SAHEL CHANGEMAKERS CONFERENCE 2026

Communique

SAHEL Consulting



ALIGNING For IMPACT

Building Collaborative Architecture for Food and Health Systems Transformation

THURSDAY 5TH November 9AM @Abuja Continental



> The vulnerability that begins on the farm does not stay there. It's actually split across the entire system. And yet, our response to that one connected cycle remains fragmented. That is the gap this conference exists to close.
>
> **-Temi Adegoroye,** *Managing Partner, Sahel Consulting*

Conference Objective

Objective 1: Reviewed national digital coordination tools and agreed on a strengthening agenda and action plan.

Objective 2: Identified priority policy, financing, and accountability actions for institutional strengthening.

Objective 3: Produced a conference report documenting key evidence, commitments, and recommendations.

Objective 4: Strengthened cross-sector partnerships among government, development finance, private sector, and civil society.

Conference Overview

Sahel Food Systems Changemakers Conference

The Sahel Food Systems Changemakers Conference, hosted annually by Sahel Consulting and African Food Changemakers, is a cross-sectoral platform for transforming Nigeria's agriculture, food and nutrition landscape. Conceived in 2021 as a localised offshoot of the UN Food Systems Summit and launched in 2022, it brings together policymakers, development partners, entrepreneurs, sector experts, researchers, students, civil society and the media to tackle the country's food challenges through collaborative action. Each edition aligns with national and global priorities, and Sahel documents commitments made and follows up with stakeholders, so dialogue becomes measurable action.

The fourth edition, held on 30th October 2025 under the theme Designing for Legacy: Building Resilient and Impact-Driven Food Systems, asked how Nigeria could build development models that endure beyond project cycles, and secured public commitments from institutions such as the Development Bank of Nigeria, the Bank of Agriculture and the AfCFTA Implementation Office. Ahead of this fifth edition, Sahel Consulting convened three partners' roundtables that featured dialogues and insights that helped shape this year's focus: the conviction that Nigeria's food system now needs alignment more than additional effort.

The 2026 Sahel Food Systems Changemakers Conference, themed "Aligning for Impact: Building Collaborative Architecture for Food and Health Systems Transformation", gathered 430 participants in Abuja and 150 online, joining from several Nigerian states and beyond, including Liberia.
Participants agreed that Nigeria does not lack ideas, programmes or goodwill. What it lacks is the connective tissue that holds them together.

430
Physical Attendees

150
Virtual Attendees



Meet The Changemakers

SAHEL CHANGEMAKERS CONFERENCE 2026

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Aligning for Impact: The Case for the 2026 Edition

Nigeria's food system carries the livelihoods and nutrition of more than 200 million people, and roughly one in three working Nigerians is linked to it. Yet it is one of the most invested-in and least coordinated spaces in Nigeria's development landscape: ministries, departments and agencies, development partners and private sector actors work across the same value chains and communities without coherent interaction. With the Malabo Montpellier Panel estimating that Africa needs $77 billion a year to transform its food systems, and with development assistance declining and public budgets stretched, alignment is no longer simply good practice; it is a necessity.

The 2026 conference built directly on the 2025 theme, Designing for Legacy, by asking the natural next question:

What collective infrastructure is required to sustain that legacy, and how do we connect fragmented efforts across sectors, institutions and budgets so that they deliver more together than they ever could apart?

The answer rests on two connected imperatives: institutions empowered to lead, and a shared roadmap that aligns stakeholders around measurable progress, built through governance frameworks, digital coordination tools and structured partnerships that make lasting transformation possible.

SAHEL CHANGEMAKERS CONFERENCE 2026

ALIGNING For IMPACT
Building Collaborative Architecture for Food and Health Systems Transformation

2022
Curbing the Nigerian Food Crisis: Ensuring Resilience and Sustainability in the Agribusiness Landscape

2023
Rethinking Food and Nutrition Security in the Face of Climate Change: Scaling Innovations and Driving Urgent Public-Private Partnership Actions

2024
Innovative Governance Models: A Pathway to Food and Nutrition Security in Nigeria

2025
Designing for Legacy: Building Resilient and Impact-Driven Food Systems

Leadership Perspectives:

Setting the Agenda for Alignment

The 2026 conference officially opened with addresses from Sahel Consulting's leadership and the German development cooperation, which framed the day around one idea: Nigeria's food system challenges are connected, and so must be the response.

