HEIFER® INTERNATIONAL
NIGERIA



Corporate Profile

... unleashing the full potential of Nigeria's agricultural sector



Heifer International

Heifer International is a global non-profit dedicated to eradicating hunger and poverty through sustainable solutions. Since its founding in 1944, Heifer International has positively impacted over 46 million lives across 21 countries in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Heifer's programs have empowered millions to overcome hunger and poverty while protecting the earth, paving the way towards sustainable livelihoods.

With over 50 years of experience working in rural communities across Africa, Heifer International understands the unique challenges and opportunities within the continent. In Africa, programs are focused on strengthening local economies and empowering farmers and food producers to achieve self-reliance.

Heifer International's approach emphasizes long-term solutions to reach scale through partnerships, ensuring that communities can thrive independently and build a brighter future for generations to come.

Heifer Nigeria

Heifer Nigeria's flagship program, the Naija Unlock Signature Program, was launched in 2021 with the goal of unleashing the full potential of Nigeria's agricultural sector. This transformative program focuses on empowering smallholder farmers and key actors within the agricultural value chain. By enhancing productivity, fostering food self-sufficiency, and bridging the living income gap, Naija Unlock is paving the way for a more prosperous and resilient agricultural sector in Nigeria.

Mission

Our mission is to end hunger and poverty while caring for the earth.

Strategic Value Chains





Thematic Areas

1. Women and Youth Empowerment
2. Climate Change Solutions
3. Social Capital Development
4. Access to Innovation & Technology
5. Access to Premium Markets
6. Access to Innovative Financing
7. Postharvest Loss Reduction

Approach

- **Inclusive Market System Development:** Fostering an enabling environment for all stakeholders in the value chain to thrive.
- **Value Chain Development:** Strengthening each link in the value chain to improve efficiency, quality, and market access.

Target Beneficiaries

Two million households by 2030, with **50%** women and **30%** youth participation.

Key Strategies

Building Social Capital:

Empowering farmers through Heifer International's Values Based Holistic Community Development (VBHCD) model and the 12 Cornerstones.

Unlocking Access:

Facilitating access to innovative financing, premium markets, mechanization, and emerging agricultural technologies.

Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture:

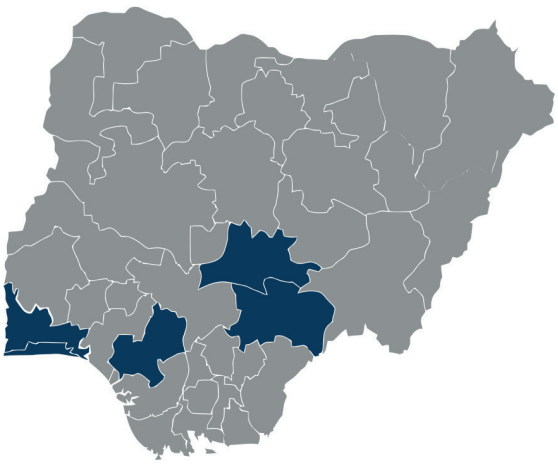
Increasing knowledge and adoption of sustainable farming practices.

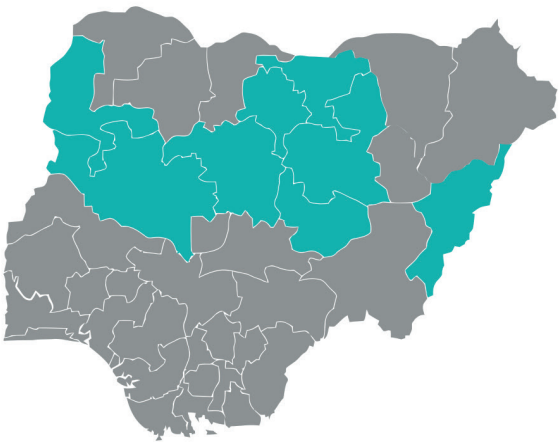
Strategic Partnerships

Collaborating with public and private sector entities to achieve transformative impact.

