 Fund a dedicated phase for women's economic empowerment – sack farming and women's clusters have demonstrated transformative potential warranting scale-up
- 03 Replicate the community champion model (Water Champions, girl cluster leaders) as a core design principle in all future climate-smart agriculture programming
- 04 Address patriarchal norms as a long-term programmatic objective — not a background risk — through dedicated engagement with male community members and traditional leaders



Before this project, I farmed by guessing. Now I test my soil, I compost my waste, and I water with the sun. My farm used to be silent in the dry season. This year, it is not.

— Male Farmer Participant, Gella Cluster 4, December 2025