Welcome Address

Temi Adegoroye

Managing Partner-Sahel Consulting,

Temi Adegoroye, Managing Partner of Sahel Consulting, gave the welcome address. He described the paradox at the heart of the conference. He elaborated that climate shocks, insecurity and rising input costs reduce harvests and incomes. Lower incomes shrink diets, inadequate nutrition weakens health and human capital, which in turn lowers earnings and productivity, leaving the same households exposed to the next shock. These, he noted, are not separate problems but a single, reinforcing cycle that begins on the farm and spreads across the entire system. The response, however, remains scattered across sectors, institutions and programmes.

The deeper work ahead, he argued, is not about more programmes or more investment, but about architecture: shared frameworks, aligned data, coordinated mandates, and governance that holds institutions accountable to one another. With development assistance falling fast and public budgets stretched, he described coordination as a necessity rather than an option. He shared that the three partners' roundtables Sahel had convened since the last conference had shaped this year's theme. He positioned Sahel Consulting as a connector, convener and integrator in the sector, adding:

> **"We are not here to hold the agenda; we are here to align it."**
>
> **-Temi Adegoroye**

Goodwill Message: German Development Cooperation

Dr Andrea Ruediger



Delivering a goodwill message on behalf of Dr Karin Jansen, Head of Development Cooperation at the German Embassy, and Dr Markus Wagner, Country Director of the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), Dr Andrea Ruediger reaffirmed the cooperation's commitment to transforming Nigeria's agri-food system so that it delivers nutrition, economic, environmental and social outcomes at the same time.

In her speech, she posed a question to the room that resonated throughout the sessions at the conference: "what will make collaboration work outside of meeting rooms?" Too often, she observed, organisations share objectives but work in parallel. Information exists but fails to reach those who need it. Projects deliver results that are difficult to sustain when funding ends, and commitments are made without clear follow-up processes. Collaborative architecture, she explained, means creating the conditions in which organisations work not just in principle, but in everyday institutional decisions and follow-through. She also introduced the day's GIZ-led breakout session on moving from projects to platforms, featuring the ECOWAS Rice Observatory.

> **A successful conference is not measured by how much is discussed, but by what changes are made together: a small number of shared priorities, clear ownership, and a credible plan for follow-through.**
> **– Dr Andrea Ruediger.**



When we design our programmes, whether we're designing them abroad or locally, we often forget that it's the same households that have the same needs."

Dr. Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli

Executive Chair's Address

Keynote Address

Dr. Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli
Executive Board Chair
- Sahel Consulting,

Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli, Executive Board Chair of Sahel Consulting, delivered the keynote address. Her central argument was that food, health and nutrition are not three agendas but one, because they are experienced together by the same households.

She grounded her message in a sobering statistic: one in nine Nigerian children dies before their fifth birthday, among the worst indicators in the world. She traced the causes across sector lines: young and malnourished mothers, too few care providers, inadequate infant nutrition and unsafe water. She described these multiple cross-sector burdens through a case study of a mother living with vitamin A or iodine deficiency while her household lacks clean water. She also illustrated the scenario of farming households that are already strained by climate change and forced to battle insecurity. No household separates these issues, she noted, yet programmes are still designed as though they do.

Ndidi pointed to local government as a missed opportunity for integration. In every one of Nigeria's 774 local government areas, a primary healthcare centre and a farmer development centre often sit side by side, serving the same families, yet operate in complete isolation.

She recalled an idea explored some six years ago: giving seeds or chickens to farming households when mothers attend antenatal care, and using these to encourage vaccinations. Little progress has been made on it since. Online participants echoed the point, noting that because promoting healthy nutrition sits within the health sector's mandate, health institutions should be core partners in Nigeria's food systems agenda.

She also urged journalists and researchers to look beyond official figures to grassroots realities, noting that some statistics "don't meet the realities of now", and commended the Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID) for its community-level reporting, pledging Sahel's continued support. She also acknowledged the German Embassy and GIZ, which have supported the conference since its first edition and continued to back development in Nigeria despite global funding cuts.

Turning to sustainability, Ndidi asked what happens to a project when it ends, and why Nigerians cannot take promising initiatives forward and scale them as businesses, in partnership with one another. She called on partners to move from project-based partnerships to Nigerian-owned, business-led ventures, becoming "CEOs of impact".

