Foresight training strengthens inclusive seed networks in Nigeria

Strategic foresight, institutional coordination and seed entrepreneurship

Scope • Nigeria; ARCN-coordinated research institutes and federal colleges
Partners • ARCN, NIFAAS, CORAF, AFAAS and NAERLS/NAEF

The starting situation

The Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria needed to translate foresight training into institutional routines and practical links between research organisations, federal colleges and agricultural entrepreneurs.

How partners contributed

ARCN appointed a foresight focal point in October 2020 and intensified implementation in 2021. It cascaded training from departments to institutes and regional networks. The Nigerian Cereals Research Institute applied foresight to its strategic plan and published a post-Malabo policy brief. ARCN also archived project records, reinforced back-to-office reporting and used major events to connect women and youth entrepreneurs with research.

What changed

The case reports 26 training-of-trainers participants in 2024, coordination across 32 institutions—16 research institutes and 16 federal colleges—and approximately 150 institute-level cascades. Other recorded activities included 27 departmental briefings, 23 community-of-practice representatives, a Chemical Society event and five ARCN members in a West Africa foresight community. A Proposal Development Committee and a Horizon Europe trial application were further signs of changed practice.

Reported foresight reach is about 271, but the unique total remains unresolved. Mid-term reporting recorded about 50% of dissemination and policy-advocacy capacity targets.

Evidence and source

The evidence based on the draft and country case study reports support institutional activity and network connections.

Source record • SS12 Infographics

Sustainability and lessons

ARCN’s records, reporting routines and proposal-development structure can preserve institutional learning. Continued follow-up should reconcile unique reach, document how foresight shapes decisions and track whether research–entrepreneur connections lead to sustained inclusion and seed-system outcomes.