



AGRICULTURE SUMMIT AFRICA 26



PROGRAM

- *BUILDING THE NEXT* - SUPERPOWER

AFRICA'S FOOD POWER PLAY

SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2026

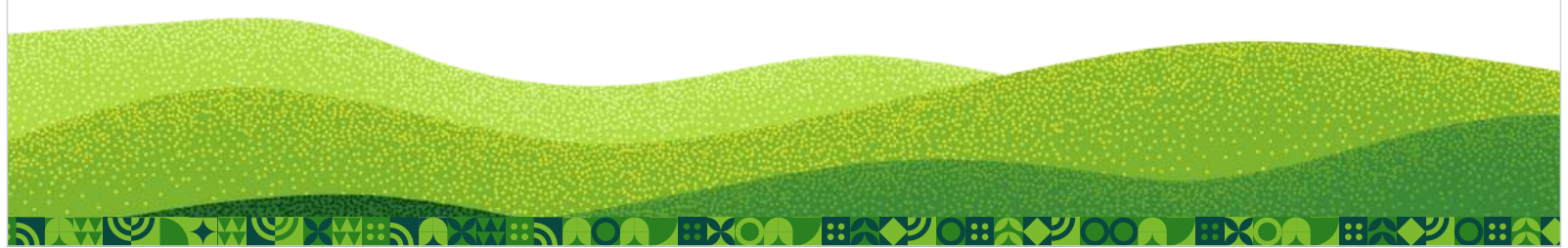
Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja



PARTNERS



SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2026
Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja





HIS EXCELLENCY

Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR

President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces,
Federal Republic of Nigeria.



HIS EXCELLENCY

Kashim Shettima GCON

Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria.



HIS EXCELLENCY

Caleb Mutfwang

Executive Governor of Plateau State, Nigeria.



SENATOR

Abubakar Kyari CON

Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Food Security,
Federal Republic of Nigeria



Idi Mukhtar Maiha FNIM

Honourable Minister of Livestock Development
Federal Republic of Nigeria



CHIEF HOST

Abubakar Suleiman

Managing Director/CEO, Sterling Bank Limited



Agenda: Day 1

TIME	DAY 1 TUESDAY, 15 SEPT 2026	SPEAKER
8:00AM - 9:00 AM Arrival/Summit Opening		8:00AM - 9:00 AM Arrival/Summit Opening
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Dance by the National Troupe <i>The Farmer's Rhythm</i> National Anthem/Summit Opening	
9:15 AM - 9:25 AM	Welcome Address	Abubakar Suleiman <i>Managing Director/CEO, Sterling Bank Limited</i>
9:25 AM - 9:35 AM	Special Remarks	Olasunkanmi Owoyemi <i>MD, Sunbeth Global Concepts Limited</i> <i>Rep. by Eyitemi Adebowale, Head Corporate Affairs & Communication</i>
9:35 AM - 10:10 AM	Keynote Address	Sarah Ockman IFC Manager, IFC Agribusiness
10:20 AM - 10:40 AM	Goodwill Message 1	Senator Abubakar Kyari CON Hon. Minister for Agriculture and Food Security
	Goodwill Message 2	Hon. Idi Mukhtar Maiha Hon. Minister Federal Ministry of Livestock Development.
	Goodwill Message 3	Hon. Dr. Jumoke Oduwole Hon. Minister Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment
10:40 AM - 11:15 AM	Exhibition Inspection/Refreshments	
11:15 AM - 12:20 PM	Day1 Panel 1 <i>Food Sovereignty and Strategic Resilience: How Africa Can Build Enduring Resilience in a Dynamic Environment</i>	Dr. Olumide Ojo <i>Moderator</i> <i>Strategy Director, Propcom+</i> Mrs. Yemisi Iranloye <i>Founder & CEO, Psaltry International Company Ltd</i> Mr. Ujwal Senapati <i>Managing Director, Saro Agro-Allied</i> Mr. Africanfarmer Mogaji <i>Founder, AfricanFarmer Hub</i> Mr. Sadiq Usman <i>Managing Director, Flour Mills Agro</i> Mr. Ayodeji Sontinrin <i>Managing Director, Bank of Agriculture (BOA)</i> Hon. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi <i>Hon. Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security</i>

TIME	DAY 1 TUESDAY, 15 SEPT 2026	SPEAKER
12:20 PM - 12:50 PM	Fireside Chat Strategic Partnerships for Africa's Food Future: Strengthening Trade, Investment and Shared Prosperity	Dr. Esther Aina <i>Moderator</i> Country Lead, YAPU Solutions Mr. Massimo De Luca Delegation of the European Union to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and ECOWAS Mr. Von Kemedi MD, Arila Group Archie Stay Agriculture and Food Markets Adviser, British High Commissioner Marie-José Neveu Tafforeau Agribusiness Development Adviser, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI) Expertise France-French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE)
12:50 PM - 1:55 PM	Day 1 Panel 2 Trade Africa: Strengthening Intra-African and Global Agricultural Trade	Mr. Oame Airauhi <i>Moderator</i> Group Head, Transaction Banking Sterling Bank Barr. Kola Awe Chairman, NACCIMA Export Group Mr. Eniola Fabusoro Country Director for Nigeria, IDH Dr. Idayat Adeola Mudashir Deputy Director, NAFDAC Mr Julius Opio Chairman, International Chamber of Commerce, Kenya Mr. Richard Falotico Head of Trading, Sunbeth Global Concepts Ms Chidimma Ewuzie Head , Conformity Assessment Implementation Unit, Standards Organisation of Nigeria



TIME	DAY 1 TUESDAY, 15 SEPT 2026	SPEAKER
1:55 PM - 3:00 PM	Day 1 Panel 3 <i>Harnessing Capital for Africa's Agricultural Transformation: Unlocking Africa's Trillion Dollar Food Opportunity</i> <i>Sponsored by IFC</i>	Ms. Aderonke Eko-Aderinoye <i>Chief Operating Officer, Farm Kart</i> Moderator Mr. Bababo Ademehin <i>Associate Principal, Babban Gona</i> Dr. Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli <i>Founder, LEAP Africa and African Food Changemakers; Co-Founder, Sahel Consulting and AACE Foods</i> Mr Azuka Okofu <i>DH, SME Lending, Bank Of Industry</i> Ms. Ayodele Olojede <i>Chief Operating Officer, Development Bank of Nigeria (DBN)</i> Dr. Olushola Obikanye <i>Group Head, Agric Finance and Solid Minerals, Sterling Bank</i> Mr. Youssouf Sy <i>Senior Operations Officer, International Finance Corporations</i>
3:00PM	Lunch & Networking	3:00PM Lunch & Networking
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Deal Room	11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Deal Room
Day 1 Close		

Agenda: Day 2

TIME	DAY 2 WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPT 2026	SPEAKER
8:00AM - 9:00 AM	Arrival/Registration	8:00AM - 9:00 AM Arrival/Registration
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Welcome Address/Opening Remarks	Mr. Dele Faseemo, <i>Group Executive, Corporate and Investment Banking Division Sterling Bank Limited</i>
9:15 AM - 9:25 AM	Spoken Word	Mohammed Al-Amin Sani



TIME	DAY 2 WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPT 2026	SPEAKER
9:25 AM - 9:35 AM	Goodwill Messages	Hon. Abisola Olusanya, <i>Honourable Commissioner Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture and Food Systems;</i> Dr. Benjamin Ashaver, <i>Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security</i>
9:35 AM - 10:00 AM	State of the Sector Report	Ms. Chimdindu Onwudiegwu, <i>Associate Partner/Country Director, Dalberg Global Development Advisors</i>
10:00 AM - 10:10 AM	Special Address	Garba Mohammed, <i>Executive Director, Altbank</i>
10:10 AM - 10:20 AM	Goodwill Messages	Mr. John Akoji, <i>Country Director, SNV Nigeria</i> Rilwan Sumonu <i>Managing Director, Noor Takaful</i> Mohammed Abu Ibrahim <i>Executive Secretary, National Agricultural Development Fund (NADF)</i>
10:20 AM - 10:30 AM	MOU Signing MOU Signing: Agrow (FarmPass) Sterling and Mastercard	
10:35 AM - 10:55 AM	Special Remarks	Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang <i>Governor, Plateau State Governor</i>
10:55 AM - 11:15 AM	Special Guest of Honour	Senator Kashim Ibrahim Shettima, <i>The Vice President of Nigeria (TBC)</i>
11:15 AM - 11:50 AM	Refreshments/Networking	
11:50 AM - 12:55 PM	Day 2 Panel 4 <i>Climate Risk Management for Sustainability: Future-Proofing Africa's Food Systems</i>	Ms. Susan Essien <i>Moderator</i> <i>Founder, Edan & Sherr Limited</i> Ms. Omotenioye Majekodunmi <i>DG/CEO, National Council on Climate Change Rep by Benedette Ejiofor, NCCO</i> Mr. Ugochukwu Oguike <i>Managing Director Arzikin Noma Africa</i> Mr. Christoph Jungfleisch <i>Founder & Managing Director, YAPU Solutions</i> Mr. Michael Akinsete <i>Co-Founder, Ecotutu</i> Mr. Jason Green <i>Head of Sustainable Sourcing Africa, Sunbeth Global Concepts</i> Mr. Fatona Ayoola Paul <i>Global Head, Agricultural Risk Solutions, Leadway Assurance</i>