> **"The challenge of silos continues to keep us from moving forward."**
> ***-Dr. Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli***

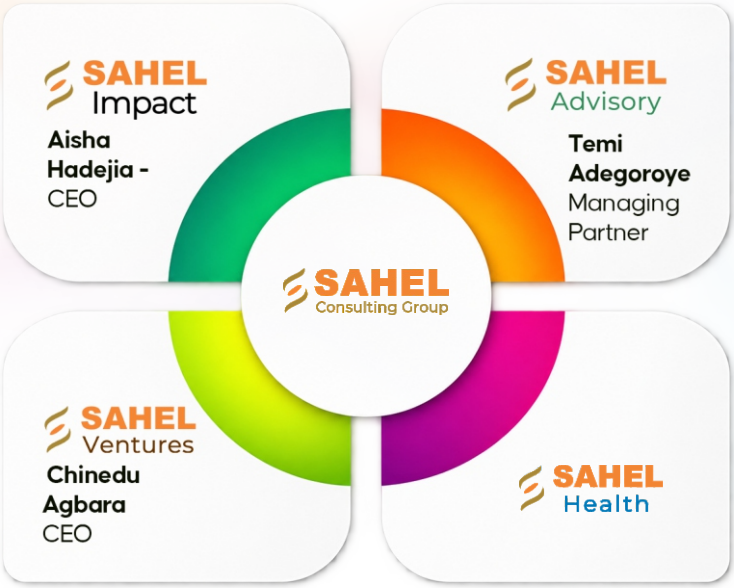


A New Chapter: The Sahel Consulting Group

Dr. Ndidi's call for partners to become "CEOs of impact" was more than a metaphor. During her address, she formally announced the evolution of Sahel Consulting into the Sahel Consulting Group, a new structure designed to drive multi-sector impact and integrated value creation.

The restructuring reflects the conference's central message: food, health and nutrition outcomes are interconnected, and the institutions driving them must be equipped to work across sectors, invest in enterprise and remain accountable for impact.

In a gesture that captured the spirit of this transition, Dr. Ndidi presented the Thinkers50 award she received in London to the new leaders, recognising them as the people driving impact through their work on the ground.





DID YOU KNOW

One story, one policy shift –
A CJID reporter's analysis of maize import data contributed to maize being added to Nigeria's list of banned imports, opening space for local producers to grow.

Media Dialogue

Building Nigeria's Food System Architecture: The Role of Media in Driving Accountability, Evidence and Public Action

The first technical session of the conference was a media dialogue that asked how journalism can help hold Nigeria's food system to account. Moderated by Ntiedo Ekott, Project Officer at the Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID), the session featured Abdulkarim Mojeed, Senior Reporter at Premium Times, and Israel Boboye, Senior Project Officer for Monitoring and Evaluation at CJID.

Smallholder farmers, who produce about 70% of the food Nigerians eat, bear the brunt of rising food prices, climate change, insecurity and weak policy implementation, yet their stories are rarely told. Abdulkarim Mojeed argued that the media must do more than follow government press releases and political cycles. He argued that journalists need to investigate what is happening on the ground, track budget allocations and report the experiences of farmers across the country.

He traced this reporting shortfall to gaps in capacity and resources. Many journalists lack the technical know-how to report on value chains, business models, budgets and climate impacts; investigative work is costly and sometimes dangerous; farming communities are hard to reach; and coverage often fades when donor-funded projects end. "You cannot give out what you don't have," he noted, calling on newsrooms to create dedicated agriculture desks, set reporting targets and partner with credible sector organisations.

Israel Boboye shared how CJID has approached food systems journalism over seven years, moving beyond one-off training to story labs, impact-focused story pitches and tracking results. CJID-supported stories have reached the Minister of Agriculture and influenced trade policy, while its Udeme programme tracks agricultural budgets and follows up on what is reported.

Key Message:
A food system cannot be held to account if its story is not told. Stronger, better-resourced and evidence-driven agricultural journalism, built on long-term partnerships with the sector, is part of Nigeria's coordination architecture.



