

NIGERIAN CLIMATE INNOVATION CENTRE MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT (2018 -2023)

An Evaluation of the Organization's Program Effectiveness, Relevance, Sustainability and Efficacy

SUMMARIZED REPORT

December 2023

Context and Background

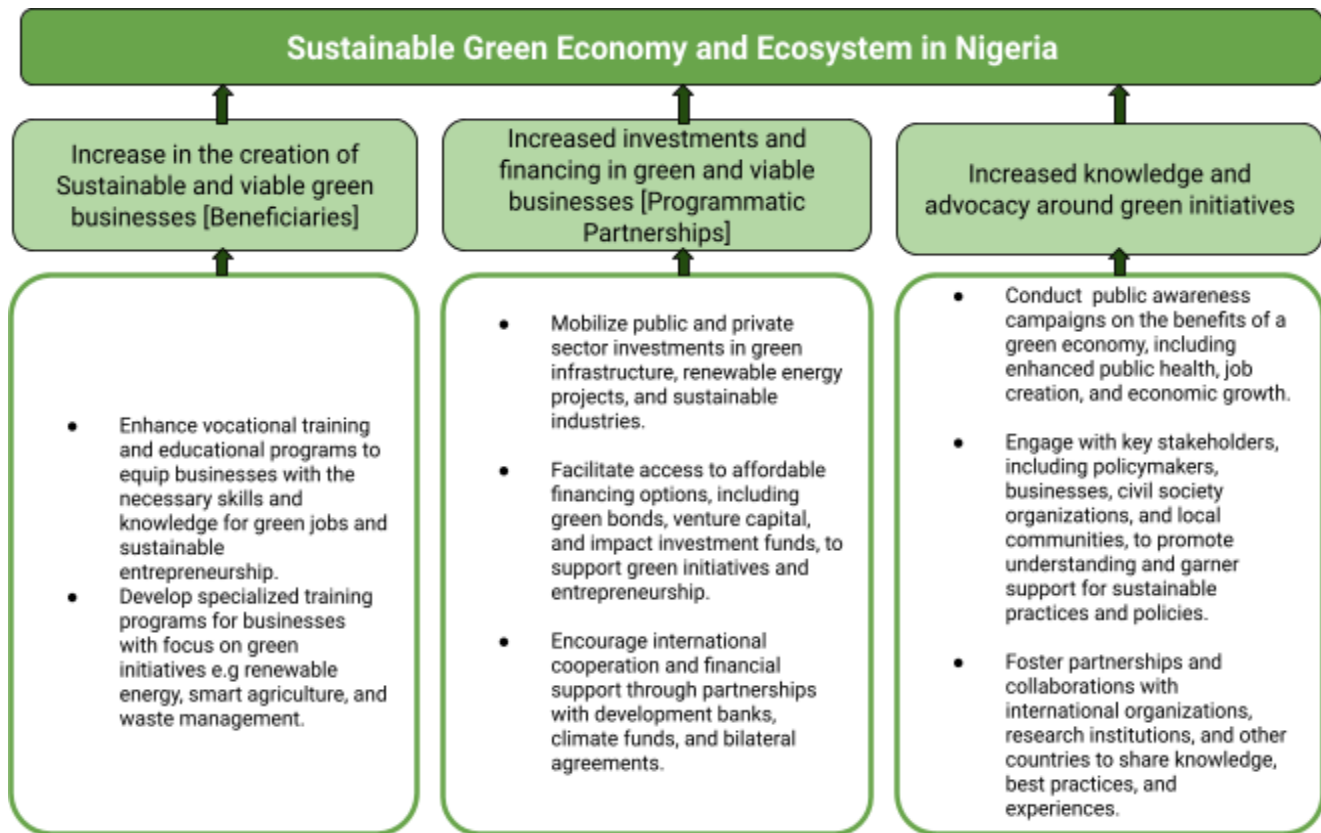
Climate change poses significant challenges globally and particularly impacts Nigeria's environment, public health, and socio-economic stability. The country is experiencing rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and extreme weather events, contributing to its classification as a region of high risk in the 2017 Climate Change Vulnerability Index. Without adaptation, Nigeria could face substantial GDP losses, hindering its economic goals. The vulnerable sectors include oil and gas, agriculture, and coastal regions, necessitating urgent action.