TIME	DAY 2 WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPT 2026	SPEAKER
12:55 PM - 2:00 PM	Day 2 Panel 5 Leveraging Technology and Data for Food Systems Transformation	Ms. Vera Ihenacho <i>Moderator</i> Head, Agribusiness Development and Strategy, Sterling Bank Mr. Nasir Yammama Senior Special Assistant to the President on Innovation, Office of the Vice President Mr. Femi Adekoya (Flying Farmer) Founder and Managing Director, Integrated Aerial Precision (IAPrecision) Dr. Rufus Idris Country Director, Nigeria, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Mr. Khalid Mosuro New Market Lead Mastercard, Mr. Jesse Osiobe Founder and CEO, Farmkart Foods
2:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Day 2 Fireside Food Security in Fragile Environments: Strategies for Resilience and Recovery	Ms. Olapeju Ibekwe <i>Moderator</i> CEO, Sterling One Foundation Mr. Mohammed Aliyu Senior Country Officer, IFC Nigeria Ms. Lilian Otiego Head of Development Partnership, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
2:30 PM - 3:35 PM	Day 2 Panel 6 Youth, Women & Inclusive Growth: Accelerating Financial Inclusion and Market Opportunities Sponsored by GIZ	Ms. Ruth Ozigbo <i>Moderator</i> Programme Manager Agriculture Summit Africa Dr. Moji Davis Xtralarge Farms & Resorts, Xtralarge Farms Mr. Oludare Odusanya General Manager, BATN Foundation Ms. Oyindamola Egbeyemi Director of Programmes and Coordination, Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF)



TIME	DAY 2 WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPT 2026	SPEAKER
2:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Day 2 Fireside Youth, Women & Inclusive Growth: Accelerating Financial Inclusion and Market Opportunities Sponsored by GIZ	Dr. Janett-Star Erastus <i>Chief Veterinarian, Namibia</i> Ms. Olawoore Dorcas <i>Communications Lead, Youth Advisory Committee for Women in Sourcing and Enterprise Project by IDH and the Mastercard Foundation</i> Ms. Ojuolape Kolawole <i>Technical Advisor for Regional Coordination, Southwest & Financial Sector Support, GIZ Nigeria & ECOWAS</i>
3:35 PM - 3:45 PM	Closing Remarks/ Vote of thanks	Dr. Olushola Obikanye <i>Group Head, Agric Finance and Solid Minerals, Sterling Bank</i>
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Deal Room	11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Deal Room



BUILDING THE NEXT SUPER POWER

Two numbers sit at the centre of every conversation about African agriculture. The continent holds roughly **60 per cent** of the world's uncultivated arable land. It also spends more than **\$50 billion a year** importing food, and that figure is projected to rise without structural intervention.

These are usually presented as a paradox. They are not. They are an accurate description of how value moves through the global food system, and of where Africa currently stands within it. We grow, and others process. We export raw and import finished. We supply volume and someone else sets the price. The \$50 billion is not evidence that African farmers cannot farm. It is the invoice for a system we do not control.

That distinction matters, because it changes what the solution looks like. If the problem were production, the answer would be seeds and tractors. The answer is considerably bigger than that, and this is the ninth time we have convened this ecosystem to say so.



Africa does not have a farming problem

Consider what happens to a good harvest in most African markets today. Between 30 and 40 per cent of it is lost after it leaves the field, to poor storage, broken cold chains, roads that add days to a journey that should take hours, and aggregation systems that cannot move a crop from a smallholder to a processor while it is still worth something.

A farmer can raise yields by 40 per cent and watch the entire gain disappear in the same season, downstream, in infrastructure she does not own and cannot influence.

Now consider what it costs to plant that harvest. The seed is likely imported. So is the fertiliser, the agrochemical, the machinery, the animal feed, and increasingly the software that decides when to apply any of it.

Every input represents foreign exchange leaving the continent before a single naira, cedi or shilling of revenue arrives. And the capital that funds the cycle is priced for twelve months against a transformation that takes ten years.

This is not a failure of effort. It is a fragmentation of systems. Each part of the chain has been improved in isolation by someone, at some point, with genuine commitment, and the gains have leaked away at the joints. That is why two decades of intervention have produced an impressive inventory of successful pilots and very little structural change. The pilot was never the problem. The absence of anything to connect the pilots to is the problem.

It is also why we have deliberately stopped describing ASA as a conference. Africa does not have a shortage of agricultural





conversation. It has a shortage of coordinated execution, and the two are easily confused by people who attend both.

Why food is a power play

The global food system is undergoing a structural reset. Climate volatility, geopolitical realignment, supply chain disruption and export restrictions have taught every government on earth the same lesson inside five years: ***food is not a development issue***. It is a strategic asset.

Nations that can feed themselves, feed others, and control the value chains that do both are acquiring a form of leverage that does not depend on military or industrial scale. That redistribution of power is being settled now, in this decade, in the terms of trade agreements, the ownership structures of processing capacity, and the financing of logistics corridors.

These are not abstractions. They are contracts being signed this year by parties who understand exactly what they are buying. Africa is not a spectator in that settlement. The continent has the land, the demographic advantage, the expanding domestic and regional demand, and under the African Continental Free Trade Area, the legal architecture for a single food market of more than 1.4 billion people.

What it has not yet had is execution against those advantages at anything approaching their scale.

So when we say superpower, we are not talking about tonnage. A food superpower is not the region that grows the most. It is the region that owns the seed company, the fertiliser plant, the cold chain, the port terminal, the processing facility, the commodity exchange and the trade finance that makes all of it move, and therefore



participates in setting the price rather than accepting it. Sovereignty in food has never meant self-sufficiency or withdrawal from global markets. It means engaging those markets from a position of strength rather than dependence.

The honest arithmetic

We should be direct about scale, because the people we are convening will do the arithmetic themselves.

ASA 2026 is structured to mobilise a curated investment pipeline of \$200 million to \$300 million across more than 50 bankable projects, with over 20 institutional investors and development finance institutions engaged and more than 100 structured matchmaking sessions. Set against a \$50 billion annual import bill, that pipeline is a fraction of one per cent. We will not pretend otherwise, and we will not close this gap in two days here in Abuja.

But that is not what a deal pipeline is for. In agricultural finance, the first transaction in any category is extraordinarily expensive, in diligence, in structuring, in risk nobody has priced before. The hundredth is a template.

The function of a curated pipeline is to convert projects from unprecedented to repeatable, so that the capital which follows does not have to solve the same structuring problem from scratch. Across eight previous editions, ASA has convened more than 19,000 participants from over 27 countries and enabled in excess of \$100 million in investment commitments. The value of that record is not the headline figure. It is the precedent it establishes, and the diligence it has already paid for.



What has to change, practically

Five shifts carry most of the weight.

Production must become commercially viable, not merely larger. Climate-smart practice, mechanisation, irrigation and functional extension services matter because they make yields bankable, predictable enough for an investor to underwrite. Output without reliability is not an investment case, and stronger linkages between smallholders and commercial value chains are what turn subsistence volume into commercial supply.

Input capacity must be built at home. Local and regional manufacturing in seed, fertiliser, feed, agrochemicals and mechanisation is the difference between an agricultural sector and an agricultural dependency. This is industrial policy applied to food, and it is where public and private capital must move together, supported by research institutions with genuine authority.

