



**ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF NGO'S POVERTY REDUCTION INTERVENTIONS
AMONG WOMEN FARMERS IN DAMBAM LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF
BAUCHI STATE, NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the impact of non-governmental organizations' (NGOs) poverty reduction interventions on women farmers in Dambam Local Government Area, Bauchi State, Nigeria. A two-stage sampling technique was employed to select respondents. In the first stage, five wards were purposively selected based on high women's participation in NGO intervention programmes. In the second stage, a purposive random sampling method was used to select respondents, with 100 women initially sampled (20 from each ward). After data cleaning, valid responses from 96 respondents were analysed. Data were collected using structured questionnaires and analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Findings indicate significant improvements in monthly income levels, with the percentage of respondents earning over ₦50,000 increasing from 16.7% to 22.9%, while those earning ₦20,000 or less dropped from 19.8% to 8.3%. Productivity-focused interventions, such as the provision of farming equipment (Mean = 3.69, SD = 0.72) and fertilizers (Mean = 3.42, SD = 0.66), were highly rated by respondents. Other impactful measures included training programmes (Mean = 3.14, SD = 0.61) and capital provision (Mean = 3.02, SD = 0.58). Additionally, 91.7% of respondents reported improved productivity, 85.4% affirmed the ability to pay children's school fees, and 77.1% noted reduced marital conflicts. Despite these achievements, challenges such as limited accessibility to interventions (Mean = 3.22, SD = 0.63), high interest rates on credit (Mean = 3.36, SD = 0.67), and governance issues, including corruption (Mean = 3.28, SD = 0.77) and selfishness of district heads (Mean = 3.88, SD = 0.83), remain significant barriers. The study concludes that targeted NGO interventions have the potential to reduce poverty and empower women farmers. Recommendations made by the study include increasing accessibility, introducing low-interest credit facilities, enhancing governance transparency, and promoting stakeholder collaboration to ensure the sustainability and scalability of these programmes. This research provides actionable insights for fostering inclusive agricultural development in the study area and region at large.

Keywords: Non-governmental, Organization, Poverty, Reduction, Perception, Women.

INTRODUCTION

Poverty remains a significant challenge in sub-Saharan Africa, with women disproportionately affected due to systemic inequalities, limited access to resources, and socio-cultural constraints (World Bank, 2022). In Nigeria, where agriculture constitutes a vital sector of the economy, women farmers represent a substantial proportion of the agricultural workforce. However, they face persistent challenges that impede their productivity and economic advancement, including limited access to credit, land ownership, and agricultural inputs (FAO, 2021). These constraints are further exacerbated by traditional gender roles that prioritize men's access to resources and decision-making power within households and communities (Oluwatobi & Adetunji, 2023). Women in agriculture in Northeast Nigeria face particularly acute struggles. The region, characterized by high poverty rates and limited infrastructure, presents significant barriers to agricultural productivity. Women farmers often lack access to essential resources such as modern farming tools, quality seeds, and irrigation facilities, leading to low yields and insufficient income to sustain their families (Yusuf & Bello, 2022; Ike, 2012). Furthermore, social norms frequently limit their mobility and participation in market activities, restricting their economic opportunities (Abdullahi *et al.*, 2021). The impact of poverty on women farmers is profound, perpetuating cycles of deprivation and vulnerability (Ike,



2012). In Northeast Nigeria, the poverty rate remains alarmingly high, with over 70% of the population living below the poverty line (National Bureau of Statistics [NBS], 2023). Bauchi State mirrors this trend, with a poverty incidence of approximately 65% (NBS, 2023). Within Dambam Local Government Area (LGA), anecdotal evidence and localized surveys indicate that poverty levels are even higher, particularly among women farmers who rely on subsistence agriculture for their livelihoods (Ahmed & Ibrahim, 2022).

