

SAHEL
FOOD SYSTEMS
CHANGEMAKERS
CONFERENCE



SAHEL FOOD SYSTEMS CHANGEMAKERS CONFERENCE 2023

RETHINKING FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN THE
FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

COMMUNIQUE

DECISIONS AND COMMITMENTS FROM THE SAHEL FOOD SYSTEMS
CHANGEMAKERS CONFERENCE

HOSTED BY

SAHEL CONSULTING AGRICULTURE & NUTRITION LIMITED



BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation



Federal Ministry of Agriculture
and Food Security



syngenta foundation
Nigeria





CROSS SECTION OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE 2023 SAHEL FOOD SYSTEMS CHANGEMAKERS' CONFERENCE

PREAMBLE

The 2023 Sahel Food System Changemakers' Conference took place at the NAF Conference Centre & Suites in Abuja, Nigeria, on October 12, 2023. The Honourable Minister of Budget and Economic Planning Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu delivered the ministerial address at the hybrid event which brought together over 500 delegates among which were 12 heads of international donor organizations, representatives from 5 Ministries, numerous researchers, civil society organizations, commodity associations, Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs), and private agribusiness companies. To promote diversity and inclusion, we ensured the active participation of farmers and farmers' associations, as well as youth and women, who accounted for 40% of the speakers.

The conference encompassed 6 distinct sessions, comprising a presentation on the State of the Nigerian Food and Nutrition landscape, a fireside chat, an innovation panel, seven breakout sessions, and a plenary session. We hosted over 26 speakers who shared their expertise and insights. In addition, delegates had the opportunity to engage with 17 exhibitors who showcased made-in-Nigeria food products and services. The event garnered media attention, with 9 national and local media organizations represented by agricultural correspondents.

The conference had a clear focus on fostering urgent public-private partnerships to identify and address gaps and challenges that hinder the transformation of Nigeria's food system. With its theme, participants were prompted to deeply reflect upon the impact of climate change on food

and nutrition security and explore targeted solutions to mitigate its effects.

Additionally, the convening served as a platform to reflect on the accomplishments of the previous year's conference, which focused on a roadmap to tackle Nigeria's pressing food crisis. Building upon these foundations, delegates were well aware that the essence of this year's conference was to catalyze the activation of public-private partnerships.

OUTCOMES

The event facilitated meaningful discussions and collaborations among key actors, including government representatives, researchers, civil society organizations, and private sector entities. Through these interactions, participants were able to collectively explore innovative strategies and solutions to enhance food security, nutrition, and sustainability in Nigeria.

The conference emphasized the imperative of fostering synergy among diverse stakeholders to yield impactful outcomes, thereby strengthening Nigeria's position and influence in effectively addressing the pressing challenges in the sector.

Key solutions proffered to accelerate climate-smart agriculture, access to financing, and adoption of strategic policies include:

- **Implementing Climate-Resilient Agricultural Practices:** Participants emphasized the need to promote sustainable farming techniques that are resilient to climate change, such as agroforestry, conservation agriculture, and precision farming.

These practices can help enhance productivity, conserve natural resources, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Strengthening Financial Mechanisms:** Delegates highlighted the importance of developing and expanding financial instruments tailored to the needs of smallholder farmers and agribusinesses. This includes reducing barriers to accessing credit, promoting insurance products, and innovative financing models that incentivize investments in climate-smart agriculture.
- **Promoting Enabling Policy Environment:** The conference stressed the significance of implementing inclusive and sustainable policies and regulations that encourage the adoption of climate-smart practices. This includes frameworks that incentivizes the use of renewable energy in agriculture, facilitate cross-sectoral

collaboration, and integrate climate change considerations into agricultural interventions.

- **Enhancing Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing:** Participants emphasized the importance of training and knowledge dissemination for farmers, extension workers, and other stakeholders in adopting new technologies, and access to relevant information and resources.
- **Driving Multi-stakeholder partnerships:** The conference highlighted the need to foster collaboration among governments, private sector entities, research institutions, and civil society organizations. By working together, these stakeholders can leverage their unique strengths and resources to drive the adoption and scaling up of climate-smart agricultural initiatives.



