



Nigeria

Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, has made significant progress in education, healthcare, and economic opportunities in recent years. However, not everyone benefits from these improvements, and approximately 61% of the population continues to live in [poverty](#).

Regional disparities, particularly in the north, are reinforced by weak human capital, insurgency, food, and livelihood insecurity. This is exacerbated by increased drought, floods, and extreme heat, highlighting the need for targeted efforts to improve infrastructure, service delivery, and provide decent economic opportunities for the 5.5 million Nigerians who reach [working age](#) every year.

Since 2022, SNV and its partners have advanced the government's development priorities by expanding climate-smart agriculture, inclusive food systems, and climate finance, while investing in practical, lasting solutions that improve people's access to decent work and safe, clean energy, as well as the sustainable management of land and water resources. Connecting local realities with national goals facilitates climate adaptation and mitigation, strengthens institutions and effective governance, and improves gender equity and social inclusion, thereby contributing to a fairer, more resilient future for all.



Over 7K smallholder farmers and extension officers

adopting soil health, agroforestry, watershed management, and natural resource conservation



Three private-sector partnerships secured

mobilising technical assistance and grant support for 150K smallholder farmers and agribusiness micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs)



More than 30 private-public-partnerships (PPPs) established

improving livelihoods for over 133K farmers

** 2019-2025 achievements

Responding to the climate crisis

Desertification in the north, flooding in the central and southern regions, and erosion in the Niger Delta are disrupting agri-food systems, restricting equitable access to clean water, and slowing the clean energy transition. Over [350,000 hectares](#) of arable land are lost in northern Nigeria every year, threatening food security and livelihoods in districts like Yobe, Borno, and Sokoto, where reduced productivity, displacement of communities, and increased competition for natural resources have become commonplace.

Government measures to enhance climate resilience and implement the National Climate Change Policy 2021-2030 require substantial investment and coordinated efforts across sectors, stakeholders, and partners. SNV supports these initiatives by promoting integrated land and seascape management, inclusive [green-blue economic approaches](#), climate-resilient agriculture, and watershed governance. With partners, SNV leverages blended financing and builds local capacity to ensure climate adaptation efforts are inclusive, scalable, and sustainable.

DFCD | Multi-country | 2019-26 | €400M

The Dutch Fund for Climate and Development (DFCD)—a multi-country climate adaptation financing programme—began working in Nigeria's agri-food system in 2024 to strengthen climate resilience, promote sustainable resource management, and scale climate-smart agriculture. John Vent Industries (JVI) received a DFCD Origination Facility (OF) grant and technical assistance to support climate-resilient cocoa production. With SNV's facilitation, JVI partnered with Coop Cocoa (Akure) to strengthen the cocoa value chain, from production and processing to international. By providing farmers with climate-resilient seedlings and extension services, JVI is securing its supply chain amid changing weather patterns while supporting more sustainable, profitable farming practices.

Another key partner is Sterling Bank Nigeria PLC. Through the OF, SNV is supporting the establishment of a Climate Finance Unit and helping the bank meet the regulatory requirements to access FMO (Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank) credit, enabling it to finance and scale climate-resilient investments across the Nigerian economy.

By providing blended climate financing, comprising loans, equity investments, grants, and technical assistance, to companies with green projects, DFCD plays a critical role in catalysing and scaling private sector engagement in climate adaptation and mitigation challenges.

Partners: DGIS, FMO, SNV, WDGIS, CFM, and WWF-NL



2SCALE | Multi-country | 2012-25 | €150M

The multi-country programme Towards Sustainable Clusters in Agri-Business through Learning Entrepreneurship (2SCALE) supported inclusive agri-business in Nigeria by strengthening MSMEs, improving farmer incomes, and promoting access to nutritious food through private sector collaboration and behaviour change campaigns across various agricultural value chains.

More than 30 PPPs have been established and [over 133,000 smallholder farmers—about 43% women](#)—have been empowered to manage their farming operations as viable agri-businesses. Farmer partners have been trained in good agricultural practices, business and financial management, and organised into agribusiness clusters to strengthen collaboration and facilitate improved access to markets, quality farm inputs, financial services, and other essential support mechanisms.

By creating a resilient network of market actors, 2SCALE demonstrated proven strategies for inclusive value chains, enhanced productivity, and climate resilience, thereby underpinning sustainable growth within the agricultural sector.

Partners: DGIS, SNV, IFDC, and BOPINC

"The introduction of the business support services into the system has allowed farmers to increase their productivity, resulting in a surplus of raw materials for Cato Foods. Now, our nutritious foods have become affordable, accessible, and available."

Atinuke Lebile
Chief Executive Officer
Cato Foods, Southwest Nigeria

Accelerating inclusive development

Nigeria's immense potential faces constraints due to disparities in access to opportunities, particularly in northern regions where infrastructure development, youth employment prospects, and land access require further improvement.

