

# REPORT OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE UN WORLD FOOD DAY 2025 IN NIGERIA

**THEME:**

**Hand in Hand for Better Foods  
and a Better Future**

**DATE:**

**Thursday, 16th  
October 2025**

**VENUE:**

**Nicon Luxury Hotel, Abuja**

**TIME:**

**2:00 PM**

**ORGANIZED BY:**

**EverGreen Agricultural Development Initiative (EverGreen)**

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH**

**The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security  
(FMAFS) and other stakeholders**



**EVERGREEN**



**OCTOBER 2025**

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# 01.

## Introduction

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations marks World Food Day each year on 16 October to promote reflection, advocacy and action on sustainable agriculture, nutrition and food security. World Food Day 2025, themed "Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future," also celebrates the 80th anniversary of the FAO.

In Nigeria, World Food Day serves as a call for national solidarity in the fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty and as a platform to strengthen both nutrition security and food security. To mark the 2025 observance, EverGreen, in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and other stakeholders, convened a national dialogue to identify sustainable, data-driven pathways toward better foods and a better future for Nigeria.

This report presents the proceedings of that national dialogue and summarizes the additional events that together constituted Nigeria's observance of UN World Food Day 2025.







# 02.

## Purpose

The purpose of the commemoration was to educate each other on the state of nutrition and food security in Nigeria, inspire collaboration for resolutions to the challenges in our agricultural value chain, and to reaffirm national commitment towards realizing better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life in Nigeria.



Educate



Collaborate



Innovate



Commitment

# 03.

## Justification



Despite its vast agricultural resources, Nigeria continues to face significant challenges in meeting its food and nutrition needs due to drivers such as the lack of resilient agrifood systems and practices, inefficient supply chain aggravating food loss and waste, and poor literacy. The Observance of the 2025 World Food Day provided a timely opportunity to galvanize efforts, strengthen partnerships, and advance initiatives that address hunger, malnutrition, and food waste.

# 04.

## Key Highlights



Awareness



Empowerment



Engagement

- Sensitization walk on sustainable agriculture and nutrition awareness.
  - Field visit to farm clusters and school farms in Karu, Kuje, and Karshi for direct engagement.
  - Distribution of high-quality potato seeds to empower smallholder farmers.
- High-level national dialogue featuring government officials, experts, and partners.
  - Knowledge-sharing panels and presentations on hunger, nutrition, and food waste.



# 05.

## Partners

The event was organized by EverGreen in partnership with:

- Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations **(FAO)**
- Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
- Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy
- All Farmers Association of Nigeria **(AFAN)**
- Policy Innovation Centre **(PIC)**
- Society for Family Health **(SFH)**
- Africa Resource Centre for Excellence in Supply Chain Management **(ARC\_ESM)**
- Helen Keller International





# 06.

## Pre-Event Summaries

- **Visit to Farmer Clusters - October 15, 2025**

The national team led by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security conducted a field visit to the 1st UBE Primary School farm Kuje, Women Affairs Demonstration farm Kuje, Government Secondary School farm Karshi, and Government Secondary School farm Karu.

The engaging visits with these farmer groups enabled us to assess grassroots needs and challenges. Insights gathered will form the foundation for developing needs-based agricultural development initiatives.

As one of the pupils from the schools farms educated us, developing farming ‘from the classroom to the community’ is a sure way to achieve a Nigeria that feeds Nigeria.



The Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, flanked by Evergreen and other team member during the visit to farmer cluster.



- **Distribution of Inputs - October 15, 2025**

Held at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the event saw farmers receiving high-quality inputs to ensure optimal harvest for their consumption and potentially for income generation. This included the contribution of 100 organic potato seeds from EverGreen. The exercise highlighted the importance of quality and timely interventions in promoting sustainable agriculture.



100 organic potato seeds donated by EverGreen at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security ready for distribution.



- **Sensitization Walk - October 16, 2025**

The sensitization walk brought together farmers, youth volunteers, and development partners in a spirited display of advocacy and community engagement. The participants marched through the major streets, holding colorful banners and placards with key messages such as **“No Farmer, No Food”, “Grow What You Eat, Eat What You Grow”, and “Healthy Soils, Healthy Lives.”**

Chants of “No farmer, no food! No food, no nation!” echoed through the air, drawing attention from passersby and local traders. The vibrant procession was more than a rally, it was a call to action, promoting awareness on nutrition, environmental stewardship, and sustainable agriculture.

