

Exhibition on women in science, technology, and innovation for sustainable and inclusive development

7 – 9 April 2025

Gallery space, 3rd Floor of the E-Building, Palais des Nations

Name of Exhibitor: National Space Research and Development Agency

Country: Nigeria

Introduction of the Exhibitor

The National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA), established on May 5, 1999, under the Federal Ministry of Science, Innovation and Technology, is Nigeria's leading institution for space science and technology and is committed to advancing geospatial technology applications. It has launched six satellites and operates seven activity centers and seven regional laboratories nationwide. NASRDA applies space-based solutions for national development and disaster management. It has collaborated with global and local partners such as the World Bank (GRID3), UN-FAO, UN-SPIDER, ECOWAS, NASA Harvest, AIRCAS (CropWatch), ACRoSAL, reinforcing its vital role in advancing socio-economic growth through innovative space applications.

Description of the Initiative/Proposal

The *AI-Driven Crop Monitoring System in Nigeria* (CropWatch) uses satellite data and AI to monitor crops, predict yields, and issue early warnings on food insecurity. Led by a female scientist and supported by women in technical roles, the initiative benefits from the capacity building of UNCTAD-AIR/CAS-ANSO joint project showcasing women's contributions to science and innovation. It enhances food security, environmental sustainability, and agricultural productivity. Women have been instrumental in training programs, regional collaboration, and policy-oriented bulletins. By promoting gender equality and building capacity in geospatial technologies, the project empowers women, especially in rural areas, and supports sustainable, inclusive development through innovation in agriculture.

Potential Collaboration:

1. **Collaboration with International Agencies:** Partner with organizations like FAO, UNDP, NASA, and COPERNICUS to expand technical expertise, data sharing, and funding support.
2. **Regional Knowledge Exchange:** Establish training hubs across West Africa to promote regional capacity building in precision agriculture and AI applications.
3. **Academic and Research Linkages:** Engage universities and research institutions in joint projects, internships, and innovation challenges focused on agricultural technologies.
4. **Private Sector Involvement:** Collaborate with agro-allied companies and tech firms to scale solutions, develop user-friendly tools, and promote commercialization.
5. **Gender-Focused Initiatives:** Partner with NGOs to empower more women in STEM through scholarships, mentorship, and leadership programs.

Website : www.nasrda.gov.ng

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During field work for data collection with participant from west African Countries in Abuja, Nigeria



On job training of Nigeria cropwatch participants in Beijing, China by UNCTAD-AIR/CAS-ANSO joint project



Nigeria Cropwatch team-lead with other female team members during field work