Women and people with disabilities are often excluded from decision-making processes, and rural communities struggle with unreliable energy and sanitation services. The 2021–2025 National Development Plan aims to lift [35 million Nigerians out of poverty and create 21 million jobs through inclusive growth](#). To foster the strong collaboration required to achieve these ambitious targets, SNV works with the government, alongside financing and development partners, to improve people's access to land, social protection, and employment opportunities, with a focus on empowering smallholder farmers, especially women.

By strengthening women's roles and fostering value chain collaboration, these partnerships promote inclusive growth, reduce poverty, and support sustainable and resilient communities that thrive within Nigeria's broader development framework.

Soil Values | Multi-country | 2024-33 | € 100M

The Soil Values multi-country programme aims to enhance the resilience and well-being of 1.5 million small-scale farmers, particularly women, in the Sahel region by improving the fertility and productive capacity of two million hectares of farmland.

The programme promotes an inclusive approach to decision-making. By involving diverse stakeholders, farmers, herders, communities, and government representatives, Soil Values builds sustainability and resilience by preventing conflict, reducing inequalities, boosting productivity, and restoring degraded soils and water resources.

In northern Nigeria, over 53,000 smallholder farmers have been trained in advancing gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in soil fertility, watershed management, and climate-smart practices. Women comprised nearly 50% of participants, while youth and people with disabilities comprised at least 45%. Integrated soil fertility management techniques—biochar, mulching, cover cropping, and bokashi—and soil and water conservation techniques have been introduced, reaching over 26,000 farmers.

Through its collaborative approach, the programme has enabled over 150 diverse stakeholders to deliberate on deforestation and soil fertility issues, while initiating the inclusion of women and youth in decision-making across the focal watershed.

Partners: Donor, Government partner, SNV, other partners - present the most important partners here

"This inclusive turnout reflected the effectiveness of CARD's GESI-driven mobilisation strategy and reinforced the project's (Soil Value) commitment to ensuring that no group is left behind in sustainable agricultural development."

Habiba Bello Ajufoh
Executive Director
Community Advocate for Rural
Development (CARD)



Strengthening governance and institutions

Sustainable development relies on effective institutions, particularly when implemented through local partnerships. In many regions of Nigeria, governance systems remain under-resourced, fragmented, and unable to meet growing demands. Local institutions often lack the capacity, tools, and coordination mechanisms needed to deliver essential services, especially in rural and climate-vulnerable areas, or to initiate meaningful community improvements.

However, momentum for reform is growing. National and subnational governments increasingly recognise the importance of participatory planning, climate adaptation, and inclusive service delivery. This systemic change requires a review of existing frameworks, formulating new policies, and increased budgetary commitments to capacity development and institutional strengthening.

In collaboration with the government, SNV and its partners strengthen governance structures by enhancing local institutional capacity to implement priority programmes, promoting wider participation in planning processes, and assisting communities in co-managing Nigeria's natural resources.

Nigeria Solar Marketplace | Nationwide | 2023-25 | €500,000

The Nigeria Solar Marketplace—a digital platform designed to connect solar companies, unlock business opportunities, and stimulate trade and investment—contributed to strengthening governance across the renewable energy sector and catalyses faster, more reliable deployment of clean energy.

Before its launch by SNV and partners in June 2024, Nigeria's rapidly expanding solar industry was fragmented and operated without standardised information systems. Following extensive stakeholder consultations, the platform has evolved into a comprehensive ecosystem enabler, integrating market

intelligence tools, a solar project showcase, a deal room for investment facilitation, and resources to support developers, financiers, and end users. Events, such as national solar fairs in Abuja and Lagos, have further strengthened visibility, collaboration, and access to credible investment opportunities.

Guided by an advisory board, the platform continues to benefit from expert insights that shape its sustainable growth and responsiveness to market needs. During programme implementation, SNV provided technical support, building institutional capacity, driving inclusive research and innovation, and facilitating knowledge sharing to enhance efficiency and improve the business environment.

With over 120 registered enterprises and 4,000 daily visits, the platform has contributed to transforming sector governance. Working closely with the Rural Electrification Agency, Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority, and Invest International, SNV has ensured broad engagement in continuously improving the platform and expanding opportunities for partnership, sector development, and investment from within Nigeria and beyond.

Partners: DGIS, SNV, USAID, Power Africa NPSP, NOMAP, A2EI, AECF, United Capital, REA, and the EU's Investment Climate Reform Facility



SNV is a global development partner deeply rooted in the African and Asian countries where we operate. With 60 years of experience and a team of approximately 1,600 people, we strengthen capacities and catalyse partnerships that transform agri-food, energy and water systems. Working on the core themes of gender equality and social inclusion, climate adaptation and mitigation, and strong institutions and effective governance, we tailor our approaches to different contexts to achieve large-scale impact and create sustainable and more equitable lives for all.

Contact SNV in Nigeria

Susan Essien | Deputy Country Director | nigeria@snv.org

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