Quarterly Newsletter

Fourth Quarter, 2025

Better Yield, Better Life for Small-Scale Farmers!



Freshly harvested cocoa pods from Springboard demo farms

Ending the Year with Impact, Growth, and Purpose

Compliments of the season!

Happy New Year and welcome to our fourth Quarter, 2025 Newsletter, where we highlight the key activities and achievements that shaped the final stretch of our 2025. As the year 2025 came to a close, we are proud to reflect on a quarter filled with milestones, partnerships, innovation, and strengthened community impact.

Quarter 4 was truly a season of bountiful harvest and tangible outcomes across our cocoa value chain and agribusiness initiatives. From international engagements to cocoa aggregation, and value-addition, Springboard continued to advance its mission of building inclusive, fair, and sustainable agricultural systems. As we round off the year on a strong note, despite the instability that rocked the cocoa sector, we remain optimistic and confident that 2026 will be even greater. Even amid cocoa market volatility and global uncertainty, Springboard continues to prioritise rural farmers' continued prosperity and growth – one of the defining strengths of Springboard.

Our shared focus remains clear: rural wealth creation, value addition, and sustainability. As we approach 2026, our strategy will continue to be centered on scalable, market-driven growth.

We are grateful to see our community grow each year, creating new opportunities to improve the livelihoods of rural farming families while continuing to delight consumers.

Thank you for your trust and collaboration. We wish you a wonderful new year and look forward to continuing this ambitious journey together in 2026.



End of the year greetings: **https://youtu.be/ZTMDJIAZoPQ**

"The year 2025 reminded us that quality starts at the farm. Through training, traceability, and partnerships, we continue to strengthen farmer livelihoods and promote sustainable food production." — **Helen Lawrence Afere**, Co-founder, Springboard Nigeria

Cocoa Peak Season in Focus: Strengthening Quality, High Income, and Sustainability

As far as cocoa season is concerned, the last Quarter of the year is always the peak period for the sector and marks a critical period for our farming communities. Throughout the season, Springboard worked closely with its farmers across cooperatives to improve bean quality, promote climate-smart practices, and strengthen traceability across our communities. Our focus remained clear: ensuring farmers are better positioned for premium markets while protecting the long-term health of their farms and livelihoods. During the quarter, our farmers' co-operative supplied around 450 Tonnes of premium cocoa beans to the international market.





"With Springboard's training, we learned how small changes improve cocoa quality. In 2025, our beans got better and so did our income." — **Enoch Ogundipe**, Obadokun Farmers' Lead





Cocoa Warehouse: https://youtu.be/s23-OQNB4Kw

Springboard at Food Africa 2025, Cairo: Taking our Beans & TIWA Chocolate to the Global Stage

In December 2025, Springboard proudly participated in Food Africa 2025 in Cairo, one of Africa's leading food and agro-processing exhibitions. Our presence provided a platform to showcase our cocoa products, value-added innovations, and farmer-centered model to international buyers, partners, and stakeholders. The engagement opened new conversations around exports, partnerships, and market access for ethically sourced Nigerian cocoa and cocoa-derived products.





Food Africa Interview: https://youtu.be/AEK2MffVV58

"At Food Africa 2025 in Cairo, Springboard positioned Nigerian cocoa for new global markets. The event was a critical eye-opener, revealing that global demand extends well beyond raw cocoa. This insight strengthens our focus on value addition—specifically high-quality cocoa nibs, cocoa powder, and cocoa butter—produced sustainably and at scale." — **Lawrence Afere**, *CEO, Springboard Nigeria*

Building Capacity Through Partnership: e-Academy Campus-Tour Graduation Ceremony



In the fourth quarter, over 30 participants who successfully completed their e-Academy courses were formally presented with certificates. Held at Adekunle Ajasin University in Akungba Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria, the graduation ceremony marked months of intensive learning in agribusiness, business planning, and enterprise development. The AgroReach e-learning Launchpad, an initiative of Springboard Nigeria supported by GIZ, is closing critical gaps in agricultural education by leveraging technology-driven, interactive learning. By making agriculture engaging, practical, and future-focused, the project equips participants with the confidence to see agriculture not just as a course of study, but as a viable pathway to sustainable livelihoods.