Reach

- **Core Implementation States:** Benue, Nasarawa, Edo, Ogun, and Lagos
- **Scale-up Implementation States:** Kaduna, Jigawa, Niger, Kebbi, Kano, Bauchi, Plateau, and Adamawa





Cross-Cutting Components

Heifer Nigeria places a strong emphasis on gender equality, inclusivity, youth empowerment, social capital development, economic inclusion, and environmental sustainability. These commitments are reflected in the implementation of gender-sensitive and socially inclusive programs, the promotion of nutrition education, and facilitation of access to climate-smart agricultural practices.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)

Heifer Nigeria utilizes a robust MEL system, including baseline assessments, routine monitoring, annual impact surveys, and timely evaluations. The collaborative learning and adaptation approach ensures continuous improvement and evidence-based decision-making.

Impact

Heifer Nigeria is strategically poised to accelerate local production, substitute imports, and catalyze opportunities for women and youth, contributing significantly to household and national food self-sufficiency. By 2030, the program aims to have positively impacted two million households, fostering a more prosperous and food-secure Nigeria.



Naija Unlock Signature Program: Featured Projects

Growing the Productivity and Resilience of Smallholder Rice Farmers in Nigeria (GrowRice)

Overview.

Nigeria, despite being Africa's largest rice producer, faces a significant gap between production and domestic demand, resulting in substantial rice imports. Heifer Nigeria's "GrowRice" project, under the Naija Unlock program, aims to tackle this challenge by empowering 1.2 million smallholder rice farmers to attain sustainable living incomes by 2030.

The project focuses on several key areas: boosting productivity, fostering resilient agribusiness models, promoting climate-smart agriculture practices, and enhancing farmers' access to finance and technology. By leveraging strategic partnerships and innovative solutions, Heifer Nigeria is committed to transforming the rice value chain, reducing poverty, and enhancing food security within the country.



Project Goal

The core objective of the project is to support 1.2 million smallholder rice farmers in closing the sustainable living income gap. This ambitious goal will be realized through a series of integrated outcomes:

1. **Economically Sustainable Farmer-Owned Agribusinesses:** Fostering farmer-owned agribusinesses that are n ot only inclusive but also competitive and profitable.
2. **Year-Round Household Food Security:** Ensuring that households have access to adequate food throughout the year.
3. **Increased Household Incomes:** Enabling households to significantly increase their income levels.
4. **Improved Environmental Sustainability:** Promoting practices that contribute to a healthier and more sustainable environment.
5. **Strengthened Market Systems:** Developing market systems that benefit smallholder farmers by bridging the gap between supply and demand.



Key Project Components

- **Access to Mechanization Services:** Partnering with Hello Tractor to offer farmers affordable access to mechanization services, thereby increasing their productivity and reducing the burden of manual labor.
- **Insurance through Pay-at-Harvest Area Yield Index Insurance (PAH AYII):** Collaborating with Leadway Assurance and Pula Advisors to introduce crop insurance, building farmers' resilience to the unpredi ctable effects of climate change.
- **Climate Smart Agriculture and Extension Advisory Services:** Teaming up with Ignitia to provide crucial weather forecasts and climate-smart agricultural advice, enabling farmers to make informed decisions.
- **Smallholder Outgrower and Ingrower Sourcing Model:** Working with agribusinesses such as Silvex and Extension Africa to ensure farmers have access to improved practices, cutting-edge technologies, and lucrative markets.
- **Building Social Capital through Value-Based Holistic Community Development (VBHCD):** Implementing Heifer's renowned VBHCD model to cultivate strong social capital and organizational capabilities within farming communities.

Future Components:

- **Input Trade Fairs:** Creating platforms where farmers can connect with input companies and financial institutions, streamlining access to essential resources.
- **Extension Villages/Technology Incubation Centers:** Establishing centers to accelerate the dissemination and adoption of climate-smart technologies and best practices.
- **Strengthening the Output Market:** Collaborating with government agencies and market stakeholders to enhance market efficiency, transparency, and the enforcement of quality standards.

Summary

The GrowRice project showcases a comprehensive and enduring strategy to uplift small-scale farmers. By championing participatory agribusinesses and nurturing adaptable communities, this program forges a path toward a more promising and flourishing future for Nigeria's rice cultivators and the country at large

Sustainable Market Access for Smallholder Poultry Farmers in Nigeria (SMAP)

Overview

Nigeria boasts the second-largest chicken population in Africa, yet domestic production lags behind consumption, creating a vast, untapped market potential. This presents a significant development opportunity for the country, impacting every link in the poultry value chain.

Heifer Nigeria's SMAP project aims to address the constraints faced by smallholder poultry farmers, including limited access to quality inputs, veterinary services, and market linkages. By improving access to these essential resources, the project will enable farmers to significantly increase their productivity and income. Additionally, it will tackle challenges such as access to finance, price volatility of poultry feed, and lack of extension services.