Through this walk, participants emphasized the shared responsibility of every citizen in ensuring food security and protecting the environment. The event served as a reminder that sustainable practices at the farm and household levels are key to building a healthier and more food-secure future for all.



The Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, flanked by Evergreen and other team member during the sensitization walk



# 07.

## Main Event – National Dialogue

The main event took place on **Thursday, October 16, 2025**, at **Nicon Luxury Hotel, Abuja**, and was graced by dignitaries, partners, and participants from across sectors.

### Opening Remark

Delivered by **Ibim Banigo, Co-Founder of EverGreen**, who emphasized the urgency of collaboration and innovation in tackling hunger and building sustainable food systems.



## Goodwill Messages

Representatives from partners and supporters, including the Government of Nigeria, The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and Society for Family Health, delivered goodwill remarks and messages reiterating their commitment to strengthening Nigeria's food ecosystem.



- David Tsokar, **Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN**
- Senator Dr. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, CON, **Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security**
- Ibim Banigo, **Co-Founder of EverGreen**
- Senator Dr. Ipalibo Banigo (DSSRS), **Rivers West Senatorial District**
- Ibrahim Murtala, **Society for Family Health**



Dayyabu Mahmud  
Yusuf  
**Society for  
Family Health**



David Tsokar  
**Food and  
Agriculture  
Organization of  
the UN**



## Keynote Address

Representing **Dr. Hussein Gadain**, the **FAO Representative in Nigeria** and to the **ECOWAS**, **David Tsokar** delivered the keynote address, highlighting global progress in production, and the FAO's achievements over 80 years in pursuit of its mission to end hunger.



## Key Messages

- Over the decades, FAO and its members have eradicated rinderpest, established global food safety standards, tripled rice yields, negotiated key agricultural treaties, and deployed early-warning systems to combat pests and diseases.
- More work still needs to be done in some parts of the world. In Nigeria, over 33 million Nigerians are projected to face acute food insecurity during the June–August 2025 lean season, a 25% increase from the previous year.
- Amongst other initiatives, FAO has partnered with the Government of Nigeria to support the launch of the 2025 Nigeria Food and Agriculture Policy Monitoring Review (PMR) – an evidence-based insight into public agricultural spending, trade policies, and commodity price incentives, that will inform the country's efforts to addressing food security needs.

Let us continue the journey to free humanity from hunger with renewed purpose, stronger partnerships, and unwavering resolve—because a food-secure future is within reach.



### Special Remark

By Senator Dr. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, **CON, Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security.**

Highlighted the continued commitment by the government to reduce food crisis including via the soil science initiative recently launched by **President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.**

### Key Messages

- The sector is moving beyond the image of struggling farmers to one led by young Nigerians driving sustainability and innovation.
- The agricultural vision aligns with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda and the Nigeria First policy, built on the principle: "produce what we eat and eat what we produce."
- The Ministry is prioritizing crops based on national consumption and regional relevance, including rice, coco yam, to harness Nigeria's diverse food culture.
- The government is committed to ending hunger in Nigeria by promoting food production and ensuring an enabling environment for agricultural growth.



## Special Remark by Senator Dr. Ipalibo Banigo

In celebration of the UN World Food Day 2025, **Senator Dr. Ipalibo Banigo (DSSRS)**, Chairman of the 10th Senate Committee on Health, highlighted the deep connection between food systems and national health, emphasizing why nutrition and agriculture are central to Nigeria's wellbeing.

### Key messages:

- Health is multi-sectoral and it connects with food, agriculture, nutrition, environment, housing, and education.
- Nigeria faces serious malnutrition challenges, especially among children and pregnant women, due to poor diets.
- Food is wealth and what people eat directly affects health, development, and quality of life.
- Proper nutrition during pregnancy is critical, as it impacts the health and future of the unborn child.
- There is a need to support local production, encouraging Nigerians to produce what they eat and eat what they produce.