“Many agriculture undergraduates leave school with theory but little exposure to real-world agribusiness. This initiative is designed to bridge that gap by equipping students with practical, market-driven skills to build sustainable agribusinesses, create value, and reduce youth unemployment in the country.” — **Olumide Oni**, *e-Academy Coordinator, Springboard Nigeria*

Expanding Market Access: Cocoa Nibs Exportation Milestone

Another major highlight of the quarter was the successful exportation of quality cocoa nibs to a chocolate factory in Morocco. This signaled a step forward in our value addition and export readiness journey.

"I am truly excited that we are producing quality cocoa nibs for the global market. Processing cocoa at origin creates jobs, unlocks premium markets, and improves farmer incomes." — **Daniel**, *TIWA Chocolatier*





Nibs Production: https://youtu.be/Th6_Cgo1Soc

Back to the Basics: Farmer Re-Training on Cocoa Fermentation

Quality begins at the farm. During Quarter 4, Springboard conducted re-training sessions for farmers on proper cocoa fermentation techniques. These sessions reinforced best practices, addressed common quality gaps, and emphasized the role of fermentation in flavor development, bean quality, and market pricing. The outcome is improved consistency, reduced post-harvest losses, and stronger buyer confidence.





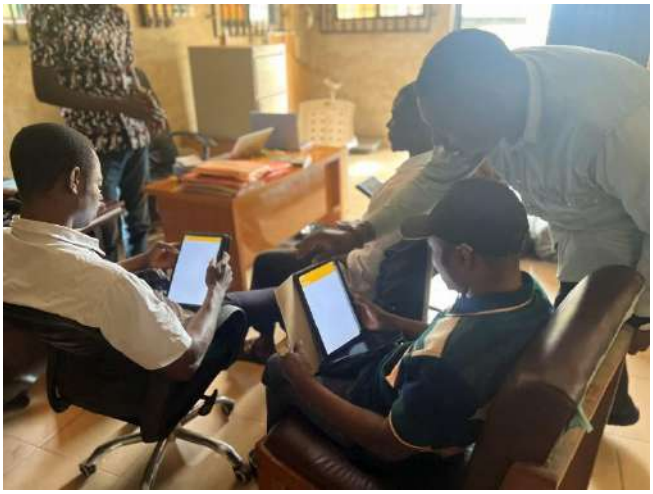




“Through Springboard’s farmer retraining on cocoa fermentation, we are improving bean quality, flavour, and market value. It is a clear reminder that quality cocoa begins with good farming practices. We are grateful to our partners who made this possible.”
— **Seye Ajayi**, *Head of Unit, Cocoa Co-operative*

Fermentation Training: https://youtu.be/-8aGfRkqbNQ

Enhancing Transparency: Partnership with Lundy Investors for Traceability



To further strengthen trust and accountability within our value chain, Springboard partnered with Lundy Investors to enhance our traceability system. This collaboration improves data capture from farm to market, ensuring compliance with fair trade and international market standards. Ultimately, this means better market positioning, transparency for buyers, and improved recognition for farmers’ hard work.



“In today’s cocoa sector, transparency matters. Our partnership with Lundy Investors is strengthening traceability and unlocking fair-trade opportunities for Springboard farmers. For the first time, we are capturing and owning farmer data across our network of over 8,000 farmers—data that was previously held by third parties.

In Q4 2025, we successfully piloted this system across more than 300 farms. In 2026, we plan to scale it across our entire farmer network, significantly strengthening our compliance, traceability, and access to international markets.”
— **Timothy Gbayiegun,** Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

Have you tasted our nutritious Edible Cricket products, yet?

