

Parboiling her way to respect



“Because I contribute to the family expenses now, my husband respects me much more.”

Aisha Ibrahim, Woman parboiler in Tudunwada showing off her paddy.

Aisha Ibrahim is a young lady involved in the parboiling business in Tudunwada. She is married and has three children. She has been parboiling paddy for fees for over 5 years. But her revenue rarely tops ₦3,000 per week (made on parboiling 16 to 20 bags monthly). With her low weekly profit (between N1000 to N1200), she could neither meet her own expenses nor contribute to the family upkeep. Her husband was the sole contributor to the family expenses.

That was until she was granted a loan by the NACRDB (*Nigerian Agricultural, Cooperative and Rural Development Bank*) last year. PrOpCom facilitated a link between Tudunwada’s women groups and NACRDB to have access to working capital. Aisha received ₦ 100,000 that she shared with a friend. With that loan she purchased paddy for parboiling.

Now, her daily production has grown from 1 bag to 6 bags and as she owns her own paddy, she can decide when it should be sold and how much for even though her husband takes the rice to market to sell and brings her the money.

Now her monthly profit is ₦12,000. With this income, she is proud to say that in 6 months, she has been able to contribute to several family expenses such as medical care for her children, purchase of soaps to wash the family’s clothes, make breakfast and even attend festivals.

Her biggest source of pride she says is *“I get more respect from my husband since I started contributing to family expenses. I will continue working hard and doing well in my business to maintain this respect and because I expect to receive another loan after repayment of this one”*. Her vision is to grow her business and her income. She is the Secretary of “Chediyar Gobik” a Tudunwada women parboilers’ group and like other women parboilers in the group, she did not keep a record of her activities. But then she received enterprise training through a PrOpCom certified trainer and Aisha records all her expenses as well as her income.

The Tudunwada is made up of 6 groups like Aisha’s and is just one of six clusters in which women parboilers received the loan from NACRDB. The ₦10,670,00 worth of loans disbursed represents 29% of the total amount disbursed in the Kura-Kano corridor. Although the loan repayment as set by the bank is spread over 18 months, the women parboilers of Tundunwada plan to win the award set up by the First Lady of Kano State for best performing group by completing the payback of their loan in 12 months.