AGRICULTURE SUMMIT AFRICA '26

NINTH EDITION



AGRICULTURE SUMMIT AFRICA '26

Convened by Sterling Bank Plc and co-convened with Sunbeth Global Concepts

15-16 SEPT 2026

CONGRESS HALL, TRANSCORP HILTON, ABUJA

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

Sterling | Sunbeth Global Concepts

CONVENER

Sterling | Sunbeth Global Concepts

PARTNERS

IFC International Finance Corporation WORLD BANK GROUP
SARO Saroafrica International Ltd
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mastercard.
Farm Junction
farmkart
nadf National Agricultural Development Fund
ecotutu ...enabling growth
YAPU Smart finance. People first.
agrify
AFEX
SARO AGROSCIENCES
thrive agric
DBN Development Bank of Nigeria
JR farms
LSETF LAGOS STATE EMPLOYMENT TRUST FUND
LAGOS STATE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS
The Nigeria Agribusiness Register INVESTMENT INTELLIGENCE YOU CAN TRUST
CDI COMMODITIES DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
EU-NIGERIA Agribusiness Platform
wholeeats
MBN
Muazu FOR RURAL & UNDERSERVED
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT
AgroInfoTech Digital Technologies for Agrifood Development
IntegratedAerial Precision
BANK OF INDUSTRY ...transforming Nigeria's industrial sector

EXECUTIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Summit Outcomes at a Glance

$380M+

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES SECURED

Secured through the Deal Room, surpassing its initial $300 million target.

₦538M

MOBILISED CO-FINANCING POOL

Supporting the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones across seven states and the Federal Capital Territory.

12,000+

Physical and virtual participants

~100

Nearly 100 structured Deal Room matchmaking sessions

500,000+

Farmers reached through 24 Farmer Aggregation Companies

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

Co-convened with Sunbeth Global Concepts, the summit attracted more than 12,000 physical and virtual participants. Its Deal Room facilitated nearly 100 structured matchmaking sessions between agricultural businesses, investors and financial institutions, securing over $380 million in investment opportunities and surpassing its initial $300 million target.

The participants — drawn from government, development finance institutions, commercial banks, regulators, insurers, development partners and private agribusiness, meeting under the theme of African food power:

01 SECTION 1 OF 8

The Summit and Its Outcomes

1 Recognised that Africa holds 60% of the world's remaining uncultivated arable land yet imports more than $100 billion of food a year, and agreed that the continent's agricultural constraint is no longer primarily one of production or capital availability, but of conversion, coordination and risk allocation;

02 SECTION 2 OF 8
Food Sovereignty and Agro-industrialisation:

2 Welcomed the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones programme, backed by a mobilised $538 million co-financing pool across seven states and the Federal Capital Territory, and endorsed the policy shift from raw-commodity export toward local processing, including Sunbeth Global Concepts' 70,000-tonne cocoa and 80,000-tonne cashew processing plants due to open in 2027;

3 Welcomed the proposed National Livestock Finance Architecture built on patient capital, single-digit rates and longer tenors, and supported the move from live-cattle haulage to feedlots, abattoirs and cold chain as a route to substituting $1.5 billion of annual dairy imports;

4 Called for urgent investment in storage and strategic reserves, noting that Nigeria produces 10 to 12 million tonnes of maize a year against roughly 1.2 million tonnes of aggregate storage capacity;

03 SECTION 3 OF 8
Trade

5 Noted that non-tariff friction, rather than tariffs, sets the ceiling on intra-African agricultural trade, and called upon the ECOWAS Commission, the Nigeria Customs Service and border agencies to pilot Green Corridors and One-Stop Border Posts on the Lagos–Abidjan corridor, and upon the Federal Government to deploy a single-window e-certification platform across NAFDAC, SON and NAQS;

6 Welcomed the adoption of mandatory HACCP certification across the agro-processing and food export value chain on 8 September 2026 and the award of the ARSO Continental Mark to 220 Nigerian products, and called for Mutual Recognition Agreements with ECOWAS destination markets;

04 SECTION 4 OF 8
Capital and Risk-sharing:

7 Affirmed that risk allocation, not capital volume, is the binding constraint, welcomed the Bank of Agriculture's financing of 24 Farmer Aggregation Companies reaching more than 500,000 farmers and the IFC–Sterling Bank risk-sharing facility, and called upon the Federal Government to deploy future intervention funds equally between agro-processors and verified farmer associations;

8 Called upon the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Ministries of Finance, Agriculture and Trade to synchronise monetary and agricultural policy to lower food inflation and de-risk primary production;

05 SECTION 5 OF 8 Climate Risk, Technology and Data:

9 Called for mandated climate-risk disclosure, standardised green taxonomies and affordable risk-transfer products for smallholders, recognising agricultural insurance as financing infrastructure rather than an afterthought;

10 Welcomed the National Agricultural Data Management Information System being built by AGRA and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security for Nigeria's 34 million smallholders, called for its integration with national identity and bank verification systems, and welcomed the launch of Sterling Bank's AgricHub ecosystem finance platform;

06 SECTION 6 OF 8 Youth, Women, Inclusion and Fragile Environments:

11 Called upon state and federal legislatures to reform customary land tenure systems that deny women collateral, and upon regulators to adopt unified digital farmer registries that allow data-driven credit scoring in place of land collateral;

12 Recognised that more than 25 million people across fragile African contexts, including 4 million in Nigeria, are excluded from conventional investment models, and called for blended finance and risk-sharing facilities embedded in national agricultural strategy;

07 SECTION 7 OF 8 The Deal Room and Implementation:

13 Welcomed that more than 200 businesses expressed interest, 99 were profiled for investors and at least 40 pitched before an investor jury of ten institutions, with engagements continuing beyond the room, and endorsed the Nigeria Agribusiness Register's 180-day post-Deal Room follow-up programme and monthly reporting;

14 Adopted a post-summit accountability framework under which every viable Deal Room opportunity receives a formal execution pathway within 30 days, pledged capital istracked to deployment, progress is reported at 30, 90 and 180 days, and a full audited account is presented at the tenth-anniversary edition in 2027, and accepted the "Rule of Five" challenge to every delegate;

ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK · RESOLUTION 14

30 DAYS
Every viable Deal Room opportunity receives a formal execution pathway

90 DAYS
Progress is reported

180 DAYS
Progress is reported

180 DAYS
A full audited account is presented at the tenth-anniversary edition

08 SECTION 8 OF 8 Appreciation and the Next Summit

15 Expressed appreciation to Sterling Bank as convener and Sunbeth Global Concepts as co-convener; to the International Finance Corporation as Diamond sponsor; to Saro Agro-Allied, Alternative Bank and Sterling One Foundation as Gold sponsors; to Arila Group, GIZ, Propcom+, IDH, Noor Takaful and Arzikin Noma Africa as Silver sponsors; and to the fifteen Bronze sponsors and twelve technical partners, including the Nigeria Agribusiness Register, whose support made the summit and its Deal Room possible;

16 Agreed to reconvene at the tenth-anniversary edition of Agriculture Summit Africa in 2027 to review delivery against the commitments made in Abuja.