
Activity Report: Capacity Building on Critical Budget Interventions held 22nd and 23rd May 2024

Background

The International Budget Partnership (IBP) through its Strengthening Public Accountability for Results and Knowledge (SPARK) program had been supporting Small Scale Women Farmers in Nigeria (SWOFON) to engage duty bearers, particularly in the agriculture sector to address the challenges militating against its farming activities directly, and broadly the welfare of its members. In the first phase of the (SPARK) project, Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) with support from IBP trained SWOFON on budget tracking and monitoring. CSJ also supported SWOFON's engagement by generating and equipping SWOFON with materials for evidence-based engagement. These among other things include capital project pullouts to aid tracking/ monitoring as well as reviewing states and federal agriculture sector budget implementation reports for effective stakeholder engagement.

In the second phase (SPARK 2) with a focus on system change, IBP facilitated CSJ to undertake ***Capacity Building on Critical Budget Interventions***, building on prior trainings and other support given to SWOFON on its budget engagement.

Objective(s)

The specific objective of this activity is to “***Enhance the capacity of SWOFON to engage the budgeting process in the demand for accountability***”.

Methodology

A mixed strategy that included lecture methods, discussions, question & answer, roleplays and group work were key strategies deployed to delivered on the objectives.

Summary of Activity

This activity was delivered in a 2-day workshop which focused on intervention strategies and methodologies for the different stages of public financial management (PFM), pre budget, budget consideration and post budget interventions including a brief on the fundamentals of procurement. It also highlighted on use of media for campaigns. This initiative aimed at empowering SWOFON to effectively utilize both formal and informal spaces, thereby fostering increased bargaining power.

Participants: A total of about 30 women drawn from the SWOFON the 5 focal state (Anambra, Jigawa, Nasarawa, Niger, and Oyo state) with representation from the national and the Secretariat. The training was also joined virtually by members of FOMWAN Kano and Niger.

As a first step and preparatory to the capacity building, CSJ developed a Manual for Budgeting for Agriculture for Smallscale Women Farmers in Nigeria which had five chapters namely; Chapter one: Basics and Background featured reasons for

budgeting, its types and components, functions etc.; Chapter 2: Legal and Policy Frameworks featured key policies and frameworks such as the constitution, the Fiscal Responsibility Act/Laws (FRA), the Procurement Act/Laws, the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), and the Medium Term Sector Strategy (MTSS) including their provisions that are relevant to the training; Chapter 3: The Budget Process, Responsibilities and Timelines (no.1) and Chapter 4: Process, Responsibilities and Timelines (no.2) featured the stages of the budget cycle, key actor, their responsibilities and timelines for each stage and activities. Chapter 5: Further Illustration of Overall Process Flows featured the interconnectedness and transition from one stage of the process to another.

PowerPoint slides were developed and presented at the 2-day event. Discussion points were raised from the presentations

Key Output

The following summarizes the output from the event;

1. The capacity of SWOFON on critical budget engagement was enhanced. This is evidenced by the differentials of the pre and post training assessment outcomes (see annex below)
2. State Budget Advocacy Group (SBAGs) was formed and inaugurated post training. The SBAGs are to lead on budget engagement at the state level.
3. The States' chapters developed action plan to engage their respective states' budget process. (see annex below)

Lessons Learnt

The following lessons were fallout of the delivery of the capacity building;

1. SWOFON cannot acquire all the knowledge they would need on budget and budget engagements from a 2-day training session because the concept of budgeting is complex and evolving.
2. The knowledge from previous trainings and exposures is a significant building block for subsequent knowledge. Likewise, the recently concluded training will play significant role in their knowledge going forward.
3. Any knowledge acquired that is not utilized can be easily lost compared with that which is utilized or practiced.
4. Consistent application of learning is more likely to yield results than when they are applied on one-off basis.
5. Engagement results are likely to differ from state to state because of different states contexts in terms of structures and personality differences.

