

Esther Sambo: on acquiring a new power tiller with her group

“My farming business has really improved, and because of it, my income. My yield last season was the highest it had ever been. I went from harvesting between 28 - 35 bags of rice on 2ha of land to harvesting 39 bags of rice from 1ha this season. I know a group member who harvested a maximum of 30 bags of rice in the past but doubled it last season. My maize yield was also the best in years”.



Esther Sambo and some members of her Peculiar Progressive Multipurpose group, pose with their tiller

“The power tillers are very easy for women to operate. When you compare it to tilling manually, the tillers are better and quicker at tilling the soil. Before it took us 3 days to till 1ha, now it takes us 1 day. And I like how it tills, it does not loosen up the soil as much as tractors do.



Esther Sambo operates her group's tiller

In 2015, Esther Sambo's all-women cooperative group was one of 100 cooperatives in 8 states to receive power tillers for their farming businesses. Through an agreement brokered by Propcom Mai-karfi, these women's cooperatives have acquired power tillers from private sector company Habgito at an agreed repayment plan. Using the tiller has significantly reduced for them a major burden in farming.

“Before we got our tiller, I would hire 12 people at NGN800 (£3) / day / each for 3 days to till a hectare of land for me. I had to make rice and kunu for the labourers on these days; in addition to their fees. It also cost us the same to reconstruct our ridges, a task which we now use our tiller for. We are even offering our services to widows who cannot afford our fee”.



“These days we are able to buy more fertiliser because our tiller saves us money. This is increasing our yield. Members of my group are also already planning to expand their businesses”.



Esther and her cooperative members were trained to maintain and operate the power tiller.

Esther's group charges members a fee of NGN9,000 (£30)/ha, and non-members NGN12,000-15,000 (£40-50)/ha, depending on topography. Previously it cost them NGN28,800 (£96)/ha to hire manual labour to till their farms. Esther's group will pay back NGN13,000 (£43)/month to Habgito for one year. The group does this from profits on their hiring business.