Regional Panel

Aligned for Impact: The Architecture of Collective Action

Moderated by Aisha Hadejia, Partner at Sahel Consulting and newly announced CEO of Sahel Impact, the regional panel brought together four members of Sahel Consulting's board:

Patrick Tognisso, former Home Care Division Director at Unilever West Africa; Carla Denizard, Regional Leader for West Africa at World Vision International; Clinton D. White, President of Counsellor Global Solutions and former Senior Foreign Officer at USAID; and Dr Shachi Gurumayum, Director of AgriMayum GmbH and former Country Director of Syngenta Nigeria.

They were asked what success should look like for food, nutrition and agribusiness in Nigeria and West Africa by 2036, and what must change to get there.

Designing for Scale, Profit and Handover

Patrick Tognisso envisioned a Nigeria that has moved beyond debating food self-sufficiency to realising its nutritional potential, powered by agribusinesses that create wealth. He noted that many programmes give smallholders seeds and training that sustain a family for only a season, and urged that programmes be designed from the outset to be scalable, sustainable and profitable, so that at closure they can be handed to a company or to government and run at scale. As the moderator summarised, every design should ask early: who takes over when the programme ends?

Resilience Before Interventions

Carla Denizard defined success as every Nigerian and West African family eating a nutritious meal every day of the year, not only at harvest. She cautioned that a lifetime of vulnerability to climate and economic shocks makes farmers sceptical of new innovations, so households need a resilient mindset, built through skills, savings and market access, before new seeds and technologies arrive, an approach at the heart of World Vision's THRIVE programme. The same shift is needed among young people who do not yet see agriculture as a path to a better livelihood.



> "It needs to be Africa-led. We have the water, the land and the people. Why don't we all work together, at all levels and across sectors, so we can feed ourselves?"
>
> **– Carla Denizard,**
> *Regional Leader for West Africa, World Vision International*

Breaking Silos Through Non-Extractive Partnerships

Clinton D. White called for agriculture, nutrition, water and energy to work as one economic system, noting that infrastructure built in isolation fails the people it is meant to serve. He pointed to a cashew supply chain linking farmers in Benin and Côte d'Ivoire to processors in the United States, and the Transatlantic Cotton Initiative linking Black farmers in the United States to textile mills in Benin, Mauritius and Kenya, as proof that non-extractive partnerships work when every party is treated as a true partner from the outset. He also urged that young people be brought to the table as genuine participants, not tokens.

Healthy Farmers and Designs That Hold Every Perspective

Dr Shachi Gurumayum noted that Africa harvests only about a quarter of its agricultural potential, and that while policies largely exist across the continent, the challenge is using them. Closing the gap requires technology, improved seeds, soil health and local value addition, as well as healthy farmers, since only healthy farmers can produce food. He urged designers to hold the nuances of every side: include the knowledge of the older generation when designing for the next, and the realities of local people when designing for agriculture.

> "We all need to take individual leadership that is collectively owned. That is the key to aligning for impact."
>
> **– Dr Shachi Gurumayum,** *Director, AgriMayum GmbH*



In closing, the panellists called for programmes designed for scale and handover from day one, for "a generational movement" rather than generational projects, and for success to be measured by who continues the work after funding ends. Dr Gurumayum charged participants to ensure that time is not circular in Nigeria, with the same conversations repeated in 2036, but transformational.

Evidence and Ownership

Healthy Farmers and Designs That Hold Every Perspective

Miracle Owolawi of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) presented the Nigeria Food Systems Dashboard (FSD) as "a one-stop shop for all our food system data". The dashboard tracks progress on the 2024 National Food Systems Transformation Pathway Strategy and its 78 priority actions, led by the Office of the National Convenor in the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, making Nigeria one of only a few countries with a national dashboard alongside the global platform.

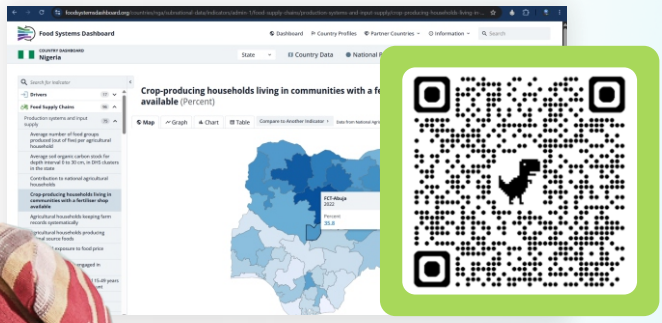
The dashboard has grown from about 90 indicators at launch to 285 today, disaggregated for all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory. The dashboard helps users interact with food system data in three key ways:

Describe where Nigeria stands.

