

NAIS

NATIONAL
ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE
STRATEGY



YEARS OF
IMPACT

APRIL 2026

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Message from the Honourable Minister

It is deeply encouraging to see this compilation emerge from across Nigeria's artificial intelligence ecosystem at this important moment. What began as a deliberate effort to bring clarity, purpose, and coordination to Nigeria's AI journey is now being reflected in the growing body of work, collaboration, and innovation taking shape across the country.

From the outset, our ambition was clear: to develop a National Artificial Intelligence Strategy that would not sit as a static policy document, but serve as a living framework that guides thinking, unlocks coordination, and creates the conditions for meaningful action across government, academia, industry, and the broader development community. It is therefore particularly gratifying to see ecosystem actors take ownership of that vision, and to document the progress that has followed over the past two years.

It is important, however, to interpret this progress with nuance.

Not every activity captured in this report can or should be attributed directly to the Strategy document itself. Rather, the significance of this moment is the emergence of momentum and the possibilities for raising the level of productivity in our country.

A credible, inclusive, and well-articulated national strategy does not act alone; it creates alignment, builds confidence, and signals direction. In doing so, it enables a broader ecosystem to move with greater clarity and purpose. That is the role the National AI Strategy has played.

This, to me, is where the real value lies.

Because when a country gets its direction right, it begins to unlock productivity at scale. We have often said that the true promise of artificial intelligence is not in the technology itself, but in its ability to help us do more and better, at a faster and greater scale. Whether it is improving agricultural yields, expanding access to quality education, strengthening healthcare delivery, or enhancing public service efficiency, AI presents us with a powerful opportunity to close long-standing gaps and accelerate inclusive growth.

But realising that opportunity requires more than ambition. It demands the right foundations — infrastructure, talent, data, and policy — working together in a coordinated way. This was the thinking that shaped our approach from the very beginning.

In April 2024, we convened a four-day co-creation workshop that brought together a diverse group of Nigerian and international experts. It was an intentionally inclusive process, grounded in the belief that no single institution holds all the answers, and that the strength of any national strategy lies in the diversity of perspectives that inform it. The outcome of that process is what has become the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy: a collective effort, led by government, but shaped by contributions from across academia, industry, the diaspora, and global partners.

That Strategy is aligned with the broader vision of His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, to build a one trillion dollar economy. A vision that recognises the central role that technology, and particularly artificial intelligence, must play in driving productivity, competitiveness, and shared prosperity.

This report, therefore, serves both as a reflection and as a call to action. It reflects the progress we have made in a relatively short period of time, and the growing confidence in Nigeria's AI ecosystem. But it also reminds us that we are still at the early stages of what is possible.

I would like to sincerely appreciate all stakeholders who have contributed through ideas, expertise, data, partnerships, funding and sustained commitment to the development of the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy and to the broader momentum captured in this report.

The journey ahead will require even deeper collaboration, stronger execution, and if we remain disciplined in our approach, and ambitious in our outlook, I am confident that Nigeria can not only participate in the global AI economy, but help shape it in ways that deliver real value for our people.



Dr 'Bosun Tijani

Honourable Minister for Communications, Innovation & Digital Economy,
Federal Republic of Nigeria

Preface

Two years into this journey, Nigeria's National Artificial Intelligence Strategy has come to represent more than a policy milestone. It now reflects what becomes possible when vision, coordination, and ecosystem-wide participation are brought together around a shared national purpose. This process was set in motion through the visionary leadership of the Honourable Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, **Dr 'Bosun Tijani**, and framed around the Strategy's five pillars: infrastructure, ecosystem development, adoption, responsible AI, and governance.

The foundation for this journey was laid between **15 and 18 April 2024**, when about **120 Nigerian experts** from across the country and the diaspora came together to develop the initial draft of the Strategy. That gathering was only the beginning. It was followed by a wider process of consultation, refinement, and technical review, which helped transform the draft into a credible national framework and a useful point of alignment for institutions, innovators, researchers, and ecosystem actors.

As the journey has unfolded, the enablement roles of the **National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (NCAIR)** and the **National AI Collective** have also been important. NCAIR has served as a key institutional anchor within Nigeria's public innovation architecture, providing continuity, legitimacy, and public-sector backbone. In parallel, the National AI Collective, supported by **Luminate**, has played an important coordination and execution role in sustaining ecosystem momentum and helping to translate the Strategy from policy vision into a living national agenda.

It is in that spirit that this compilation presents a curated collage of major activities, milestones, and ecosystem developments recorded over the last two years. The inclusion of these initiatives is not intended to suggest direct causality or to imply that each development was solely caused by the National AI Strategy. Rather, it reflects the broader understanding that a strong and credible national AI strategy can help create the conditions for innovation, collaboration, sustainable growth, investment, ecosystem participation, and global visibility, many of which Nigeria has seen during this period.

The evidence of that momentum is increasingly visible. More than **700,000** people have been reached through AI skills initiatives, over **\$1.85 billion** in AI-related investment commitments has been recorded, the startup ecosystem has grown to more than **120 active ventures**, and Nigeria's global visibility has expanded through major rankings, recognitions, and flagship innovations such as **N-ATLAS**.

This compilation is therefore offered in a collective spirit. It is not an exhaustive account of every effort across the ecosystem, but rather a selected picture of the scale, direction, and momentum that have emerged. Some important initiatives may not be captured, not because they are less valuable, but because any single compilation has practical limits. What is clear, however, is that Nigeria's AI journey is now active, expanding, and increasingly being shaped by many hands.



Dr Olubayo Adekanmbi

CEO/Founder, Data Science Nigeria & Co-Founder EqualyzAI
Industry/Startup Ecosystem Coordination,
Nigeria National AI Collective

Key Highlights Nigeria's AI Progress Dashboard



#1

Global AI Optimism Index



700K+

Nigerians AI-Trained



120+

Active AI Startups



\$1.85B

Total AI Investment



72nd

Global AI Readiness (+31 spots)



20,000+

Job Placements & Mentorships

Skills and Training



700K+

Nigerians Reached



135K
3MTT Trained



400+
Media Literacy
Trained



32,000+
DSN Bootcamp
participants



20K+
DeepTech_Ready



20,000+
Placements
& Mentorships



43K
AI Certifications

Infrastructure and Investment



\$1.85B

Total AI Investment



\$1.6B+
Data Centre
Investment



100MW
Kasi Cloud
Capacity



7
New Data
Centres



\$270M+
AI Venture Capital



\$7.5M
AI Scaling
Hub Fund

Startups and Ecosystem

 **120+**
Active AI Startups

 **3.4×**
Ecosystem Growth

 **5,000+**
Codefest Innovators

 **#4**
Global Spreadsheet AI

 **15+**
Major AI Hackathons

 **10+**
National AI Conferences


 **#7**
Gates Grand Challenge Winners

Research and Recognition

 **230+**
AI Research

 **#1**
Global AI Optimism

 **72nd**
Global AI Readiness

 **6,000+**
Speech Dataset Hours


 **TIME100**
International Recognition

 **6**
Homegrown AI Model

 **4**
UNESCO Top 100 Products

Partnership and Policy

 **30+**
Global Strategic Partners

 **\$2.1M**
Google AI Strategy Fund

 **7**
University AI Hubs

 **6**
State-led AI Innovations

Skills and Training

700K+
Nigerians Reached



135,000+ participants trained under the 3MTT Initiative

The 3 Million Technical Talent (3MTT) initiative has trained over 135,000 participants in areas ranging from data science and AI to software engineering, cybersecurity, and related digital fields across all the 36 states. The programme has been implemented in partnership with private sector companies and technology training providers across the country.



Source: <https://3mtt.nitda.gov.ng/>

3,000+

Paid Internships Through 3MTT x UNDP

A key strength of the 3MTT initiative is that it goes beyond training to create a pathway into work. Through its paid internship track, over 3,000 fellows have been placed in organisations across the country under the Nigeria Jubilee Fellows Programme, co-funded by the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), helping translate skills development into real job opportunities.



Source: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/dr-bosun-tijani-1b027b_we-are-pleased-to-announce-a-partnership-activity-7130194549443878913-DMa6/

3MTT/NJFP facilitated 15,000 graduates linked to jobs



Beyond digital skills training, the 3 Million Technical Talent (3MTT) initiative is helping to translate learning into employment outcomes. In partnership with the Nigeria Jubilee Fellows Programme (NJFP), the initiative has linked over 15,000 graduates to job opportunities, demonstrating a stronger pathway from capability building to workforce participation. With 1.8 million more participants in the pipeline, 3MTT is on course to equip three million Nigerians with critical digital skills while also strengthening the country's talent-to-employment ecosystem.

Source: <https://guardian.ng/technology/fg-boosts-3mtt-initiative-with-impact-challenge-eyes-15000-jobs/>

16,500+ Participants trained under DeepTech Ready Programme

The DeepTech Ready programme supported by Google.org and delivered by Data Science Nigeria (DSN) has trained over 16,500 participants in advanced AI skills including deep learning, natural language processing, computer vision, and geospatial data analysis. The programme has reached participants across multiple states, with classroom-based sessions that prioritise hands-on technical practice through distributed learning hubs, complemented with mentorship support and project-based job readiness support.



Source: <https://technologytimes.ng/nigeria-launches-deeptech-ready-upskilling/>



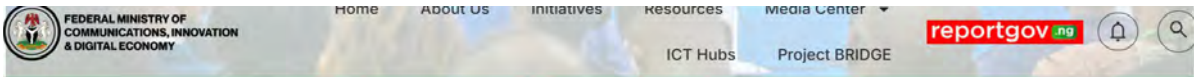
100 AI Fellows Trained in Ogun State, with 3MTT National Hackathon Winners Emerging from the Cohort

Through a strategic partnership between the Ogun State Government and the Bosun Tijani Foundation, facilitated by Publica AI, 100 AI engineers and developers were trained in Abeokuta through an intensive six-month immersion programme, with stipends provided to all fellows. The depth and quality of the training were reflected in national outcomes, with some participants going on to emerge as winners in the 3MTT national hackathon, underscoring the programme's strong practical orientation and impact.

Source: <https://aifellowship.ogunstate.gov.ng/>

2,000 Civil Servants trained in the DevsInGovernment programme

The DevsInGovernment programme has trained over 2,000 civil servants in data, digital, and AI-related capabilities to strengthen innovation within the public sector. By equipping government professionals with practical skills in emerging technologies, the initiative is helping to build a more data-driven, digitally enabled civil service that can better support policy delivery, problem-solving, and public sector transformation.



Dr. Tijani Launches DevsInGovernment to Improve Use of Technology in the Nigerian Civil Service



Source: <https://fmcide.gov.ng/tag/devsingovernment/>

Microsoft Empowers 350,000 More Nigerians with AI Skills

In December 2025, the Federal Government and Microsoft jointly announced a landmark partnership to train four million Nigerians in AI and technology skills over five years. As part of the initial phase, 350,000 Nigerians have been trained with over 43,000 AI certifications already issued.



Source: <https://news.microsoft.com/source/emea/2025/12/microsoft-empowers-350000-more-nigerians-with-ai-skills/>

Lagos Business School Executive Education and Capacity Building for AI-Ready Leadership

Lagos Business School has facilitated executive education and capacity-building for leaders across sectors, strengthening the ability of decision makers to engage AI with greater depth, responsibility, and strategic clarity. This effort contributed to building the human and institutional capacity required for informed policy engagement, cross-sector coordination, and the integration of AI into governance, research, and public-interest systems.



GIZ-Led FemAI Initiative Advances Inclusive AI Governance and Policy Capacity Building in Nigeria

The GIZ-supported FemAI initiative strengthened AI governance in Nigeria by equipping policy actors especially women with the skills to design inclusive, ethical AI policies aligned with the national strategy. It advanced participatory governance by translating responsible AI principles into practical policy frameworks and capacity-building systems.



Source: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/women-political-leaders_femainigeria-femai-inclusiveai-activity-7374450333957234688-bN1v?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABgqxwkYBNxb0IE2YN9-7nwLnuC6gfz88d1U

DSN/Microsoft Specialised AI Governance for Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC)

Data Science Nigeria, with Microsoft's support, delivered a high-level, hands-on capacity-building programme equipping the Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC) with advanced expertise in AI, data governance, and privacy aligned to global standards. The initiative strengthened institutional capability through leadership engagement, hands-on training and international certifications, reinforcing Nigeria's position in digital rights protection and trusted AI-driven governance.



Source: <https://x.com/ndpengr/status/1912807518071386225?s=20>



32,000+

Trained at the Data Science Nigeria Artificial Intelligence Bootcamp



The Data Science Nigeria AI Bootcamp has trained over 32,000 participants through multi-city learning programme and hackathon events, culminating in an all-expenses-paid physical participation for over 150 top participants. The initiative is driven by a broader intent to accelerate Africa's development through the solution-oriented application of machine learning to solve social and business problems.

Source: https://datasciencenigeria.org/2025_aibootcamp/

Google Launches AI Learning Series in Hausa and Yoruba for Beginners

Google.org, the Kaduna State Government and Data Science Nigeria launched the first AI learning video series in Hausa and Yoruba languages. This groundbreaking initiative marks a significant milestone in the localisation of AI education for inclusive socio-economic development.



Source: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0mGkrTWmp4v4PHWzrOd4LvF_6lrX7bNg

UNESCO Trains Civil Servants on Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence

The UNESCO-led training equips Nigerian civil servants with critical AI and digital skills to enhance governance, improve service delivery, and strengthen data-driven decision-making across public institutions.