In response, Nigeria is actively transitioning to a green economy, balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability. This involves addressing climate challenges, promoting sustainable development, and diversifying the economy. The green economy focuses on low carbon, resource efficiency, and social inclusivity. Technology and innovation play a crucial role, in offering solutions to climate issues and facilitating a shift toward a low-carbon, climate-resilient development pathway. Policies like the National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy support green initiatives, and the Nigeria Climate Innovation Centre (NCIC) was established to foster sustainable, climate-friendly businesses.

NCIC, established in 2018 with World Bank and government support, is a key initiative driving innovation in areas such as renewable energy, waste management, smart agriculture, water solutions, green transportation, and sustainable buildings. The center aims to create a sustainable green economy by unlocking green opportunities, generating employment, and contributing to socially inclusive ecosystems. NCIC has set ambitious goals, including facilitating investments, becoming a major voice in climate ventures, contributing to Nigeria's green economy, and providing advisory services. The center has made significant progress, supporting over 200 startups, incubating businesses, and contributing to various sectors, including renewable energy, waste management, smart agriculture, water solutions, green transportation, and sustainable buildings. NCIC's impact extends to mentorship and assistance for over 100 other green businesses.



THEORY OF CHANGE



ject Catalogues

Embryo Incubation Program [EIP] 2020 -2022



Embryo Incubation Program was the NCIC's flagship venture development upskilling program, in collaboration with All On, targeted at early-stage startups playing in the renewable energy space across Nigeria. The Embryo Incubation Program conducted over the period 2020 to 2022 with three cohorts, exhibited a 92 percent completion rate with 50 startup businesses participating.

Program Partner

Total Program Value \$495,000.00	
Program Duration 3 years	Total Awarded Grants \$240,000

EIP provides support to 24 grantee startups in total, each of which received a grant of \$10,000, totaling \$240,000 in funding including training and support for six months. During the post-program analysis, it was found that 33 startups could successfully scale from ideation to full-fledged businesses, deploying tangible products and solutions, which is a great success for the program. However, there were also some challenges faced by a few startups. Six startups are still in the ideation and prototype stage and are facing challenges in scaling their businesses. Two startups have discontinued their pursuit of product actualization, which is a disappointing outcome. Additionally, nine startups have remained unresponsive since 2020-22, and their status is unknown. Despite these challenges, the program has provided valuable support to several startups, helping them to successfully launch and grow their businesses. Overall the program achieved a 92% completion rate.

Total Businesses that Participated 50	Total No of Grantees 24	Total No. of Cohorts 3
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The grantees of the EIP, having received initial funding from NCIC, have diligently pursued the development of their products and services. Beyond the initial funding, they have also made concerted efforts to secure additional funding to sustain and scale their ventures. This has been accomplished through various means such as venture capital, angel investors, crowdfunding, and other financing options. Through their relentless efforts, these grantees have been able to bring their innovative ideas to life and make a lasting impact on their respective industries.

Total funds raised after NCIC's Support through EIP
\$1,720,000.00

CyclePlast 2023 - Ongoing



The Cycle Plast program, in collaboration with the Coca-Cola Foundation, is a plastic waste recycling project executed in 6 states across Nigeria, aimed at empowering aggregators and waste pickers to sustain the plastic waste value chain.

Program Partner

Total Program Value \$ 500,000.00	
Program Duration 2 years	No of Businesses Awarded Grants 6
Total Waste Collected by December 2023(tonne) 7,111	Completion Rate 100%

The impact assessment of the Cycleplast program, valued at \$500,000 in collaboration with the Coca-Cola Foundation, reveals notable achievements. Engaging six startups and 911 waste pickers across project locations of the six geo-political zones in Nigeria, the program demonstrated a commendable 100% completion rate. All participating businesses successfully concluded the program, showcasing effective implementation and operational success.

