

Projected Impact



Improve the quality of 150,000 MT of maize, soybean, and paddy rice grains delivered by smallholder farmers to AFEX's newly established quality enhancement center.



Provide 150,000 farmers with access to higher-paying markets for grains, enabling them to earn at least a 20 percent increase in income.



Create 629 new jobs across the value chain, mostly for women and young people.



A farmer in AFEX's network harvesting maize. Photo credit: AFEX

About AFEX

Launched in 2014, [AFEX](#) is a commodities exchange firm with a mission to support Nigeria's food security while promoting a fair exchange of value among players in commodity value chains. To achieve this goal, AFEX looks to introduce products that de-risk the sector, drive financial inclusion for rural communities, utilize technology for data collection and market access, and enable the deployment of capital. AFEX seeks to maximize the value that farmers and other market participants derive from their activities, thereby building shared wealth and prosperity for Nigerian smallholder farmers, processors, exporters, investors, and the Nigerian economy at large.

Co-Investment Partnership

The USAID-funded West Africa Trade & Investment Hub (Trade Hub) awarded a \$1,652,885 co-investment grant to AFEX to increase and facilitate the international and domestic trade of commodities, including maize, soybean, and paddy rice, while providing new private sector jobs for Nigerian youth and increased incomes for farmers. Beneficiaries will be smallholder farmers with landholdings of between 0.5 – 3.0 hectares living in rural agrarian communities. Fifty percent of all beneficiaries supported under this activity will be women, while over 50 percent will be youth. The Trade Hub's co-investment allows AFEX to focus on these groups, which have traditionally been marginalized from these activities in the region.

Partnership Opportunities

A well-documented challenge faced by smallholder farmers across Nigeria is the lack of access to markets. This, in addition to other challenges like access to storage and finances, incentivizes the early sale of commodities at unfavorable prices and ensures the continuous cycle of poverty for most smallholder farmers. With the grant from the Trade Hub and additional catalyzed funding, AFEX will be able to sustainably impact economic growth in Kaduna, Benue, and Niger States. For the duration of the 2.5-year project, 150,000 farmers will have access to a ready market for their commodities and consequently a 20 percent minimum increase of their income along with an increase in AFEX's revenue and scale.



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