Source: <https://fmino.gov.ng/unesco-trains-civil-servants-on-digital-transformation-and-artificial-intelligence/>

NUC Introduces Artificial Intelligence Courses for Nigerian Universities

The National Universities Commission (NUC) has approved 13 new undergraduate degree programmes for Nigerian universities, including Artificial Intelligence, as part of the effort to strengthen academic relevance, foster innovation, and prepare graduates for the demands of the 21st-century workforce



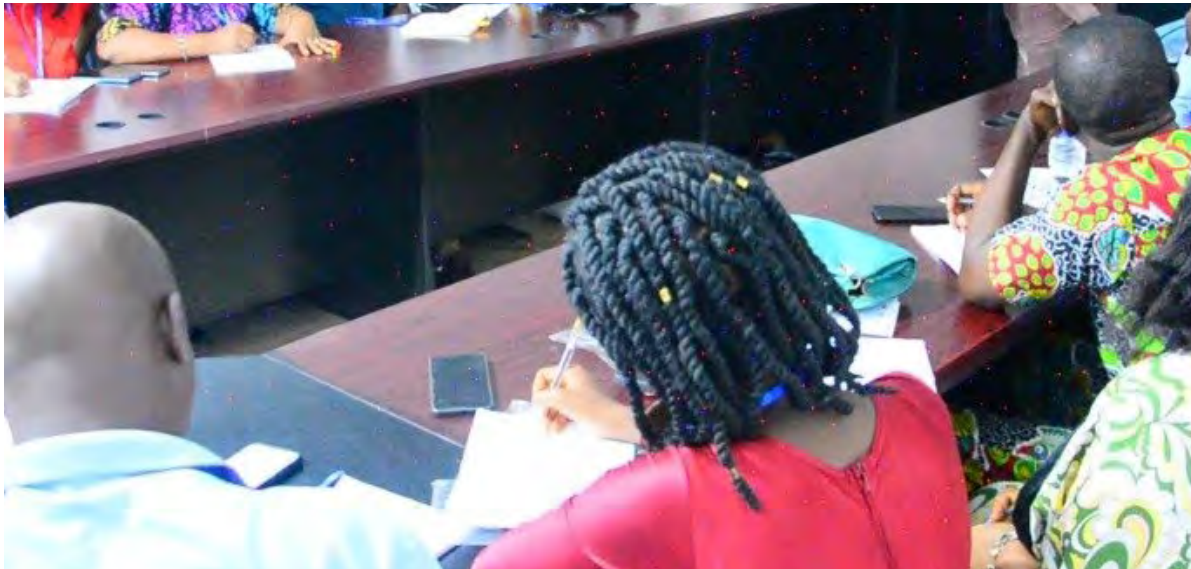
Source: <https://www.arise.tv/nuc-introduces-artificial-intelligence-nuclear-engineering-among-13-new-courses-for-nigerian-universities/>

120+ Educators Trained in Artificial Intelligence (AI) Literacy across Nigeria's Media and Communication Education System

As part of sector-focused AI adoption efforts to advance AI literacy across Nigeria's media and communication education system, the Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID), under the Nigeria AI Collective portfolio, hosted a capacity-building workshop for over 120 journalists, communication lecturers, and media professionals.



Source: <https://thecjid.org/cjid-nigeria-ai-collective-expands-ai-integration-training-for-educators-to-southern-institutions-deepens-push-for-media-curriculum-reform/>



Safer Media Initiative (AI in Media Workshop) trained 100+ participants

The Safer Media Initiative organised hands-on training on AI-powered tools for journalists, with a focus on combating misinformation, maintaining editorial standards, and addressing gender-sensitive risks and digital workplace safety.

Source: <https://safer-mediainitiative.org/15/safer-media-initiative-announces-ai-training-for-journalists-across-nigeria>

Journalists Trained as AI and Tech Accountability Fellows

The Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID) delivered a three-day virtual fellowship designed to strengthen journalists' investigative skills on tech governance, platform accountability, and online harms.



Source: <https://thecjid.org/nigeria-ai-collective-cjid-launch-es-ai-and-tech-accountability-reporting-fellowship-to-strengthen-media-capacity-and-advance-tech-reporting-in-nigeria/>

Infrastructure and Investment

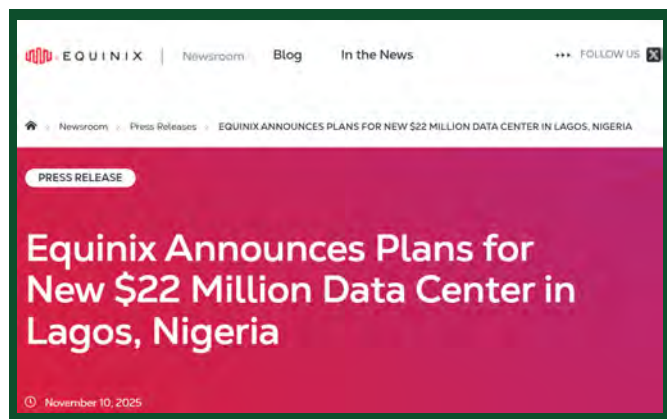
\$1.85B+
Committed



Over \$1.85 billion in infrastructure and investment commitments have flowed into Nigeria's AI ecosystem within two years of the National AI Strategy. This reflects the growing recognition that AI systems are computationally intensive and depend on reliable power, high-speed connectivity, and large-scale digital infrastructure.

Equinix to Strengthen Digital Infrastructure with \$22 Million Data Centre in Lagos

Equinix's \$22 million investment in its new Lagos facility, LG3, marks an important step in strengthening Nigeria's digital infrastructure. As Equinix's first newly built data centre in West Africa, the facility is expected to enhance both regional and global connectivity through Equinix Fabric, while also serving as the first phase of a broader \$100 million investment plan aimed at advancing Africa's digital infrastructure over the next two years.



Source: <https://newsroom.equinix.com/2025-11-10-Equinix-Announces-Plans-for-New-22-Million-Data-Center-in-Lagos.-Nigeria>

Kasi Cloud Launches 100MW AI Data Centre Campus in Lekki, Setting New Benchmark for Nigeria's Digital Infrastructure

Kasi Cloud's Lagos facility, backed by a \$250 million investment, is Nigeria's first 100-megawatt AI data centre and marks a major milestone in expanding domestic AI compute capacity

Source: <https://techcabal.com/2026/02/05/a-first-look-at-kasi-clouds-100mw-ai-data-centre-in-lagos/>





MTN Nigeria Advances Cloud Ambitions with Initial Phase of \$235 Million Data Centre

MTN Nigeria's completion of the first phase of its \$235 million data centre marks a significant step in the company's cloud infrastructure ambitions and signals the growing entry of major telecommunications operators into Nigeria's AI and digital infrastructure race. Beyond expanding domestic hosting capacity, the investment strengthens the foundation for enterprise cloud services, data-intensive applications, and future AI-driven workloads within the country.



Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/07/01/mtn-nigeria-completes-first-phase-of-235-million-data-centre/>

BCN x Zadara to Launch Neutral Multi-Tenant AI Cloud

The partnership between BCN and Zadara aims to position Nigeria as the host of Africa's first neutral multi-tenant AI cloud, marking an important step in the country's digital and AI infrastructure journey. It is expected to widen access to scalable, enterprise-grade cloud and compute resources for startups, enterprises, and public institutions building AI solutions locally.



Source: <https://www.thisdaylive.com/2025/11/20/bcn-others-to-launch-africas-neutral-multi-tenant-ai-cloud/>

\$7.5 million AI Scaling Hub Fund Launched

The \$7.5 million AI Scaling Hub Fund, jointly unveiled by the Federal Government and the Gates Foundation and being implemented by Lagos Business School, aims to build the enabling infrastructure needed to scale local AI innovations for sustainable impact. Through grant funding, technical support, and mentorship, the initiative is designed to strengthen the pathways that allow promising solutions to move from experimentation to broader deployment across priority sectors.





Source: <https://punchng.com/govt-gates-foundation-unveil-7-5m-ai-scaling-hub/>

Nigeria Establishes National AI Trust


Nigeria's establishment of a first-of-its-kind National AI Trust marks an important step in building stronger institutional support for the country's AI future. The Trust is designed to provide strategic guidance for AI development, investment, and responsible adoption, while helping to ensure that AI-related investments are coordinated, future-ready, and aligned with long-term national priorities across key sectors of the economy.




Technology Times
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Minister: In a world's first, Nigeria establishes National AI Trust


by Oladapo Riliwan and Sarah Emeka — 04/02/2025 in News Reading Time: 2 mins read 3 0 AA 0 0



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Source: <https://technologytimes.ng/nigeria-gets-world-first-national-ai-trust/>

AI Governance Initiative (RAI-GI) driving Nigerian-centric Responsible AI practice

The Responsible AI Governance Initiative (RAI-GI), an Abuja-based, pan-African nonprofit work focusses on advancing ethical, inclusive, and accountable AI governance across Nigeria and Africa. Its work helps build the policy, research, and multi-stakeholder foundations needed to ensure that AI development is guided by human rights, democratic values, public trust, and long-term societal safety.



Source: <https://www.responsibleaigovernance.org/about/overview>

University of Lagos Policy approach to ethical use of AI in academia

The University of Lagos developed a policy framework to guide the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence in teaching, learning, and research. The initiative brings AI governance directly into higher education, helping ensure that innovation in academia is balanced with academic integrity, accountability, and responsible use.



Source: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/education/771167-unilag-develops-policy-on-ethical-use-of-ai-in-academia.html?tztc=1>

FactCheckAfrica’s “My AI FactCheck” AI Governance Platform

This initiative by FactCheckAfrica extends AI governance practice in Nigeria into media fact-checking and information integrity. It combines AI with trusted fact-checking sources to help detect misleading claims more quickly and strengthen public access to verified information. Its significance goes beyond journalism productivity. It reflects a growing Nigerian practice of using AI not only for innovation, but also for accountability, truth verification, and responsible digital public communication, which are all central to trustworthy AI governance in the media space.



Source: <https://factcheckafrica.net/lagos-hosts-final-leg-of-ai-fundamentals-workshop-to-strengthen-digital-literacy-and-media-accountability/>

The Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) Nigeria Chapter driving responsible AI governance in Nigeria

AAAI Nigeria's work brings together researchers, practitioners, policymakers, industry leaders, and students to strengthen knowledge-sharing, collaboration, ethical AI practice, and policy engagement. The association is also the first AAAI-accredited chapter in Africa, giving Nigeria an important role in shaping responsible AI conversations on the continent and supporting pathways for research, digital transformation, and AI governance.



Source: <https://www.aaai.org.ng/>

AI Safety Nigeria building local capacity for safe, ethical, and responsible AI through education and community-building

The newly formed organisation focus is to ensure that Nigeria's AI ecosystem grows not only in capability, but also in governance maturity, talent depth, and long-term safety awareness. Its flagship activities include the AI Safety & Governance Fellowship, the Learn & Launch Series, reading groups, workshops, boot camps, and national convenings that equip early-career professionals, researchers, and policymakers to engage more seriously with AI alignment, governance, and public-interest AI.





Source :<https://aisafetynigeria.com/>

Nigerian government launches ₦100 million AI Fund for startups in partnership with Google

The Federal Government, in collaboration with Google, launched a ₦100 million AI fund to support 10 Nigerian startups embedding AI into their products and services. Beyond funding, Google also provided up to \$3.5 million in Google Cloud credits, access to platforms and AI tools, mentorship, and technical support, helping to strengthen the broader enabling environment for local AI innovation and startup growth in Nigeria.



Source: <https://techpoint.africa/news/nigeria-launches-ai-fund/>

Startup and Ecosystem

120+

Active Startups

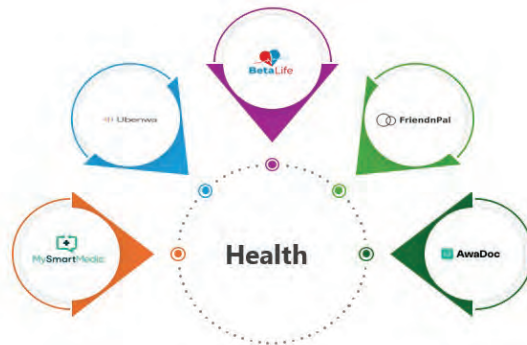


A thriving AI strategy requires not just trained people and invested capital, but a vibrant ecosystem in which ideas can be tested, businesses can form, and solutions can reach the market. Nigeria's startup and ecosystem pillar has recorded a 3.4x growth in the number of active AI companies, with over 120 startups now operating across sectors.

3.4x Ecosystem Growth

Nigeria's AI startup ecosystem has recorded 3.4x growth, signalling a sharp rise in locally built ventures responding to real economic and social challenges. This growth reflects increasing entrepreneurial activity, stronger ecosystem confidence, and expanding application of AI across sectors such as health, education, agriculture, language technology, media, and business intelligence. As more founders build solutions rooted in local realities, the ecosystem is showing stronger depth, diversity, and commercial relevance. Some of the active companies span:

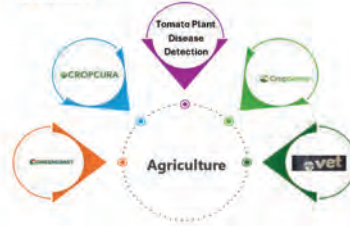
Health



Education



Agriculture



Business & FinTech



Media



Language Tech



Others



5,000+

Innovators Join Codefest

Codefest made history as one of Nigeria's largest online hackathons, drawing over 5,000 participants across 92 teams to build practical solutions to real national challenges. With a strong emphasis on AI-powered innovation, the event highlighted growing grassroots energy, creativity, and problem-solving capacity within Nigeria's technology ecosystem.



Source: <https://hackathon.codefest.africa/>

Nigerian Innovator Dr. Gbemisola Adetayo launched the AI User Safety Manual

The manual is built on the SAFE AI Framework, and it provides structured guidance for non-technical users who want to benefit from AI without compromising their mental clarity, judgment or wellbeing.



Source: <https://guardian.ng/technology/tech/safe-ai-launch-experience-sets-new-standard-for-user-level-ai-safety/>

10 Finalists from Hack4Livestock Hackathon

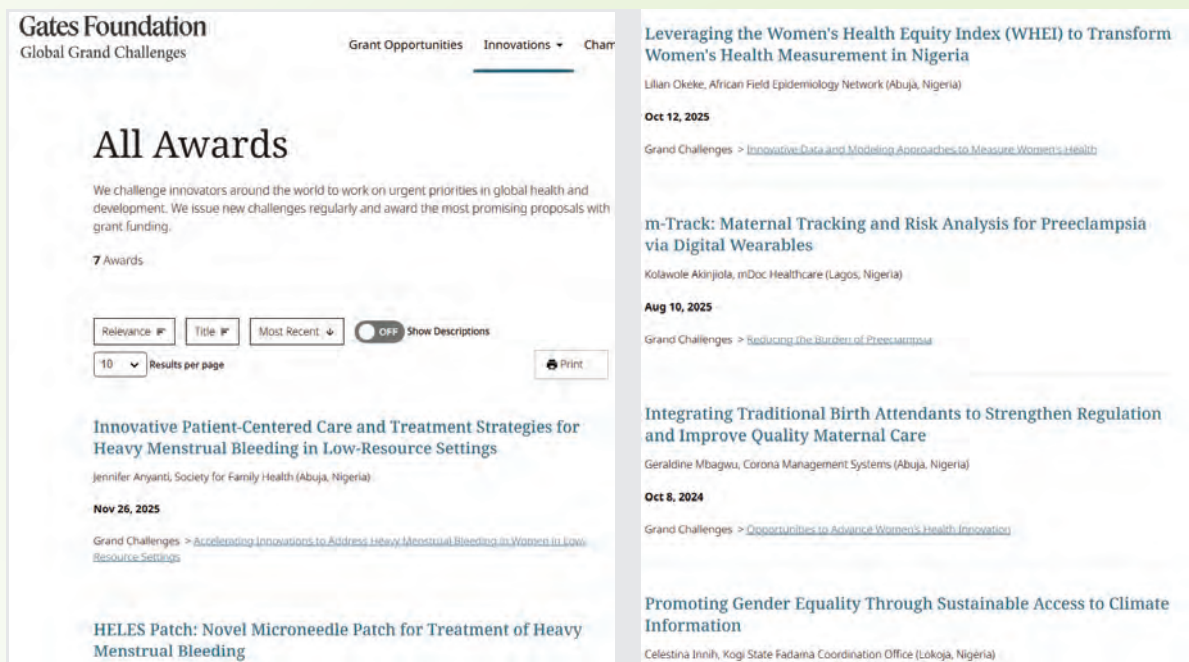
The Hack4Livestock Hackathon was designed to stimulate the use of AI and digital innovation in Nigeria’s livestock sector. From 497 applications representing 1,761 individuals, 10 finalist teams were selected, advancing practical solutions to improve productivity, traceability, animal health, and overall value-chain efficiency across the sector.