A balanced gender distribution of 50-50 between male and female participants underscores the program's commitment to inclusivity. To enhance operational capacity, the procurement of six pieces of compact equipment and the provision of essential support materials, including PPEs, gloves, masks, boots, and T-shirts for waste pickers, provided by the Coca-Cola Foundation, indicate a comprehensive approach to ensuring their protection and dignity in labor.

Total no of Informal Workers Engaged 911
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While the initial collection targets aimed for a total volume of 8,910 tons of plastic waste over two years, the actual tonnage collected by December 31, 2023, amounted to 7,111 tons. This assessment provides a holistic overview of the program's impact, highlighting successful completion, gender inclusivity, and the program's efficacy in waste collection initiatives.

Circular Economy Hackathon



The Circular Economy Hackathon was designed to find eligible circular startups with innovative ideas, viable enough to tackle the waste management challenges experienced by Dutch Companies working in Nigeria.

Total Program Value € 11,000.00	
Program Duration 2 weeks	Total Startups supported 20
No of Startups who scaled their ideas 8	Program Completion Rate 100%

Driven by impact, the program, executed in collaboration with the Dutch Embassy in Lagos, Nigeria, secured a significant funding of 11,000 Euros. Operated within a virtual structure, the initiative maintained a commitment to gender inclusivity, with 20% female and 80% male participants.

The Circular Economy Hackathon engaged 20 startup businesses, achieving a remarkable 100% completion rate. Notably, 14 of these startups surpassed the Minimum Viable Product (MVP) level, showcasing their effectiveness in addressing the proposed project challenges.

Throughout the project, the upskilling services provided to the 20 startups focused on venture building and capacity enhancement. The rigorous evaluation identified four startups as finalists, recognized for possessing the most viable solutions.

In the post-program phase, 8 out of the 20 startups in the hackathon successfully scaled their products and solutions, underscoring the tangible impact and sustainability of the initiative. This impact-driven overview highlights the program's success, the high quality of solutions generated, and the positive trajectory of participating startups in the Circular Economy Hackathon.

Climate Launch Pad [2018 - 2023]



ClimateLaunchpad is an international competition for green business ideas and is the largest of its kind in the world. It aims to unleash the potential of cleantech innovations that can help combat climate change. The competition provides a platform for presenting these ideas to the world. ClimateLaunchpad is one of the many entrepreneurship initiatives offered by EIT Climate-KIC.

Total Program Value € 48,000	
Program Duration 5 Years	Total Startup Supported 95
No of Cohorts 6	Completion rate 88%
Gender Representation Women - 18 77 - Men	

The Nigerian partner, NCIC, has been playing a crucial role as a collaborator in the Climate Launch Pad project, providing a hub to implement the initiative. The program, which follows a multi-stakeholder approach, is aimed at promoting climate innovation and supporting innovators at the ideation and prototype stages, with a focus on grassroots innovation that addresses climate change challenges.

The competition has been ongoing for five years, where contestants apply and are screened based on the viability of their products and services that can potentially scale the strongholds of the market. The program's success is evident from the fact that Nigerian green innovators have advanced to the global finals, indicating its effectiveness in identifying and promoting innovative solutions.

Additionally, an alumni group for communication and opportunity-sharing implies a sense of community and ongoing support for program participants. The Climate Launch Pad program has been described as an avenue for innovators to be groomed properly to contribute to the green economy before establishing green projects. Overall, the data shows that the Climate Launch Pad program in Nigeria has been successful in fostering climate innovation, building a community of innovators, and contributing to the green economy, as evidenced by the continued interest from candidates despite the absence of funding.