Diagnose the gaps against regional and global benchmarks.

Decide which policies the evidence supports.

The dashboard has already demonstrated visible value in driving policy shifts in Nigeria. The cost of a healthy diet indicator (from the dashboard) was used in Nigeria's minimum wage negotiations.







Panel Session

Who Owns the Architecture? Institutions and Data for Sector-Wide Coordination

If the tools exist, who should own, govern and fund them? Moderated by Temi Adegoroye, the panel brought together Joyce Akpata (GAIN Nigeria), Dr James Adamu (NiMet), AbdulHafiz Abba (MEDA) and Uko Ekott (CAFOD).

Joyce Akpata argued that ownership must sit with government institutions that have the right technical, skills and financial capacity, noting that GAIN is working with a stakeholder advisory group, chaired by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, on a roadmap to hand the dashboard to government. Dr James Adamu presented the NiMet MapRoom, which provides climate, crop suitability, health and disaster risk data across Nigeria at a 4-kilometre resolution, and called for weather intelligence to be treated as foundational infrastructure, like roads.

Abdul Hafiz Abba proposed shared public mandates rather than a single owner, while Uko Ekott urged that communities, as end users, help decide ownership, and proposed an impact-pooled fund at local government level to sustain data infrastructure. Online participants added that the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning could provide supportive supervision, with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security remaining the home of food systems work.

If GAIN stepped back tomorrow, what would break first? "Funding." The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security has had a budget line for maintaining the Food Systems Dashboard for three years, but the funds are yet to be released.
– Joyce Akpata,
Head of Policy and Advocacy, GAIN Nigeria.

Key Message:
Nigeria already has credible coordination tools. Their future depends on government ownership backed by released funds, clear and shared institutional mandates, and a voice for the communities the data is meant to serve.

Breakout Sessions

From Projects to Platforms: Resourcing and Accountability for Collective Action

Led by the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and moderated by Dashen Mwanlong and Hamzat Olawale of GIZ, this session examined how fragmented, project-based interventions can grow into lasting multi-stakeholder platforms. Drawing on GIZ's value chain work, Dr Andrea Ruediger stressed that transformation needs governance that coordinates actors and aligns priorities, not only support to individual farmers and agribusinesses.

Two case studies showed this in practice. The Maize Alliance, presented by Suleiman Sunupan of Augmentum Advisory, is a private sector-led platform convened by Lagos Business School, with a programme management office that moved it from convening to piloting work with aggregators within about nine months. The Sustainable Rice Platform, presented by Dr Philip Idenoba and linked to the ECOWAS Rice Observatory, gives every stakeholder group, from farmers and millers to ministries and regulators, two board seats, so that less powerful actors keep a real voice.

"You have to separate between representation and contribution."
– Suleiman Sunupan, *Augmentum Advisory*



Participants agreed that representation on a platform is not the same as shaping its decisions, that conflict needs agreed resolution mechanisms, and that platforms should strengthen existing institutions rather than create parallel ones. Above all, financial sustainability must be designed in from the start, so that projects pursuing the same objectives can unite under one platform and speak with one voice.

Commitments

The Sustainable Rice Platform will pursue a memorandum of understanding with the National Council on Climate Change to formalise the Council's participation in the platform's climate change technical committee.
- Dr Philip Idenoba
ECOWAS Rice Observatory

Both partners will build the session's recommendations on platform design (clarity of mandate, inclusion and collaboration) into their ongoing platform development and advisory work, and will identify partners willing to contribute to their platforms' long-term sustainability.
- Suleiman Sunupan
ECOWAS Rice Observatory

GIZ will consolidate participants' reflections on platform design principles, critical success factors and practical recommendations to inform its support for value chain platforms in Nigeria.
-Dr Andrea Ruediger
German Development Cooperation, GIZ

The Food Systems Dashboard Audit: Building a Connected National Data Backbone

Led by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), with Miracle Owolawi and Joyce Akpata, this session put a direct question to the room: can the Food Systems Dashboard (FSD) become Nigeria's single source of truth for food systems data, and what is technically and institutionally missing?