Source: <https://livestock-hackathon.ncair.nitda.gov.ng/>

7 Nigerian Innovators Won Gates Grand Challenges between 2024 and 2025

Between 2024 and 2025, seven Nigerian innovators emerged as winners of the Gates Grand Challenges, one of the world's most respected platforms for funding bold, high-impact solutions to health and development problems. Beyond individual recognition, the achievement signals the growing strength of Nigeria's innovation ecosystem and offers strong global validation that locally developed solutions are increasingly addressing critical challenges with relevance, quality, and scalable potential.



The screenshot shows the 'All Awards' page on the Gates Foundation website. It features a navigation bar with 'Grant Opportunities', 'Innovations', and 'Challenges'. The main heading is 'All Awards', followed by a brief description of the challenge. Below this, there are filters for 'Relevance', 'Title', and 'Most Recent', along with a 'Show Descriptions' toggle and a 'Results per page' dropdown set to 10. A 'Print' button is also visible. The list of awards includes:

- Leveraging the Women's Health Equity Index (WHEI) to Transform Women's Health Measurement in Nigeria** by Lilian Okeke, African Field Epidemiology Network (Abuja, Nigeria) - Oct 12, 2025
- m-Track: Maternal Tracking and Risk Analysis for Preeclampsia via Digital Wearables** by Kolawole Akinjola, mDoc Healthcare (Lagos, Nigeria) - Aug 10, 2025
- Integrating Traditional Birth Attendants to Strengthen Regulation and Improve Quality Maternal Care** by Geraldine Mbagwu, Corona Management Systems (Abuja, Nigeria) - Oct 8, 2024
- Promoting Gender Equality Through Sustainable Access to Climate Information** by Celestina Ininih, Kogi State Fadama Coordination Office (Lokoja, Nigeria)

Source: <https://gch.grandchallenges.org/grants/>

Four Nigerian projects win part of Gates Foundation \$5m grant for AI solutions

by [Mayowa Tijani](#) August 11, 2023 9:57 am



Nigerian Startup “Decide” Ranks #4 Globally in AI Spreadsheet Benchmark

Nigerian startup, “Decide” has ranked fourth globally for accuracy in spreadsheet-focused artificial intelligence tools, according to results from Spreadsheet Bench, a widely used benchmark for evaluating AI performance on real-world spreadsheet tasks.



The Leaderboard

SpreadsheetBench has two leaderboards: Full (912 tasks) and Verified (400 tasks).

On the Verified leaderboard, the SpreadsheetBench team runs the evaluation independently. You submit API access. They test your system. There is no way to cherry-pick results.

Here's where things stand on the Verified leaderboard:

RANK	AGENT	ACCURACY	ORGANIZATION
#1	Nobie Agent	91.00%	Nobie
#2	Qingqiu Agent	89.25%	Kingsoft Office
#3	Shortcut.ai	86.00%	Shortcut.ai
#4	Decide Agent	82.50%	Decide AI

Source: <https://iafrica.com/nigerian-startup-decide-ranks-fourth-globally-in-ai-spreadsheet-benchmark/>

10+ Major National AI Conferences

DataFest Africa 2025 — 2,000+ attendees across Africa

DataFest Africa 2025 convened over 2,000 participants from across Africa, both physically and virtually, including attendees from Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, and Cameroon. As one of the continent's largest data and AI community gatherings, it continued to strengthen technical exchange, ecosystem collaboration, and the visibility of Africa-led innovation in data science and artificial intelligence.



Source: <https://www.datacommunityafrica.org/datafestafrica>

IndabaX Nigeria 2025 — Nigeria’s local Deep Learning Indaba convening

IndabaX Nigeria 2025, Nigeria’s local Deep Learning Indaba convening, provided an important platform for researchers, students, developers, and AI practitioners to exchange knowledge, strengthen technical capacity, and deepen collaboration within the country’s AI community. As part of the wider African machine learning ecosystem, the event helped connect local talent to global research conversations while advancing practical learning and innovation in artificial intelligence.



Source: <https://indabaxng.github.io/2025/index.html>

International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (ICAIR)

The International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (ICAIR) is one of Nigeria's leading platforms for advancing research, innovation, and collaboration in AI and robotics. By convening researchers, industry leaders, policymakers, and innovators, the conference helps strengthen Africa's role in shaping inclusive digital innovation and the future of AI-driven development.



Source: <https://icair.unilag.edu.ng/>

GITEX Nigeria 2025

The GITEX Nigeria 2025 positioned Nigeria as a global tech hub by showcasing innovation, fostering collaboration across startups, government, and investors, and connecting the local ecosystem to international opportunities.



BusinessDay Foundation AI Summit 2025

As part of efforts to deepen sectoral AI adoption across Nigeria, the BusinessDay Foundation AI Summit 2025 provided a national platform for collaboration, innovation, and policy dialogue on artificial intelligence. The summit brought together stakeholders across business, government, and the wider innovation ecosystem to explore how AI can be applied more intentionally across sectors to drive productivity, inclusion, and long-term national competitiveness.



Source: <https://bdfoundation.ng/>

Innovate AI Conference Lagos 2025

Innovate AI Lagos 2025, by AI-in-Nigeria with the theme: 'Scaling AI Adoption in Nigeria- Catalysing Cross-Sectoral Innovation and Fostering Inclusive Growth' brought together the brightest minds in AI, technology, business, and policy to explore how AI can drive innovation, boost economic growth, and create inclusive opportunities across Nigeria and Africa.



Source: <https://aiinnigeria.com/>

Bluechip Data and AI Summit

The Bluechip Data and AI Summit has emerged as a notable enterprise-focused platform for data and artificial intelligence conversations in Nigeria, bringing together technology leaders, executives, government stakeholders, entrepreneurs, and practitioners around practical AI adoption and digital transformation.



Source: <https://events.bluechiptech.biz/>

Moonshot by TechCabal 2024/2025 — AI stream

Moonshot by TechCabal's AI stream is a dedicated frontier content track within Africa's premier tech conference that brings together global innovators and African builders to explore the impact, risks, and opportunities of artificial intelligence. It serves as a strategic platform for unpacking how machine learning and future-shaping technologies can be localised to solve the continent's most pressing challenges.



Source: <https://moonshot.techcabal.com/>

National AI Summit by CJID (as part of the National AI Collective)

The AI Summit Nigeria, organised by the Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID), as part of the Nigeria National AI Collective initiative, was a multi-stakeholder forum that brought together policymakers, technologists, and media professionals to address AI governance, ethics, and innovation. The 2025 edition showcased locally-developed tools like TruthNet and NewsBridge designed to strengthen investigative journalism and combat misinformation.



Source: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DRtvW9-jHtm/>

US Nigerian Government Global Inclusivity and Artificial Intelligence: Africa (GIAA) Conference in Lagos in 2024

The Global Inclusivity and Artificial Intelligence: Africa (GIAA) Conference, held in Lagos from 10–11 September 2024, convened stakeholders from across the U.S. and Africa to advance the responsible, ethical, and inclusive development of AI technologies. Co-hosted by the U.S. Department of State and Nigeria's Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, the landmark event facilitated high-level dialogues on AI governance and catalysed significant partnerships.



Source: <https://2021-2025.state.gov/digital-transformation-with-africa/>

Nigeria 1st Artificial Intelligence for Development Conference (AI4D) by Practical Artificial Intelligence Development Foundation (PAIDeF)

The Nigeria 1st Artificial Intelligence for Development Conference (AI4D), organised by the Practical Artificial Intelligence Development Foundation (PAIDeF), is a multi-sectoral platform aimed at bridging the gap between AI research and real-world application in sectors like health, agriculture, and governance to drive rapid economic growth.

Practical Artificial Intelligence Development Foundation

SuperAI'2025

Super Developmental Artificial Intelligence Solutions

Meet our Special Guests & Speakers

Conference Chairman	Guest Speaker	Special Guest	Guest Speaker	Keynote Speaker	AI Expert	Guest Speaker
Kazeem Tewogbade Group CEO, Bluechip Technologies Limited	Chirag Agrawal Senior Engineer and Tech Lead at Amazon	Dr. Bosun Tijani Minister of Communication, Innovations & Digital Economy	Kashifu Inuwa DG NITDA	Dr. Aniekan Esseini	Dr. David Adelani	Thai Ba An Phan

3RD - 5TH DECEMBER, 2025 | **NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, JABI, ABUJA.**

Partners:

Source: <https://paidef.org.ng/>

AI Forum Nigeria 2025 Advances Enterprise Readiness for AI-First Business

The December 2025 edition of AI Forum Nigeria, organised by Olak Events, brought together executives, innovators, and ecosystem actors to deepen the shift from digital transformation to AI-first business strategy. Its importance lay in pushing the conversation beyond awareness toward practical questions of leadership readiness, trustworthy data, talent, governance, and scalable adoption.



Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/the-ai-forum-nigeria/posts/?feedView=all>

Nigeria AI Collective Ecosystem Activities

Nigeria AI Collective Convenes Ecosystem Leaders

In April 2025 in Lagos, the Nigeria AI Collective brought together over 75 leaders from startups, industry, enabling institutions, and the broader policy and innovation ecosystem. The convening served as an important platform to unveil the National AI Strategy to a wider stakeholder base, activate a stronger community of practice around responsible and inclusive AI, and stimulate deeper collaboration to support local startups, ecosystem coordination, and national AI momentum.



Source: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/nigeria-ai-collective_nigeriaaicollective-activity-7321181059658711041-9zkl?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABiM5boBU9nVr4TqW0ygTK5T5Qa8GhSm8Oo

AI Collective Health Webinar

As part of efforts to deepen sectoral AI adoption in healthcare, the webinar convened 220 participants from Nigeria and beyond, with more than 15 organisations represented across government, technology, academia, and healthcare. Through expert insights, live demonstrations of Nigerian AI innovations, and interactive discussions, the session helped strengthen cross-sector understanding of how AI can improve healthcare delivery and accelerate responsible adoption within the health sector.



Source: <https://youtu.be/6CddcfM4amc?si=eBpwe2vVN-yLh3gt>

AI Collective AI for Civil Society Workshop

The workshop brought together civil society organisations across Nigeria to strengthen a community of practice around responsible AI use and inclusive AI governance. Participants received AI training, advocacy support, and practical resources to help them launch campaigns and integrate AI tools into their work more effectively.



Source: <https://thecjid.org/call-for-applications-ai-for-civil-society-workshop/>

AI Collective National AI Repository

As part of the effort to consolidate knowledge, tools, and open-source resources across the ecosystem, the AI Collective National AI Repository serves as an open-access GitHub hub documenting the breadth of AI progress in Nigeria. It captures innovation use cases, data initiatives, emerging tools, notable events, and key ecosystem milestones, helping to make knowledge more accessible while supporting collaboration, learning, and wider adoption.



Source: <https://github.com/aicollective/Nigeria-AI-Repository>

National AI Perception Survey of 500 by Lagos Business School

National AI Perception Survey of 500 respondents, delivered by Lagos Business School, with disaggregation by gender, age, geography, literacy level, and employment status. The goal is to generate new evidence that supports gender-responsive and socially inclusive policy decisions.



The Nigeria AI Collective Community Monthly Digest

The Nigeria AI Collective Community Monthly Digest serves as an ongoing knowledge and engagement channel designed to keep stakeholders informed about emerging developments across Nigeria's AI ecosystem. With six published editions reaching thousands of readers through email, social media, and WhatsApp, the digest has helped sustain continuous learning, visibility, and collaboration across a growing community of practitioners and institutions.

The image shows a screenshot of the 'Nigeria Artificial Intelligence Industry Collective' monthly digest. The header features the logos for 'AI Collective Nigeria AI Repository' and 'Luminate'. The main title is 'Nigeria Artificial Intelligence Industry Collective'. Below this, the digest title is 'NIGERIA AI COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY MONTHLY DIGEST' with a sub-header 'MONTH ENDING AUGUST 2025'. A 'This Month's Highlights' section lists several key events: Honorable Minister Bosun Tijani featured in TIME's AI Influence List, TRCN and GMIND AI launch a nationwide AI learning platform, Google & GOMYCODE launch 'Build with AI' training for Nigerian developers, OpenAI launches GPT-5, Stanford unveils AI 'Virtual Scientist' for biomedical breakthroughs, Record-breaking compact AI models released by Buzzy AI's Multiverse, and Zhipu AI unveils open-source CLM-4.5 Model. The main article is titled 'Honourable Minister Bosun Tijani Featured in TIME's Prestigious AI Influence List'. The text describes how Dr. Tijani, Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, was recognized by TIME Magazine as one of the world's most influential AI pioneers for 2025. It details his leadership in initiatives like the 3 Million Technical Talent (3MTT) programme, the expansion of Nigeria's digital infrastructure, and the National AI Strategy. A portrait of Dr. Tijani is shown in a 'TIME 100/AI' 2025 feature box.

Source: <https://github.com/aicollectiveng/Nigeria-AI-Repository/tree/main/Monthly%20Digest>

Nigerian Researchers Contribute to Global Responsible AI Governance Whitepaper Spanning 19 AMET Countries

3 Nigerian researchers contributed to the new Responsible AI Governance Whitepaper, covering 19 countries across the Africa, the Middle East, and Türkiye (AMET) regions and led by Global Center on AI Governance.