Naija SDG Fintech Hackathon [2021 - 2023]



The Naija SDGs Fintech Hackathon serves the purpose of fostering the growth of Fintech innovations that can contribute towards accomplishing the UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals ("SDGs"). The aim is to encourage the development of Fintech solutions that can have a direct impact on the attainment of SDGs.

Total Program Value NGN 55,000,000	
Program Duration 3 years	Total Start-up Supported 9
No of Cohorts 3	Completion rate 80%
Total Amount of Start-ups that applied 80	

NCIC, in collaboration with FMDQ, Microsoft, and Meta, initiated a dynamic three-year program aimed at bolstering youth-founded Fintech startups in Nigeria. The primary objective was to foster innovation and facilitate the scalable growth of these startups, all while aligning with the Green Agenda and SDG Goals.

This inclusive program welcomed Fintech solutions spearheaded by individuals aged 18-35 years. Over three years, nine startups with promising products and services received substantial support from the partnership. While the planning phase witnessed a surge in applications, the selection process prioritized projects demonstrating tangible viability. Emphasizing the transformative potential within Nigeria's Fintech landscape, the partnership was keen on nurturing startups capable of enhancing the industry, particularly those projects that champion eco-friendly initiatives.

Successful candidates within the program gained access to a spectrum of institutional resources, including funding, mentorship, and tailored support services. This comprehensive assistance aimed to empower startups in scaling their operations effectively. Ultimately, with an 88% completion rate, the program surpassed expectations, providing a pivotal platform for green-led Fintech enterprises in Nigeria to thrive and emerge as trailblazing success stories in the nation's financial technology ecosystem.

WASH 2021 & 2023



The Fair is designed to exploit the creative capabilities of Nigerian entrepreneurs in resolving the challenges of Open Defecation and enhancing access to Water/Hygiene facilities through innovative products and services designed and produced in Nigeria.

Total Grant Amount NGN 17,500,000	
Program Duration 2 years	Total Startup Supported 5
No of Cohort 2	Completion Rate 80%
Gender Representation Women - 4 1- Men	

The WASH Initiative Campaign (the “Campaign”) themed “Waste to Wealth 2030” focuses on the achievement of Goals 1, 3 & 6 of the UN SDGs by driving wealth creation through the conversion of human waste to productive uses, promoting access to clean water, sanitation, good hygiene and ultimately improved overall wellbeing for Nigerians. The Campaign aims to attain universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene, end open defecation, encourage human waste conversion, and improve water quality by reducing pollution and breaking the chain of the spread of waterborne diseases.



The GAIN Agribusiness Innovation Challenge is a highly sought-after agri-tech competition that is specifically aimed at young startups. The competition focuses on developing and promoting digital and hardware solutions that can effectively mitigate the food supply chain challenges in Nigeria.

By offering a platform for innovative ideas and technological advancements, the competition aims to foster the growth of and fortify the agribusiness sector in Nigeria. Through this challenge, young entrepreneurs had the opportunity to showcase their creative ideas and present solutions that can help boost food security and improve the handling of agricultural produce all across the country.

Total Program Value NGN 25,000,000	
Program Duration 3 months	Total Awarded Grants \$ 16,000
Total number of Grants 4	Completion Rate 92%
Gender Representation Women - 9 31 - Men	

During the innovation challenge, 40 participants attended the event. The program was structured in a hybrid format, allowing virtual and physical attendance. The participants were allowed to pitch their innovative ideas, and after a rigorous selection process, the top 4 finalists were chosen. These finalists were awarded \$4000 each to implement their projects.



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LAGOS STATE SCIENCE RESEARCH
& INNOVATION COUNCIL

Students with Awesome Green Ideas (SWAG) is a green innovation competition amongst government secondary schools in Lagos state aimed at fostering the concept of sustainability among young students (and teachers) as well as building their STEM and entrepreneurial skills through the adoption of smart practices

Total Program Value NGN 5,000,000	
Program Duration 3 Months	Total Awarded Grant NGN 800,000
Total number Grants 3	Completion Rate 100%
Gender Representation (school-based) Women - 4 2- Men	

The SWAG program, which stands for "Sustainable World and Green Growth," was a three-month initiative that engaged six schools to equip them with the necessary tools and resources to become climate-smart and environmentally conscious, especially concerning entrepreneurial undertakings in the future.

