

Category 3. Agriculture

Flagship: The Young Women in Agriculture, A 5-Year National Empowerment Programme (Launched June 2023)

The AGRICULTURE pillar of SIP-ALPHA is not just about farming, it is about **building a new generation of globally certified agricpenuers**, positioned as a **transformative driver of inclusive growth, food security, and global competitiveness**. Launched in June 2023, Young-WAP is a **five-year national empowerment programme** designed to cultivate a new generation of **globally certified women agripreneurs** advancing the principles of **gender equality, poverty eradication, and climate resilience**, while also delivering **bankable, investment-ready opportunities** for sustainable growth.

By **integrating alternative means of crop productions**, including hydroponics, vertical farming, biotechnology, and controlled-environment agriculture, **Young-WAP** strengthens **climate-smart agriculture** and enhances **adaptive capacity** in line with the **Paris Agreement, FAO frameworks, and corporate ESG standards**. At its core, the programme seeks to **break the poverty cycle through the kenaf value chain**, underpinned by **guaranteed off-takers** that ensure predictable incomes, market stability, and long-term sustainability.

Core Strategic Components

- **Alternative Means of Crop Production Systems:** Scaling **hydroponics, vertical farming, biotech, and controlled-environment agriculture** to achieve year-round productivity, resource efficiency, and resilience to climate shocks.
- **Kenaf Value Chain Transformation:** Establishing a **fully integrated kenaf ecosystem**, from cultivation to processing into fibre, paper, textiles, and bio-composites, with **guaranteed off-takers to secure livelihoods, reduce rural poverty, and create export-ready industries**.
- **Certified Multiple International Partners:** Beneficiaries trained and certified by multiple international partners, including the **London School of Management** in (**Hydroponics** and **Agro-Kenaf Enterprise**), ensuring world-class recognition and ensuring compliance with **international quality standards** and enhancing **global market competitiveness**,
- **Inclusive Market Systems:** Facilitating **structured off-take agreements, value-addition, cold-chain logistics, and trade facilitation**, linking women-led enterprises to **regional and global value chains**,
- **Gender-Responsive Financing:** Mobilizing **blended finance, catalytic capital, and micro-grants** to expand access to finance for women agripreneurs, in line with **UN Women's empowerment frameworks** and **corporate impact-investment models**.
- **Impact Orientation:** Advancing **rural prosperity, women's inclusion, food system resilience, and poverty reduction**, consistent with the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** while also delivering **measurable ROI and scalable growth opportunities**.

Global Alignment & Positioning

Young-WAP is aligned with:

- **SDG 2:** End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
- **SDG 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- **SDG 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.
- **SDG 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

It is also consistent with:

- **FAO's Climate-Smart Agriculture Framework**
- **UN Women's Economic Empowerment Principles**
- **African Union Agenda 2063 (Goal 5: Modern Agriculture for Increased Productivity and Production)**
- **Corporate ESG and impact-investment benchmarks**

By **integrating alternative means of crop productions** and embedding women at the centre of the **kenaf value chain with guaranteed off-takers**, the **Young Women in Agriculture National Empowerment Programme** becomes both a **UN-aligned flagship for inclusive rural transformation** and a **globally bankable investment platform**, breaking the poverty cycle, advancing gender equality, and positioning Nigeria as a **continental leader in sustainable agri-innovation and food system resilience**,