Source: <https://www.globalcenter.ai/research/toward-ai-governance-alignment-in-africa-middle-east-and-tuerkiye-amet-region>

The Nigeria AI Collective's Leadership Learning Series Reaches 20,000+ Views

Designed as a self-paced executive learning resource to demystify artificial intelligence for business leaders, the Nigeria AI Collective's Leadership Learning Series has attracted over 20,000 views on YouTube. Beyond public access, the series is also being adopted by several companies within their internal learning management systems to support AI awareness, executive education, and practical understanding of AI across leadership teams.

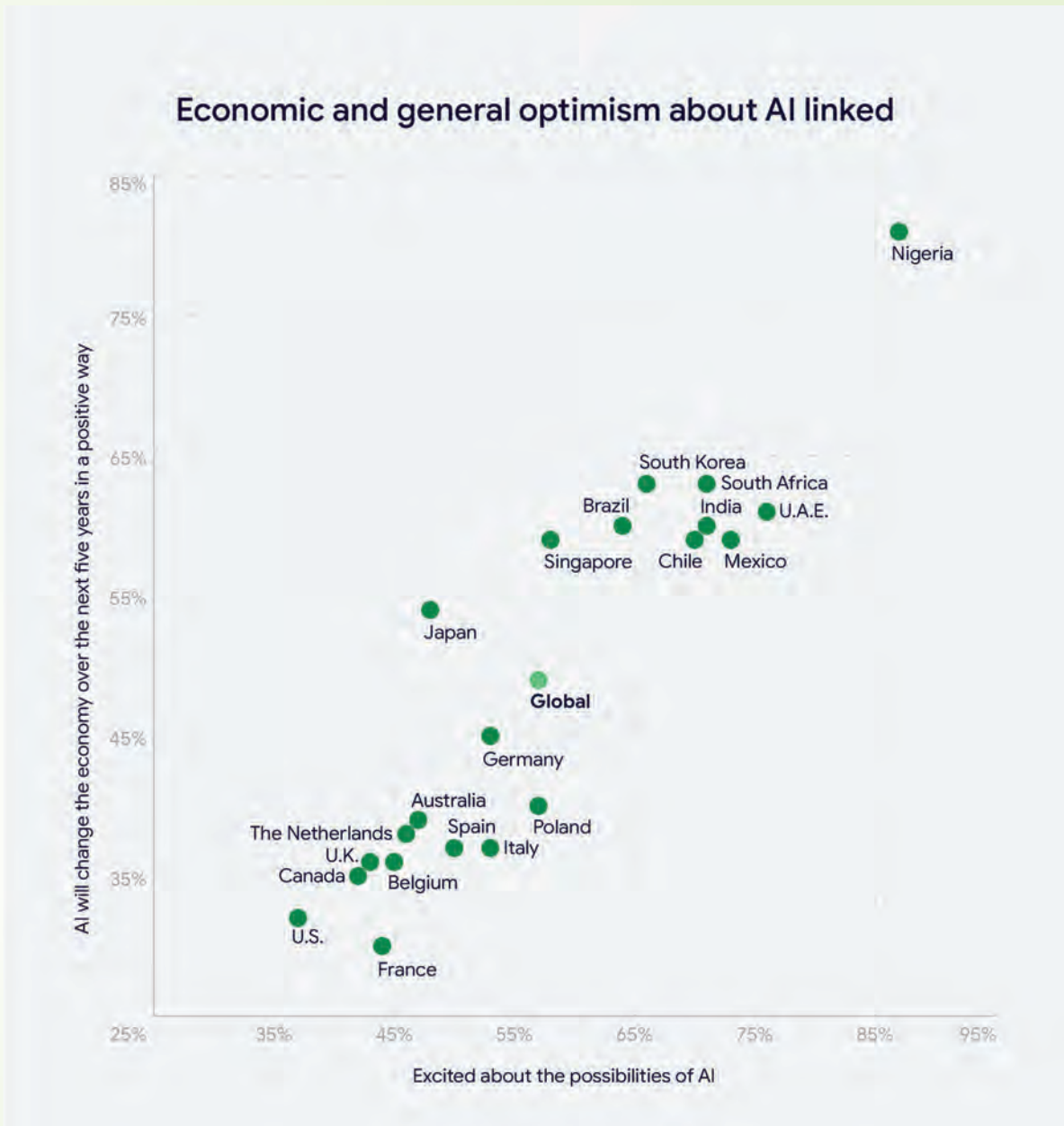


Source: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFdNhh1vvsqpOVneff1NQA>



Nigeria ranks #1 globally on AI Economic Optimism Index

According to the Google / Ipsos Multi-Country AI Survey 2025, Nigeria ranked #1 globally on the AI Economic Optimism Index, reflecting one of the world's strongest levels of public confidence in AI as a driver of personal and economic opportunity. The report shows that 81% of respondents expressed positive sentiment about AI's economic impact, 95% saw AI as a personal enabler, and 88% of adults reported using AI chatbots, well above the 62% global average.



Source: https://static.googleusercontent.com/media/publicpolicy.google/en/resources/ipsos_google_our-life-with-ai_2024_25.pdf

Climbing 31 spots on Oxford Insights Index

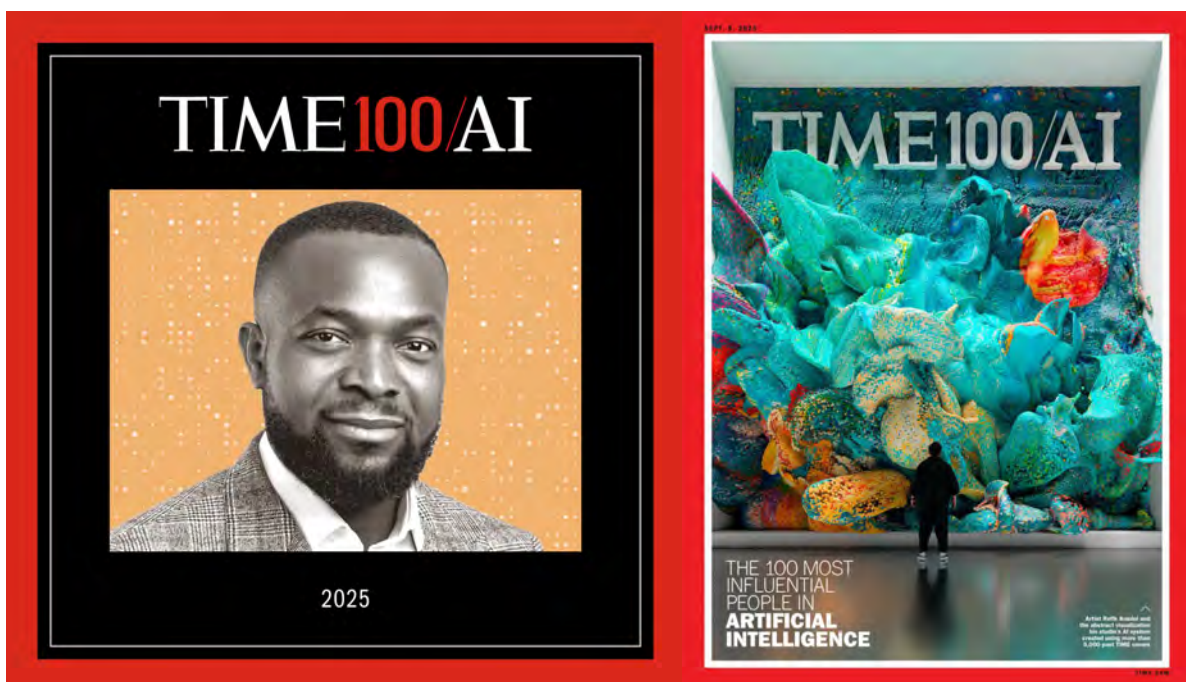
Nigeria rose 31 places on the Oxford Insights Government AI Readiness Index 2025, moving from 103rd in 2023 to 72nd globally, and ranking 4th in Sub-Saharan Africa. This strong upward movement reflects growing national progress in AI governance, ecosystem readiness, policy direction, and the broader institutional capacity needed to harness AI for public benefit and economic transformation.



Source: <https://oxfordinsights.com/ai-readiness/government-ai-readiness-index-2025/>

TIME100 International Recognition for AI Influence

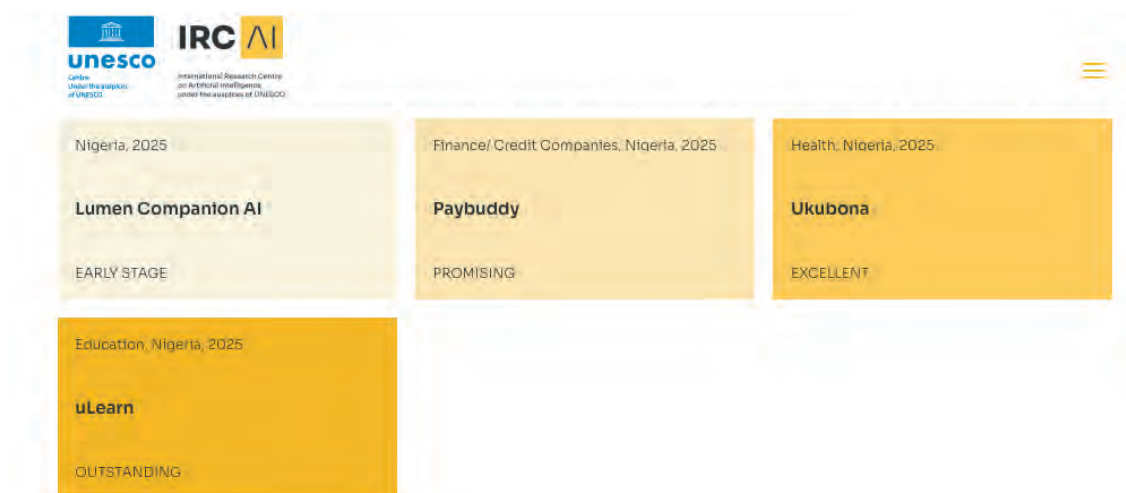
The Honourable Minister, Dr Bosun Tijani, was named in the TIME100 AI 2025 list, placing him alongside some of the world's most influential figures shaping the future of artificial intelligence. The recognition reflects growing international acknowledgement of Nigeria's leadership in AI talent development, policy direction, and ecosystem building, while also reinforcing the country's rising visibility in global conversations on responsible and inclusive AI.



Source: <https://time.com/collections/time100-ai-2025/7305882/bosun-tijani/>

Nigeria recorded 4 products in UNESCO-IRCAI's Global Top 100

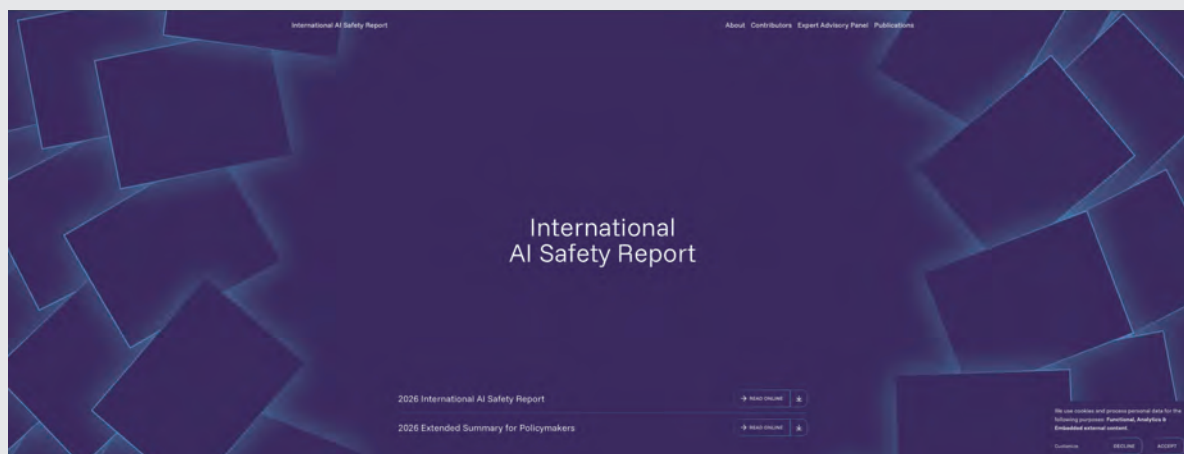
Nigeria recorded four products in UNESCO-IRCAI's Global Top 100 Outstanding Projects, standing out among entries from 61 countries and highlighting the country's growing contribution to socially impactful AI innovation. Nigeria's recognised entries include Lumen Companion AI, Paybuddy, Ukubona, and uLearn by EqualyzAI, reflecting local strength in building practical AI solutions across education, health, and financial inclusion.



Source: ircai.org/global-top-100-outstanding-projects/results/

Nigeria Contributed to the International AI Safety Report Development

Nigeria was represented in the development of the International AI Safety Report through the inclusion of Dr Olubunmi Ajala, Technical Adviser to the Honourable Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, and Dr Olubayomi Adeganmbi of Data Science Nigeria on the global expert advisory process led by the globally recognised Prof. Yoshua Bengio. Their participation reflects Nigeria's growing voice in shaping international conversations on AI safety, governance, and responsible development.



Source: <https://internationalaisafetyreport.org/>

Nigeria Included Among the 15 Members of the Inaugural Africa AI Council

Smart Africa's inaugural Africa AI Council brought together 15 leading voices across Africa to guide the continent's AI future. Nigeria's representation on the founding council signals its rising strategic role in shaping Africa's AI agenda across policy, innovation, and responsible adoption.