During the program, students representing each school had the opportunity to share their innovative ideas about sustainability and green growth, which were then pitched before a panel of judges. The judges evaluated the ideas based on their feasibility, impact, and potential for growth.

At the end of the competition, three schools emerged as finalists, having presented the most promising and impactful sustainability ideas. The first-place winner was awarded NGN 500,000, the second-place winner received NGN 300,000, and the third-place winner was awarded NGN 200,000.

Overall, the SWAG program was a great success, providing a platform for young innovators to showcase their ideas and encouraging them to become active participants in the global movement towards a more sustainable future.

Key Findings on Program Evaluation

Findings	Recommendation	Summary
Gender Inclusion: NCIC has struggled with gender inclusion for their programs and projects over the past 5 years as evident in the participation pool of all evaluated programs during the M&E exercise. Women make up only about 20% of all NCIC programs executed over the last 5 years.	NCIC should organize women-focused programs within each of its thematic focus areas, exclusively targeting women playing in the green and sustainable space.	20% of women participated in all NCIC programs.
Data Collection: Data collection on all NCIC programs was not sufficient or not up to date to arrive at or make informed decisions. However, through in-depth- interviews with both NCIC staff and program participants /beneficiaries, surveys, and questionnaires distributed to the program participants during the M&E Exercise, informed decisions were made.	A dedicated officer within the NCIC team must be responsible for data collection on all programs and projects going forward by identifying the impact indicators for each program and measuring them at the end of the program with clearly spelled-out deliverables based on outputs and outcomes.	63% of all program participants were responsive to surveys for making informed decisions.
Post-Program Engagement: Post-program communication with program participants was mainly made with grantees, or participants that fell within winning categories of innovation or challenge programs. However, NCIC has engaged in handholding and support services to non-grantees at their request when required.	Priority on the same attention level should be given to all program participants to encourage inclusion and diversity in seeking opportunities.	75% of all program grantees were contacted for one form of support or the other while less than 10% of non-grantees were contacted post-program
Ecosystem Impact: All NCIC projects and programs are centered around fostering green innovation and venture development and have so far impacted the climate innovation community in Nigeria.	NCIC can extend its reach beyond the shores of Nigeria by attracting international partnerships and collaborations on green projects and programs.	75% of NCIC programs and projects are financed by local partners, while the remaining 25% have an element of international collaboration.
Business Traction: The program beneficiaries or participants can be divided into 3 broad categories: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ones who have scaled and are still in business. 2. The ones who are still in business but stagnant and struggling to grow due to a lack of scaling opportunities. 3. The ones who struggle between being indifferent or giving up. 	NCIC can still run programs focused on categories 2 and 3 to position them better for green opportunities.	Measuring business traction from the first engagement with NCIC, 56% of participants have scaled. 37% are still stagnant and struggling. 7% have either stopped or are indifferent.

Evaluation Findings

Relevance:

The NCIC's program is crucial for advancing sustainability in Nigeria, aligning with global discussions on climate change. As the country strives to create a conducive environment for sustainability, the NCIC plays a pivotal role. Over the years, the organization has supported green businesses and advocated for inclusive sustainable practices. Notable examples include fashion houses transforming plastic waste into reusable traditional wear and the conversion of organic waste into a safer fuel source. NCIC-funded businesses employ "informal workers," often women and men facilitating effective waste management in their communities.