Markets must be integrated before they can be defended. Storage, cold chains, aggregation systems, transport corridors and commodity exchanges are what turn 54

fragmented national markets into the single market AfCFTA describes on paper. Food sovereignty cannot exist without functional regional trade, and regional trade cannot exist without physical infrastructure and harmonised standards.

Value must be added where the crop is grown. Processing, packaging and agro-industrialisation are how a continent stops exporting raw commodities and importing the same commodities back with margin attached. This is simultaneously the answer to post-harvest loss, to job creation, and to the import bill, which is precisely why it should be the priority investment category rather than the closing bullet on a slide.

Finance must match the shape of agriculture. Blended structures, risk-sharing mechanisms, guarantees, insurance and genuinely long-tenor infrastructure funding. A sector that plants in one year and harvests value over ten cannot be financed on a twelve-month working capital instrument. Every participant in this ecosystem knows it, and the persistence of the mismatch is a failure of financial engineering, not of agricultural potential.



Underneath all five sits a demographic fact that should govern how they are executed. Agriculture is the largest employer on the continent, and the continent is overwhelmingly young. Any transformation that does not expand the participation of youth and women as producers, innovators, entrepreneurs and financiers is not transformation. It is consolidation, a smaller number of larger players capturing a bigger share of the same system, which is the outcome Africa already has.

These five shifts are also deeply interconnected, and that interconnection is the part most often underestimated. Progress in one without corresponding movement in the others produces limited and unsustainable outcomes.

Higher yields without storage produce waste. Storage without trade corridors produces stranded surplus. Trade corridors without harmonised policy produce trucks

idling at borders. Processing capacity without reliable input supply produces idle plants.

The reason system-level coordination has become the organising idea of this edition is that every participant in this ecosystem has now watched a well-funded intervention in one link fail because of a bottleneck in the next one.

Brazil is the instructive precedent here, not for its soil science, but for its patience. The *Cerrado* went from land considered agriculturally worthless to one of the world's most productive regions through four decades of sustained public-private investment, a research institution with real authority in EMBRAPA, soil and input innovation, and infrastructure built ahead of demand. The lesson is duration and institutional capability. Those are the two things African agriculture has most consistently been denied.



Sterling's position

Sterling Bank convenes Agriculture Summit Africa not as a participant but as an orchestrator, and we accept what that word obliges us to do.

It means structuring the financing rather than applauding the ambition, engaging DFIs, institutional investors and private capital around specific deals we have helped make bankable in agro-processing infrastructure, storage and logistics, input production, digital agriculture and climate-smart systems.

It means coordinating an ecosystem that does not coordinate itself: governments, producers, processors, innovators and markets aligned around named opportunities rather than general goodwill.

It means owning the platform between editions, so that what is agreed in September is still being tracked in March, with post-event conversion measured and published rather than assumed.

And it means putting our own balance sheet behind the transition we are asking others to

fund, because a convener who commits nothing is a commentator.

Agriculture is one of the five pillars of our HEART strategy for a reason. We took a deliberate institutional position that Nigeria's real economy is where a Nigerian bank earns its licence to operate, and agriculture is the largest employer in that economy.

That position has costs. It requires underwriting risk that is harder to model than corporate lending, building sector expertise that takes years to develop, and accepting longer payback than the market rewards in any given quarter. We consider those costs the price of the seat we are claiming.

An Africa-led food order will not be granted. It will be constructed, deal by deal, corridor by corridor, cold store by cold store, by institutions willing to finance the unglamorous middle of the value chain where the value actually leaks. The rhetoric is easy and the continent has heard a great deal of it. The financing is hard, and it is what we intend to be measured on.

Have a wonderful Agric Summit!





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Speak to us today:

Agric & Solid Minerals Finance Group, Sterling Bank Limited
11th Floor, Sterling Towers, 20, Marina, Lagos.

website: sterling.ng/agriculture | **email:** agric&finance@sterling.ng



DELIVERING TRUSTED, CERTIFIED AGRO-COMMODITIES FROM WEST AFRICA TO GLOBAL MARKETS

TURMERIC



The turmeric grown in northern Nigeria has a particularly high concentration of curcumin, the active compound responsible for its bright yellow colour and its highly prized health benefits, including its potent antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties.

GINGER



Nigerian ginger is among the most prized in the world, thanks to its aroma, pungency and high oil and oleoresin content. CAVOLA sources most of its premium-grade ginger from Kaduna state. But we also take product from Nasarawa, Niger, Gombe, Bauchi, and Benue.

CHILLI PEPPER



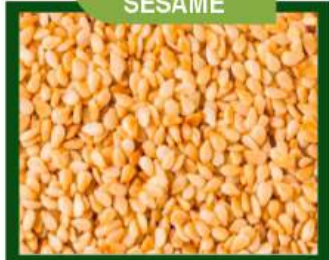
Nigerian Bird's Eye chillies are much hotter than typical Bird's Eye varieties, often reaching up to 175,000 Scoville Heat Units compared to the usual 50,000–100,000 SHU range. This makes them one of the hottest Bird's Eye types and far stronger than many common chillies.

HIBISCUS FLOWER



CAVOLA sources supplies from Northern Nigeria where the climatic conditions are ideal for the cultivation of the Roselle variety of hibiscus. Known for its deep red calyces, the Roselle variety is rich in anthocyanins, antioxidants and vitamin C.

SESAME



CAVOLA sources sesame seeds from farmers who produce and harvest twice in a planting season. This relatively long producing season - in combination with good storage and warehousing facilities - makes our sesame available for export all year around.

OIL PALM



At CAVOLA we're committed to the revivification of the West African oil palm industry. And we aim, wherever possible, to ensure that all products can be traced to the farm gate.

COCOA



Our home base accounts for 10% of African cocoa production, our beans are highly prized for their distinctive flavour profile and their rich aroma, leading to high demand from the producers of premium chocolate and other cocoa-based products.

COFFEE



Although the volume of exports from Nigeria and other neighbouring countries is still relatively small, over the past 12 months CAVOLA has witnessed a sharp increase in buyers wishing to source Western African varieties.

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Cavola Limited
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Ujwalkanta Senapati
Managing Director,
Saro Agro-Allied

Ujwalkanta Senapati is a seasoned agribusiness executive with over 30 years of experience across agriculture and food value chains in Africa and the Indian subcontinent. As Managing Director of Saro Agro-Allied Limited, he brings extensive expertise in agribusiness transformation, manufacturing, sustainable growth, food security, and multi-country operations.

Over the course of his career, Ujwal has successfully transformed and turned around businesses across Africa. At TGI Group, he led the transformation of its agriculture business from a small trading operation into a significant manufacturing and consumer-facing business within three years. During his tenure with Olam, he was instrumental in building sustainable agribusiness operations across East and Southern Africa, including turning around underperforming businesses.

Earlier in his career, Ujwal rose to General Manager level within seven years at the Tata Group in India, earning a reputation as a business turnaround specialist. He also served as Agriculture Advisor to the President of Mozambique from 2010 to 2012, contributing to strategic thinking around the country's agricultural sector.

Ujwal is particularly passionate about strengthening food systems and creating sustainable opportunities for smallholder farmers.

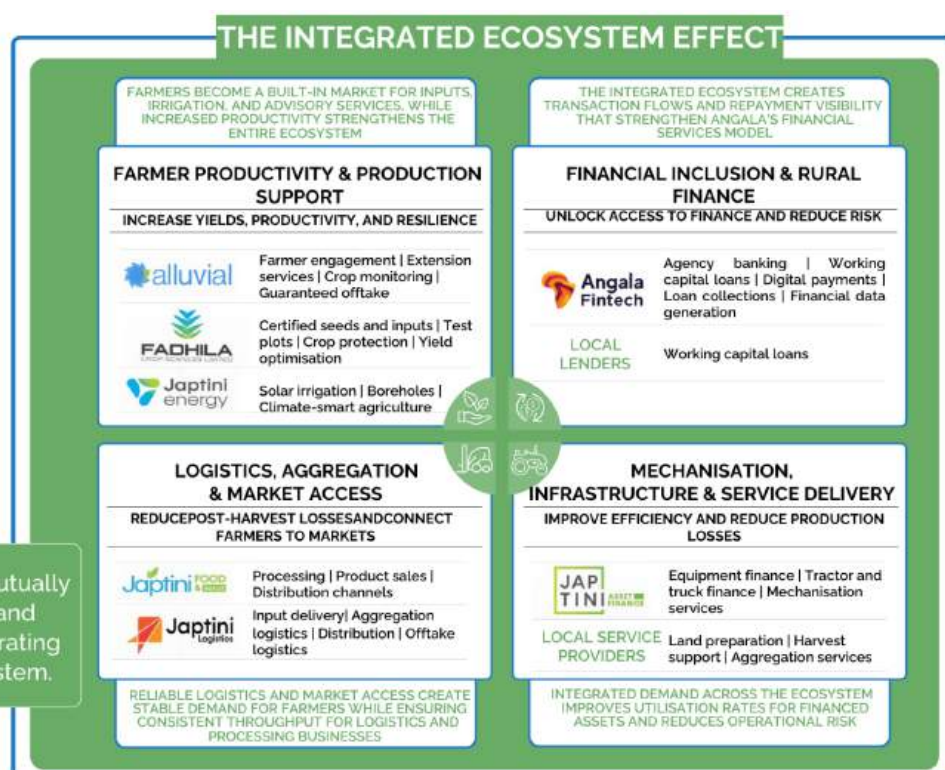
He holds a Master's degree in Business Management from a leading business school in India and a Master's degree in Agricultural Science.