Source: <https://smartafrica.org/the-smart-africas-board-unveils-the-inaugural-africa-ai-council-to-lead-the-continent-ai-transformation/>

Launch of N-ATLAS, Africa's first government-backed multimodal and multilingual LLM

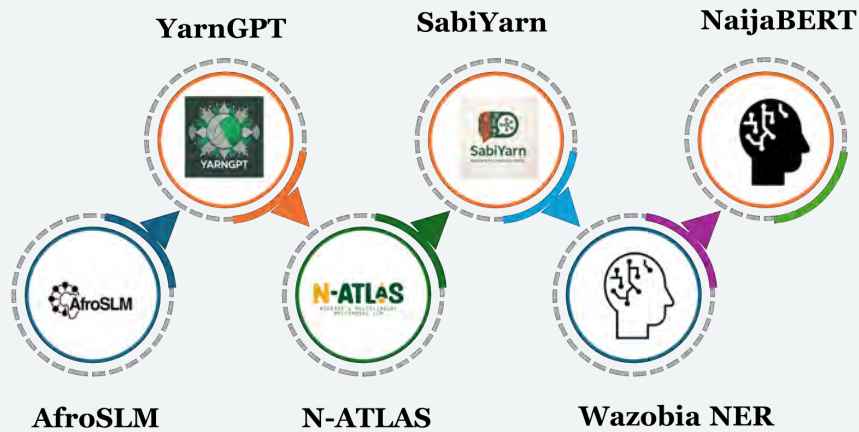
The launch of N-ATLAS (Nigerian Atlas for Languages & AI at Scale) marks a major milestone in Nigeria's AI journey and a significant step for African language technology. As Africa's first government-backed multimodal and multilingual large language model, N-ATLAS was developed to better reflect Nigeria's linguistic diversity in AI and to expand the inclusion of local languages in digital systems. Its open-source foundation also positions it as a strategic national asset for research, innovation, public service applications, and the broader development of culturally relevant AI across the continent.



Source: <https://fmcide.gov.ng/nigeria-launches-landmark-ai-model-powered-by-awarri-to-advance-languages-and-ai-at-scale>

Nigeria Produces 6 Homegrown Language Models

Nigeria's AI ecosystem has produced six homegrown language models, reflecting growing local capacity to build foundational AI systems tailored to national needs and contexts. These models are helping to advance AI adoption across key sectors by strengthening support for local languages, speech technologies, text understanding, and culturally relevant digital applications.



N-ATLAS (National LLM) <https://huggingface.co/NCAIR1/N-ATLaS>

YarnGPT (TTS) <https://www.yarngpt.co/>

AfroSLM <https://afroslm.equalyz.ai/>

SabiYarn-125M <https://huggingface.co/BeardedMonster/SabiYarn-125M>

NaijaBERT <https://huggingface.co/Davlan/naija-bert-base>

Wazobia NER <https://arxiv.org/abs/2505.07884>

FG ₦12 billion National Digital Economy Research Clusters

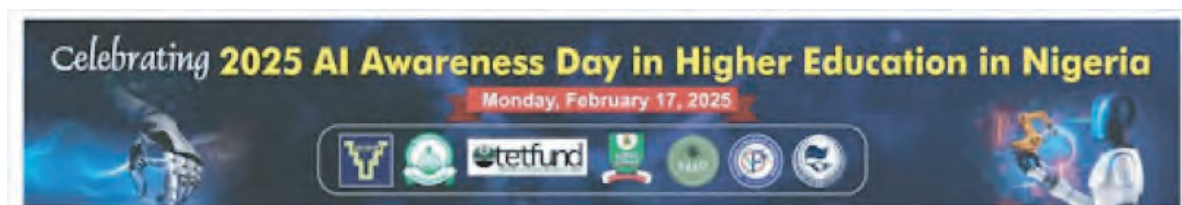
As part of Project BRIDGE, the Federal Government announced the ₦12 billion National Digital Economy Research Clusters initiative to strengthen Nigeria's research and innovation capacity in priority technology areas. The programme supports six national research clusters, and will engage up to 36 professors and more than 200 researchers, including postdoctoral fellows, PhD candidates, and industry consultants. This will expand the pipeline for applied research, cross-sector collaboration, and long-term national capability development.

Source: <https://b.link/EOI-NDULRC>



Inaugural AI Awareness Day 2025

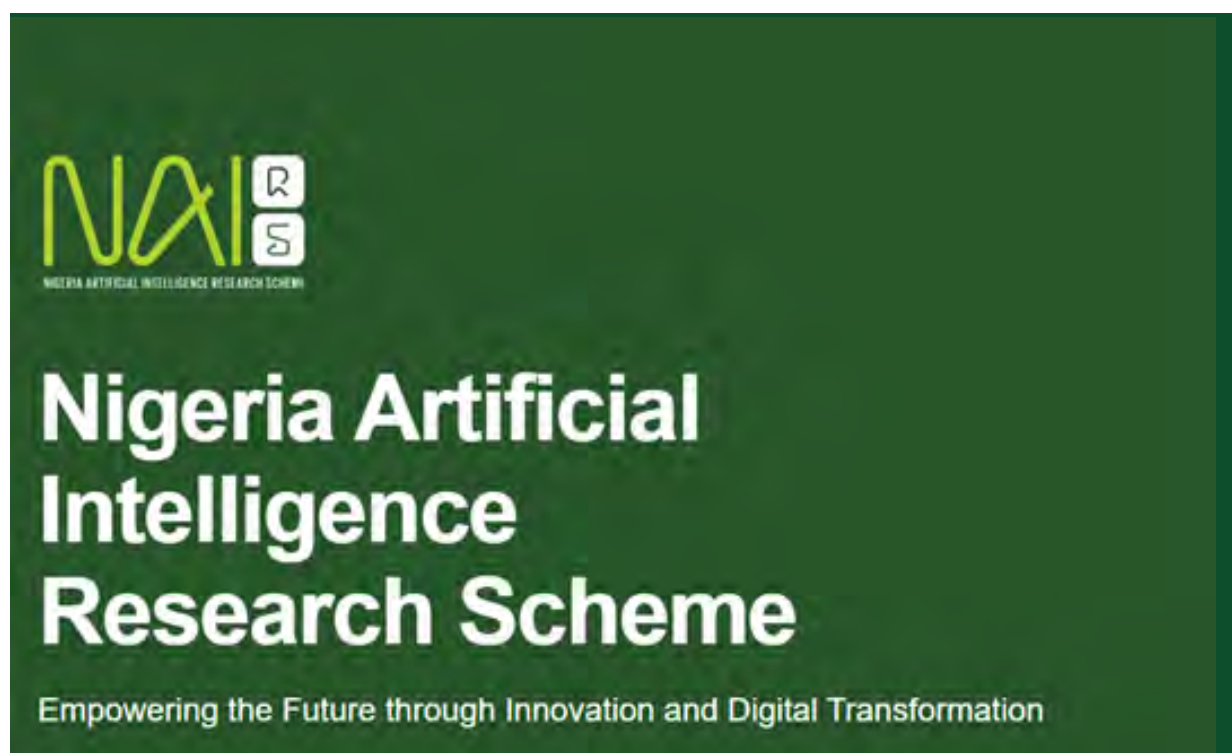
Nigeria held its first AI Awareness Day in Higher Education, bringing together 306 participants from various educational institutions, regulatory agencies, and stakeholders to explore AI's potential in higher education



Source: https://boldscholarnews.com/nigeria-takes-giant-leap-in-ai-education-with-inaugural-ai-awareness-day#google_vignette

The Nigeria Artificial Intelligence Research Scheme (NAIRS) Supports 45 Researchers and Startups

The Nigeria Artificial Intelligence Research Scheme (NAIRS) has supported 45 researchers and startups, helping to accelerate local AI research, experimentation, and solution development. By providing funding and enabling collaboration across researchers, innovators, and institutions, the initiative is strengthening the foundation for a more vibrant, sustainable, and locally relevant AI ecosystem in Nigeria.



Source: <https://airg.nitda.gov.ng/>

Nigeria jumps from zero to 20 AI research papers in 18 months

As of August 2025, Nigeria had moved from zero to 20 peer-reviewed AI research papers in just 18 months, marking a notable entry into the global AI research conversation. This milestone reflects growing national momentum to strengthen Nigeria's position in advanced AI research, compute, and innovation.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Nigeria jumps from zero to 20 AI research papers in 18 months

 techcabal

Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/09/02/nigeria-publishes-20-ai-research-papers-in-18-months/>

ICLR 2024 Data Science Nigeria Receives AfricaNLP 2024 Best Paper Recognition at ICLR in Austria

Data Science Nigeria received Best Paper recognition for its work titled “Geo-Parsing and Geo-Visualization of Road Traffic Crash Incident Locations from Print Media for Emergency Response and Planning.” The paper was recognised for significantly advancing the use of geo-parsing in emergency response by extracting and visualizing road traffic crash locations from news reports, while also demonstrating how localised Named Entity Recognition models can improve precision, recall, and real-world planning impact.



Source: <https://datasciencenigeria.org/our-achievements/>

AfricaNLP Best Academic Paper 2026

Data Science Nigeria won the Best Paper Award at the 7th AfricaNLP Workshop, held during the 2026 Annual Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (EACL 2026) in Rabat, Morocco, for its paper titled "African Voices Nigeria: 2,500 hours of ethically sourced speech data for four Nigerian languages." The recognition highlights the growing global relevance of Nigeria's language AI research and affirms the importance of building high-quality, ethically sourced local datasets to advance multilingual AI innovation.



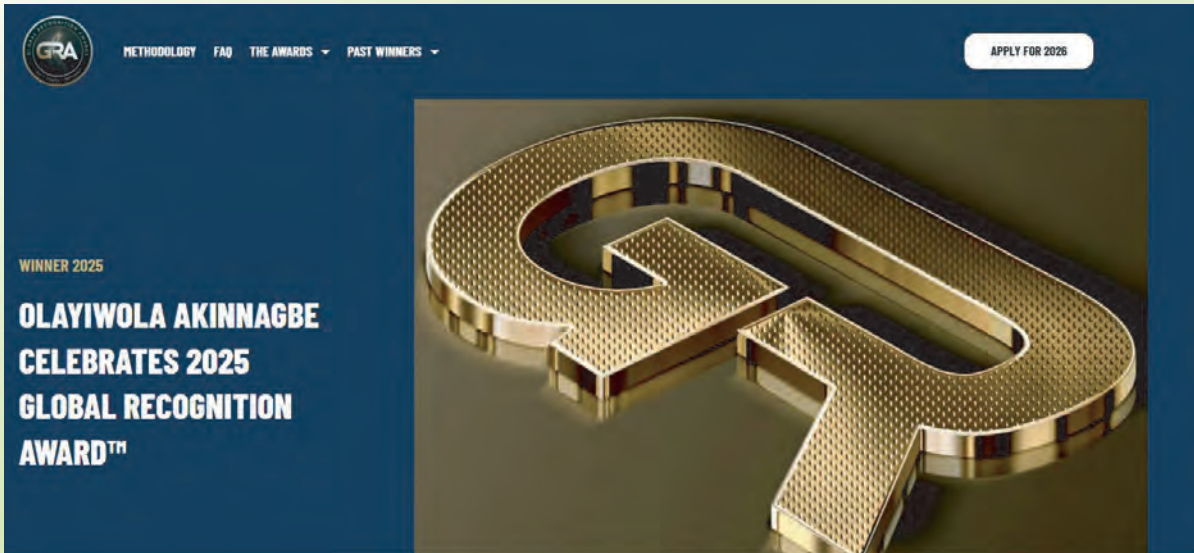
Source: https://www.instagram.com/p/DWgnVubjDn2/?img_index=2

Olayiwola Akinagbe receives 2025 Global Recognition Award in AI

Olayiwola Akinagbe, a Nigerian technology builder, has been recognised with a 2025 Global Recognition Award for his exceptional contributions to artificial intelligence research, financial technology innovation, and worldwide mentorship that have transformed digital banking across three continents.



Source: <https://globalrecognitionawards.org/winners/2025/olayiwola-akinagbe-recognized-with-a-2025-global-recognition-award/>

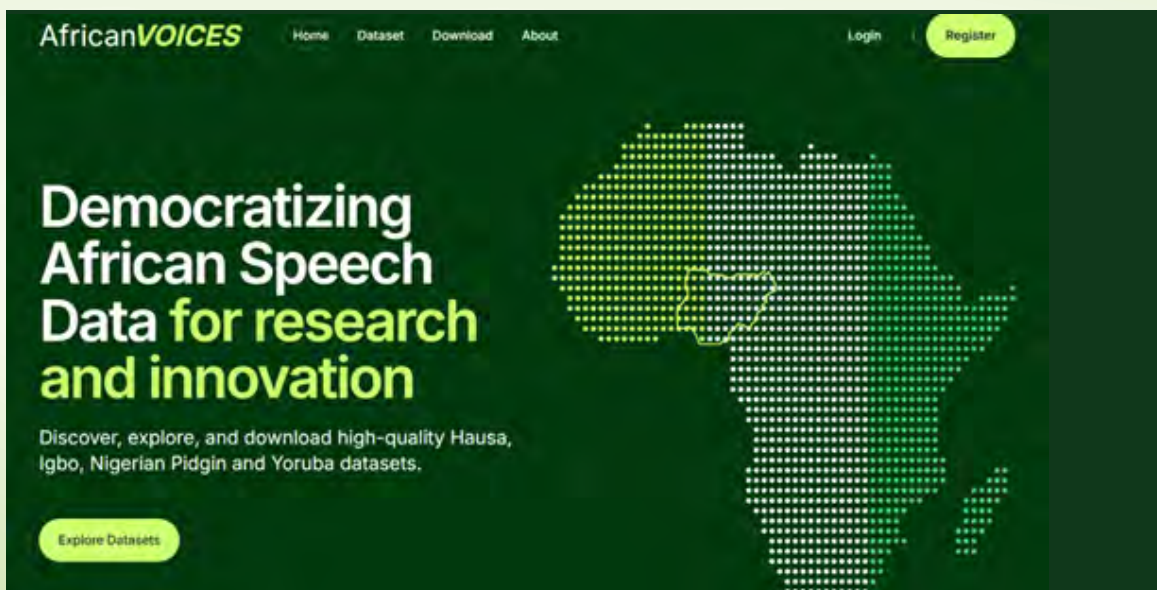


28+ Papers Accepted at Top AI Conferences: NeurIPS, ICLR, ACL, AAI

Nigeria recorded 28+ paper acceptances at some of the world's most respected AI research venues, including Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), the International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), and the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). This reflects the growing quality, visibility, and global relevance of Nigerian AI research, with detailed paper listings provided in the Appendix.

Nigeria Produces 6,000+ Hours of Speech Data Africa Voices Dataset

The Africa Voices Dataset is a large-scale, ethically governed speech dataset covering four Nigerian languages, with approximately 2,500 hours of audio from 2,865 speakers. Built to support inclusive and locally relevant speech AI, the dataset combines both spontaneous and scripted speech across diverse sociolinguistic contexts, making it a significant resource for advancing multilingual speech recognition and language technology in Nigeria.



