**MAIN PROJECT TITLE:** Women Economic Empowerment through Indigenous (Technology) Agro-processing in RuralCommunities of Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria

**Specific Project Title:** Provision of borehole for rural dwellers of rural Akinyele Local Community, Oyo State, Nigeria

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

1. Name of organisation

CAFSO-WRAG for Development

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**ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION**

* 1. **What is your organisation's purpose?**

CAFSO-WRAG for Development is a development gender-focused organisation making concerted efforts towards eradication of property, promotion of reproductive health rights of women and children and facilitating peace, gender equality and sustainable development across Nigeria and Africa at large.

1. Organization’s Main Goal:

CAFSO-WRAG’s main goal is to foster peace by campaigning for the rights of women, and women’s empowerment in all ramifications while our objectives are:

1. To promote and protect human rights of women, girls and the vulnerable groups in our society.

* 1. To build the capacity of local women in micro-credit scheme for economic advancement.
  2. To promote reproductive health and combat HIV and AIDS, Malaria and other diseases.
  3. To campaign and advocate legislation against harmful traditional practices and all forms of violence against women.
  4. To ensure women’s equal access to full participation in power structures and decision making in all strata of the society.

1. The key areas of work for your our organization:

Our key area of work focuses on women’s economic empowerment, women rights and reproductive health in both rural and semi-urban communities. Women’s empowerment has been so central to our project over the years. For example, we have organized various programmes for women refugees in Oru Nigeria where we trained them on SESAS (Self-Employment Skills Acquisition Scheme) after which they were involved in various economic activities including petty buying and selling of food stuff, GSM operation, fashion designing, hair platting etc. With a fund from AWDF in 2008, we organized a micro-credit training and scheme for rural and semi-urban women in Akinyele and Lagelu Local Governments of Oyo State. The groups are doing well till today.

1. When was your organisation formed?

CAFSO-WRAG was formed in 2001.

1. Who started your organisation and why?

CAFSO-WRAG was carved out from the parent body CAFSO by a group of public spirited activist women from Amnesty International who saw the need to focus on the issues affecting women and their advancement. CAFSO-WRAG emerged from the commitment to promote the dignity and the well being of women and the girl-child. It was formed and is controlled solely by women.

1. What are your organisations geographic coverage areas? In which countries does your organisation work?

The geographic coverage area of CAFSO-WRAG is West Africa sub-region and it works in Nigeria.

1. Who are the main beneficiaries of your organisation's activities? The main beneficiaries are:

* Women in rural and semi-urban centres
* Displaced women and victims of domestic violence
* Widows, divorced or separated wives
* Girl-child
* People Living with HIV/AIDS
* Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC)

1. What are your organisational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats?
2. Organisational Strengths:

* CAFSO-WRAG has a group of public spirited women professionals on the Board of Trustees.
* Availability of staff with appropriate job skills and experiences
* Cordial relationship between the Board and staff
* Financial prudence
* Project management and implementation experience

Weaknesses:

* Lack of financial resources to implement our projects

Opportunities:

* Readiness and willingness of our target groups to learn new things
* Availability of women focused donors like AWDF to support our work.
* Conducive environment to do our work unmolested by government or security operatives.
* Availability of understanding media to promote our work.
* Availability of CSOs readiness to collaborate with us on issues affecting women.
* National and international training opportunities for our members.

Threats:

* Competing with many NGOs running after too little funds
* Paucity of donors interested in women issues in Nigeria as a focus country.
* Increasing number of poor women in the community

2**. Activities and/or Programs**

Describe your organisation's past activities and/or programs.

CAFSO-WRAG’s key areas of work are women’s economic empowerment, enforcement of women’s human rights and reproductive health. We have carried out research and have organised rallies, workshops and conferences in order to raise awareness among Nigerian women, men and government. We carried out a project on achieving MDGs in Nigeria with the theme “PIGA DEBE” - Protecting women from dying in pregnancy with financial support from the United Nations Millennium Campaign.