The issue of women empowerment has undoubtedly become an integral part of contemporary discourse in development and democratization worldwide (Arum, 2010). Arum (2010) also pointed out that Nigerian women comprise of almost half of the entire population, produce about 60% of the food crops, are involved in 90% of food processing, raise the children, maintain the household, fetch all the drinking water and fuel, tend livestock and trade in commodities. Yet, they perform these key tasks under harsh conditions, and with poor training tools, as a result, often at very low levels of productivity. NGOs have emerged as critical players in addressing these challenges, implementing programmes aimed at improving agricultural productivity, increasing income levels, and empowering women. These interventions typically include the provision of microfinance, capacity-building workshops, and access to agricultural inputs and markets. Studies have highlighted the positive impact of such programmes in enhancing women's socio-economic status and reducing poverty (Adesope *et al.*, 2020; Obaji *et al.*, 2021). For instance, Aimua *et al.* (2024) found that women who participated in NGO programmes experienced a 40% increase in their annual income compared to non-participants. Similarly, Mohsin (2020) emphasized the role of community involvement in ensuring the sustainability of such interventions.

Often government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are criticised for their poor performances in delivering services particularly in rural areas (Mohsin, *et al.*, 2020). Despite their great efforts, systematic evaluations of NGO programmes' effectiveness as well as the perceptions of people on the quality of such service delivery in specific local contexts, such as Dambam LGA, remain limited. This study seeks to address this gap by conducting an analysis of the economic status of women farmers – particularly their income levels—before and after participating in NGO programmes. By focusing on respondents' perspective as a critical measure of poverty reduction level and impact of the various intervention programmes, the study aims to provide actionable insights for policymakers, NGOs, and other stakeholders. This research is designed as a case study where beneficiaries of NGOs interventions in the study area were asked their perceptions and the impact of the interventions on their livelihoods. More specifically, the study achieved the following objectives, to:

1. Describe the socioeconomic characteristics of respondents in the study area;
2. Assess the impact of NGOs interventions in improving the income level of women farmers in the study area;
3. Assess the perceived effectiveness of NGO Intervention Programmes among Respondents in the study area.
4. Identify constraints faced by women farmers in participating in NGO's intervention programmes

METHODOLOGY

Study Area

The study was conducted in Dambam Local Government Area (LGA) of Bauchi State, located in the Northern Guinea Savannah with coordinates 11°37'45"N and 10°47'8"E (Wikipedia, 2022). The LGA comprises of two districts: Dagauda and Jalam, and has Dambam town as its administrative headquarters. Dambam is bounded to the north by Potiskum LGA of Yobe State, to the south by Katagum LGA, to the east by Gamawa LGA, and to the west by Misau and Darazo LGAs of Bauchi State. Dambam LGA covers an estimated land area of 1,077 km² (BSADP, 2004) and had a population of 150,922 persons according to the 2006 National Population Census (NPC, 2006). Recent estimates indicate a population size of approximately 268,200 persons (Wikipedia, 2022). The area experiences a mean maximum temperature of 42.8°C and a mean minimum temperature of 18.3°C, with annual rainfall ranging between 800 – 900 mm, averaging 879 mm. The rainy season



spans from June to October. Most inhabitants are predominantly farmers and traders, supported by a well-established regional market (Kolo *et al.*, 2019).

Sampling Techniques

A two-stage sampling technique was employed to select respondents for the study:

1. **Stage One:** Five wards were randomly selected from the ten wards in the LGA. The selected wards; Garuza, Dagauda, Gurbana, Zaura, and Jalam Central, were chosen based on the prevalence of women's participation in NGO intervention programmes.
2. **Stage Two:** A purposive random sampling method was used to select 20 women farmers who had participated in NGO intervention programmes from each of the five wards. This yielded a total sample size of 100 respondents. However, four questionnaires were invalid due to missing relevant information, leaving 96 respondents' data for analysis.

Data Collection and Analysis

Primary data were collected using a well-structured questionnaire designed to capture respondents' socio-economic characteristics and their perceptions of NGO intervention programmes. Descriptive statistics, including frequency distribution, percentages, means, ranges, standard deviations, and standard errors, were employed to summarize the data. Inferential analyses were conducted using Chi-square tests and Likert scale techniques. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software was utilized for data processing and analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socioeconomic Characteristics of Women Farmers Benefited from NGOs' Intervention Programmes