Source: <https://africanvoices.io/>

1,800 Hours NaijaVoices

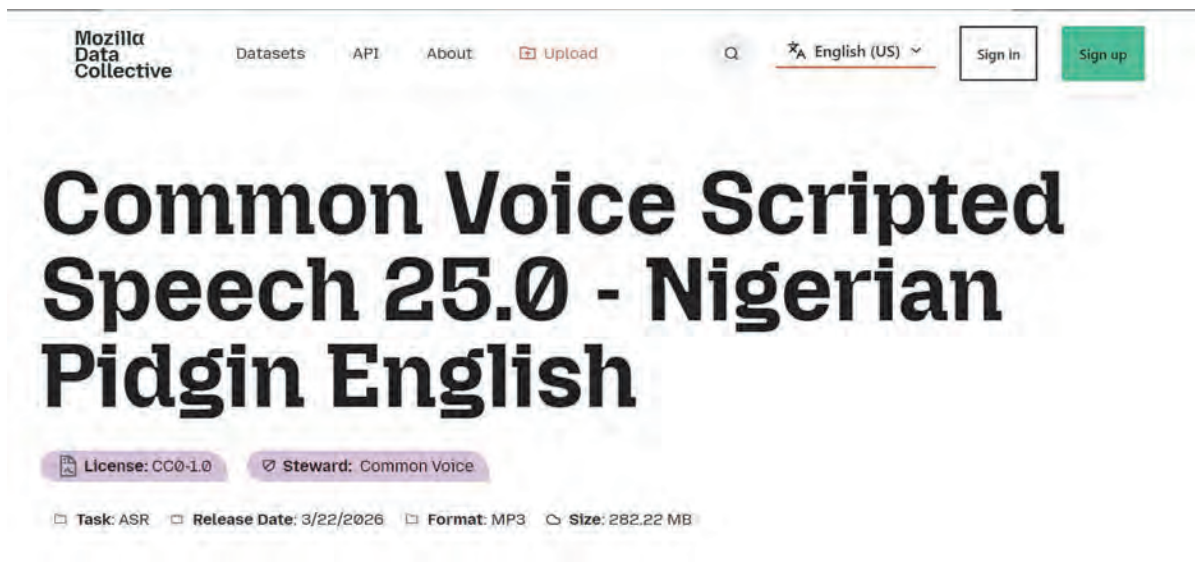
NaijaVoices is a large-scale Nigerian speech dataset containing 1,800+ hours of multilingual audio from over 5,000 speakers, built to support inclusive AI innovation across local languages and accents. It provides an important foundation for developing and evaluating speech technologies that are more representative of Nigeria's linguistic diversity.



Source: <https://naijavoices.com/dataset>

158 Hours of Common Voice Scripted Speech

This ML-ready Nigerian speech dataset, derived from the broader Common Voice ecosystem, provides 158 hours of scripted audio tailored to Nigerian Pidgin accents. It expands the availability of locally relevant speech resources for training and evaluating inclusive voice technologies that better reflect the linguistic realities of Nigerian users.



Source: https://huggingface.co/datasets/benjaminogbonna/nigerian_common_voice_dataset

Google WAXAL dataset

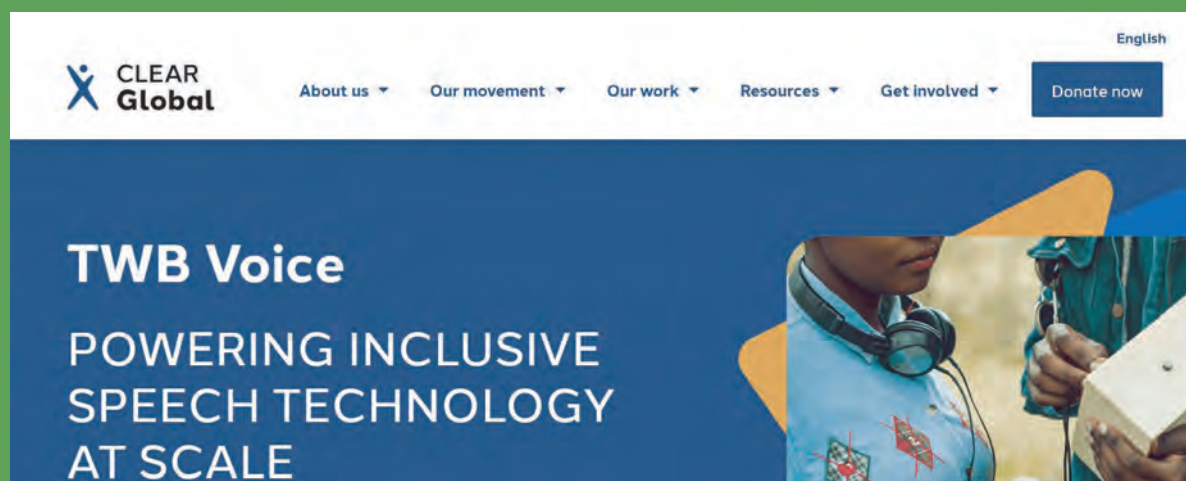
Google's WAXAL dataset expands open speech resources for Africa with over 11,000 hours of speech data across 21 languages, including Nigerian languages such as Hausa, Igbo, and Yoruba. Drawn from nearly 2 million individual recordings, the dataset strengthens the foundation for building more inclusive African speech technologies at scale.



Source: <https://blog.google/intl/en-africa/company-news/outreach-and-initiatives/introducing-waxal-a-new-open-dataset-for-african-speech-technology/>

TWB (Translators without Borders) collected 145 Hours of Hausa, Kanuri and Shuwa Arabic Dataset

Translators without Borders (TWB) collected voice data and developed language technology resources in Hausa, Kanuri, and Shuwa Arabic from North-East Nigeria. The effort compiled and validated over 111 hours of automatic speech recognition data and 20 hours of text-to-speech data from 135 contributors, helping expand speech AI resources for underserved and crisis-affected language communities.



Source: <https://clearglobal.org/twbvoice/>

Data.Org Speech Data Digitisation Playbook Launch

The Playbook offers a practical, field-tested framework for advancing AI localisation through the ethical, inclusive, and scalable digitisation of oral languages. It sets out proven approaches for collecting authentic speech data from native speakers and converting local linguistic knowledge into high-quality datasets that can power locally relevant natural language processing and innovation.



Source: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/dsnai_datasciencenigeria-nlpplaybook-lowresourcelanguage-activity-7433083334798446592-CPSW/



Google.org Commits ₦3bn to Nigeria's AI Future

Google.org committed ₦3 billion to support Nigeria's National AI Strategy through investments in AI skills development and digital safety initiatives. Working with local partners such as FATE Foundation and CyberSafe Foundation, the support is helping to grow AI talent, strengthen cyber resilience, and better prepare Nigerian youths and institutions for participation in the digital economy.

Google's N3bn Fund To Boost AI Skills, Digital Safety In Nigeria



Source: <https://blog.google/intl/en-africa/company-news/outreach-and-initiatives/partnering-for-nigerias-ai-powered-future/>
<https://techpoint.africa/news/nigeria-launches-ai-fund/>

Meta & Nigeria Launch 8-Month AI Accelerator Offering Startups Up to \$25K in Equity-Free Funding

Meta and the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) launched the Llama Impact Accelerator to support Nigerian startups building AI solutions in agriculture, healthcare, and security. The programme offers equity-free funding, six weeks of technical training, and six months of post-programme support, helping early-stage ventures move from promising ideas to scalable impact.



Source: <https://techpoint.africa/news/nigeria-launches-ai-fund/>
<https://events.atmeta.com/llamaacceleratorprogrammigeria>, <https://technext24.com/2025/11/04/meta-gifts-200-000-12-ai-startups/>

The Federal Government, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), funds AI research commercialisation efforts.

The Federal Government, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), is advancing AI research commercialisation through the rollout of UniPods as part of a broader national innovation platform. Backed by over ₦30 billion in public investment, the first cohort spans all six geopolitical zones and is aligned with Nigeria's priority sectors, with six specialised UniPods across key universities laying the foundation for a scalable, nationwide system to translate research into market-ready solutions.



Source: <https://www.undp.org/nigeria>



GIZ partnered with NITDA to launch ‘Digital Policy Dialogue’ and AI

The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), in collaboration with the Digital Transformation Centre (DTC) Nigeria and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) organised “Digital Policy Dialogue: Cooperate. Innovate.” The event aimed to engage stakeholders in the Participatory Policy Implementation Framework (PIIF), emphasising the importance of citizen involvement in policy development and implementation particularly in Artificial Intelligence.



Source: <https://www.itedgenews.africa/nitda-and-giz-launch-digital-policy-dialogue-to-promote-inclusive-policy-implementation-in-nigeria/>

UNESCO launches AI readiness framework in Nigeria

As part of strengthening the ethics and governance pillar of Nigeria's National AI Strategy, UNESCO's AI Readiness Assessment Methodology provides a structured approach for evaluating a country's preparedness for responsible AI adoption. In Nigeria, the framework helps assess national strengths and gaps across governance, data, infrastructure, and ethics, thereby supporting more informed, context-specific, and accountable AI policy development.



Source: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/07/unesco-launches-ai-readiness-framework-in-nigeria-with-expert-input-from-ethical-ai-analyst/>

Luminate funds AI Ethics & Governance Fellowship

As part of Nigeria's growing AI community focus on ethical, accountable, and socially grounded AI, this fellowship, led by the Policy Innovation Centre in collaboration with the Africa Hub for Innovation and Development (AHFID) and supported by Luminate, is helping build a new cadre of professionals at the intersection of technology, policy, and public impact. The three-month virtual programme strengthens national capacity for responsible AI governance, inclusive innovation, and values-driven oversight.



Source: <https://policycentre.org/aieg-fellowship/>

Ericsson partnered with the Federal Government of Nigeria to launch 'Connect NextGen Hackathon' for 50,000 Youths

The Connect NextGen Hackathon, launched by Ericsson in partnership with the Federal Government of Nigeria, is a major initiative aimed at digitally upskilling 50,000 young Nigerians in emerging technologies particularly Artificial Intelligence.



Source: <https://www.ericsson.com/en/press-releases/1/2026/ericsson-nigeria-launch-connect-nextgen-hackathon>
<https://thesun.ng/nigeria-ericsson-launch-connect-nextgen-hackathon-to-empower-youth-in-ai-5g/>

European Union (EU) pledges €45M for AI Scale-Up Programme

The European Union's €45 million pledge is a strong vote of confidence in Nigeria's digital future and in the Federal Government's ambition to equip three million youths with critical digital skills. The support reinforces international belief in Nigeria's capacity to build a stronger talent base for AI, innovation, and long-term economic transformation.



Source: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/nigeria/global-gateway-invests-additional-%E2%82%AC45-million-digital-economy-nigeria_en



Source: <https://tehafricanews.com/2026/04/01/3mtt-nigeria-launches-partner-network-in-landmark-eu-backed-digital-skills-push/>

Nigeria x France Collaboration at AI Action Summit Paris

Nigeria joined other nations at the AI Action Summit in Paris to help shape global thinking on inclusive, sustainable, and action-oriented AI. The engagement underscored Nigeria's growing international relevance in AI policy and its collaboration with France and other partners to forge a more responsible and development-focused direction for the technology.



Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/ministers-week-review-dr-bosun-tijani-e90le/>



Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/ministers-week-review-dr-bosun-tijani-e9ole/>

NVIDIA Partners with Nigerian Universities

NVIDIA's partnership with Nigerian universities and local developers' community is helping to deepen AI capability through its Deep Learning Institute (DLI) workshops. By exposing students, educators and developers to advanced AI tools, practical learning, and global pathways, the initiative is strengthening the talent pipeline for Nigeria's emerging digital and research economy.



Source: <https://x.com/bosuntijani/status/1897956732111929636>

Meta x RAIN(Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Nigeria) AI Developer Academy 2025

The Meta x RAIN (Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Nigeria) AI Developer Academy 2025 is a fully funded seven-week intensive programme that trained over 200 Nigerian developers to build agentic AI systems using Meta's Llama models, PyTorch, and AI agent frameworks. With a strong focus on practical and ethical AI development, the academy strengthens local technical capacity and culminates in a hackathon that showcases real-world innovation.



Source: <https://rainigeria.com/>

Luminate \$1.5M Funding for the Nigeria AI Collective Launch

Luminate provided \$1.5 million to support the launch of the Nigeria AI Collective, a pioneering community of practice dedicated to advancing ethical AI governance, innovation, research, global collaboration, and capacity building in Nigeria. Coordinated by the Policy Innovation Centre, with implementation support from Data Science Nigeria, Lagos Business School, and the Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development, the Collective has also received support from the Ford Foundation and the AI Collaborative, helping to strengthen national coordination and shared learning across the ecosystem.





Nigeria AI Collective

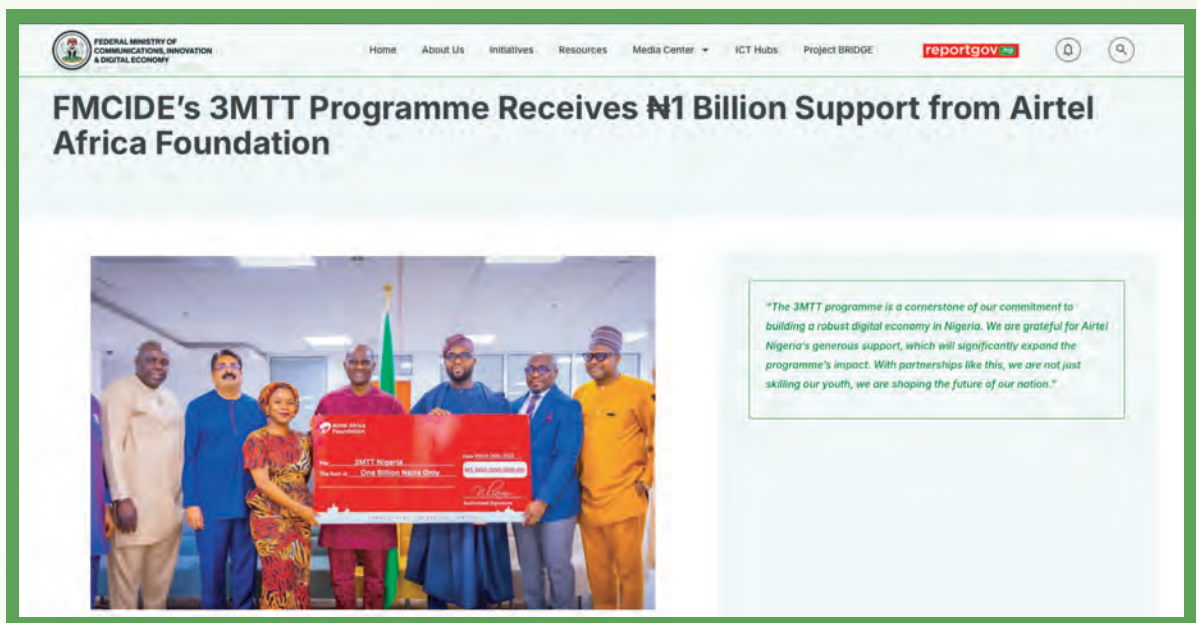
Shaping an Inclusive AI Ecosystem for Nigeria



Source: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/nigeria-ai-collective_nigeriaaicollective-aiforgood-aiinnovation-activity-7302656606368915457-hypW

Airtel Nigeria partnered with the 3MTT programme with ₦1 Billion Funding

The Airtel Africa Foundation's ₦1 billion commitment to the Federal Government's 3 Million Technical Talent (3MTT) programme strengthens Nigeria's push to scale digital skills development at national level. Through the NextGen Fellowship, a dedicated track under 3MTT, exceptional young Nigerians are being equipped with digital skills, mentorship, and practical experience that help translate learning into long-term opportunity.