Conclusion and Recommendations

There was significant difference in the capacity of SWOFON before and after the training, implying that knowledge has been shared and received. Generally, there is willingness on the part of SWOFON to take forward the lessons they have learnt. This is deduced from the formation of SBAGs to take forward the lessons learnt. However,

the willingness of SWOFON has to be matched with government's political will to respond to their demands for any meaningful result to be achieved. Thus, for SWOFON's greater effectiveness at influencing their states' systems, the following are recommended;

1. A stepdown training be conducted at state level to build critical mass of advocates and amplify voice at that level.
2. There is need for continued support, guidance and handholding as state progress from one stage to another.

ANNEXTURES

Annex 1: Capacity Building Training Agenda

Capacity Building on Critical Budget Interventions for Smallholder Women Farmers of Nigeria (SWOFON) holding at De Silver Green Luxury Hotel, Gudu- FCT, Abuja.

Date: Wed. 22nd & Thurs. 23rd May, 2024

Objective: *To enhance the capacity of SWOFON to engage the budgeting process in the demand for accountability.*

Time	Activity	Facilitator
Day 1		
8:00 – 9:00am	Registration of participants	CSJ Admin
9:00 – 9:45am	Opening Protocols: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🚩 Self-Introduction 🚩 Social Contract 🚩 Welcome Address/ Objective of the meeting 	Sundayson Chidi
9:45 – 10:15am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants' Expectations • Goodwill Message(s) • Pre- Training Capacity Assessment 	
	Brief on the SPARK II Project	Dr. Adedeji Ademefun
10:15 – 11:30am	The Basics of Budget and Budgeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation • Q&A 	Mr. Eze Onyekpere
11:30 – 12:00 noon	Tea Break	
12:00 – 12:45pm	Budgeting: Legal and Policy Frameworks <i>Presentation & Discussion</i>	Mr. Eze Onyekpere
12:45 – 1:15m	Overview of Budget Cycle <i>Presentation & Discussion</i>	Sundayson Chidi
1:15 – 2:15pm	Lunch	
2:15 – 3:45pm	Stages of the Budget Cycle: Processes, Responsibilities & Timelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 1- Budget Formulation • Stage 2- Budget Approval <i>Questions and Answers</i>	Sundayson Chidi
3:45 – 4:30pm	Group Work-1	Group Reps
4:30 -	Roundup of day 1	
Day 2		
8:00 – 9:00am	Registration	CSJ Admin
9:00 – 9:30am	Recap of day 1	Sundayson Chidi
9:30 – 11:30am	Stages of the Budget Cycle: Processes, Responsibilities & Timelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 3- Budget Implementation 	Mr. Eze Onyekpere

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 4- Audit <p><i>Questions and Answers</i></p>	
11:30 – 12:00 noon	Tea Break	
12:00 – 12:45pm	The Budget Process- Strategies for Intervention & Roleplay	Mr. Eze Onyekpere
1:15 – 2:15pm	Lunch	
2:15 – 4:00pm	Group Work 2 & Presentations	Group Reps
4:00 – 4:20pm	Post-Training Capacity Assessment	CSJ
4:20 – 4:30pm	Closing Formalities	

Annex 2: Pre and Post Capacity Assessment Results



Annex 3: SBAGs States Workplan

1. ANAMBRA STATE BUDGET ADVOCACY GROUP (SBAG ADVOCACY PLAN)

S/N	Advocacy	MDAs/Supply Side Actor	Target Stakeholder	Key Advocacy Ask	Who is responsible?	When	Expected output/follow up actions
2024 Budget Pull-out advocacy/Tracking-							
1	Procurement of Agricultural Inputs Program	Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization, Processing and Export	Commissioner MoA, Perm Sec and Director, MoA ADP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To find out the details of the project. SWOFON members in Anambra state to fully engage and benefit. 	Anambra state Budget Advocacy group and coalition partners -	06.06.2024	Women farmers accessed quality inputs and program
2	Veterinary, Prevention, control, and Surveillance of Animal Diseases	Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization, Processing and Export	Commissioner MoA, Perm Sec and Director, MoA ADP	To engage for extension services for animal husbandry such poultry, goats etc.	Anambra state Budget Advocacy group and coalition partners -	06.06.2024	Women farmers accessed extension services support.
3	Procurement of 4nos of combined Harvesters	Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization, Processing and Export	Commissioner MoA, Perm Sec and Director, MoA ADP	SHWFs to engage and benefit from gender friendly equipment	Anambra state Budget Advocacy group and coalition partners - i	06.06.2024	2 nos of combined harvesters accessed by women farmers.