Specialised Companies, Integrated Impact

Creating value not only for farmers, but for each operating company through shared infrastructure, coordinated demand, reduced risk, and integrated market opportunities.

These companies create mutually reinforcing commercial and development value by operating within an integrated ecosystem.





Sen. Dr. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi

Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, Nigeria

He represented Niger North Senatorial District, Niger State in the 8th Senate where he served as Chairman, Committee on Media and Public Affairs and the Spokesman and the Deputy Chief whip in the 9th Senate. As a strong advocate of education and human capital development, sponsored over 100 bills and motions among which is Act No 5. 2021. Federal University of Education, Kontagora Niger State.

As Senator, he impacted the 87 wards across the eight Local Government Areas of Niger North Senatorial District with rural infrastructure such as roads, electrification, educational support, water projects, health centers, agricultural inputs to farmers, empowerment schemes, etc. He has over 20 years' experience working in the agricultural sector managing the Nigerian National Agricultural Research System before he voluntarily retired in 2014 to join politics.

He holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree, a Master's Degree in Agricultural Economics and other post-graduate qualifications in Management to shape his skillset and capacity.

He was a recipient of the National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) best Corper Award for Yola Local Government and Adamawa State Government later was given the National Honors award by the Head of State and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 1994 He holds the prestigious National Honors Award in the rank of the Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON).

He is a Prince and Member of the Royal Family of Borgu Kingdom and was conferred with the prestigious traditional title of Baraden of Borgu Kingdom in 2004.



Youssouf Sy

Senior Operations Officer, International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Youssouf Sy is a Senior Operations Officer at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), where he works in the Financial Institutions Group. He specializes in agrifinance and has worked with a range of private and public-sector stakeholders, including governments, banks, insurance companies, and AgTech companies.

He has led assignments and projects across several countries, including Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, and Cameroon. Youssouf is currently based in Mali. Prior to joining IFC, he worked with the United Nations and the Mastercard Foundation.





Olapeju Ibekwe
Chief Executive Officer,
Sterling One Foundation

Olapeju Ibekwe is a seasoned business leader, filmmaker, and sustainability professional with keen interests in women empowerment, youth development access to quality education, and better healthcare. With two decades of corporate experience, she has built expertise in brand and marketing communications, strategy formulation and execution, team management, process improvement, strategic partnerships, and business expansion.

She currently oversees all operations and initiatives at the Sterling One Foundation, a social change vehicle focused on tackling the root causes of poverty in Nigeria. Under this non-profit, she works with and supports various non-profits across the African continent in capacity building, and amplifying impact within the Foundation's key focus areas - healthcare, climate action, youth development and education, gender equality and women empowerment, and food security. Part of her work includes leveraging technology for alternative financing for social impact projects through Africa's first free crowdfunding platform - Giving.ng. She also works with the private and public sectors on social impact initiatives, and spearheads coalition-building between the different sectors through the Africa Social Impact Summit.

Peju sits on the board of the One Health Initiative where she helps shape impactful policies and initiatives for medical practitioners and everyday Nigerians seeking better healthcare. As a movie producer, she uses her work within the media and creative space to raise awareness about gender issues, especially gender-based violence while actively supporting young girls through mentorship, providing business advisory for very early-stage entrepreneurs, and supporting climate action initiatives in coastal communities. Olapeju Ibekwe has received various awards in the social impact space, including the Leadership Impact Award in Nonprofit Management at the CSR Reporters Philanthropic Awards on Social Impact and Sustainability Practices, and was named in Ventures Africa's Top 20 Women of Impact in 2023.



Sarah Cruikshank Ockman
Upstream Advisory
Manager for Agribusiness,
Africa Region, International
Finance Corporation (IFC),
World Bank Group

Sarah, an American national, joined IFC in 2007 and has held several positions including Global Platform Lead for IFC Food Safety Advisory and Regional Advisory Lead before taking on her current role. In FY26, her team developed projects that enabled \$445 million in IFC investment projects while supporting another \$530 million in enhanced development impact.

Her regional team helps clients in Africa to professionalize supply chains, increase agricultural productivity and farmer incomes, reduce food safety risk, and increase investments to the private sector. Sarah holds an MBA from IESE and a Bachelor's degree from Tufts University, USA. A native of West Virginia, USA, Sarah has lived in 12 countries and is currently based in Lagos, Nigeria.



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Vera Iheanacho
Head Agribusiness
Development & Strategy,
Sterling Bank

Vera Iheanacho is a seasoned finance professional with over a decade of experience driving growth across Nigeria's agribusiness and financial sectors. She currently serves as Head, Agribusiness Development and Strategy at Sterling Bank, where she leads innovative financing models that empower small holders, women, and youth in agriculture.

Vera has played a pivotal role in transforming agricultural lending in Nigeria. She successfully secured a \$21.7 million grant from the Mastercard Foundation to expand access to affordable finance for 100,000 smallholder farmers, and mobilized \$500,000 in grant funding from the World Bank Gender Innovation Lab to evaluate the impact of agri-finance programs. She also spearheaded the design of the Sterling Women and Youths in Agric Finance (SWAY AG FIN) program and digital loan portal—impacting over a million potential beneficiaries and setting a benchmark for inclusive agri-finance in West Africa.

Her expertise spans Agribusiness Value Chain Finance, Strategy and Innovation, Credit and Risk Management, Financial Modelling, Corporate and Structured Finance, and Product Development. She has led multiple strategic partnerships, designed the bank's annual agribusiness strategy framework, and managed key initiatives such as Sterling Cooperative Livestock Investment Hub where she raised ₦1 Billion in investments for the poultry value chain.

Vera is a Certified Expert in Agricultural Finance from the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, Germany, a Certified Financial Modelling and Valuation Analyst, and a Association of professional Women Bankers (APWB). She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science from Ambrose Alli University and is currently pursuing an Executive MBA at the Prestigious Lagos Business School.





Sadiq Usman
Managing Director,
FMN Agro

Sadiq Usman is currently the Managing Director of FMN Agro, the agro-allied vertical of the FMN Group. He is also Group Director, Strategic Partnerships and Engagement of FMN Holdings, the management company overseeing all verticals under the FMN Group. In the former role, he is principally responsible for the strategic direction, growth and commercial success of FMN Agro's subsidiary businesses across the agricultural inputs, animal nutrition and cassava value chains, in addition to raw materials sourcing, local content development and backward integration. In the latter role, he is chiefly responsible for FMN Holdings' new business ventures and investments, acquisitions, corporate development, and regulatory affairs.

Sadiq is also a non-Executive Director at Honeywell Flour Mills Plc and Northern Nigeria Flour Mills Plc, both grains processing companies under the partial control of FMN Holdings.

Prior to joining FMN, Sadiq worked at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) as a Special Assistant to the Governor on Economic Development. While at the CBN, he was involved in crisis resolution, banking sector reform, and policy development, serving also as the Secretary to the Bankers' Committee sub-Committee on Economic Development and Sustainability.

Before taking up the role at the CBN, Sadiq was a Vice-President at JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A., where he served in multiple capacities serving the financing needs of sub-Saharan African Financial and Corporate clients.

Sadiq holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics, Business and Finance from the University of East Anglia, UK as well as a Master's degree in Development Economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, UK. In 2022, Sadiq participated in Oxford University's Saïd Business School's Advanced Management and Leadership Program.



