

WOFAN brief profile and capacity statement

Brief History of WOFAN

Women Farmers Advancement Network (WOFAN) was established in June 1993 and incorporated with the Kano state Government as a community Development Association in 1995 and later and later registered with the corporate affairs commission in 2007 with its headquarters in Kano.

WOFAN partners and works with a mobilized, registered multipurpose cooperatives, CBOS, community service groups, private sectors and research institutions towards achieving a holistic development of the people.

In 2017 WOFAN's application to graduate to "Women Empowerment Foundation" received the legal approval of the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) of Nigeria. The new outfit supports WOFAN's strides in making a difference in pushing a people and community owned partnership and collaboration with all arms of governments, the private sector, NGOs, traditional and community structures as well as donor agencies. This extra effort is expected to bring additional complementary strength and shared responsibilities in supporting the common goals of the less privileged, disadvantaged and the voiceless thereby assisting them scale up their enterprise skills and become managers of their own development.

Presently, WOFAN has 4,500 clusters of women, men and youth groups of 30 members per group across 7 Northern States of Nigeria.

Primary Activities

WOFAN has several core activities it pursues in support of its mission statement, goal and objectives. These are:

1. Training its target groups across a wide range of matters, including leadership development, Advocacy, business management,
2. Building synergies across agriculture value chain, food processing, improved family nutrition, food preservation
3. Educating people on the importance of water and soil conservation, sustainable environment & climate change adaptation, improved agricultural technology & livelihood and health awareness.

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Approach

WOFAN is participatory and responsive in its approach. It works at the community level, with self – selection groups.

WOFAN using PRA/PLA exercise, assists rural groups to identify their needs and draw up action plans for intervention. Each group chooses its own leaders, including president, secretary, and treasurer, and it is responsible for implementing WOFAN-assisted projects. In each community, there are at least two committees as explained below under management and organizational structure.

Membership

Membership in WOFAN is open to individuals and groups who believe in the organization's goal and objectives and are willing to work together for their own development.

WOFAN generally involves the household in its activities with the aim of improving gender relations by encouraging the involvement of men and women in project intervention at all levels.

Within WOFAN, groups form themselves into 25-30 members each.

The groups are mainly unisex with 75% -80% being women and choose to engage in similar socio-economic activities.

Membership growth of WOFAN

WOFAN started with 28 members in 1993 and grew up to 50 members in 1998, In year 2000, the membership sprang to 150 groups working closely with CTA- The Netherlands and expanded to 250 groups in 2003.

Through the intervention of the USAID and Coca-Cola Africa Foundation in a funded water project, WOFAN's membership strength became 500 groups.

The USAID Nigeria water project supported WOFAN in a Water and Sanitation project which expanded the network to an outreach to 1500 groups of 30 members per group in 2014.

Presently, WOFAN has over 4500 rural mobilized groups of which 75% are women groups and 25% are male and youth groups between the ages of 18years to 35 years who are registered with WOFAN and their various state cooperatives or community development units of their LGAs.

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