The Global Fund for Women supported our project on the rights of female bankers in Nigeria with the theme “Promoting the Rights of Female Staffers of Banks and Allied Financial Institutions”. The project focused on the challenges being faced from time to time by female staffers of banks in Nigeria in the course of discharging their duties especially in getting deposits from opulent customers. Most of the time, the failure of female staffers of these banks to meet the outrageous target often leads to their being sacked unjustly by the bank management. In order to avert this inhumane sacking, the female staffers are compelled to date and sleep with opulent (moneybags) customers so as to attract huge deposit and thus keep the staffers’ job. We fought against this through a workshop we organized to draw the attention of the CSOs, the governments, the central bank, the commercial banks, the bankers’ committee and trade unions of banks to this human rights abuse.

We are involved in community mobilization initiative as we partner with GCAP/MDGs Nigeria every year on campaigning against poverty and for the attainment of MDGs. We were involved in mobilization of the people to campaign on MDGs especially on MDG 2, 3, 4 & 5. In 2008, we mobilized as many as 560,000 community members to stand against poverty while in 2009 we mobilized 1,350,000 in the southwest to stand for MDGs. This is verifiable with the United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC) and GCAP/MDGs Nigeria at gcapnigeria2005@yahoo.com. We won an award from UNMC for participating in the campaign in 2009.

Our organization has experience in an empowerment project like this. We have organized various programmes for women refugees in Oru Nigeria where we trained them on SESAS (Self-Employment Skills Acquisition Scheme) after which they were involved in various economic activities including petty buying and selling of food stuff, GSM operation, fashion designing, hair platting etc. With a fund from AWDF in 2008, we organized a micro-credit training and scheme for rural and semi-urban women in Akinyele and Lagelu Local Governments of Oyo State and the groups are doing well till today.

We have also been working with rural communities in Egbeda, Lagelu and Akinyele local governments for the past five years. Specifically, we have organized Poverty Hearing Programme where government functionaries at state and local government levels were invited as part of finding solutions to issues of poverty affecting women in the society.

Specifically, we have carried out the following projects:

a. Free Health Testing and Counselling for Women in major markets in Ibadan, Oyo State (Self Funded)

b. Empowerment of refugees through training and financial assistance

c. Research project on Street/Working Children in Urban Slum of Oyo State (Funded by UNICEF)

d. Micro-credit training and empowerment scheme for rural and semi-urban communities in Akinyele and Lagelu (Funded by AWDF)

e. Poverty Hearing in rural areas of Akinyele Local Government (Funded by GCAP/MDGs Nigeria)

f. World AIDS Day 2010 (Funded by AWDF)

g. Climate Change Activity through Tree Planting in Ibadan North East Local Government (Self Funded)

h. Provision of indigeneous technology for agro-processing funded by Social Development Fund, French Embassy in Nigeria

i. Research and monitoring of MDG Implementation in Local Governments of Oyo State (Funded by UNMC)

j. Citizens’ Score Cards on Implementation of MDGs in the South West of Nigeria in collaboration with GCAP/MDGs Nigeria

k. “PIGA DEBE” - Protecting Women from Dying in Pregnancy (Funded by United Nations Millennium Campaign)

**c. Our organisation's present activities and/or programs:**

CAFSO-WRAG is presently monitoring the previous project with ID: AWDF0800 through periodic visits to the beneficiaries to ensure prompt re-payment of loans and savings for sustainability of the entire credit scheme based on the recommendation of the AWDF Programme Officer-Anglophone Africa Rose Buabeng who noted that our report was found during the assessment to be informative and the strategies for implementing the project were laudable. She also commended CAFSO-WRAG for the initiative.

In addition based on the AWDF recommendations, we conducted a need assessment and realized the need to replicate such project in other rural communities. We discovered that the economic empowerment of these rural women could be enhanced and sustained with the provision of local indigenous technology centre for agro-processing such as grating and milling machines to assist them in their daily socio-economic activities. This led to the project on Provision of Indigenous Technology for Agro-Processing funded by Social Development Fund, French Embassy in Nigeria.Even when they have money to pay, they do not get these services nearby as they have to trek several kilometres to grate cassava to get gari or cassava flour (their staple food) or grind corn, pepper, and yam flour. This project till date is bringing relief economically to the women and men.