Participants valued the dashboard's credibility, as its 285 indicators come only from validated sources such as the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey and the Cadre Harmonisé analysis. However, they concluded it is not yet a single source of truth: data is updated periodically rather than in real time, and awareness is low, with several participants seeing the dashboard for the first time.

Participants identified six data gaps for the FSD to close:

- Climate data: weather station coverage, climate and productivity by value chain, biodiversity and forest loss, Integration of Convergence Action Blueprint's climate and food systems indicators.
- State-level detail (raised by online participants): value chain or commodity-specific data, each state's comparative advantage, and land coverage data (agricultural, cultivated and irrigated land).
- Biosafety data on genetically modified foods.
- Zoonotic disease and livestock health data.
- Soil health data that links poor yields to poor diets.
- Insight, not just data: query tools, analysed data products and a public API.



> "As a country, we need to be hungry for data and use the data."
> – Joyce Akpata, *GAIN Nigeria.*

Commitments

GAIN will develop, within 12 months and with the stakeholder advisory group chaired by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, a roadmap to transfer the Food Systems Dashboard to full government ownership.
– Joyce Akpata, GAIN

GAIN will update the dashboard at least twice a year.
– Joyce Akpata, GAIN

GAIN will work to close the gaps identified, starting with climate, biosafety and livestock health data and new academic data sources.
Miracle Owolawi - (GAIN)

Accountability from Below: Community Voice in the Coordination Architecture

Led by the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) and moderated by Folake Adebote and Buhari Zubairu of Sahel Consulting, this session opened with a scene-setting presentation by Uko Ekott, Country Representative of CAFOD, followed by a panel of Dr Boniface Anthony (JDPC), Rev. Sis. Ngozi Uti (Centre for Women Studies and Intervention), community leaders Majid Mallo (Bokkos LGA) and Yahya Shaba (Kuje Area Council), and farmer Gladys Luka (Barkin Ladi LGA). It asked how communities can hold food systems institutions to account between conferences and gain genuine authority in the coordination architecture.

Participants agreed that interventions designed without community input often miss what communities actually need, and that national organisations should lead design, monitoring and adaptation rather than act as pass-through vendors for external programmes. Every Nigerian locality already has structures, such as cooperatives, producer associations, community development associations and local government bodies, and these should be identified and strengthened rather than replaced with new frameworks.

Voices from the field showed a practical impact case of community structures for development. In Bokkos Local Government Area, Plateau State, community leaders and project teams now engage the Police, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and the army early, before conflicts over farmland escalate, helping households keep farming and produce up to 10 bags of groundnut each. A woman farmer who overcame cattle encroachment now earns over 1 million Naira from orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, a success built with support from men in her community. Participants concluded that insecurity directly threatens food security, and that security and existing community structures must be built into programmes from the start.



Commitments

> Support for women is support for the entire household."
> **– Rev. Sis. Ngozi Uti**
> *Executive Director, Centre for Women Studies and Intervention*

> "There is always somebody who has started something that you want to build on or develop. So just identify them, work with them, and you find it easy to scale."
> **– Victor Ohikere**
> *Capacity Development Coordinator, Sahel Consulting*

CAFOD will work through existing community structures, such as cooperatives and producer associations, in every community where it implements, starting in Northern Nigeria.

CAFOD will support start-ups across food production, processing and export, and partner with a participating farmer on improved orange-fleshed sweet potato seed.

Uko Ekott
(Country Representative, CAFOD)

Calls to Government

Government has already laid strong foundations for coordination, from the National Food Systems Transformation Pathway Strategy and its 78 priority actions to a dedicated budget line for the Food Systems Dashboard. Building on this leadership, the conference calls on federal, state and local governments, working with their partners, to prioritise six actions over the next twelve months.

Fund and own the national food systems data architecture

Release the funds already appropriated for maintaining the Food Systems Dashboard (FSD), lead its transition to full government ownership, and set clear, shared mandates across the National Bureau of Statistics, the Nigeria Data Protection Commission, the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

Treat climate intelligence as core infrastructure

Support NiMet in expanding its weather station network to one station in each of the 774 local government areas and integrate climate and weather data into state and local government planning and fiscal risk management.

Coordinate food, health and nutrition as one agenda

Include the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare as a core partner in food systems coordination, alongside agriculture and planning, and link primary healthcare centres and farmer development centres at local government level so that together they serve the same households.