# 08.

## Focus of the Event

The dialogue centered on three thematic sessions:



### Hunger and Food Security



### Nutrition and Food Systems



### Food Loss and Food Waste

Each session featured expert presentations and panel discussions aimed at exploring practical strategies and identifying policy levers to strengthen Nigeria's agricultural value chain.



# 09.

## Presentations

- **Data on Hunger: How Food Secure is Nigeria?**
  - Beshima Abako, EverGreen
- **Data on Nutrition and the Essence of Nutrition Education in Nigeria**
  - Jessica Vakporaye, PIC
- **Nutrition Through the Life Cycle**
  - Michael E. Daniel, Helen Keller International
- **Data on Food Loss and Food Waste in Nigeria**
  - Stephen Adoloro, ARC\_ESM



# 10.

## Panel Sessions

### Session I: Strengthening the Pillars of Food Security

**Moderator:** Ibim Banigo



#### Panelists:

- Chimaobi Okoye
- Ihechi Nwarie
- Mahmud Jafar
- Olanrewaju Akintobi

#### Key messages include:

- Addressing insecurity is key to achieving food security. Farmers need safe, secure access to farm lands to farm and produce food crops.
- Collaboration between the government, development partners, and farmers remains vital for achieving food security.



## Session II: Making Local Foods Mainstream

**Moderator:** Bemshima Abako



### Panelists:

- Ibrahim Murtala
- Dr. Megor Ikenobe
- Mmachukwu Orizu

### Key messages include:

- Nutrition and food safety must be prioritized across all stages of the food value chain.
- Linking empowerment with enterprise enables young mothers to become community nutrition advocates and micro-entrepreneurs, earning income while promoting healthy eating.



## Session III: Improving Food Management in Nigeria

**Moderator:** Iffat Mahmud

**Panelists:**

- Ibim Banigo
- Ijeoma Nworah
- Stephen Adoloro



**Key messages include:**

- There are several low-cost, effective methods of preserving food such as by using hermetic bags which are proven to store grains post-harvest until the next planting season. We need to scale our use of such aids alongside advanced methods for collective improvement of food management in Nigeria.

# 11.

## Outcomes

- Renewed collaboration between EverGreen, FAO, government institutions and partner organisations.
- Strengthen commitment to integrate nutrition education into agricultural programs.
- Consensus on improving data collection and real-time feedback from smallholder farmers.
- Recognition of the need to strengthen existing systems and policies, rather than reinventing new ones.



Top left picture, L-R

- Tanimu Ibrahim, Director - **Planning and Policy Coordination, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security**
- David Tsokar, **Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN**
- Senator Dr. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, CON, **Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security**
- Ibim Banigo, **Co-Founder of EverGreen**
- Senator Dr. Ipalibo Banigo (DSSRS), **Rivers West Senatorial District**
- Ibrahim Murtala, **Society for Family Health**
- Dayyabu Mahmud Yusuf, **Society for Family Health**
- Michael E. Daniel, **Helen Keller International**



# 12.

## Key Takeaways

- Real-time feedback mechanisms are crucial for designing impactful interventions.
- Collaboration among ministries, development partners, and farmers remains vital for achieving food security.
- Nutrition must be prioritized across all stages of the food value chain.
- Strengthening post-harvest management can drastically reduce food loss and waste.



Collaboration



Nutrition



Innovation

# 13.

## Next Steps



- Expand farmer development programs across more clusters and communities.
- Implement real-time feedback platforms linking farmers and policymakers.
- Strengthen nutrition education campaigns such as through schools and community initiatives.
- Promote wider adoption of climate-smart and resilient agricultural practices.
- Scale post-harvest and processing interventions to reduce losses and improve quality.
- Develop a monitoring framework to track the impact of programs and partnerships.



# 14.

## Conclusion

The UN World Food Day 2025 Commemoration in Nigeria went beyond an event, it was a collective awakening. Through the collaboration of government, partners, and communities, the event reignited the national dialogue on sustainable food systems and inclusive growth.

In his Vote of Thanks, Mr. Bereni D. Fiberesima appreciated all partners, speakers, volunteers, and participants for their dedication and reaffirmed EverGreen's commitment to creating a food-secure and resilient Nigeria.

As we move forward, EverGreen remains steadfast in walking hand in hand with like-minded partners for better foods and a better future.





# 15.

## Photo Gallery





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