4.	Agricultural Shows and Fares	Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization, Processing and Export	Commissioner MoA, Perm Sec and Director, MoA ADP	SHWFs showcase their farm produce while leveraging on it for market linkages and access to market	Anambra state Budget Advocacy group and coalition partners -	06.06.2024	Women farmers accessed shows and fares, linkage to off-takers, increased and new market information.
5.	Micro-credit loan for women cooperatives	Ministry of Social Welfare, Children and Women Affairs	MoA, Perm Sec and Director, MoA ADP Perm Sec Ministry of Budget and Economic planning	SHWFs to engage and access credit facility and soft loans	Anambra state Budget Advocacy group and coalition partners – Ugochi	13.06.2024	Women farmers accessed credit facility
6.	Poverty Eradication programme and Loan Grant to Women Cooperatives	Ministry of Social Welfare, Children and Women Affairs	MoA, Perm Sec and Director, MoA ADP Perm Sec Ministry of Budget and Economic planning	SHWFs to engage and access credit facility and soft loans from government.	Anambra state Budget Advocacy group and coalition partners - Ugochi	13.06.2024	SWOFON members accessed loans from government

2. NASARAWA STATE BUDGET ADVOCACY GROUP (SBAG ADVOCACY PLAN)

S/N	Advocacy	MDAs/Supply Side Actor	Target Stakeholder	Key Advocacy Ask	Who is responsible?	When	Expected output/follow up actions
2024 Budget Pull-out advocacy/Tracking-							
1	Purchase of 50 no. Agricultural Sprayers and Mowers	Ministry of Agriculture	Commissioner, Perm Sec and Director of MoA, Budget and Economic planning, Perm Sec and director	3. To engage state actors for procurement of gender	Nasarawa state budget Advocacy group (NsBG)	04.06.2024	SWOFON accessed agricultural sprayers

			budget and economic planning, Director Extension Services, NADP	friendly equipment			
2	Purchase of 4000 no of 2kg Agro-Chemicals/Herbicides for farmers	Nasarawa Agricultural Development Programme (NADP)	Nasarawa Agricultural Development Program (NADP)	SWOFON members to engage for farm inputs	Nasarawa state budget Advocacy group (NsBG)	04.06.2024	SHWFs accessed Agro-Chemicals/Herbicides in each community.
3	Purchase of Assorted seedling	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Director Extension Services	SWOFON members to engage for quality assorted seedling	Nasarawa state budget Advocacy group (NsBG)	05.06.2024	SHWFs received quality assorted seedling in each community
4.	Purchase of 4000 No Agricultural Millers and Threshers	Nasarawa State Coordinating Office	FADAMA Co-Ordinator	Women farmers engage to demand for the procurement of gender friendly equipment for the reduction of strenuous labor in the farm.	Nasarawa state budget Advocacy group (NsBG)	05.06.2024	Women farmers accessed 5 agricultural millers and threshers
5.	Establishment of Forest Nurseries at Lafia	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Director	SWOFON should engage the ministry to mainstream its members in nursery development or get nursery at subsidized rate.	Nasarawa state budget Advocacy group (NsBG)	06.06.2024	Women farmers received 200 palm seedlings e.g., Mango. Coconut and establish nurseries center in each senatorial zone.

6.	Rehabilitation of Cassava processing centers	Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development	Commissioner, Perm Sec and Director in the MWA	Opportunity for value addition, processing, and reduction of drudgery for casava farmers.	Nasarawa state budget Advocacy group (NsBG) and coalition partners	06.06.2024	Women farmers received casava processing machines in each senatorial zone.
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3. NIGER STATE BUDGET ADVOCACY GROUP (SBAG ADVOCACY PLAN)