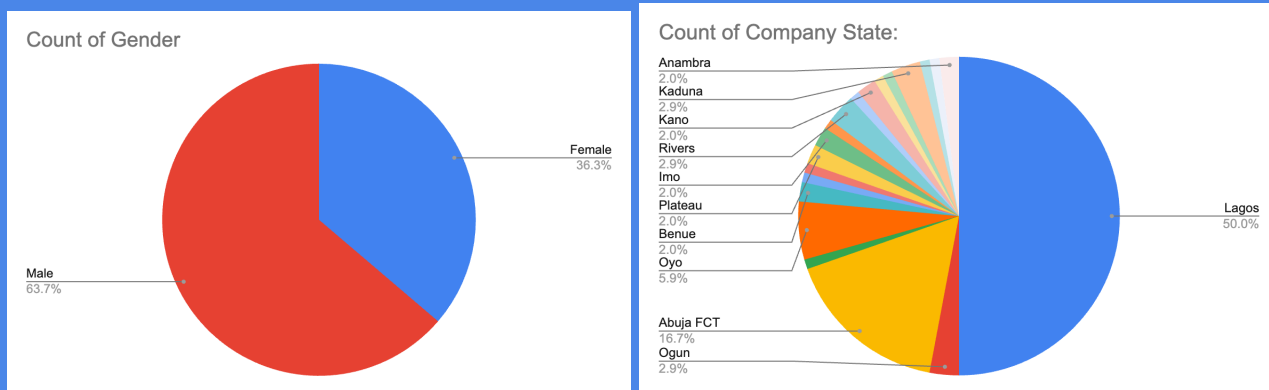
Beyond waste management, these businesses provide low-cost off-grid electricity access, empowering communities economically without relying on polluting energy sources. By offering training and resources, they foster self-sufficiency and sustainability. The environmental and economic impact of these initiatives is evident, showcasing how innovation and a commitment to positive change can drive sustainable development.

The NCIC's fireside chats, reaching over 700 listeners, contribute to shaping the framework for achieving WASH initiatives. The WASH Innovation Fair 2.0 unites industry players to discuss stakeholder roles in ending open defecation in Nigeria. The radio talk show, part of a behavioral campaign strategy, features weekly discussions and interviews on major radio stations (Inspirational FM & WE FM).

Through collaborative efforts, NCIC brings together over 1000 stakeholders in events like the WASH Innovation Fair, Sustainable Finance Day, and ESG Forum. These interactions strengthen commitment to green financing for sustainability, ensuring the continuous funding and implementation of sustainable ventures for green businesses.

Capacity Building and Access to Funding for a Stronger Green Economy

NCIC is dedicated to assisting small businesses in their journey toward sustainability, recognizing that not all ideas can receive funding or be part of their programs. To achieve this commitment, NCIC has developed the Green Business Management Certification, a comprehensive learning platform providing valuable insights for creating and running successful green businesses. The program connects business owners to venture funding and offers certification to solidify their participation, aiming to empower them as self-sufficient and environmentally responsible entrepreneurs. The Green Business Management Certificate Program has garnered significant interest, with 140 applications received nationwide. Notably, 63.7% of applicants are males and 36.3% are females, highlighting the need for increased encouragement for women to apply. Additionally, half of the applications originate from Lagos state, signaling the importance of raising awareness to boost interest in green initiatives.



Another avenue is the greenstartups.ng market place platform where green businesses can showcase their businesses to potential venture capitalists and obtain funding for their ideas and/or implementation. It provides an easy onboarding process and as of December 2023 it has recorded over 77 businesses showcasing on the platform.

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Efficiency

The evaluation team adopted a comprehensive approach to assess the efficiency of both NCIC's activities and its beneficiaries' projects. Examining key aspects such as project management, incubation, and post-support mechanisms, the team acknowledged the dynamic and skilled nature of the NCIC team. Despite their modest size, the team demonstrated meticulous execution of programs, offering impactful support to beneficiaries. However, a more coordinated effort is needed in the post-training and incubation phases to ensure sustained success. Establishing a structured framework for ongoing mentorship and resource allocation will leverage the strengths of the team and contribute to the long-term innovation and creativity of supported projects.

