



Alhaji Wada Dandago...

Alhaji Wada Dandago (left) is the founder and owner of the Dandago Agro. Machinery Company in Kano. The business manufactures several agricultural machinery products, the most popular of which is the small model crop shredder: other products include a small oil extractor (e.g. for ground nut), multi-crop thresher, seed planter and tractor traction aids. The company employs 13 workers as well as several trainees under traditional apprenticeships.

GEMS1 is ALSO PARTNERING with UNDP for BROADER INTRODUCTION of the CROP SHREDDER as a VIABLE BUSINESS SOLUTION to REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION from the WIDESPREAD BURNING of CROP WASTE

“I first saw the opportunity to process crop waste as regular animal feed as a farmer. So I designed my own shredding machine and had it made by local metalwork artisans. Traditionally, crop waste such as sorghum stalks is burnt by farmers contributing to widespread environmental pollution”, says Dandago.

“After neighbouring farmers saw me using my machine, they asked if I could make more for them. So I decided to do this as a business and brought my idea to the Kano Technology Incubation Centre who supported my start-up with the premises and subsidies for staff and operating costs. My business has mainly grown through word-of-mouth and site demonstrations.

My popular small model crop shredder retails for NGN 170,000 (\$1,133) with a daily production capacity of 40 x 50 kilo bags of livestock feed. Each machine takes one week to make and I have now sold over 200. I am using the business profits to relocate to an industrial area at Sharda in Kano so I can expand. I could make and sell even more machines if farmers could obtain finance.

Crop waste is an asset for making regular livestock feed to ensure young animals have consistent nutrition for tender meat. Women for example who traditionally clear farmers’ fields could shred the waste and sell it to farmers. This includes the Fulani (traditional cattle owners) so that regular conflict between them and local farmers over grazing encroachment can be reduced.



TRADITIONAL APPRENTICE
LEARNING HANDS-ON
METALWORK SKILLS at
DANDAGO

GEMS1 has been very helpful to me, especially as regards exposure and linkages to new customers. Most buy crop shredders for their own use but some also sell the feed to other farmers and livestock owners.

The Project staff also provided me with technical suggestions to improve my shredding machine such as modifications for tow by truck/pick-up/car, and larger wheels and wider mudguards for better mobility and traction. The small model can now access the narrow spaces that are common in Nigeria”.

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