Project Goal

The poultry industry in Nigeria is dynamic and rapidly expanding, driven by a growing demand for poultry products and a transforming value chain. The SMAP project seeks to capitalize on these opportunities by enabling smallholder farmers to participate more fully in this thriving sector.

The overarching goal of the Poultry project under the Naija Unlock program is to empower 600,000 smallholder poultry farmers to achieve sustainable living incomes by 2030, with a focus on inclusivity, targeting 50% women and 30% youth participation.

Key Project Components

The project's success will directly contribute to Heifer International's vision of reducing poverty and hunger. It will help farmers increase productivity, reduce bird mortality, access premium markets, and secure financing. Moreover, the project will emphasize environmental sustainability, value chain integration, and capacity building through Heifer's VBHCD model.

1. **Access to Premium Markets:** Establishing a commercially viable poultry processing center to unlock offtake for smallholder farmers, ensuring fair prices and sustainable incomes.
2. **Access to Innovative Financing:** Leveraging partnerships with Heifer Impact Capital and ag-tech firms to provide farmers with access to affordable and convenient input credit.
3. **Access to Quality Inputs:** Facilitating innovative models to strengthen service provision and establish distribution channels for quality veterinary services and inputs.

4. **Commercializing Noiler Chicken Production:** Scaling up production of the high-yield, low-input Noiler breed, enabling farmers to achieve sustainable living incomes.
5. **VBHCD & Climate Smart Agriculture:** Leveraging Heifer's VBHCD model to build social capital and achieve sustainable behavior change, while promoting climate-smart practices and improving waste management.

Overview

Heifer Nigeria's SMAP project is a holistic initiative that empowers smallholder poultry farmers, fosters inclusive agribusinesses, and champions sustainable practices. By tackling key challenges and capitalizing on market opportunities, this project is poised to transform Nigeria's poultry sector, contributing significantly to poverty reduction, food security, and overall economic development.

Strengthening Tomato Farmers' Productivity, Market Access, and Resilience (STOPMAR)

Executive Summary

Tomatoes play a vital role in Nigeria's food system, offering nutritional value and income generation opportunities. Despite significant production, Nigeria faces a tomato supply deficit, exacerbated by substantial post-harvest losses. These challenges hinder smallholder farmers from realizing their full potential and achieving sustainable livelihoods.

Heifer Nigeria's STOPMAR project aims to address these constraints by empowering 200,000 smallholder tomato farmers to increase yields, reduce post-harvest losses, and access premium markets. The project will focus on building farmers' capacity, fostering value chain linkages, and promoting sustainable practices, ultimately leading to poverty reduction and improved livelihoods.

The core goal is to support 200,000 smallholder tomato farmers in closing the sustainable living income gap by 2030. This will be achieved through the following outcomes:

Project Goal

1. Economically sustainable farmer-owned agribusinesses.
2. Year-round household food security.
3. Increased household incomes.
4. Improved environmental sustainability.
5. Strengthened market systems benefiting smallholder farmers.

Key Project Components

1. **Creation of Enabling Environment and Linkages:** Addressing constraints through linkages with value chain actors, including access to finance, climate-smart resilience, premium markets, and quality inputs.
2. **Capacity Development:** Bridging skill gaps through training on social capital, good agricultural practices, cooperative management, and post-harvest handling techniques.
3. **Technology Demonstration and Adoption:** Promoting the adoption of climate-smart technologies, showcasing improved practices, and introducing post-harvest loss reduction technologies.
4. **Building Social Capital:** Leveraging Heifer's VBHCD model to foster social capital development and sustainable behavior change within communities.

The project prioritizes inclusivity, targeting 50% women and 30% youth participation. It emphasizes gender equality, youth empowerment, social capital development, economic inclusion, and environmental sustainability. Additionally, it explores collaboration with Heifer's PWI program to provide solar-powered water solutions.

Summary

Heifer Nigeria's STOPMAR project presents an integrated approach to transforming the tomato value chain and empowering smallholder farmers. By focusing on capacity building, market access, and sustainable practices, the project aims to create a thriving and resilient tomato sector, leading to increased incomes, improved livelihoods, and enhanced food security in Nigeria.

Join us in building a prosperous and food-secure future for Nigeria. Partner with Heifer International Nigeria today!



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