Beyond creating additional income for farmers that rear the cricket insects and meaningful jobs for rural women and youth that bake and sell the finished products, Springboard edible Cricket products continue to serve Nigerians (especially rural and semi-urban) as a sustainable source of protein—an impact we are proud of.





Edible Cricket Bread: *https://youtu.be/RhPS1-KNHAc*

Cricket products (bread, bread bun, and chinchin) are different and nutritious, and customers keep coming back for it. As a wholesaler in my community, this has given me a sustainable source of income" — **Iya Chukwu**, Wholesaler

Looking Ahead

As we step into a new year, we remain grateful to our farmers, partners, supporters, and team members who made these achievements possible. Quarter 4, 2025 reaffirmed that when collaboration meets purpose, impact follows.

Thank you for being part of the Springboard journey. Together, we continue to build resilient communities, fair markets, and sustainable food systems.

Thank You

As always, none of this would be possible without your continued support. Together, we're proving that when small-scale farmers thrive, entire communities rise. Let's keep building a future where agriculture works for everyone.

Kindly click here to visit our YouTube channel to learn more about the Springboard's journey.

With gratitude,

Helen Lawrence-Afere

Better Yield, Better Life

APPRECIATION



























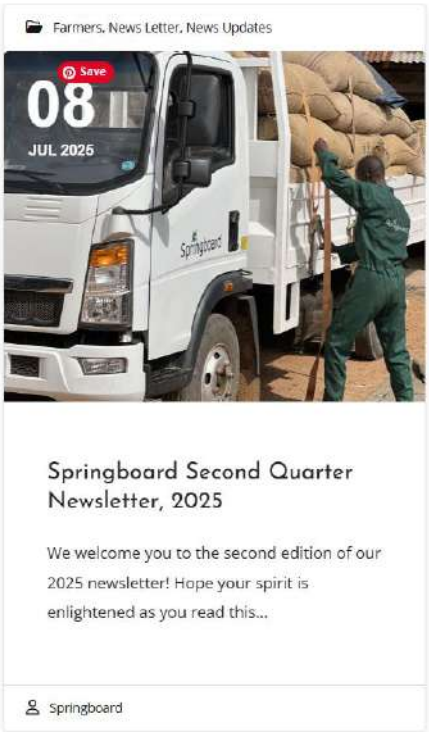
PLANETARY
TRANSFORMATION

Did you miss our previous 2025 Quarterly Newsletters?

Pls click the links below:



Q1 Newsletter: https://springboardnig.com/2025/04/09/first-quarter-newsletter-2025/



Q2 Newsletter: https://springboardnig.com/2025/07/08/springboard-second-quarter-newsletter-2025/



Q3 Newsletter: https://springboardnig.com/2025/10/15/springboard-third-quarter-newsletter-2025/

Oh, one more important update: **Quarter 4 Board of Directors' Meeting: Recognising Effort, Shaping the Future**



The Quarter 4 meeting with the Board of Directors offered a valuable moment to reflect on Springboard's journey in 2025. The Board commended the dedication and collective effort of the Springboard team, the driving force behind the year's impact across communities, value chains, and partnerships. The Board recognised that progress in farmer capacity building, market access, traceability, and value addition was made possible by staff commitment and teamwork. The meeting also looked ahead, with strategic discussions focused on strengthening systems, deepening partnerships, and scaling impact in 2026.

"The results we saw in 2025 reflect the dedication of the Springboard team. As a Board, we remain committed to providing strategic direction and support to scale impact and deliver even greater value in the year ahead." — **Mr. Akinola Ibitokun,** Chairman, Board of Directors

With renewed clarity and strong governance support, Springboard enters 2026 confident and ready to build on the momentum of 2025.



SCAN US:



Springboard Nigeria · Springboard Building, Km 6, Imafon, Igbatoro Road, Akure, Ondo · Akure 341106 · Nigeria