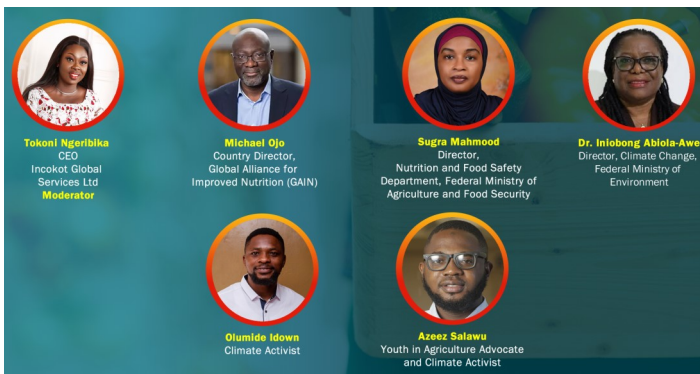
Honourable Minister of Budget and Economic Planning, Sen. Abubakar Atiku Bagudu at SCC 2023 Delivering His Ministerial Address



FAO Representative ad interim in Nigeria, Mr Dominique Koffy Kouacou at SCC 2023 Giving His Presentation

TRANSFORMING NIGERIA'S FOOD & NUTRITION SYSTEMS – COMMITMENTS FROM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

NUTRITION & CLIMATE: IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON AVAILABILITY AND DIVERSITY OF NUTRITIOUS FOOD



Facilitator – Tokoni Ngeribika (Climate Action Advocate)

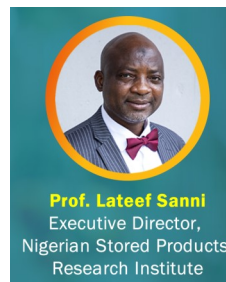
The session focused on deepening the understanding of the multi-faceted impacts of climate change on food systems, agricultural practices, and nutrition outcomes.

Commitments

- Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) will collaborate with the Department of Nutrition and Food Security of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS) to sensitize stakeholders and promote nationwide adoption of the Sub-National Food System Dashboard as a tool for evidence-based policymaking.
- Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition to partner with NiMET (Nigerian Meteorological Agency) in designing a solution to enhance access to hyperlocal weather and climate information for its network of food system actors across the country.
- The Department of Climate Change, Federal Ministry of

Environment to collaborate with the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning via the office of the UN Food Systems convenor to co-ordinate awareness campaigns on the effects of climate change on farming communities and mitigation strategies.

- The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security will collaborate with indigenous companies to ensure the procurement and promotion of made-in-Nigeria solar-powered equipment, such as irrigation pumps, among Small and Medium Enterprises to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



BUILDING A RESILIENT SUPPLY CHAIN BY IMPROVING FOOD STORAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Facilitator: Prof. Sanni Lateef (Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute)

The session had a specific focus on understanding the consequences of food wastage and spoilage, particularly in terms of its impact on economic productivity, greenhouse gas emissions, and food security.

Commitments

- The Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute (NSPRI) will partner with Sahel Consulting, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

(FMAFS) to coordinate the documentation of storage infrastructures in Nigeria. This will help identify and promote the most appropriate storage innovations for different commodities in Nigeria. Following the conference, information collation has already started on the onion value chain in partnership with the National Association of Onion Producers.

- Sahel Consulting to partner with the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), AGRA- Sustainably Growing Africa's Food Systems and key actors to engage the National Assembly on how to push the National Independent Warehouse Receipt System Bill that has been stuck for 19 years.
- Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute (NSPRI) to organize learning tours in partnership with farmers and industry associations to promote awareness, and knowledge exchange and propel policy development and Public-Private Partnerships.
- Create a WhatsApp group with relevant storage actors to storage actors to drive real-time discussions for burning issues.