The result of the socioeconomic characteristics of respondents are summarized in Table 1. The results revealed that majority (65.6%) of respondents were within the productive age group of 21 – 40 years. This demographic suggests significant potential for agricultural productivity, provided adequate resources and support are made available. A smaller proportion (15.6%) of respondents aged 41 and above indicates a gradual decline in active farming participation. These findings align with Olum *et al.* (2019), AFAB, (2024) and Hassan, (2024) opinions that younger farmers are more inclined to adopt innovative practices introduced through NGO programmes, thereby enhancing productivity and livelihoods. The prevalence of young and middle-aged women suggests significant untapped potential for innovation and increased productivity in farming activities in the study area. Married individuals constituted the largest group, representing 43.7% of respondents, followed by widowed participants (22.9%), and single/divorced participants (each 16.7%). This highlights the prevalence of family responsibilities among respondents, which may influence economic decisions and reliance on NGO interventions. Mukaila *et al.* (2022) emphasized that married women in rural areas often engage in farming activities to meet household needs, making them key beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programmes. They also highlighted the significant role women play in improving family well-being and economic development, despite the pervasive poverty they face in agricultural contexts.

The results also revealed that majority (57.3%) of respondents had medium to large household sizes, with having between 4 – 9 members. This indicates a significant dependency ratio, which can strain available resources and necessitate external support. Larger household sizes have been linked to higher poverty risks due to increased consumption needs (Hadley *et al.* 2011, Fang 2022). There is a need for NGOs to prioritize programmes targeting the needs of married women and larger households to enhance their socio-economic outcomes aimed at improving household living condition. In addition, a substantial portion of respondents (47.9%) had either no formal education or only primary education, while only 9.4% had attained tertiary education. Limited educational attainment may hinder access to information and adoption of modern agricultural practices. Abdullahi *et al.* (2015), and Meiguran & Basweti (2016) noted that education significantly influences the success of NGO programmes, especially those requiring certain level of technical knowledge or financial literacy. Training programmes focused on improving technical skills and financial literacy among women farmers are strongly recommended to help position them to benefit from other



programmes requiring such skills (Issa *et al.*, 2011). The findings also revealed that nearly half of the respondents (48.9%) cultivated less than one hectare of land, 29.2% cultivated 1–2 hectares, and only 21.9% managed farms of 3 hectares or more. This highlights the predominance of small-scale farming, which limits income potential and productivity. According to Omotilewa *et al.* (2021), farm size is a critical determinant of agricultural output and income levels, with larger farms benefiting more from interventions such as access to modern inputs.

Table 1: Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
≤ 20 years	18	18.8
21 – 30 years	39	40.6
31 – 40 years	24	25.0
≥ 41 years	15	15.6
Marital status		
Single	16	16.7
Married	42	43.7
Divorced	16	16.7
Widowed	22	22.9
Household size		
≤ 3	22	22.9
4 – 6	31	32.3
7 – 9	24	25.0
≥ 10	19	19.8
Educational level		
Never been to school	21	21.9
Primary Education	25	26.0
Secondary education	23	24.0
Adult education	18	18.7
Tertiary education	9	9.4
Farm size		
< 1 hectare	47	48.9
1 – 2 hectares	28	29.2
≥ 3 hectares	21	21.9
Total	96	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Comparative Analysis of Monthly Income of Respondents before and after Participation in Intervention Program

The result presented in table 2 shows the impact of intervention programmes implemented by NGOs in the study area on the monthly income of respondents. They appear to have contributed to upward mobility in income levels among the respondents: the percentage of respondents earning ≤ ₦ 20,000 decreased significantly, from 19.8% to 8.3%. This reduction suggests that fewer women remain in the lowest income bracket, reflecting an improvement in their economic conditions. Respondents earning ₦ 31,000 – ₦ 40,000 and ₦ 41,000 – ₦ 50,000 increased notably, by 8.3% and 5.3%, respectively. This shift into middle-income categories indicates that the interventions positively influenced their financial stability and capacity. The proportion of respondents earning over ₦ 50,000 rose from 16.7% to 22.9%, highlighting the potential for some participants to achieve substantial economic gains. The chi-squared value (9.30) reflects the variation between observed and expected frequencies. While the p-value of 0.054 suggests weak evidence to reject the null hypothesis, it is essential to consider the practical significance of these shifts. Marginal statistical significance often arises in social interventions due to the variability in human responses and external factors influencing outcomes. Studies like Adesope *et al.* (2020) suggest that even modest statistical shifts can have meaningful socio-economic impacts when analysed qualitatively. In this study, the marginal nature of