Source: <https://fmcide.gov.ng/3mtt-airtel-partnership/>

Nigeria Showcases AI Progress at UNGA 2025

At the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) 2025, the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy used a series of high-level side events to showcase Nigeria's growing progress in AI and digital transformation. The engagements helped mobilise partnerships and collaboration across priority areas ranging from digital infrastructure to artificial intelligence.





Source: https://x.com/dsn_ai_network/status/1975867762791657922

Nigeria AI Collective Global AI Meetup and Showcase at the India AI Summit

The Nigeria AI Collective's Global AI Meetup and Showcase at the India AI Summit brought together Nigerians across policy, research, startups, media, and the diaspora around a shared national AI agenda. The Collective's pavilion also attracted delegates from multiple countries, helping to deepen international awareness of Nigeria's AI ecosystem and opening new pathways for collaboration and partnership.



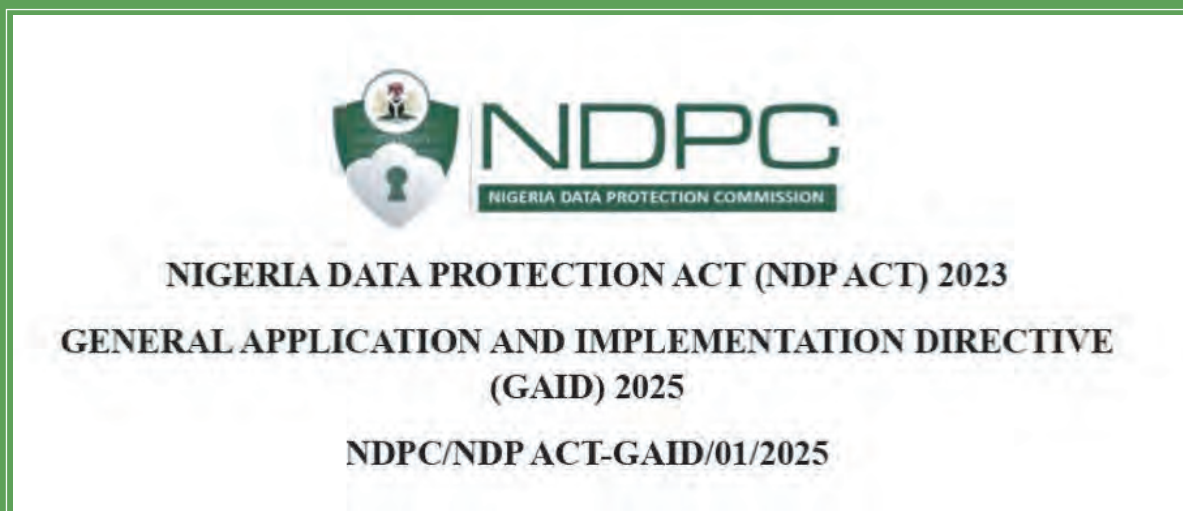
Two Years of Nigeria's National AI Strategy: A Compilation of Ecosystem Impact



Source: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/nigeria-ai-collective_nigeriaaicollective-globalai-responsibleai-activity-7430294810114170880-pA1M?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABiM5boBU9nVr4TqW0ygTK5T5Qa8GhSm8Oo.

NDPC Launches GAID 2025 to Strengthen AI-Era Data Governance

NDPC's General Application and Implementation Directive (GAID) 2025 provides the operational framework for implementing Nigeria's Data Protection Act and strengthens the systemic foundation for ethical AI governance at scale. By setting clearer rules on data accountability, oversight, compliance, and audit, it helps ensure that AI systems built or deployed in Nigeria rest on more trustworthy and responsible data practices.



Source: <https://ndpc.gov.ng/>

Nigerian Ethical AI Framework (NEAIF)

Nigeria's first independently developed comprehensive framework focused on ethical development, deployment, and governance of AI systems.



Source : <https://zenodo.org/records/15505571/files/Nigerian%20Ethical%20AI%20Framework%20v1.1.pdf?download=1>
<https://www.thisdaylive.com/2026/01/06/independent-ethical-ai-framework-published-to-address-gaps-in-nigerias-national-ai-strategy/>

AI Governance Through the Lens of Religion and Ethics

The Nigeria Religious Coalition on Artificial Intelligence underscores the growing importance of grounding Nigeria's AI future in ethics, faith-sensitive reflection, and accountable governance. Through this lens, the framework argues that AI should not be shaped by efficiency alone, but by values such as human dignity, fairness, responsibility, and harm reduction in ways that remain accountable to the communities it affects.



Source: <https://www.environmentnigeria.com/religious-leaders-media-executives-seek-ethical-ai-framework/>

Draft Code of Practice for Artificial Intelligence (NITDA)

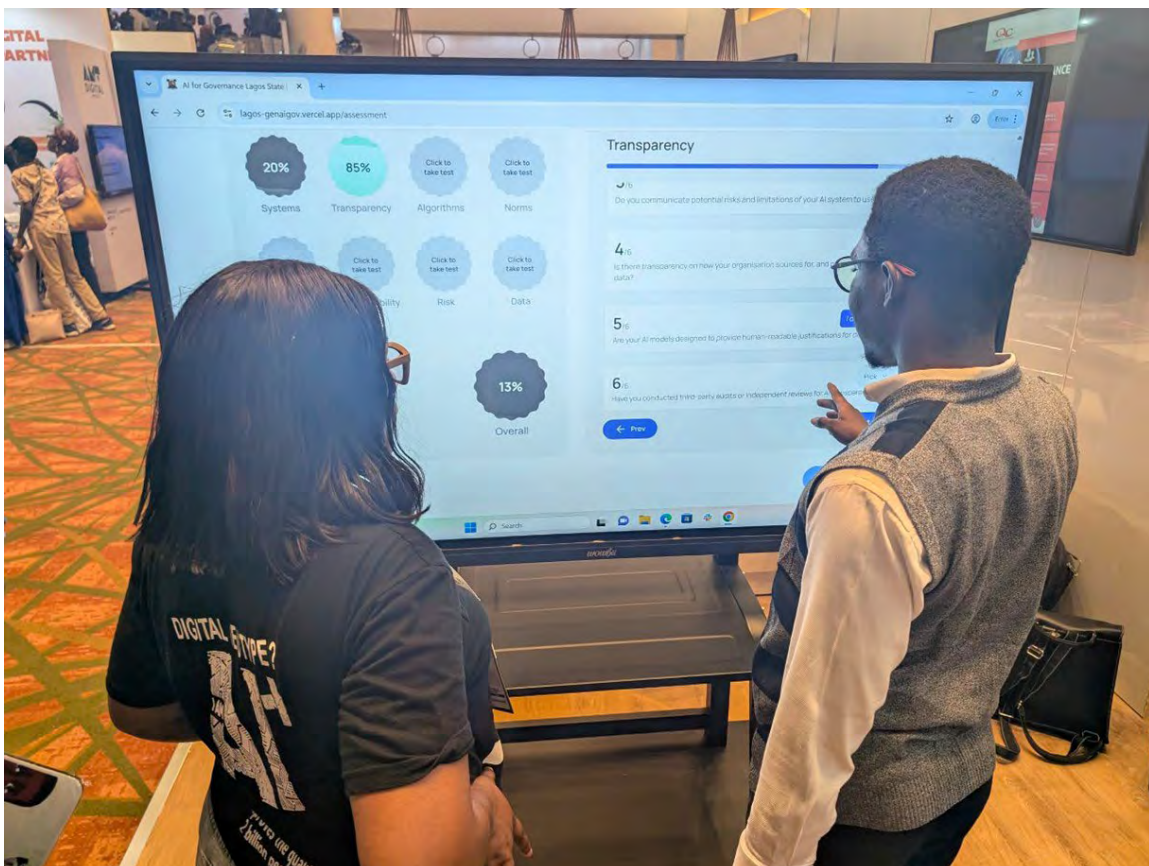
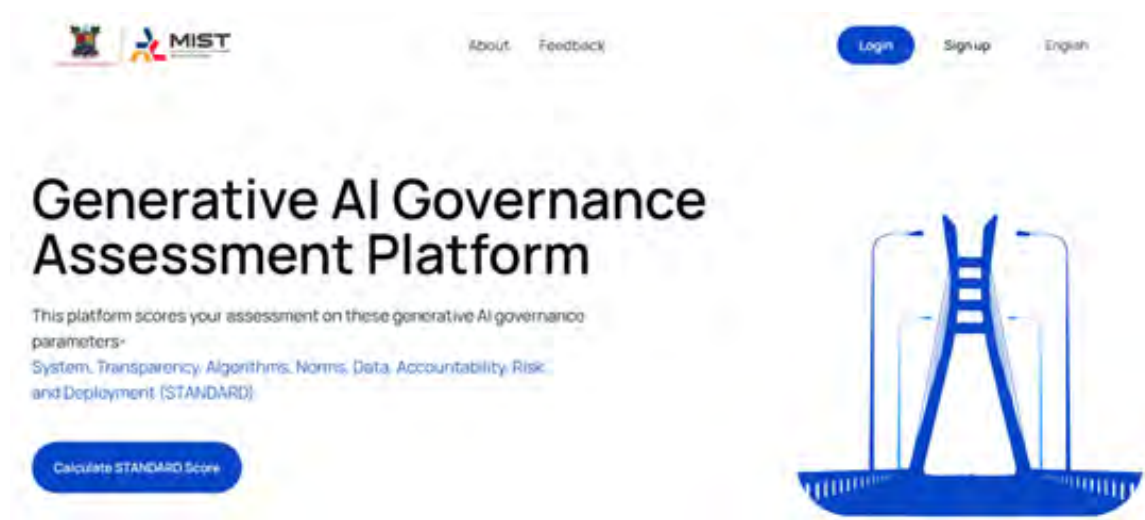
NITDA's proposed AI Code of Practice is significant because it frames AI governance as more than a technical issue; it is also a question of ethics, culture, and social responsibility. The main thrust is on how AI systems are guided by values such as fairness, accountability, human dignity, and protection from abuse.



Source: <https://www.tekedia.com/nitda-drafting-the-nigeria-code-of-practice-for-artificial-intelligence-tools-such-as-chatgpt-and-others/>

Lagos Launches Generative AI Governance & Assessment Platform (STANDARD Framework)

The Lagos State AI Guide platform provides a practical governance framework that helps organisations assess and improve their AI systems across key dimensions like transparency, accountability, risk, and data, promoting responsible and ethical AI deployment. It strengthens trust and standardisation in AI adoption, positioning Lagos as a leader in structured, human-centred AI governance. The solution was supported by the Gates Foundation with technical delivery by Data Science Nigeria.



Source: <https://aiguide.lagosstate.gov.ng/en>

Nigeria Launched Service-Wise GPT, an AI-Powered Assistant for Public Service Delivery

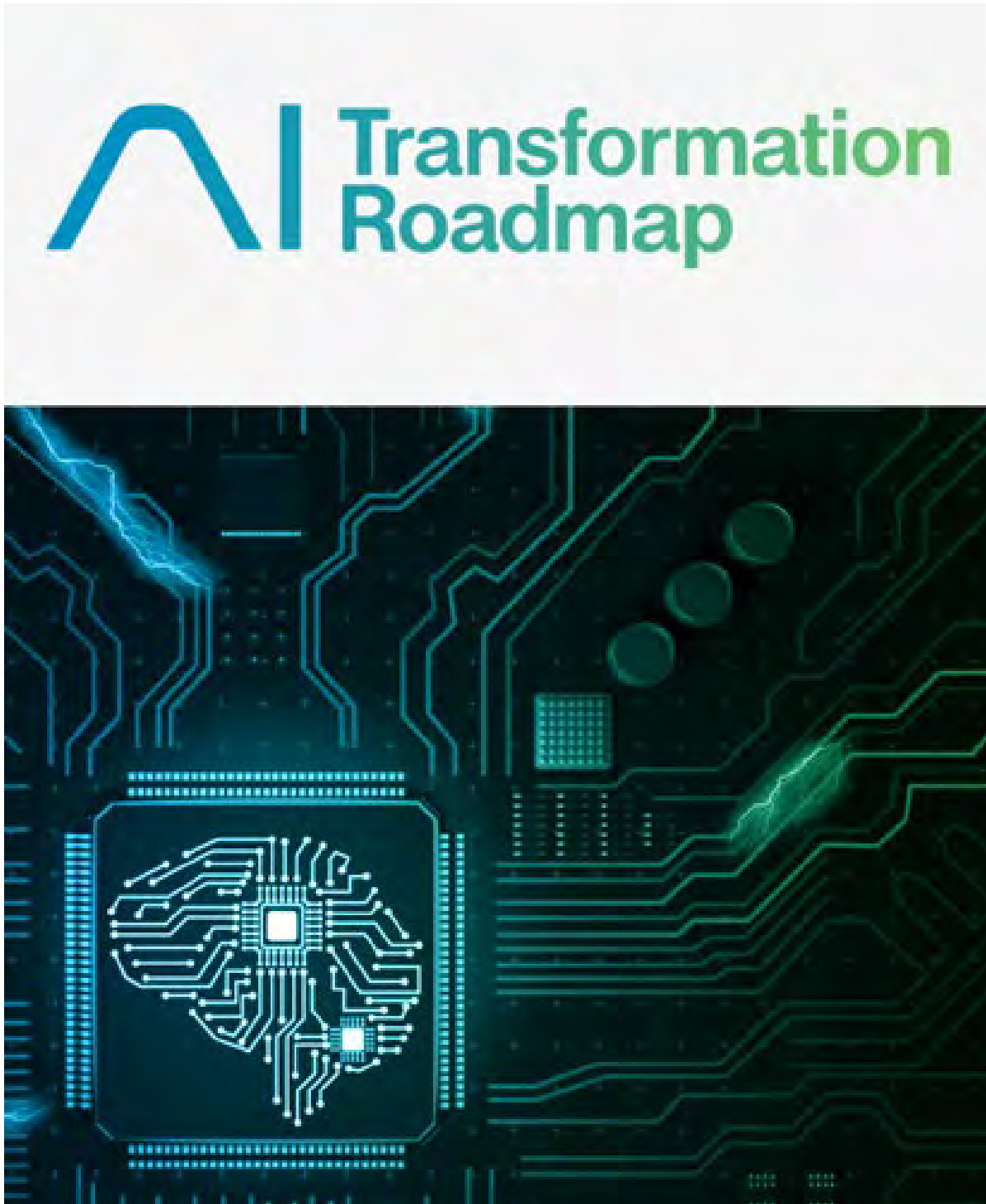
Service-Wise GPT is a user-focused AI assistant designed to improve efficiency across Nigeria's Federal Civil Service. By providing instant access to Public Service Rules, statutory instruments, regulations, guidelines, and other key governance materials, it helps civil servants work faster, navigate procedures more easily, and strengthen service delivery.