Olawoore Dorcas
Communications Lead,
Youth Advisory Committee for
Women in Sourcing and
Enterprise

Olawoore Dorcas is an undergraduate, studying Plant Breeding and Seed Technology at the Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta and currently serves as Communications Lead of the Youth Advisory Committee for Women in Sourcing and Enterprise project by IDH and the Mastercard Foundation.

She has hands-on experience in planting and cultivating numerous vegetable crops and is presently working on a tomato seed production project, focusing on crop improvement and sustainable practices.





Oluyemisi Iranloye
Founder/CEO Psaltry
International
Company Limited

Oluyemisi Iranloye is the Founder/CEO of Psaltry International Company Limited, a leading cassava processing company based in Nigeria that serves multinationals such as Unilever and Nestlé.

Under her leadership, Psaltry has become a global leader in producing cassava starch, flour, glucose, and is the first in Africa to produce cassava-based sorbitol. The business impacts over 100,000 farm families, raising their income from less than \$1 per person per day to \$10 per person per day, and fosters job creation, directly and indirectly employing about 1,000 individuals.

Through the Psaltry Foundation, Oluyemisi promotes girls' education and gender equality in rural communities. The foundation has awarded 19 scholarships, including one to Robiat Fasasi, a young woman living with a disability. Her mentorship program, launched in 2023, has helped over 1,000 aspiring agripreneurs build practical skills for modern, sustainable farming.

She earned a B.Sc. in Biochemistry from the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria, and later obtained an M.Sc. from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

She has received national and international recognition, including honours from the U.S. Secretary of State, the Nigerian Federal Government, and the AGRA Women Agripreneurs of the Year Award (WAYA).



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Chidinma Ewuzie
Head, Conformity Assessment
Implementation Unit, Standards
Organisation of Nigeria SON

Mrs. Nwabugwu Chidinma Ewuzie is the Head, Conformity Assessment Implementation Unit of the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) and the Chair of the ARSO Conformity Assessment Program (ACAP) Advisory Committee.

Adding value to the growth of many industries in Nigeria, Mrs. Ewuzie has, for over 22 years, been inspecting different medium, small and micro industries and watching them grow into large industries that feed not only Nigerian markets but also export their products outside the country.

Chidinma has also been involved in standards development activities at the national, regional, continental and international levels, which have helped to remove technical barriers to trade.

She represented SON in the CBN think tank committee that inspected coffee farms in Edo State. Mrs. Ewuzie is an Industrial Microbiologist and has obtained a Master's degree in General Public Health from the College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Nigeria.

She is a certified internal auditor for HACCP, Hotels and Restaurant Services, Halal and Educational Organizations Management System Certifications. Chidinma is also a Lead Auditor in ISO 9001 -QMS, ISO 14001 -EMS, ISO 45001 -OHSMS, ISO 22000 -FSMS and FSSC 22000, and has been certified as an FSMS auditor by the Kenya Bureau of Standards. Mrs. Ewuzie is a Lead Assessor for ISO/IEC 17065 and ISO/IEC 22003.

Chidinma is a National Quality Assessor for vocational and on-the-job assessment of workers and students. She is a professional member of the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology.



Jesse Osiobe
Founder & Agribusiness
Entrepreneur | Farmkart
Foods Limited

Jesse Osiobe is an agribusiness entrepreneur and the Founder of Farmkart Foods Limited, a food enterprise established in 2016 with a bold ambition to build a technology-driven,scalable food business capable of delivering affordable, high-quality protein across Africa.

Over the past decade, Jesse has built Farmkart into a growing livestock enterprise focused on aquaculture and poultry.

His work sits at the intersection of agriculture, technology, enterprise development and food security, with a particular focus on building agricultural businesses that can scale commercially.

Today, Jesse is focused on building resilient, technology-enabled food systems in Africa and demonstrating how commercially viable agricultural enterprises can contribute to food security, job creation and inclusive economic growth.





Ayoola Fatona

Global Head, Agricultural Risk Solution, Leadway Assurance Company Limited

Fatona Ayoola Paul is a seasoned expert in agricultural insurance and financial risk management, with over three decades of progressive experience in Nigeria's insurance sector especially in the area of innovating climate risk financing solutions for farmers participating in production Agriculture.

Currently serving as Global Head of Agricultural Risk Solution at Leadway Assurance Company Limited, he spearheads innovative strategies that drive agricultural solutions for climatic risks across Nigeria and West Africa. His leadership integrates underwriting, technical risk management, and business development to expand inclusive insurance access for smallholder farmers and agribusinesses.

He joined Leadway Assurance Company in 2018 and was the team lead for driving the premium revenue of the Agribusiness portfolio from \$700,000 to over \$2,800,000 in 2025 while paying claims in excess of \$8,000,000 to farmers that sustained losses during the six year period.

A pivotal contributor to national and international initiatives, and as various times serves as advisor to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Rural Development and Federal Ministry of Livestock Development on agri-risk policies and played a key role in piloting Nigeria's first Weather Index Insurance program in collaboration with the World Bank. He has also supported GIZ, global actuaries and entities like Pula Advisors, IFC, Africa Re, Swiss Re etc. to introduce various variants of index products tailored for climate-vulnerable regions.

Recognized for his analytical acumen and results-driven leadership, Ayoola combines deep sectoral insight with a proven ability to execute high-impact projects that align with donor goals and empower underserved farming communities to assist them in mitigating climate risks using bespoke index solutions. His commitment to insurance innovation and sustainable rural development makes him an invaluable asset for any agriculture-focused initiative.





Oludare Odusanya is the General Manager of BATN Foundation and a recognized thought leader in agribusiness development, youth empowerment, and sustainable food systems. He leads strategic initiatives that create economic opportunities for smallholder farmers, entrepreneurs, and young people across Nigeria while advancing innovation and sustainability in agriculture.

With extensive experience spanning agribusiness incubation, enterprise development, and multi-stakeholder partnerships, he has worked closely with government agencies, development organizations, academia, and the private sector to drive inclusive agricultural transformation. His work focuses on unlocking pathways for youth participation in agriculture, strengthening value chains, and promoting resilient rural livelihoods.

Oludare is a Fellow of the Institute of Agribusiness Management of Nigeria (IAMN), holds an MBA in Agribusiness from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), and an Executive Certificate in Agribusiness from Harvard Business School. He is passionate about shaping conversations and actions that position agriculture as a viable engine for economic growth, food security, and sustainable development across Africa.



CREATING SUSTAINABLE IMPACT IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

BATN Foundation is a non-profit organisation committed to reducing poverty and advancing sustainable development in rural communities across Nigeria.

For over two decades, the Foundation has empowered individuals and communities through capacity building, enterprise development, humanitarian interventions, youth empowerment and government collaboration, and strategic partnerships that create lasting social and economic impact.

Through its focus on sustainable livelihoods, environmental stewardship, and community development, BATN Foundation continues to build resilient communities and contribute to a more sustainable future for Nigeria.



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Olushola Obikanye
GH, Agric & Solid Minerals
Finance, Sterling Bank

Olushola Obikanye is the Group Head for Agriculture and Solid Minerals Finance at Sterling Bank Ltd. He has over two decades in roles spanning agricultural finance product development, corporate strategy, financial analysis, credit administration and project management, among other roles in banking.

He has been involved in several agricultural business projects, ensuring quality and scheduled delivery of mandates within the triple constraints of time, cost, and scope to meet the clients' needs. In Advocacy, he has been involved with youth and women in areas of Talent Discoveries; Inspiring and driving them towards achieving purpose and pursuing their dreams with a commendable success rate. He's an exceptional manager of men and resources.

Olushola is a Fellow of the Institute of Credit Administration (ICA), a member of the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) and the Animal Science Association of Nigeria (ASAN), He is also an Honorary Senior Member of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN).

He holds a degree in Agriculture from the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, post graduate degrees in Credit Management from the London Postgraduate Credit Management College, UK and a doctorate and MBA in Credit Management from the International University, Panama.



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Transformation of Agri-Food Systems (TAFS) is one of the five core areas of German-Nigerian cooperation in Nigeria.



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Mohammed Aliyu
Senior Country Officer for
Nigeria, IFC

Mohammed Aliyu is Senior Country Officer for Nigeria at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group. Based in Nigeria, he plays a central role in IFC’s country engagement, working with government, private sector clients, development partners, and World Bank Group teams to identify investment opportunities, address constraints to private sector growth, and advance strategic initiatives aligned with Nigeria’s development priorities.