statistical significance can be attributed to several factors. First, the short duration of most intervention programmes might have limited their transformative potential. As Mukaila *et al.* (2022) observed, socio-economic transformations in rural settings often require sustained efforts over multiple years to manifest fully. Second, there is a possible variability in the effectiveness of interventions. Not all participants might have received equal levels of support or utilized the opportunities provided to the same extent. Such disparities can dilute the aggregate impact of the programmes. Finally, structural issues such as limited access to markets, inadequate education, and insufficient financial literacy may have moderated the pace of income growth (Omotilewa *et al.* (2021). Addressing these underlying barriers is critical for maximizing the effectiveness of future interventions.

Table 2: Analysis of Respondents' Monthly Income before and After Intervention

Monthly Income	Before Intervention		After Intervention	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
≤ ₦ 20,000	19	19.8	8	8.3
₦ 21,000 – ₦ 30,000	24	25.0	16	16.7
₦ 31,000 – ₦ 40,000	14	14.6	22	22.9
₦ 41,000 – ₦ 50,000	23	23.9	28	29.2
> ₦ 50,000	16	16.7	22	22.9
Total	96	100%	96	100
Chi-Squared Value (χ^2):	9.30			
p-Value:	0.054			

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Evaluation of NGO Intervention Programmes in the Study Area

Table 3 presents an evaluation of various NGO intervention programmes based on respondents' perceptions, measured through mean scores and standard deviations (SD). Using a Likert scale ranging from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree), all interventions scored above the midpoint, indicating that respondents generally perceived these programmes as impactful. Fertilizer Provision emerged as a significant intervention (Mean = 3.42, SD = 0.66), highlighting its role in improving farming productivity. This finding aligns with Zhang & Wu (2023), who noted that access to agricultural inputs like fertilizers reduces farming costs and enhances yields. They also noted that improved access to fertilizer and other essential production factor inputs can lead to reduced production costs and enhanced yields ensuring better income. The Supply of Farming Equipment achieved the highest mean score (Mean = 3.69, SD = 0.72), emphasizing its critical role in addressing the mechanization gap prevalent in rural farming communities. The high scores for both farming equipment and fertilizers underscore their importance in boosting productivity and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. Provision of Seeds was rated positively (Mean = 3.13, SD = 0.41), though with a slightly lower mean score and smaller variability. This indicates consistent responses among participants, reflecting general satisfaction with the intervention. Supply of Herbicides/Insecticides received the lowest mean score (Mean = 2.99, SD = 0.58). Although agreed upon as beneficial, this relatively lower rating may indicate challenges related to affordability, accessibility or efficacy (Mwatawala *et al.*, 2024; Zhang & Wu, 2023; Opeyemi *et al.*, 2021). Training of Farmers was well-received (Mean = 3.14, SD = 0.61), underscoring the value of capacity-building programmes. Training equips farmers with modern techniques, fostering innovation and promoting sustainable practices, while emphasizing on post-training support system for effective implementation (Cayabyab *et al.*, 2024; Pandey *et al.*, 2024; Rasanjali *et al.*, 2021). Capital Provision (Mean = 3.02, SD = 0.58) was also rated favourably, underscoring its role in alleviating financial constraints. Financial support enables small-scale farmers to invest in quality inputs and expand their operations (Khan *et al.*, 2024; Zhang & Wu, 2023; Orunsadebe & Okpilolo 2016). Lastly, Other Interventions (Mean = 3.48, SD = 0.43), encompassing healthcare services, agricultural commodities marketing platforms, and household essentials, were also rated highly. These diverse supports reflect a broad



appreciation among respondents for complementary services that address multifaceted challenges in rural communities.

