



Open Agri Connect: Enabling Private Sector Investment and Access to Services for Smallholder Farmers through Digital Farmer Registry

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Project Overview

- **Project Name:** Open Agri Connect - Enabling Private Sector Investment and Access to Services for Smallholder Farmers through Digital Farmer Registry
- **Countries supported:** Rwanda and Nigeria
- **Duration:** 2 years, targeting 500,000 farmers in selected states and provinces in each country.
- **Recipient:** Ernst & Young (EY), Nigeria identified through a competitive selection process brings proven expertise from supporting similar digital infrastructure projects across different countries including India, Togo, Ethiopia.
- **Total Financing:** US\$ 2 million
 - IFAD's contribution is US\$ 1.5million to directly cover grant implementation.
 - In-kind contribution of US\$ 0.5million by Ernst & Young (EY)



Project Rationale and Strategic Alignment

- The "Open Agri Connect" (OAC) project aims to **establish scalable digital farmer registries** using a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) approach.
- This approach will address the **gaps in accessing reliable agricultural data**, improve delivery of digital services, increase private sector investment and enhance policymaking.
- The overall goal is to transition agriculture in Rwanda and Nigeria from subsistence-based models **to data-driven, commercially oriented systems**.
- The project aligns with IFAD's **Strategic Objective 2** and directly supports IFAD's **Strategic Framework (2016–2025)**, **IFAD13 priorities**, and the **ICT4D Strategy (2020–2030)**.
- It aligns closely with the broader **country digital agriculture strategies and priorities** in both countries for example;
 - National Pathways to Food systems Transformation in Nigeria
 - National ICT for Agriculture (ICT4Rag) Strategy (2016-2020) for Rwanda
 - Nigeria Digital Agriculture Strategy (2020-2030).

Project Components

Component 1:

Design and Pilot implementation of Digital Farmer Registry

The design and pilot phase will assess current data sources and digital public infrastructure, ensuring interoperability by developing a comprehensive architecture for the Digital Farmer Registry.

Component 2:

Building capacity and strengthening data governance and knowledge

To support effective data collection and usage, the project will undertake extensive capacity-building for local teams, focusing on the use of digital tools, data collection processes, and adherence to national data governance frameworks

Expected Outcomes

Outcome 1

Smallholder farmer productivity and market participation boosted by improved access to digital identities and services.

Outcome2

Data driven private sector innovation and investment in agriculture accelerated and enabled by the farmer registry and digital services.

Outcome 3

Data driven agriculture fueling sustainable growth, financial inclusion and rural prosperity.

Implementation Arrangements

- The grant will be executed by teams from EY Nigeria, with technical assistance from EY Rwanda and EY India, alongside their respective in-country engagement managers.
- Implementation will occur in close collaboration with the **Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) Digital Unit** in Rwanda and the **Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS)** in Nigeria, working jointly with the **Directorate of Planning and the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)** to ensure alignment with national priorities and long-term sustainability. Coordination will also involve the IFAD Country teams and the IFAD ICT4D team.
- Both Rwanda and Nigeria have provided endorsement letters supporting the grant, aligning it with ongoing initiatives within their respective countries.

Conclusion

- Open Agri Connect Project represents a transformative investment aimed at revolutionizing agriculture through digital and data-driven services.
- It will lay the groundwork for a progressive, inclusive, and agile agricultural ecosystem in Rwanda and Nigeria, empowering smallholder farmers while driving sustainable economic growth and innovation via digital public infrastructure.
- Implementing scalable and interoperable digital solutions enhances IFAD's operational efficiency and programme impact, delivering lasting benefits to smallholder producers.
- Collaboration with private sector stakeholders will harness Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) to offer innovative, digitally enabled services to smallholder farmers, fostering greater scale, impact, and sustainability through strong partnerships.
- The adaptable and flexible nature of the DPI approach will encourage good governance, intersectoral cooperation, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness, supporting effective scaling up.

Thank you!