Facilitator: Mrs Winnie Lai-Solarin (Director, Animal Husbandry Services, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security)

This session highlighted sustainable livestock production practices and opportunities for creating a healthier, safer food system.

Commitments

- The Department of Animal Husbandry Services will continue to partner with existing donor-funded programs, research institutes like the National Animal

Production Research Institute (NAPRI), and industry associations like the Commercial Dairy Ranchers Association of Nigeria (CODARAN) to increase the number of farmers who are benefitting from artificial insemination. This will Increase farmers' knowledge and promote access to improved breeds of livestock to enhance smallholder farmers' productivity through artificial insemination.

- Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS), and National Animal Production Research Institute (NAPRI) will collaborate with private sector actors such as Blueblood and Livestock247 to explore dry season farming for pasture development.
- Partners implementing livestock programs to partner with Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (L-PRES) to ensure their targeted communities are integrated into L-PRES interventions. This will increase farmers' access to animal healthcare services and inputs by supporting the government and development partners and promoting new initiatives.
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS) will organize capacity building for farmers on leveraging technology to drive the conversion of wastes to animal feed and utilization of alternative feed resources and crop residues.
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS) to explore partnership opportunities with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to establish a financing hub to raise funding for key innovations and ideas for SMEs.





Susan Essien
Deputy Country
Director,
SNV

INNOVATIVE FINANCING: BOOSTING SMALLHOLDER FARMERS' ACCESS TO RESOURCES, MARKET, AND TECHNOLOGY

Facilitator: Ms Susan Essien (Deputy Country Director, SNV)

The session focused on innovative financing methods to enhance smallholder farmers' access to essential resources, markets, and technology.

Commitments

- Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) in collaboration with other stakeholders to engage the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to compel banks and ICT providers to formally address the bottlenecks to providing Bank Verification Numbers (BVNs), and financial services to farmers in rural communities.
- Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) will partner with Sahel Consulting and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security to facilitate a round table discussion between commodity association heads and the stakeholders in the financing community to increase the visibility of players and facilitate access to finance.
- Develop a robust one-stop-shop database with a map of Nigeria showing production areas, market information, agro-dealer networks, financing & insurance programs, key actors, and other relevant agricultural information to close the knowledge gaps and broaden the provision of services to all actors.
- Develop a credit registry of farmers in Nigeria to minimize credit fraud, generate credit scores, ensure credit risk guarantees, and promote access to credit. Key implementers can leverage and collaborate with existing platforms like the Credit Registry and Credit Bureau providing services to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).



James Ijampy Adamu
Chief Meteorologist,
Nigerian Meteorological
Agency (NiMET)

THE ROLE OF INTEGRATED EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS IN ENHANCING SMALLHOLDER FARMER ACTIVITIES

Facilitator: Mr James Ijampy Adamu [Chief Meteorologist, Nigerian Meteorologist (NiMET)]

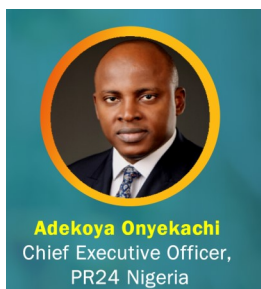
The session highlighted the significance of integrated early warning systems in improving the activities of smallholder farmers.

Commitments

- NiMET to facilitate a meeting with NCC and Telecommunication companies to explore pathways to enhance smallholder access to climate early warning information via SMS and calls in major languages.
- NiMET to engage other Ministries and Agencies with early warning mandates to develop a common alerting protocol for early warning that will support smallholder rural farmers especially to ascertain the credibility of the information.
- The Extension department and Agricultural Land and Climate Change Management department of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to collaborate with NiMET in reviewing the Agri-extension package to include weather and climate information, which is currently excluded.
- AGRA to collaborate with NiMET in engaging State and Local governments in its priority states to integrate the district level weather advisory into the state extension system.
- NiMET in collaboration with AGRA, NESG and other actors to advocate for the Federal Government's approval and implementation of the National Framework on Climate Services developed by NiMET since 2012.