**Our organisation's plans for the future:**

Poverty has eroded the economic powerbase of the women in these communities. Worse still, lack of social amenities such as water, health facilities, and good road networks as a result of governments’ neglect of many years has affected the socio-economic conditions of these women.

Therefore, our plan for the future is to replicate and strengthen our women’s economic empowerment project in the rural communities so as to reduce poverty and improve lives of about 75% of women in the next ten years. We also want to further enhance and sustain the social status of our women beneficiaries in the rural communities of Oyo State through provision of basic social amenities. It is important to note that 70% of Nigerians are living below poverty line, and 67% of the poor are women while majority are living in rural communities. (World Bank)

Our further plan is to turn sizeable number of these poor women into entrepreneurs; employers of labour especially in agro-processing business and cooperative farming. Most importantly, CAFSO-WRAG already has a demonstration farm in Sukuru village in Lagelu local government to train women in farming. An improved socio-economic status of these women could lead to their political empowerment.

We hope to achieve these plans gradually by setting up the proposed project titled: Women’s Economic Empowerment through Indigenous Technology in Rural Communities of Lagelu Local Government of Oyo State, which is supposed to be self-sustainable when the donor (AWDF) withdraws.

**GRANT REQUEST INFORMATION**

Purpose:

Akinyele Local Government area is partly semi urban and an agrarian community coupled with petty trading in agricultural produce. Sustainable tree crops such as cocoa, coffee, kola nut and oil palm used to be the main stay of the local community. However, land degradation coupled with poor traditional farming system and lack of portable water has caused men to migrate to cities and other neighbouring states leaving behind their women and children at large managing the residual. The problem of this community has to do with the poor standard of living ossified by low socio-economic activities caused by lack of social amenities such as water, health facilities, and good road networks as a result of governments’ neglect of many years.

**General Purpose:**

The purpose of the grant is to set up a rural technology (agro-processing) centre where the rural women would have access to portable drinking water and simple locally fabricated machinery for pressing their palm oil, crushing their palm kernel, milling their flour, grating their cassava so as to boost their economic activities. Also, the grant will train the rural women on phenomenon of climate change and its impacts on food and human security. This eventually will improve their socioeconomic status and lift them above poverty.

**Specific Purpose of the $7000 Crowdfunding**

The specific purpose for asking for this grant of $7000 is to support the borehole we are sinking for the indigent rural community of Akinyele that has been neglected for a long time by the government. Water is their need while there are other wants. Once they are able to get hygienic water, other problems can be solved. We are seeking grants from other donors to support the general project but this provision of water is much more important than any other thing as far as the community people are concerned.

**Specific objectives:**

**The goal** of this project is to strengthen rural women’s socio-economic status by promoting the entrepreneurial potential of the women for sustainable job creation and social change through indigenous technology in the rural communities of Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State.

It has the following **specific objectives**:

(a) To increase job opportunities for women and young girls in and around the rural communities.

(b) To reduce the beneficiaries’ fatigue and save their quality time by bringing equipment nearer to them.

(c) To strengthen the skills of the beneficiaries in the adoption and use of simple indigenous machinery for increased productivity.

(d) To sharpen the knowledge of the beneficiaries in internal democracy for efficient project management.

(e) To equip the beneficiaries with necessary skills in planting high yielding species of crops such as cassava, maize and oil palm.

(f) To increase food supply in the communities that may attract people from the city.

(g) To reduce significantly water borne diseases through a borehole that would be sunk for the benefit of the communities.

(h) To increase awareness on climate change as it impacts on food and human security.

**Specific outcomes of the project:**

(a) At least 25% of beneficiaries are involved in productive socio economic activities in the communities. This leads to creation of job opportunities for women and youths in and around the communities.

(b) At least 50% of the beneficiaries would be guided to plant high yielding crop varieties and known the difference with traditional crops.