Also, the NCIC recognizes the crucial role of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in project success and has embedded it in the design phase through its Theory of Change (TOC). To adapt to the evolving needs of the programs, a responsive and adaptive TOC is essential. Assigning a dedicated team member for data collection and updates, along with regular meetings, ensures timely capture and accurate reporting of changing realities. Beyond technological considerations, improving the data collection framework involves revisiting and refining indicators to better align with project objectives. A well-designed and updated data collection framework will be instrumental in providing insights for informed decision-making and strategic adjustments.

Effectiveness

The programs, as measured by the Theory of Change indicators, achieved an impressive 80% alignment with expected results, showcasing their effective implementation and significant impact on the target population. This success underscores the program's ability to meet intended outcomes. However, there is room for improvement in organizational effectiveness.

Disparity in Carbon Emissions Data: A current challenge lies in the inconsistent sustainability data regarding carbon emissions in Nigeria due to varying calculation methods by beneficiaries. The lack of standardized approaches impedes meaningful contributions to the global fight against climate change, leading to disjointed efforts and incomplete assessments of Nigeria's carbon footprint.

State-Wide Contributions to Climate Change: While the NCIC explores the creation of state-specific Climate Innovation Programs (CIPs), tailored to each state's needs, concerted efforts are still needed. Achieving significant progress in combating climate change requires a holistic approach involving collaboration among national and subnational stakeholders, including governments, civil society organizations, private sector actors, and individuals. Strategy meetings, execution plans, and robust monitoring and evaluation structures are essential for effective program implementation.

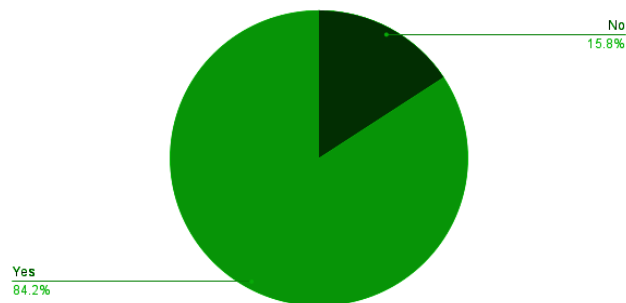
Capacity building in the Green Economy Sector: Despite the NCIC team's success in program execution, a significant challenge remains in finding individuals with specific capacities in the unique skill set demanded by the green economy. The scarcity of specialized expertise in this sector necessitates a focused effort to identify and engage professionals, emphasizing the importance of targeted talent acquisition strategies for sustained program effectiveness within the green economy domain.

Impact

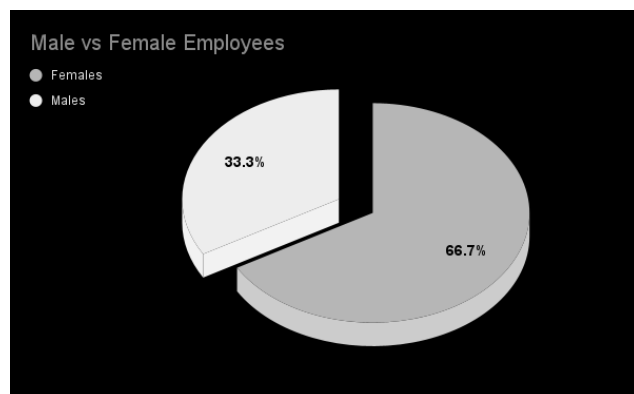
NCIC, facing numerous challenges, has exhibited exceptional resilience and success. From modest victories to significant milestones, the team's dedication and innovative approach have propelled them beyond expectations. Their impact extends beyond the organization, creating a profound effect on individual beneficiaries and the broader community. Through specialized training and support, beneficiaries have acquired valuable skills, contributing to their fields and fostering a culture of innovation and positive change within their communities. The ripple effect is evident in increased economic activity, job creation, and heightened awareness of sustainable practices.