Table 3: Respondents Perceived Effectiveness of NGO Intervention Programmes

Types of NGOs intervention	N	Mean	SD	Decision
Supply of fertilizer	96	3.42	0.66	Agreed
Supply of seeds	96	3.13	0.41	Agreed
Supply of farming equipment	96	3.69	0.72	Agreed
Supply of herbicide/insecticide	96	2.99	0.58	Agreed
Training of farmers	96	3.14	0.61	Agreed
Capital provision	96	3.02	0.58	Agreed
Others	96	3.48	0.43	Agreed

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Impact of NGOs' Interventions on the Livelihood and Social Status of the Respondents

The results presented in Table 4 highlight the rating of the impact of NGOs' interventions among women farmers in the study area. The p-value is significant at 0.05 ($p < 0.001$), indicating a statistically significant difference in the responses ("Yes" vs. "No") across the identified intervention impacts. The result shows improve productivity (91.7% Yes) has the highest level of agreement among respondents, underscoring the critical role of productivity improvements in enhancing the livelihoods of women farmers in the study area. This finding aligns with Aimua *et al.* (2024) and Fadairo *et al.* (2023), who emphasized that productivity-focused interventions have transformative effects on rural communities. Followed by payment of children's school fees (85.4% Yes) which reflects the effectiveness of financial support and income-generating initiatives in easing educational expenses for respondents. Fowowe (2020) and Osabohien *et al.* (2020) highlighted that financial and resource support significantly alleviates household financial pressures, enabling better access to education. Reduction in Marital Conflict (77.1% Yes) as a result of participation had high rating by the respondents in the study area. This suggested the interventions had provided financial relief to women, which appears to play a significant role in reducing household tensions. This finding is in tandem with the opinion of Agada *et al.* (2022), who noted the broader social benefits of economic empowerment programmes including reducing family tension. This finding demonstrates that the impacts of NGO interventions are not uniformly perceived but vary significantly among the evaluated categories, and it also illustrate that the most impactful NGO interventions are those that address critical areas such as productivity, education, and household financial stability. The strong agreement on these key impacts emphasizes the importance of targeted programmes that cater to the specific needs of women farmers.

Table 4: Respondents Perspective on the Impact of NGOs Interventions on their Livelihood

Impact of NGOs intervention	Yes (%)	No (%)
Reduce marital conflict due financial pressure	74 (77.1%)	22 (22.9%)
Acquire skills	56 (58.3%)	40 (41.7%)
Afford decent accommodation	69 (71.9%)	27 (28.1%)
Pay children's school fees	82 (85.4%)	14 (14.6%)
Improve nutritional level of the family	57 (59.4%)	39 (40.6%)
Ensure better family upkeep	61 (63.5%)	35 (36.5%)
Ensure better personal upkeep	49 (51.0%)	47 (49.0%)
Improves Productivity	88 (91.7%)	8 (8.3%)
Chi-Squared Value (χ^2)	64.23	
p-Value	2.15×10^{-11}	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Constraints to Women Farmers' Participation in NGO Programmes

A one-sample t-test was conducted to evaluate whether the mean scores of identified constraints faced by women farmers significantly deviated from the neutral midpoint of 3.00 on a



Likert scale. A mean score above 3.00 indicates agreement, signifying that the challenge is perceived as significant, while a mean score below 3.00 indicates disagreement, suggesting that the challenge is less prominent. The null hypothesis for each test posited no significant difference between the mean and the midpoint, with statistical significance determined at $p < 0.05$. The analysis revealed the following insights: Lack of easy access to intervention. The mean score for this constraint was 3.22 ($SD = 0.63$), indicating that respondents agreed access to NGO interventions is a significant challenge. Many participants reported that urban areas are prioritized during shortlisting, which reduces opportunities for rural women and often compels them to lobby for the few available slots. Paul *et al.* (2021) critically examines rural development programmes and their challenges in Nigeria, highlighting the disparity between urban and rural areas in terms of development, infrastructure, and access to opportunities. It discusses how existing policies often fail to impact the intended beneficiaries effectively due to elite interests overshadowing community needs. This finding aligns with Hussaini (2018), who identified logistical barriers as a primary impediment to effective program participation in rural areas. High interest rates on credit had a mean score of 3.36 ($SD = 0.67$), respondents strongly agreed that high interest rates pose a significant financial challenge. These rates hinder women farmers' ability to access credit, a critical resource for agricultural production. This result is consistent with Olajide (2016), who highlighted that high borrowing costs undermine the sustainability of microcredit schemes for rural participants. Lack of participation in decision-making had a mean score of 2.69 ($SD = 0.52$), indicating moderate disagreement. While some level of exclusion from decision-making processes exists, it does not appear to be universally experienced by respondents. Inadequate supply of inputs had a mean score of 2.39 ($SD = 0.48$), with respondents strongly disagreeing that input supply is inadequate. This suggests that NGOs generally meet the expectations for providing inputs in the study area. Unfulfilled Promises by NGOs had a mean score of 2.14 ($SD = 0.31$) showed strong disagreement with the notion that NGOs fail to fulfil their promises. This reflects a relatively high level of trust in NGO operations, suggesting that most commitments made by these organizations are honoured. Inadequate visits by NGOs; the mean score for this constraint was 3.02 ($SD = 0.58$), slightly above the midpoint, indicating mild agreement. Respondents felt that while NGOs conduct some outreach, improved monitoring and increased visits could further enhance their impact. Selfishness of District Heads was the highest-rated challenge, with a mean score of 3.88 ($SD = 0.83$). Respondents strongly agreed that governance issues, particularly selfishness and lack of accountability among district heads, are significant impediments. This finding is consistent with Opeyemi *et al.* (2021), who also identified leadership accountability as a critical issue in rural development. Corrupt practices by stakeholders had a mean score of 3.28 ($SD = 0.77$), with respondents agreeing that corruption undermines the effectiveness of programmes. This is consistent with Osabohien *et al.* (2020) stands on the need for transparency in rural development initiatives, to ensure trust and full participation for success.