His work spans infrastructure, financial markets, agribusiness, manufacturing, healthcare, and other sectors with strong potential for private investment and job creation. He has been closely involved in IFC engagements on local currency financing, public-private partnerships, infrastructure concessions, asset monetization, capital mobilization, and investment climate reforms. His responsibilities include originating and developing new business, managing senior government and client relationships, coordinating across IFC investment and advisory teams, and supporting the structuring and advancement of complex transactions. He also works with IFC’s Corporate Finance and PPP Advisory business, with a particular focus on transport, infrastructure, and government-led PPP programs.

Mohammed began his World Bank Group career in 2009, working with the World Bank on transport infrastructure and programs in conflict-affected parts of Nigeria. His broader career has included roles in government reform, infrastructure development, privatization, and public-private partnerships across the public, private, and international development sectors. Before and outside his World Bank Group experience, he worked on governance and economic reform programs supported by the UK government, Nigeria’s privatization and public enterprise reform program, and infrastructure investment and development in the private sector.

Across these roles, Mohammed has developed experience at the intersection of public policy, infrastructure finance, private investment, and government engagement. His work has focused particularly on translating government priorities into commercially viable opportunities for private capital while navigating the institutional, regulatory, and financing constraints that often determine whether major investments can proceed.





Mohammed Aliyu
Senior Country Officer for
Nigeria, IFC

Dr. Rufus Idris is the Nigerian Country Director for AGRA, an African institution supporting inclusive agricultural transformation and sustainable food system, through supporting catalytic and transformational interventions in policy and state capability, seed systems, sustainable farming, inclusive market, trade, and finance, inclusion of women and youth, nutrition, climate adaption and resilience.

Before joining AGRA, Rufus was Heifer International's Country Director in Nigeria, where he led Heifer's mission to end hunger and poverty, through innovative signature programs and public-private partnerships that increased the inclusion of youth and women in emerging agricultural opportunities and integration of innovation and technology as accelerators for addressing Nigeria's poverty, food insecurity, and climate change challenges.

Prior to joining Heifer International, he had served in various leadership capacities such as Executive Director, Chief/Deputy Chief of Party, Program Director, Program Portfolio Manager, and as Technical Advisor to a State Governor in Nigeria. He was the Deputy Chief of Party and Acting Chief of Party for the USAID Feed the Future Nigeria Agribusiness Investment Activity, a five-year program aimed at strengthening the enabling environment for agribusiness finance and investment in Nigeria. He was the Program Director for the UK Department for International Development funded program "Promoting Learning in Agribusiness using New Technologies (PLANT)" where he led TechnoServe's collaboration with FCDO and the British Council, to develop a more competitive agriculture sector in Nigeria by increasing innovation and uptake of technology within the sector.

Also, he was the Portfolio Manager for a DFID – DAI Market Development Program in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, during which he facilitated economic opportunities in aspirational sectors such as agribusiness, ICT, renewable energy, and entertainment that led to dignified work and living incomes for young return migrants, potential victims of human trafficking and vulnerable households.

Rufus holds a Master of Science in Community Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University (Manchester, NH), Executive Education in Performance Measurement for Effective Management of Non-profit Organizations from Harvard University (Cambridge, MA), Bachelor's degree in Biology from La Roche University (Pittsburgh, PA), a Diploma in Fisheries Technology from Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology (Lagos, Nigeria), and a Certificate in Innovation Ecosystem in Africa from the Lagos Business School (Lagos, Nigeria). He is a Platinum Fellow and a Lifetime Member of the International Institute of Leadership, Manpower and Management Development (United Kingdom), with a Doctorate of Transformational Leadership, Administration, and Development.





Dr. Ndidi Nwuneli

Founder, LEAP Africa, African Food Changemakers and Co-Founder, Sahel Consulting, and AACE Foods

Dr. Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli is an entrepreneur, business leader, and author with three decades of experience in international development, consumer goods, food systems, strategic consulting, and philanthropy.

She has worked extensively across Africa, driving business growth, shaping policies, and galvanizing the next generation of leaders through her roles as founder of LEAP Africa and African Food Changemakers and Co-Founder of Sahel Consulting, AACE Foods, and Wealth4Impact. Ndidi recently served as the President/CEO of ONE, overseeing teams in the United States, Germany, France, Belgium, the UK, Canada, the Nordics, South Africa, Nigeria, and Senegal, and galvanizing billions in investment to ensure healthier lives and economic opportunities in Africa.

She started her career as a management consultant with McKinsey & Company's Chicago office, serving global fast-moving consumer goods companies in North America.

Ndidi serves on the boards of the Rockefeller Foundation, Fondation Chanel, Stanbic IBTC Group, the ONE Campaign, and the Bridgespan Group. She previously served on the Boards of Godrej Consumer Products India, Nestle Nigeria Plc, Nigerian Breweries (Heineken) Plc, the African Philanthropy Forum, the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Helios-Fairfax Africa, and Cornerstone Insurance.

Ndidi holds an M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School, an undergraduate degree with honors from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and a PhD from the Graduate School of Business at the University of Cape Town. She was a Senior Fellow at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business & Government at the Harvard Kennedy School, a visiting Scholar at Max Bell School of Public Policy at McGill University, an Aspen Institute New Voices Fellow, and an Eisenhower Fellow.

Ndidi is a TED speaker, was recognized as a Schwab Fellow and a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum and has received numerous awards and recognitions, including a National Honour by the Nigerian Government and the Harvard Business School Distinguished Alumni Award. She is the author of "Social Innovation in Africa: A Practical Guide for Scaling Impact," and "Food Entrepreneurs in Africa: Scaling Resilient Agriculture Businesses," both published by Routledge, "Walking for God in the Marketplace," and contributed a chapter to For the World's Profit: How Business Can Support Sustainable Development by the Brookings Institute.





Massimo De Luca
Head of Partnerships,
European Union Delegation
to Nigeria and ECOWAS

Massimo De Luca took up the role of Head of Partnerships at the European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS in February 2024. He previously served as Head of Trade and Economics in Costa Rica, South Africa and Nigeria. Prior to such postings, he spent the initial years of his employment at the EU Commission in the Directorate General for Competition.

Massimo is a powerful force in the workplace and uses his positive attitude and tireless energy to encourage others to work hard and succeed. Key areas of professional practice include value chains regulation and development, public procurement and PPPs as well as business environment analysis."

IDH unlocks the full potential of agricultural markets to address complex social and environmental challenges. Drawing on nearly two decades of trusted experience, we turn market insight and practical expertise into solutions anchored in sourcing practices, partnerships and investment decisions. We help build systems that endure beyond our contribution, resulting in value chains that generate shared value for all.

How IDH is Transforming Markets



Cassava

Since 2017, IDH has played a leading role in advancing Nigeria's cassava sector through strategic partnerships and market-driven interventions. Together with Nestlé Nigeria Plc, IDH supported the production of High-Quality Cassava Flour (HQCF) to meet international quality standards, promoted block farming, and facilitated the establishment of the Industrial Cassava Stakeholders Association of Nigeria (INSCAN) to advance sector coordination and advocacy. Building on this foundation, IDH partnered with the Mastercard Foundation through the Women in Sourcing and Enterprise (WISE) programme to empower young women and youth to participate in cassava production and processing, creating sustainable livelihoods and employment opportunities.



Grains

Driven by the challenges of food system-induced deforestation, the Transforming Food Systems through Sustainable Land Management programme supports the development of the grains value chain while generating insights on how to transform African food systems. The programme aims to meet national and regional food demand, improve smallholder livelihoods, reduce environmental degradation, and promote agroforestry practices that build resilient agricultural landscapes and contribute to climate change mitigation.



Oil palm landscape

The NISCOPS programme advances the transition to a deforestation-free and more productive oil palm sector in Nigeria by improving smallholder productivity, strengthening forest landscape governance, and promoting inclusive economic growth. Through the Protection, Protection and Inclusion PPI Compact and the NISCOPS Nigeria Forum, the programme brings together public and private sector actors, local communities, and industry stakeholders to promote sustainable land use, support inclusive business models, and create lasting economic opportunities for smallholder farmers.



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"The progress being made through IDH support to SMEs and stronger market systems shows how practical partnerships can contribute to Nigeria's agricultural transformation. It is encouraging to see the innovation and determination of local businesses driving that change."