S/N	Advocacy	MDAs/Supply Side Actor	Target Stakeholder	Key Advocacy Ask	Who is responsible?	When	Expected output/follow up actions
2024 Budget Pull-out advocacy/Tracking-							
1	Purchase of 625 No of Simple Hand Planting Machine	Ministry of Agriculture	Perm Sec. MoA, Director Agric Services	Smallholder Women Farmers (SHWFs) to engage and benefit from the distribution of hand planting machine.	Niger state Budget Advocacy Group (NSBAG)	30.05.2024	100 nos gender friendly machine give to women farmers
2	Purchase of 3 no Sprayers and Organic Pesticides	Ministry of Agriculture	Perm Sec. MoA, Director Agric Services	Smallholder Women Farmers (SHWFs) to engage and benefit from the distribution of agricultural items	Niger state Budget Advocacy Group (NSBAG)	30.05.2024	Women given sprayers and organic sprayers
3	Procurement of 300 units of MF 375 Power Steering Tractors	Ministry of Agriculture	Perm Sec. MoA, Director Agric Services	Smallholder Women Farmers (SHWFs) to engage and benefit from the distribution of agricultural farming machine.	Niger state Budget Advocacy Group (NSBAG)	30.05.2024	Women farmers to access 100 nos power tillers against the power steering tractors

4.	Purchase of 1200 Bags of NPK Fertilizer from Zungeru Fertilizer company	Ministry of Agriculture	Perm Sec. MoA, Director Agric Services	Smallholder Women Farmers (SHWFs) to engage and benefit from the distribution of NPK fertilizer	Niger state Budget Advocacy Group (NSBAG)	30.04.2024	500 bags of NPK Fertilizer given to SWOFON women farmers
5.	Purchase and Distribution of Farm Inputs such as Hybrid Maize, Rice, Sorghum and Soya Beans	Ministry of Agriculture	Perm Sec. MoA, Director Agric Services	Smallholder Women Farmers (SHWFs) to engage and benefit from the distribution farm inputs	Niger state Budget Advocacy Group (NSBAG)	30.05.2024	Women farmers benefitted from the farm inputs
6.	Acquisition and Development of 250,000 land across the 25 LGAs	Ministry of Agriculture	Perm Sec. MoA, Director Agric Services	Smallholder Women Farmers (SHWFs) to engage and benefit from the distribution of hand planting machine.	Niger state Budget Advocacy Group (NSBAG)	30.05.2024	Access to land in the 25 LGAs
7	Raising of Nursery at the State Secretariat	Ministry of Agriculture	Perm Sec. MoA, Director Agric Services	Smallholder Women Farmers (SHWFs) to engage and benefit from the access and control of land	Niger state Budget Advocacy Group (NSBAG)	30.05.2024	Nursery trees given to women farmers
8	Purchase of 500 units of rice threshing machine, 300 nos seed planters, 8HP power tiller and 1000 units of Beans grading and sorting machines	Ministry of Agriculture	Perm Sec. MoA, Director Agric Services	Smallholder Women Farmers (SHWFs) to engage and benefit from the distribution of hand planting machine.	Niger state Budget Advocacy Group (NSBAG)	30.05.2024	Women farmers accessed farm inputs.
9	Agricultural Technology Transfer (Agric Extension Services)	Niger state Industrial Park Agency	Perm Sec. MoA, Director Agric Services	Smallholder Women Farmers (SHWFs) to engage and capacity	Niger state Budget Advocacy Group (NSBAG)	06.06.2024	Women farmers group skills and capacity built on innovative new