This framework will facilitate the co-generation of weather and climate information as well as sectoral advisories for all areas of the Nigerian economy.

ADDRESSING SECURITY CHALLENGES IN FARMING COMMUNITIES



Adekoya Onyekachi
Chief Executive Officer,
PR24 Nigeria



Dr. Ignatius Angarawal
Product Placement Lead,
International Crops
Research Institute for
the Semi-Arid Tropics
(ICRISAT)

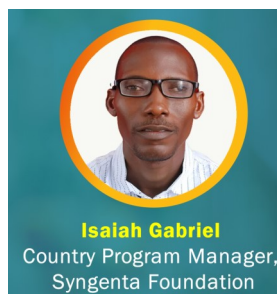
Facilitators: Mr Adekoya Onyekachi (CEO, PR24), Dr Ignatius Angarawa, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, ICRISAT.

The session focused on showcasing partnerships and strategies for addressing safety and security challenges in farming communities.

Commitments

- Development partners must support the commercialization of innovative products like the dwarf variety of millet developed by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) which promotes long-range visibility in rural communities and ease “insecurity when actors hide in bushes” in the Northeast while ensuring food production.
- Value chain associations should leverage existing farmer training programs and platforms to incorporate security training for value chain actors and develop a comprehensive communication and alert platform for associations to share security information with their members and across groups, by LGA and State.
- The Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, other security organizations, and Commissioners of Agriculture across states should be engaged in a

national security dialogue for food security. Ministries and Agencies that play a significant role in national security should be mandated to set up an Agri-desk that supports agricultural security.



Isaiah Gabriel
Country Program Manager,
Syngenta Foundation

THE ROLE OF PPPs IN PROMOTING INCLUSIVE SCALING PATHWAYS FOR AGRIBUSINESSES

Facilitator – Mr Gabriel Isaiah, (Country Program Manager, Syngenta Foundation)

The session focused on the role of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in facilitating inclusive scaling pathways for agribusinesses.

Commitments

- Syngenta Foundation, Sahel Consulting, Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute (NISPRI), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), and the Farm Input Support Services of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS) to partner together in creating a web-based platform where key actors can find market and price information, weather information, agro-dealer networks, seed companies, off-takers and processors- disaggregated by Local Government Areas (LGAs) and states across Nigeria.
- Syngenta Foundation will take the lead on fostering partnerships to establish one stop shop Farmer Hubs in farming communities. These Hubs will be co-created to provide input services, weather/climate advisory, commodity price and market information, finance and insurance services, aggregation, storage and mechanization services.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT & NEXT STEPS

- Following the conference, Sahel Consulting presented the outcomes and key next steps to stakeholders at the October session of the Agricultural Donor Working Group meeting.
- To further drive transformation in the sector, Sahel Consulting will present key findings to the Ministries of Budget and National Planning, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS), Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI), Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NiMET) and other relevant agencies.
- Sahel Consulting will actively engage funding and implementing partners to support key intervention areas of interest and drive impact over the next 12 months.
- Sahel Consulting will coordinate quarterly check-ins with key implementing stakeholders to document commitment progress.