Michel Deelen,
Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Lagos

IDH Nigeria

The IDH Nigeria office is based in Lagos, Ikeja, 5th Floor, Haven Tower, 770 Obafemi Awolowo Way,
Find out more on www.idh.org/contact/nigeria



Dr. Joshua Zira

Head, Agribusiness Partnerships and Advocacy (North), Sterling Bank Ltd

Dr. Joshua Zira is a distinguished agribusiness finance and development expert with over 20 years of cross-sector experience in banking, agricultural transformation, financial inclusion, export finance, strategic partnerships, and policy advisory across the globe. He currently serves as Regional Head of Agribusiness, Partnerships, Advocacy, Financial Inclusion, Strategy, and Solid Minerals at Sterling Bank Plc, where he leads high-level engagements focused on inclusive rural finance, agriculture value chain development, and sustainable economic growth.

Over his career, Dr. Zira has championed innovative financing solutions for smallholder farmers, agribusinesses, and rural enterprises, while strengthening collaborations with international development institutions and multilaterals, including FAO, USAID, AfDB, Afreximbank, GIZ, ECOWAS, IFDC, DFCD, UKAID, amongst others. . He has contributed to key national policy and financing frameworks, and agricultural risk-sharing initiatives in partnership with other stakeholders.

Dr. Zira is a renown speaker within and outside Nigeria, he is widely recognized for his expertise in agribusiness finance, development strategy, stakeholder engagement, and financial inclusion. He also serves as a Committee Member of the Nigeria Feed and Fodder Multistakeholder Platform (NFF-MSP), providing technical leadership on agribusiness financing and sustainable food systems development.



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Michael Akinsete
Co-founder/Chief Marketing
Officer, Ecotutu

Michael Akinsete is a food systems entrepreneur, strategist and Co-founder/Chief Marketing Officer of Ecotutu, a Nigerian clean tech company building sustainable cold-chain infrastructure to reduce post-harvest losses and improve market access across Africa.

His work sits at the intersection of food systems, infrastructure, climate innovation and enterprise development, with a particular focus on solving the critical gaps between agricultural production and consumption. Through Ecotutu, Michael has helped advance solar-powered cold storage, cold logistics and Cooling-as-a-Service solutions that enable farmers, traders and food businesses to preserve more of what they produce, extend shelf life and improve incomes.

Beyond Ecotutu, Michael is an active voice in Africa's food systems ecosystem, advocating for a shift from viewing food security primarily as a production challenge to building the infrastructure, markets, financing and supply chains required to move food efficiently from farm to consumer.

He has represented this work across leading African and global platforms, including the Africa Food Systems Forum, One Young World, the Nigeria Food Summit and other industry and policy forums.

Michael is a UNLEASH Fellow, One Young World Enterprising Futures Scholar and recipient of the Netherlands Consulate Agropreneur of the Year recognition. Through his public platform, The Food Systems Guy, he also translates complex food-system challenges, policies and opportunities into accessible conversations designed to inspire action across Africa's agricultural ecosystem.



Ojuolape Kolawole
Technical Advisor,
GIZ Nigeria and ECOWAS
(AgFin Project)

Ojuolape is a Financial Sector and Development Professional with over 10 years of experience across banking and international development. Her expertise spans Risk Management, Customer Relationship Management, Agricultural Finance, Product Development, and Inclusive Finance.

She brings over four years of experience as a Technical Advisor with GIZ Nigeria & ECOWAS (AgFin Project), where she supported financial institutions, strengthened institutional capacity, and coordinated interventions across South-West Nigeria.

She has worked extensively with public institutions/agencies, financial institutions, development partners, SMEs, and private-sector stakeholders to improve access to finance and create more inclusive economic opportunities, particularly for women, young people, and underserved groups to access appropriate financing and loan products.

She brings a blend of banking and development-sector expertise to today's panel discussion.





**Marie-José
Neveu-Tafforeau**

Agribusiness Development
Adviser, Federal Ministry
of Industry, Trade and
Investment (FMITI)
Expertise France - French
Ministry for Europe and
Foreign Affairs (MEAE)

Marie-José Neveu-Tafforeau is an Agro-Food Advisor with over 30 years of experience supporting agribusiness development across Africa and Europe, specializing in market access, regulatory compliance, and access to funding.

Since 2026, she has served as International Technical Expert in Agribusiness at Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, embedded through Expertise France and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE), where she supports trade development between Nigeria and France, and strengthens bilateral agribusiness cooperation.

She has previously led major EU- and donor-funded programs mainly across West and Southern Africa — including CBI's program on dates in Algeria focused on climate change resilience, GIZ's Green Innovation initiative, the Alliance for Quality Products in Africa, Enabel's inclusive finance program DEFIA, and COLEAD's program in Africa — helping hundreds of farmers and agribusinesses gain access to markets, certifications, compliance with European regulations on food safety, social standards and sustainability, and financing. Drawing on prior experience as an agricultural journalist, she combines field expertise with program management and communication skills to advance sustainable, inclusive agribusiness across the African continent.

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Arzikin Noma Africa

...wealth of agriculture



Profile

Africa's agricultural landscape is transforming, and Arzikin Noma Africa is committed to driving this change by empowering smallholder farmers with the tools, knowledge, technology, and market access they need to thrive. With operations across 12+ states in Nigeria and an expanding presence in East Africa, including Kenya, Arzikin Noma Africa has built a network of 400,000+ smallholder farmers, with a target of reaching 1 million farmers by 2030. Our agricultural footprint spans 782,000+ hectares, supporting the production of key commodities including maize, soybeans, paddy rice, millet, sesame, sorghum, and cowpea. Beyond production, we strengthen agricultural value chains through climate-smart and regenerative agriculture, post-harvest loss reduction, warehousing, processing, market access, and data-driven farming solutions. With 500+ community-based warehouses, we help farmers improve storage, preserve produce quality, and reduce post-harvest losses. Our commitment also extends to Africa's next generation, with 53,000+ young people reached through agribusiness training, employment, and skills development.

Recent Strategic Partnerships and Activities

Arzikin Noma Africa continues to expand its impact through strategic partnerships with government institutions, development organisations, and private-sector stakeholders.

National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA)
Through the Renewed Hope Mega Farm Estate (RHMFE) Initiative, Arzikin Noma Africa is working within a public-private partnership framework spanning all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory. The initiative has an ambitious agricultural development target of 10 million hectares, positioning the partnership as a major intervention for expanding agricultural production, and creating economic opportunities across Nigeria.

Bank of Agriculture (BOA)

Arzikin Noma Africa partnered with the Bank of Agriculture to support the implementation of agricultural input distribution under the Renewed Hope Programme. The initiative is designed to support 2 million farmers through improved access to essential agricultural inputs, including the deployment of over 10 million bags of fertiliser. The programme also prioritises inclusion, with one-third of the targeted beneficiaries being women farmers.

IDH - Southwest Sorghum & Soybean Project

In partnership with IDH and Olam Agri, Arzikin Noma Africa is implementing the Southwest Sorghum & Soybean Project in Kwara State, supporting approximately 5,000 farmers. The project focuses on strengthening the sorghum and soybean value chains through improved production practices, farmer capacity building, aggregation, and stronger market linkages.



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To empower farmers to sustainably produce quality grains to source from them process and supply premium grains that meets global standards. Our commitment to quality, sustainability and community empowerment drives every aspect of our business.

VISION

To be the leading agribusiness that fosters prosperity for farmers, supplies premium grains and champions sustainable agriculture in Africa.

CONTACT US

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Arzikin Noma Africa

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SUCCESS STORIES

Customer Testimonial



Hajiya Fatima Ahmed

Nassarawa Farmer



Farming is my livelihood, but now it feels like a real business. With the support I received from Arzikin Noma, I've been able to increase my harvest. Today, I can make more decisions for myself and support my family better.

Customer Testimonial



Zulaihat Nasiru

Kaduna Farmer



Before working with Arzikin Noma, I was getting about 20 bags because of limited access to quality inputs and support. But in the last two seasons, I harvested over 50 bags each season. I'm grateful for the support.



Get in Touch

Join hands with us in our journey to elevate Agriculture to excellence. Whether you are a farmer looking for support, an off-taker seeking dependable grain supplies, or someone passionate about sustainable Agriculture, Arzikin Noma welcomes you to connect with us.