(c) 75% beneficiaries would patronise the technology centre to process their commodities or use any of the equipment in the centre hence reducing difficulties in processing their produce.

(d) About 80% of Akinyele community would have access to portable hygienic water.

(e) a significant reduction in water borne diseases as a result of borehole providing hygienic water.

(f) There would be increase in food supply in the communities which would engender food security and attract urban rural drift.

(g) Increased awareness of the communities on climate change as it impacts on food and human security.

**Monitoring Plan:**

There are two types of monitoring system for this project – internal monitoring and external monitoring strategies. For each of the activities, a monitoring check list shall be designed containing essentially milestones to achieve according to the timelines and objectives of the project. Each of these check lists shall be marked as being achieved according to the timeline. This would serve as internal monitoring device to be handled by CAFSO-WRAG for Development. The other monitoring strategy is done by constituting a steering monitoring committee which shall consist of a staff of CAFSO-WRAG for Development, representatives of the beneficiaries, a representative from the local government, and local media. Each of these groups of people would be serving the purpose of an informant and whistle blower in their respective locality on how the project is going. They would also be responsible for reporting to the project implementation committee what they saw and what the comments of the people are concerning the project. This would help us a lot in having first hand information about the progress of the project and what we need to do for improvement, if need be.

At the level of the training for the operators of the centre, a questionnaire on skill acquisition would be designed and administered on the participants. This would help us to measure the level of understanding of the participants about the use of indigenous technology in the rural area, and to garner their opinions on the progress of the project.

The need to measure from time to time the success or derailment of the project is also important. Hence the project will incorporate an evaluation strategy focusing on the totality of the project. First is an assessment form to be designed which would contain some questions bordering on the on-the-spot assessment of a specific aspect of the project. There would be a direct sampling interview of the patrons/clients of the centre. For example, during the capacity building workshop for the beneficiaries, or during unscheduled visit to the centre, oral diaries about the impact of the project shall be used to evaluate the project. All these shall be collated and analysed and shall be a point of discussion each time we have a project review meeting. Most importantly, we are going to designate a monitoring & evaluation expert at each of the main project activities who would be solely responsible for evaluating the success of the project.

Therefore, the project is going to employ a monitoring and evaluation professional. His expertise evaluation would be done in three stages – process evaluation, mid-term evaluation and final evaluation. His contributions would be of immense value at the various levels of the project implementation as this person would be part of the project implementation committee. The M&E officer would work with the Project Coordinator in writing and sending quarterly reports to our donor.

**Organisational / project sustainability plan**

CAFSO-WRAG would sustain the project through the monitoring strategy. The strategy would be done by constituting a steering monitoring committee which shall consist of a staff of CAFSO-WRAG for Development, representatives of the beneficiaries, a representative from the local government, and local media. Each of these groups of people would be serving the purpose of an informant and whistle blower in their respective locality on how the project is going. They would also be responsible for reporting to the project implementation committee what they saw and what the comments of the people are concerning the project. This would help us a lot in having first hand information about the progress of the project and what we need to do for improvement, if need be.

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**How the grant will benefit the women we wish to work with**

The project would solve the following problems: lack of water, lack of machine for grating and milling machines, trekking several kilometers for services etc. Our direct target group would be the indigent inhabitants, the less privileged, the excluded and women in Lagelu rural community and its neighbouring communities. With an estimated 50 villages, about 2,500 people including 75 percent women from all the communities within Lagelu local government will be direct beneficiaries of the project. While about 500 villagers are estimated to be directly patronizing the technology centre, all the 2,500 beneficiaries would be fetching water from the borehole since there is neither a functioning traditional well nor a stream nearby.

**BUDGET ON BOREHOLE COMPONENT ($)**

1. Submersible pump 1000
2. Slab construction for tanks 1500
3. Iron casting 250
4. Generating plant 250
5. Water tanks 200
6. Drum 200
7. Accessories 1600
8. Shed over the borehole 500
9. Sinking of the borehole 1500
10. **Total 7000**

**Seven thousand Dollars**