				building on new innovation.			technologies for post-harvest support and other value chains
10	Provision of modern storage facilities (Silos)	Niger state Industrial Park Agency	Perm Sec. MoA, Director Agric Services	Smallholder Women Farmers (SHWFs) to engage and have access silos	Niger state Budget Advocacy Group (NSBAG)	06.06.2024	Access to storage facilities (Silos)
11	Agricultural Input Distribution and Group Mobilization	Niger state Industrial Park Agency	Perm Sec. MoA, Director Agric Services	Smallholder Women Farmers (SHWFs) to benefit from farm inputs	Niger state Budget Advocacy Group (NSBAG)	06.06.2024	Access to agricultural input, and improved seeds
12	Value chain Development Programme (VCDP)	Niger state Industrial Park Agency	Perm Sec. MoA, Director Agric Services	Smallholder Women Farmers (SHWFs) to engage and benefit across the value chain.	Niger state Budget Advocacy Group (NSBAG)	06.06.2024	Capacity built on agricultural value chain
13	Agricultural Transformation Agenda Support Phase 1 (ATASP 1) (provision of garri processing and rice milling machine)	Niger state Industrial Park Agency	Perm Sec. MoA, Director Agric Services	Smallholder Women Farmers (SHWFs) to engage and benefit from the distribution of hand planting machine.	Niger state Budget Advocacy Group (NSBAG)	06.06.2024	Women farmers given/acquire processing and production machines
14	Clearing 30 hectares of land for pasture and provision of rapia grasses for farmers and pastoralist in 3 zones.	Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development	Perm Sec. MoA, Director Agric Services	Smallholder Women Farmers (SHWFs) to engage and benefit	Niger state Budget Advocacy Group (NSBAG)	06.06.2024	Land accessed at least in 1 zone.
15	Production of Ware House (Feed Storage house) at LIBC Tagwai	Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development	Perm Sec. MoA, Director Agric Services	Smallholder Women Farmers (SHWFs) to make detailed enquires and engage and benefit from	Niger state Budget Advocacy Group (NSBAG)	06.06.2024	Livestock feed accessed and capacity development if necessary

				the distribution of hand planting machine.			
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4. OYO STATE BUDGET ADVOCACY GROUP (SBAG ADVOCACY PLAN)

S/N	Advocacy	MDAs/Supply Side Actor	Target Stakeholder	Key Advocacy Ask	Who is responsible?	When	Expected output/follow up actions
2024 Budget Pull-out advocacy/Tracking-							
1	Agro-Women budget line & empowerment of women, Youth and PWDs in partnership with DAWN commission/LAPDO/US AID	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Commissioner, Perm Sec and Director of MoA, Budget and Economic planning, Perm Sec and director budget and economic planning, Director Extension Services, ADP	SWOFON members inquire get full details of the project. To engage for capacity building and further partnership with SWOFON members	Oyo state budget committee group and CSOs	1 st week in June	Women farmers accessed capacity building and partnership
2	Provision made in the budget for promotion and development of Agripreneuership from (i) Shea butter (ii) Beekeeping (iii) Locust beans	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Commissioner, Perm Sec and Director of MoA, Budget and Economic planning, Perm Sec and director budget and economic planning, Director Extension Services, ADP	SWOFON members inquire get full details of the project. To engage for capacity building and further partnership with SWOFON members	Oyo state budget committee group and CSOs	1 st week in June	Women farmers included in the promotion and development of Shea butter, beekeeping, and locust beans.

3	Crop type Multiplication	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Commissioner, Perm Sec and Director of MoA, Budget and Economic planning, Perm Sec and director budget and economic planning, Director Extension Services, ADP	Provision of seeds, stems, and farm inputs	Oyo state budget committee group and CSOs	1 st week in June	Women farmers trained and capacity developed.
4	Production of seedlings of Tree crops	Tree Crops Development Unit	Commissioner, Perm Sec and Director of MoA, Budget and Economic planning, Perm Sec and director budget and economic planning, Director Extension Services, ADP	SWOFON to engage for access to tree crop seedlings and production of nurseries.	Oyo state budget committee group and CSOs	1 st week in June	SWOFON members accessed seedlings of Tree crop
5	Production of Farm seedlings for the farmers	Tree Crops Development Unit	Commissioner, Perm Sec and Director of MoA, Budget and Economic planning, Perm Sec and director budget and economic planning, Director Extension Services, ADP	SHWFs to engage for farm inputs and seedlings.	Oyo state budget committee group and CSOs	1 st week in June	Women farmers received quality farm inputs

Annex 4: Pictures from Capacity Building Training Workshop



Mr. Eze Onyekpere, the Lead Director of CSJ in one of the sessions on the first day of the training.



Group photograph cross-section of participants at the 2-day capacity building training.



A representative of Jigawa State expressing her views during the capacity building training.



Nasarawa State contingent discussing during the work plan development session