

## **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:**

Women and Child Watch Initiatives (WOCWI) Nigeria and FATE Trust Wolverhampton (affiliate of The Haven Wolverhampton), United Kingdom, co-sponsored the **construction of Women Farmers Centre and installation of modern harvesting Machines** to thresh and blow rice, corn and groundnut to enhance productivity in Tsaragi, Kwara State. The project was in fulfilment of impacting the Nigerian society after acquiring the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, UK training. Two members of WOCWI- Dr. Abiola Adimula and Mrs Deborah Afolabi were Commonwealth Fellows in The Haven Wolverhampton in 2010, on their return to Nigeria, the Tsaragi women Farmers project was constructed and commissioned in August 2011, which is still in operation till date- having expanded in bounds and in enhancing economic status of the women farmers, also reducing domestic violence against them.

**Aim:** to reduce domestic violence against the rural women farmers and improve their economic status.

Both aims were achieved between 2011 and present.



The Commissioned WOCWI Women Centre, Tsaragi Kwara State.



Her Excellency, Mrs. Omolewa Ahmed, wife of the Executive Governor of Kwara State listening to Mrs. Biola Adimula, Chairperson WOCWI, on how the installed equipment will work to enhance women farmers harvesting processes, during the commissioning of the women centre.



WOCWI members and WOCWI Women group, Tsaragi, Kwara State

## **NARRATION**

### **Kwara State, Nigeria**

#### **Tsaragi Women Farmers**

Tsaragi community in Kwara State are Nupe speaking people and they are predominantly Farmers, growing rice and grains. Women support their husbands to farm and can hardly lay hands on resources, except given to them by their husband when asked for. Incessant demands put off the husbands, generating tension in homes. In 2011, this researcher initiated a project to impact Nigerian society in fulfilment of Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plans in the United Kingdom, of which she was a 2010 Fellow. With a support grant from her host organization in the UK- The Haven Wolverhampton in conjunction with Fate Trust Wolverhampton and personal fund, she built and commissioned Tsaragi Women Farmers Centre

under her NGO- Women and Child Watch Initiatives. Two women cooperative societies comprising of ten women farmers per society were put in place, to run the Women centre. Modern harvesting machines were installed to thresh rice, melon, corn and groundnut. The aim was to enhance harvesting of farm produce for economic marketability from the usual manual pounding of grains that wasted time and energy; and more importantly to address the issue of domestic violence against women which was rampant in the community. During a focus group discussion with the women, it was found that by 2015, the women cooperative grew tremendously and they were able to commence granting of soft loans to members to improve their trading and economic capacities. These women were able to sustain the well-being of themselves, family members and pay children's school fees. Thus, reduction of incessant demand of upkeep funds from their husbands reduced domestic violence drastically.

Findings also showed that by 2017, the women bought new machines to increase working capacity. Till date, they have enjoyed better conditions of living economically. The women now have descent work and their economic status improved.

## **Resources – links**

### **WOCWI - video**

<https://www.facebook.com/132media/videos/815490738823833/>

### **British Council website- story**

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/ng/study-uk/commonwealth-scholarship-and-fellowship/csf-alumni>