Addresses

- East Africa Regional Office: Gongo Ler, House 87, 330 Hat her u Road, Lavington Estate Nairobi Kenya
- West Africa Sub Regional Office: No. 15 Sokoto Road, bako Zuntu Building Kwangila Zaria Kaduna State, Nigeria.
- West Africa Sub Regional Office 2: 29, Yakubu Ahmed Avenue, Suleiman Crescent, Nasaraawa GRA, Kano State, Nigeria.



John Akoji

Country Director (Nigeria),
SNV Netherlands
Development Organization

Akoji John is a senior development and strategic partnerships leader working at the intersection of youth employment, enterprise development, entrepreneurship, and inclusive economic growth across Africa.

He brings extensive experience in designing and delivering high-impact programs that strengthen economic ecosystems, create jobs, and support the growth of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Over the years, he has built a strong track record in mobilizing resources and convening multi-stakeholder partnerships across government, development agencies, the private sector, and civil society to drive scalable and sustainable impact.

His work is grounded in a deep commitment to systems strengthening, particularly in areas such as skills development, job creation, enterprise support, and social innovation. He has worked with leading global and regional organizations including P&G, Sun King, Bopinc, Sightsavers, TechnoServe, and Innovate UK.

Beyond his professional practice, Akoji is a passionate entrepreneur and ecosystem builder. He sits on the board of numerous organizations like SOI Foundation, TULEFED Foods and Beverages, International Education Management Agency (IEMA), UK, and the Nigeria Circular Fashion Network (NCFN).

Akoji's work is driven by a strong belief in the power of partnerships, innovation, and locally led solutions to transform development outcomes. He remains deeply committed to building systems that unlock opportunity, scale impact, and enable young people and enterprises to thrive across Africa.

He currently sits as the Nigeria Country Director at SNV Netherlands Development Organization. Leading inclusive and sustainable interventions across Energy, Agri Food and Water.





Oame Airauhi
Group Head, Transaction
Banking, Sterling Bank

Oame David Airauhi is the Group Head, Transaction Banking at Sterling Bank Limited, where he oversees the Transaction Banking Business with a focus on Trade Finance (covering import and export) and Cash Management.

He can be described as a dedicated transaction banking professional with 21+ years of experience working in the financial services industry in Nigeria. With a strong background in Trade, and job roles ranging from international operations to trade finance, product management and sales. His career has also included business development functions, facilitation of trade finance sales, implementing working capital solutions and export facilitation.

He is a thoroughbred professional with a knack for leading cross functional deal teams to collaborate and achieve desired outcomes. He has participated in various capacities at trade events organized in and outside Nigeria. He has moderated/served as lead discussant at many sessions focused on Supply Chain Finance challenges for corporate clients, working capital initiatives and Structured Trade Finance initiatives.

He is known to be quite passionate about the facilitation of intra-African trade and is very involved with international Working Groups focused on Solving the African MSME Trade Finance Gap by developing bespoke Trade Finance and Working Capital products for Africa.

He is a sports enthusiast with keen interest in Geopolitics, public speaking and commentary.

Oame holds an MBA in marketing, a B.Sc. in Biochemistry and Trade Finance certifications from the London Institute of banking and Finance.





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Kola Awe

Chairman, Export Group of
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- With 20 years' experience, specifically in the export trade sector spanning and traversing the entire value chain of export of agro-commodities, manufactured products and regional logistics in West Africa and beyond.
- Established the novel platform of the trade house concept in Ghana and Liberia in 2006, a concept that has made it possible for Nigerian Manufacturing companies to penetrate the sub- region with their products.
- Established the model Export Warehouse in Lome, Togo for the ease of movement, exhibition and warehousing of Nigerian made goods to the Franco phone countries in West Africa.
- Established the first Customs Licenced and recognized cargo clearance company that can cross the border with containers at ease.
- Innovated the idea of bonded warehousing for Manufacturers Association of Nigeria through which the Nigerian government set up the concept of bonded warehouses in Lagos.
- Set up the first export trade training facility in Nigeria for cross border traders in the South West of Nigeria using the Seme and Idiroko corridor axis.
- Evolved the concept of border management through the Federal Ministry of Finance and Trade/Investment.
- Introduced the cost-sharing mechanism commonly referred to as group age system where local smallholder businesses pull their goods together for import or export into one container with one name after an MOU and the goods are moved as a single consignment to the destination thereby reducing the costs for small businesses.





Kola Awe

Chairman, Export Group of Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines & Agriculture (NACCIMA)

Dr. Janett-Star Erastus is a Chief Veterinarian in the Directorate of Veterinary Services which is the Competent Authority for Animal Health in the Republic of Namibia, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform.

I head the subdivision responsible for the administration and management of Namibia's Livestock Identification and Traceability System (NamLITS), veterinary medicines regulation, and veterinary advisory services. My work centres on strengthening animal health governance and livestock traceability to unlock market access and support sustainable growth in Namibia's livestock sector, a sector that underpins the livelihoods of many rural women and youth.

As part of this role, I lead awareness and training campaigns for farmers, including youth and women on livestock traceability, and animal health best practices — helping build the knowledge base needed for inclusive participation in livestock markets.

I have eight years of experience as a veterinarian and hold a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Zambia. My professional interests lie in digital innovation in agriculture — particularly how digital tools for traceability and animal health can improve market access for smallholder and emerging producers — alongside evidence-based policymaking that puts data and science behind inclusive agricultural development.



Oyindamola Egbeyemi

Director of Programmes and Coordination, Lagos State Employment Trust Fund

Oyindamola Egbeyemi is the Director of Programmes and Coordination of the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund, where she oversees the implementation and management of financial and non-financial interventions.

She holds a Masters Degree in Chemical Engineering from Imperial College, London and is a graduate of the Owner-Manager Programme of Lagos Business School (OMP 31). She has a background in education administration and consulting from her previous places of work, The Foreshore School, Ikoyi and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) respectively. At PwC, she worked in the Strategy and Operations unit, engaging with clients including the Cross River and Lagos State Governments as a member of their Governors' strategic teams.

Oyindamola's personal interest in volunteer work led her to earn the Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award from Toastmasters International, where she was a former Area Director of the Toastmasters West African Council (District 94).

Under the Lagos State Ministry of Education, she volunteered for the 2018 round of the Ready-Set-Work initiative and has been a member of the Nomination Committee of the Lagos State Teachers' Merit Award since 2020.





Idayat Adeola Mudashir

Deputy Director with the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)

Idayat Adeola Mudashir is a Deputy Director with the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Ministry of Health, Nigeria. She currently serves as Head of the Pesticide and Agrochemical Division under the Veterinary Medicines and Allied Products Directorate, where she leads regulatory oversight of pesticide and agrochemical manufacture, importation, distribution, and use.

With over two decades of experience in regulatory affairs, she has extensive expertise in pesticide regulation, veterinary medicines, food safety, and public health protection. She has played a key role in strengthening regulatory systems and advancing science-based approaches to the safe management of pesticides, veterinary medicines, and other regulated agricultural products.

Her experience in pesticide regulation includes registration and regulatory oversight, risk-based inspection and compliance, pesticide safety, monitoring and surveillance, and the management of highly hazardous pesticides. She has also participated in international regulatory engagements, including Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) meetings, contributing to discussions on pesticide residues and food safety standards.

She has received professional training in Nigeria and internationally, equipping her with strong technical and leadership expertise in pesticide regulation, food safety, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and sustainable agriculture.

She is passionate about strengthening collaboration among regulators, industry, farmers, and other stakeholders to promote the responsible use of pesticides, safe food production, environmental protection, and sustainable agricultural development.



Femi Adekoya

Founder/Managing Director, Integrated Aerial Precision

Femi Adekoya, popularly known as The Flying Farmer, is a Nigerian agritech entrepreneur, precision agriculture specialist and digital agriculture advocate. He is the Founder and Managing Director of Integrated Aerial Precision (IAPrecision), an agricultural technology company deploying drones, remote sensing, geospatial intelligence and data-driven solutions to improve farm productivity, resource efficiency and decision-making across Africa.

He is also the lead the vision at the Precision Field Academy, a capacity-building platform developing the next generation of digitally skilled agricultural professionals in areas such as drone technology, precision agriculture, remote sensing and digital farming.

Femi works at the intersection of agriculture, technology, data and innovation, with a strong focus on translating emerging technologies into practical solutions for farmers and agribusinesses. He is also the Nigeria Country Representative of the International Society of Precision Agriculture (ISPA) and regularly contributes to conversations on digital agriculture, youth innovation and the future of African food systems.







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