AGENDA

09:00-10:00 (WAT)	Registration and coffee
10:00-10:15	Welcome Address Temitope Adegoroye, Managing Partner, Sahel Consulting Agriculture & Nutrition Limited
10:15- 10:30	Presentation: State of the Nigerian Food and Nutrition Landscape- An Opportune Moment to Foster Inclusive Growth. Mr Dominique Koffy Kouacou, FAO Representative ad interim in Nigeria
10:30- 11:15	Fireside Chat Exploring Nigerians' key commitments to achieving food and nutrition security via partnerships, innovations, and community engagements in effectively implementing policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sanjo Faniran, Director, Social Development, Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning • Prof Mansur Matazu, Director General, NiMET Moderator: Oge Funlola Modie – Chairperson, Wellspring of Life International and Sahel Consulting Board Member
11:15- 11:45	High-Level Ministerial Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, Honorable Minister of Budget and Economic Planning • Sen Abubakar Abba Kyari (CON), Honorable Minister of Agriculture & Food Security • Dr. Iziaq Kunle Salako, Honorable Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Environment Federal Ministry of Environment
11:45- 12:30	Exhibition Tour/ & Coffee break
12:30- 13:20	Innovation Panel Bringing together innovators and experts, to showcase existing breakthroughs and inspire future innovation to address challenges in the sector. Investment in Agritech research and development to enhance commercialization of climate-smart innovation in food and nutrition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rufus Idris. Country Director, Heifer International • Dr. Shachi Sharma, Director, AgriMayum GmbH & Sahel Consulting Board Member • Sina Uti-Waziri, Head of Component – Access to Markets and Innovation, GIZ Moderator: Jazmain D. Ohanyere, Feed the Future, Team Lead. USAID
13:20- 13:30	Host to provide joining instructions for breakout sessions
13:30- 14:30	Workshop (breakout sessions) Interactive breakout sessions facilitated by industry experts to discuss solutions, recommendations, and actionable steps for sustainable food system transformation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition and Climate - Impact of climate change on the availability and diversity of nutritious food (The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition) • Building a resilient supply chain by improving food storage infrastructure (Prof. Sani Lateef, Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute) • Innovative Financing: Boosting smallholder farmers' access to resources, market, and technology (Susan Essien, Deputy Country Director, SNV) • Enhancing the resilience of livestock farming by promoting sustainable production practices in Nigeria (Winnie Lai-Solarin, Director, Animal Husbandry Services, FMAFS) • Addressing Security challenges in farming communities (Adekoya, PR24 and Dr. Angarawai, ICRISAT) • The role of PPPs in promoting inclusive scaling pathways for agribusinesses (Dr. Gabriel, Country Director, Syngenta Foundation) • The role of early warning systems in building a resilient food system (James Ijampy Adamu, Chief Meteorologist, NiMET)
14:30- 15:30	Summary of Discussions Discussions on commitments, innovative solutions/key takeaways from the breakout session. Moderator: Ndidi Nwuneli. Board Chair, Sahel Consulting Agriculture & Nutrition Limited
15:30-15:40	Vote of thanks and closing remarks
15:40- 17:00	Lunch & Networking



Sahel Consulting Agriculture and Nutrition Limited is committed to transforming Africa's agriculture and nutrition landscape. We partner with government agencies, private sector companies, and leading international development organizations to conduct in-depth market research on key value chains, analyze and shape policies, develop business restructuring and governance strategies, launch innovative businesses and ecosystem solutions, organize convenings and provide training programs that promote sustainable agricultural development across Africa.

We understand that sustainable impact can only be delivered through private sector-led initiatives, and collaboration with the various stakeholders along the value chain to execute evidence-based solutions.

We collaborate with and support the work of donor partners intervening in policy, innovation, and technology to foster growth. Sahel has a robust team of development experts who co-create and implement long-term projects focused on transforming the agricultural landscape.



African Food Changemakers (AFC) is a virtual hub that empowers and equips active African agri-food entrepreneurs to start and scale profitable and resilient agribusinesses, connect with experts, and celebrate their successes on the African continent. The vision is to create a million successful and sustainable African agribusinesses that are transforming the food ecosystem and are recognized and respected across the globe. The hub supports these agribusinesses by providing training, funding opportunities, exposure, trade linkages, and fostering a vibrant community of changemakers.

We believe that connections made through food are a powerful way to change narratives. AFC is changing global narratives about Africa by celebrating Africa's contributions to the global food ecosystem, showcasing the Continent's innovations and cooking methods, amplifying and scaling proudly African food and beverage brands. AFC partners with local and international organizations to host podcasts, film events, documentaries, conferences and convenings that amplify the voices of African food entrepreneurs and their products globally.

CONTACT INFORMATION



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