Table 5: Constraints Faced by Women Farmers in Participating in NGO's Intervention Programmes

Challenges	N	Mean	SD	Decision
Lack of easy accessibility to the intervention	96	3.22	0.63	Agreed
High interest rate of their credit	96	3.36	0.67	Agreed
Lack of participation in decision making	96	2.69	0.52	Agreed
Inadequate supply of inputs	96	2.39	0.48	Disagreed
Unfulfilled promises by NGOs	96	2.14	0.31	Disagreed
Inadequate visiting by the NGOs	96	3.02	0.58	Agreed
Selfishness of District's heads	96	3.88	0.83	Agreed
Corrupt practices by stakeholders	96	3.28	0.77	Agreed

Source: Field Survey, 2023

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis of NGO poverty reduction interventions among women farmers in Dambam Local Government Area of Bauchi State reveals significant strides in addressing key socioeconomic challenges. The study concludes that the NGOs interventions had positively impacted in reducing



poverty among women in the study area. It has significantly improved productivity, increased income, and enhanced capacity to meet family obligations, including children's education. Programmes providing farming equipment, fertilizers, seeds, and training were perceived as effective in promoting sustainable agricultural practices and enhancing livelihoods. However, challenges persist, including limited accessibility to interventions, high interest rates on credit, and governance issues such as corruption and the selfishness of local leaders.

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations are made;

1. **Enhanced Accessibility to Interventions:** NGOs should prioritize equitable access to their programmes, especially for rural women. Strategies such as decentralized selection processes and increased outreach in remote areas will ensure inclusivity and fairness.
2. **Affordable Credit Facilities:** Introducing low-interest credit schemes tailored to women farmers will reduce financial constraints and enable them to invest in productivity-enhancing inputs. Collaboration with microfinance institutions and local cooperatives could help achieve this goal.
3. **Governance and Accountability Measures:** To mitigate corruption and the influence of selfish leaders, NGOs should establish transparent mechanisms for program implementation and beneficiary selection. Community-based oversight committees can enhance accountability and trust.
4. **Capacity-Building Programmes:** Expanding training initiatives that focus on financial literacy, modern farming techniques, and market access will empower women farmers to maximize the benefits of available resources. Post-training support systems should be integrated to sustain the outcomes of such programmes.
5. **Sustainability of Interventions:** Longer-term planning and regular follow-up visits by NGOs are essential for sustaining the gains of their interventions. Enhanced monitoring and evaluation frameworks will identify areas for improvement and ensure continuous support.
6. **Collaboration with Stakeholders:** Strengthening partnerships with government agencies, private sector players, and local communities will improve resource mobilization and program scalability. This collaborative approach can address systemic challenges and enhance the overall impact of interventions.

By addressing these recommendations, NGOs and policymakers can significantly enhance the effectiveness of poverty reduction programmes, empowering women farmers and fostering sustainable agricultural development in Dambam Local Government Area and the Northeast Nigeria as whole.

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