An impressive 84.2% of green businesses, whether funded by NCIC or not, have successfully launched products into the market after NCIC's incubation and training support. This highlights the effectiveness of NCIC's support ecosystem, emphasizing its enduring influence in fostering entrepreneurship and contributing to the long-term viability of ventures.

COUNTA of Have you launched your product into the market after NCIC's support?



Beneficiaries are actively working to mainstream gender in operations, committing to achieving gender balance and creating opportunities for women's professional growth. They are eliminating barriers to women's access to training and development programs, fostering inclusivity, and creating a supportive work environment.

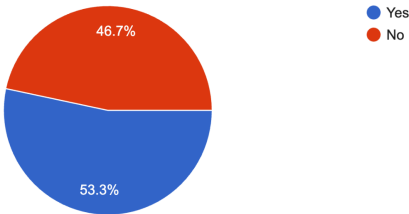


The impact extends to the informal sector, particularly in waste management, benefiting individuals, contributing to households' well-being, and providing constructive engagement opportunities for young people while keeping them away from social vices. NCIC's influence is evident in transformative community-level changes and the sustainable growth of innovative ventures.

Sustainability

At the core of NCIC's operational philosophy is a commitment to supporting innovative, self-sustainable ideas and projects. This approach ensures that NCIC's funding not only catalyzes initial growth but also propels beneficiaries toward long-term progress and development, fostering resilience and autonomy. This strategic focus aligns with NCIC's dedication to sustainable solutions, allowing beneficiaries to thrive independently and contribute meaningfully to their fields or communities.

Have you received any other grant outside NCIC?
15 responses



Sustainability in Funding: Feedback indicates that 53.3% of NCIC-funded beneficiaries have secured additional funding opportunities, leveraging NCIC's guidance as a starting point. The commitment to funding self-sustainable ideas contributes significantly to community betterment, enabling NCIC to support numerous initiatives and maximize its societal impact. It's essential to clearly define post-funding support to set expectations for all parties involved.

Contributing to Policy-Making Conversations: To sustain operational efficiency and enhance contributions to sustainability and a green economy in Nigeria, NCIC must actively engage in shaping policies. Collaboration with governmental agencies, non-profits, and academic institutions is crucial for meaningful contributions. Increased participation in national and international dialogues is indispensable for NCIC to remain a pivotal asset in enhancing Nigeria's environmental footprint

Recommendations

Build a Culture Around Sustainability Through Awareness, Education & Technology:

Efforts to create awareness about environmental issues are underway, but there's a need for broader public education. Innovative models involving households in waste management exist, yet sustained advocacy for the green economy and climate change is required. Incorporating these issues into business operations and leveraging communication channels within NCIC can enhance awareness.

Optimizing the Value Chain Through Incentivization:

Incentivization models effectively encourage households to participate in recycling and waste management. NCIC can focus on optimizing the entire value chain through financial incentives for businesses adopting eco-friendly practices and consumers choosing green products. Aligning incentives with sustainability goals promotes a resilient green economy, fostering innovation, job creation, and societal well-being.

Unified Method for Carbon Emission Calculation:

To enhance the reliability and comparability of carbon emission data in Nigeria, a standardized methodology designed by NCIC and accepted internationally is crucial. This consistent framework ensures unified criteria for all stakeholders, strengthening Nigeria's global position in combating climate change and demonstrating commitment to sustainable practices.

Increased Coordination between NCIC Beneficiaries and Team:

Monthly check-in meetings between NCIC beneficiaries and the team provide valuable platforms to address climate change challenges collectively. These interactions facilitate shared experiences, insights, and practical measures, enabling beneficiaries to learn from each other and collectively work towards mitigating climate change impacts.

Research and Development for State Inclusion in National Climate Change Plan

A well-considered research and development component is essential for NCIC to update its curriculum on emerging trends in green and sustainable space. This ensures that NCIC remains informed and serves as a catalyst for generating new ideas and fostering collaborations in the evolving landscape of green initiatives.