Make evidence the basis of decisions

Equip policy and planning departments at federal and state level to use the FSD in programme design and budgeting, make administrative data such as soil health and agricultural survey data compatible with the FSD, and publish clear data standards so that researchers and partners can contribute.

Anchor platforms and programmes in national institutions

Provide the enabling policies and standards that allow multi-stakeholder platforms to thrive, strengthen the implementation of existing policies, and ensure that publicly supported programmes include a clear plan for handover to government or private ownership from the start.

Strengthen community voice and security

Work through existing community structures, such as cooperatives, producer associations and community development associations, when designing and delivering interventions; include security agencies in community-level food security planning; and explore an impact-pooled fund, with a dedicated local government allocation, to sustain community data and feedback systems.

Emerging Themes

Building on the day's deliberations, the conference distilled six themes that define what it will take to align Nigeria's food and health systems for impact.

Alignment Is a Necessity, Not a Choice

With development assistance contracting and public budgets stretched, parallel efforts are a cost Nigeria can no longer afford. Many programmes pursue the same objectives in the same communities without speaking to one another. Bringing them together under shared frameworks, platforms and priorities allows every naira and every partner to deliver more.

Government Ownership, Backed by Financing

Participants agreed that the coordination architecture must be owned by government institutions with clear, shared mandates. Ownership becomes real when it is funded: released budget lines, sustainable financing models and a clear transition from partner support to public stewardship.

Data and Climate Intelligence as Public Infrastructure

The Food Systems Dashboard and the NiMet MapRoom show that Nigeria already has credible coordination tools. To become a true national backbone, they must close their data gaps, reach users who do not yet know they exist, and turn data into insight that informs budgets, programmes and farm-level decisions.

Food, Health and Nutrition as One Household Agenda

Households do not experience food, health and nutrition separately, and programmes should not treat them separately. Linking primary healthcare and farmer development centres at local government level, keeping farmers healthy and designing around the whole household are practical starting points.

From Projects to Platforms and Enterprises

Lasting impact comes from designing for scale, profitability and handover from day one. Multi-stakeholder platforms with clear mandates, balanced governance and execution capacity, together with Nigerian-owned, business-led ventures, can carry work forward long after individual projects end.

Accountability That Reaches Communities

Communities, women, young people and the media must shape the architecture, not simply receive it. Existing community structures, security built into programme design, genuine youth participation and evidence-driven journalism all help hold institutions to account between conferences.

Objectives Scorecard

Objective	*What the conference delivered*	*Status*
Review national digital coordination tools and agree a strengthening agenda and shared action log	Dashboard and MapRoom reviewed; six data gaps identified; GAIN committed to government transition, regular updates and closing the gaps	**Achieved**
Agree institutional empowerment priorities for the next twelve months	Six Calls to Government, plus platform design principles from Breakout Session One	**Achieved**
Produce a widely distributed conference report	This communique, shared with participants, partners, government and other stakeholders	**Achieved**
Strengthen networks for sustained coordination	New connections across government, partners, the private sector, civil society and the media, including collaborations formed in the breakout sessions	**Achieved**

Conclusion and the Road to SCC 2027

As the conference drew to a close, Meyakno Ekong, Consultant at Sahel Consulting, reminded participants that the day was designed as a starting point, not an end in itself, and that its value will be measured by what happens over the twelve months that follow.

The commitments from the breakout sessions and the calls to government provide the foundation for that work. Sahel Consulting will maintain the SCC 2026 Commitments Register, validate each entry with the committing institutions, and review progress with stakeholders at the 2027 Sahel Food Systems Changemakers Conference.
The conference closed with a shared resolve: to move from parallel efforts to aligned action, so that Nigeria's food and health systems deliver more together, for every household, in every community.

Partner with us for SCC 2027



Partner with us for SCC 2027

As we prepare for SCC 2027, we invite government institutions, development partners, foundations, private sector companies and media organisations to join us by:

- co-convening or sponsoring the conference and its breakout sessions
- supporting the tracking and public reporting of conference commitments
- partnering on data, research and evidence for food systems decisions
- amplifying the conversation through media and community engagement

To discuss partnership opportunities, contact Meyakno Ekong

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FOR ENQUIRIES AND FURTHER INFORMATION
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Scan the QR code to access our website.