Source: <https://www.globalgovernmentforum.com/how-ai-is-transforming-governance-and-service-delivery-five-minutes-with-the-head-of-nigerias-civil-service/>
<https://health.gov.ng/health-ministry-boosts-capacity-of-staff-with-service-wise-gpt-knowledge/>

NITDA Released AI Transformation Roadmap 2025

The roadmap captures four core AI innovations: Document Processing Automation to intelligently analyse and route incoming documents, Intelligent Workflow Management to support routine work, decisions, deadlines, and compliance, AI-Powered Regulatory Intelligence to sense emerging issues and support regulatory drafting, and an AI-powered Knowledge Management System to preserve institutional knowledge and improve document creation and staff guidance.



Source: <https://nitda.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/NITDA25-NITDA-AI-TRANSFORMATION-ROADMAP-4-compressed.pdf>

Lagos deploys AI for school monitoring and registration

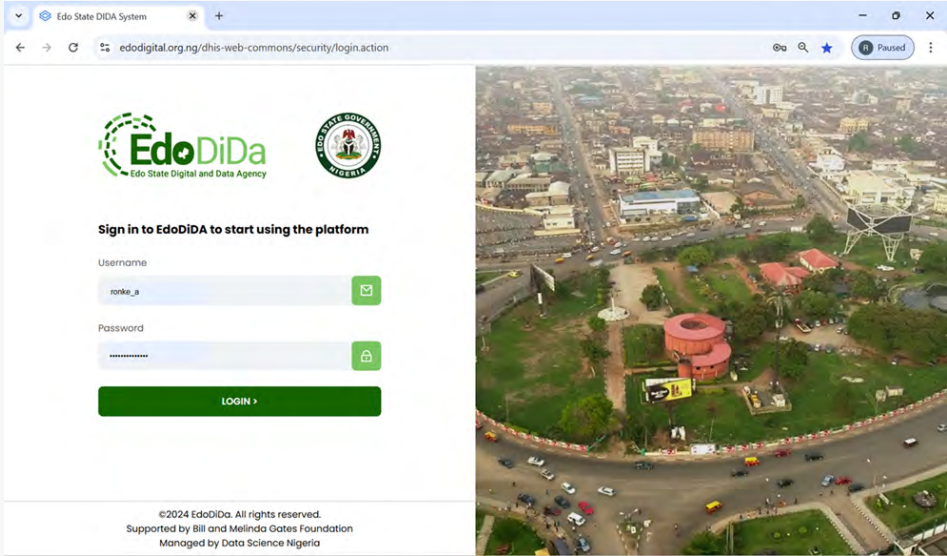
The Lagos State Government's use of AI for school monitoring and registration is strengthening education governance through more data-driven oversight, improved accountability, and better visibility into teaching quality and school operations.



Source: https://punchng.com/lagos-deploys-ai-for-school-monitoring-registration/#google_vignette

EdoDiDA Expands AI-Powered Data Access in Edo State

The Edo State EdoDiDA Project is a flagship initiative under the Edo State Data for Governance Platform, leveraging cutting-edge artificial intelligence and digital infrastructure to democratise data access, enhance public service delivery, and strengthen institutional accountability. At its core, EdoDiDA integrates advanced conversational AI and secure digital credentialing systems to make government data both accessible and actionable for all stakeholders—citizens, policymakers, and public servants alike.



Source: <https://edodigital.org/ng/> and <https://datasciencenigeria.org/edodida-project-transforming-governance-through-ai-powered-data-access-and-digital-public-infrastructure/>

Deployment of the Artificial Intelligence and Digital Public Infrastructure (AI+DPI) intervention for Kano and Kaduna State Governments

Kaduna State's "Ask Kaduna" is a large language model, for improved citizen engagement and public service delivery, while "KanGen" is Kano State's large language model, for AI-driven governance tools in strengthening digital services and institutional capacity. The solutions were supported by the Gates Foundation with technical delivery by Data Science Nigeria.

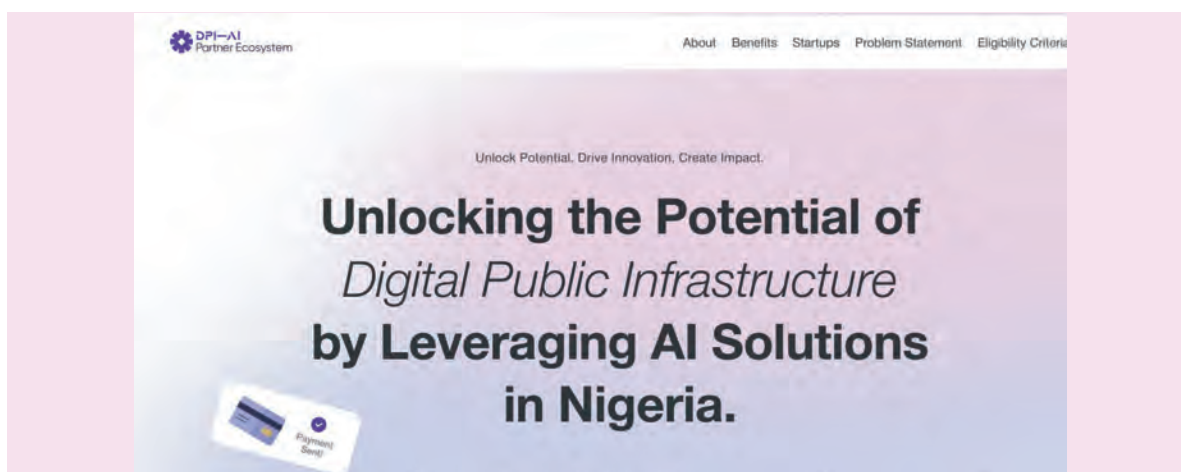


Source: <https://ask.kdsg.gov.ng/>

AI + DPI Partner Ecosystem Intervention in Lagos, Kaduna, Kano & Gombe

AI + DPI Partner Ecosystem Intervention in Lagos, Kaduna, Kano & Gombe

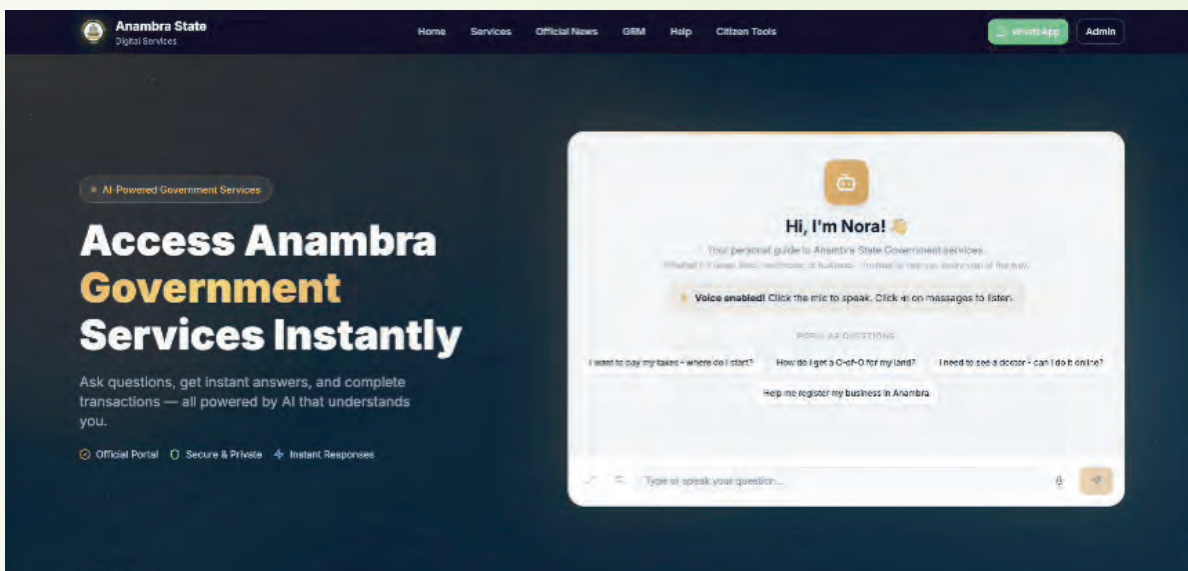
The AI + DPI Partner Ecosystem Programme, led by CcHUB with support from the Gates Foundation, leverages Artificial Intelligence and Digital Public Infrastructure to advance inclusive innovation in underserved communities. Implemented in partnership with Data Science Nigeria and DIAL, the initiative supports local startups to build and scale solutions across health, agriculture, and financial inclusion in Lagos, Kaduna, Kano, and Gombe.



Source: <https://dpi-ai.cchub.africa/>

Anambra Launches SmartGov/NORA AI Digital Services Platform

Anambra State's SmartGov/NORA AI platform is transforming public service delivery by providing a single intelligent gateway through which citizens can access more than 30 government services seamlessly across web, voice, and messaging channels. The platform reflects a practical use of AI to simplify citizen access, improve responsiveness, and modernise digital government services.



Source: <https://smart.anambrastate.gov.ng/>

Sokoto Establishes AI and Emerging Technologies Advisory Council

The Sokoto State Government has established the Advisory Council on Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies to guide the adoption of AI across governance, education, healthcare, and agriculture in the state.



Source: <https://sokotostate.gov.ng/sokoto-governor-establishes-the-first-artificial-intelligence-and-emerging-technologies-advisory-council-in-africa/>

Africa's first AI-themed feature film, Makemation

Makemation, Africa's first AI-themed feature film, uses storytelling to explore how artificial intelligence can expand education, opportunity, and social mobility in Nigeria. It also highlights Nollywood's growing role in combining creativity and technology, positioning the industry within broader global conversations on innovation-driven filmmaking.



Source: <https://terraacademyforarts.com/makemation-film-africas-first-ai-themed-feature-redefines-nollywood/>

BudgIT Launches Bimi for Open Government Data

As a private-sector initiative advancing AI-powered governance accountability, BudgIT's Bimi uses natural language processing and AI analytics to make complex government and fiscal data easier for citizens to understand. By turning public data into more accessible and actionable information, the tool helps strengthen transparency, civic engagement, and accountability in governance.



Source: <https://budgit.org/bimi-unveiled-a-new-era-of-ai-driven-governance-and-open-data-in-nigeria/>

Appendix

NeurIPS - https://papers.nips.cc/paper_files/paper/2024

Value Imprint: A Technique for Auditing the Human Values Embedded in RLHF Datasets (Ike Obi, Rohan Pant, Srishti Shekhar Agrawal, Maham Ghazanfar, Aaron Basiletti)

Enhancing Robustness of Last Layer Two-Stage Fair Model Corrections (Nathan Stromberg, Rohan Ayyagari, Sanmi Koyejo, Richard Nock, Lalitha Sankar)

ICAIR- <https://papers.academic-conferences.org/index.php/icaair/issue/view/56>

Bridging the AI Governance Gap: Ethical and Regulatory Imperatives for Generative AI in Nigeria (Oluwatayofunmi Durodola)

Building Trust through Transparent AI Governance: Embedding Ethical Oversight into Academic Curricula Development (Kelechi Ekuma)

AI Driven Cyber Deception in FinTech: An Adaptive Defense Strategy (Isaac Ojeh, Xavier Palmer, Lucas Potter)

AfricaNLP 2026

<https://openreview.net/group?id=eacl.org/EACL/2026/Workshop/AfricaNLP#tab-accept>

African Voices Nigeria: 2,500 hours of ethically sourced speech data for four Nigerian Languages (Ife Adebara, Oluwaseun Nifemi, Rashidat Damilola Sikiru, Olanrewaju Israel Lawal, Ololade Anjuwon, Olubayo Adekanmbi, et al., 2026)

Power Asymmetries, Bias, and AI, a Reflection of Society on Low-Resource Languages - African Languages as Case Study (Simbiat Ajao)

Evaluating Yoruba Text-to-Speech Systems for Accessible Computer-Based Testing in Visually Impaired Learners (Kausar Yetunde Moshood, Victor Tolulope Olufemi, Oreoluwa Boluwatife Babatunde, et al., 2026)

Sample-Size Scaling of the African Languages NLI Evaluation (Anuj Tiwari, Oluwapelumi Ogunremu, Terry Oko-odion, Jesujuwon Egbewale, Hannah Sopuruchi Nwokocha)

Evaluating Native-Speaker Preferences on Machine Translation and Post-Edits for Five African Languages (Hiba El Oirghi, Tajuddeen Gwadabe, Marine Carpuat)

What Do Prompts Reveal About Model Capabilities in Low-Resource Languages? (Oluwaseun A. Ajayi, Odunayo Ogundepo)

EduNaija AI Tutor: A Multi-Agent Retrieval-Augmented Generation System for Nigerian Curriculum Education (Israel Olanrewaju Odeajo, Edifon Emmanuel Jimmy)

ÒWE-Voice: An Evaluation of Monolingual and Multilingual ASR Model Using Yoruba Proverb Speech Dataset (Daud Abolade)

Developing an English–Efik Corpus and Machine Translation System for Digitization Inclusion (Offiong Bassey Edet, Mbuotidem Sunday Awak, Emmanuel Ubene Oyo-Ita, et al., 2026)

AfriCaption: Establishing a New Paradigm for Image Captioning in African Languages (Mardiyah Oduwole, Prince Mireku, Fatimo Adebajo, et al., 2026)

