



Nigeria-EU Science
& Innovation Day 2026

PANEL 2

Building the Future Science Ecosystems

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Nigeria-EU Science & Innovation Day 2026

Lagos | 24 February 2026

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**Building the Future
Science Ecosystems**

Duration

45 minutes (12:30 - 13:15)

Format

Moderated roundtable

Moderators

Prof. Mike Faborode & Prof. Ayodele Ajayi

Executive framing

This session would highlight the existing infrastructure (physical locations where science happens, like observatories, laboratories, virtual and digital infrastructure and even space) and the support systems (like grants, project management, communication) that could enable scientific research and innovation in Nigeria. It would discuss opportunities to improve on these spaces, leveraging increasing collaboration on the Horizon Europe (and other Research Funding Instruments promoted by the EU). Also, learning from the EU experience, the panel would attempt to propound a pragmatic approach to improving and expanding the Nigerian Science and Innovation Ecosystem.



Background and rationale

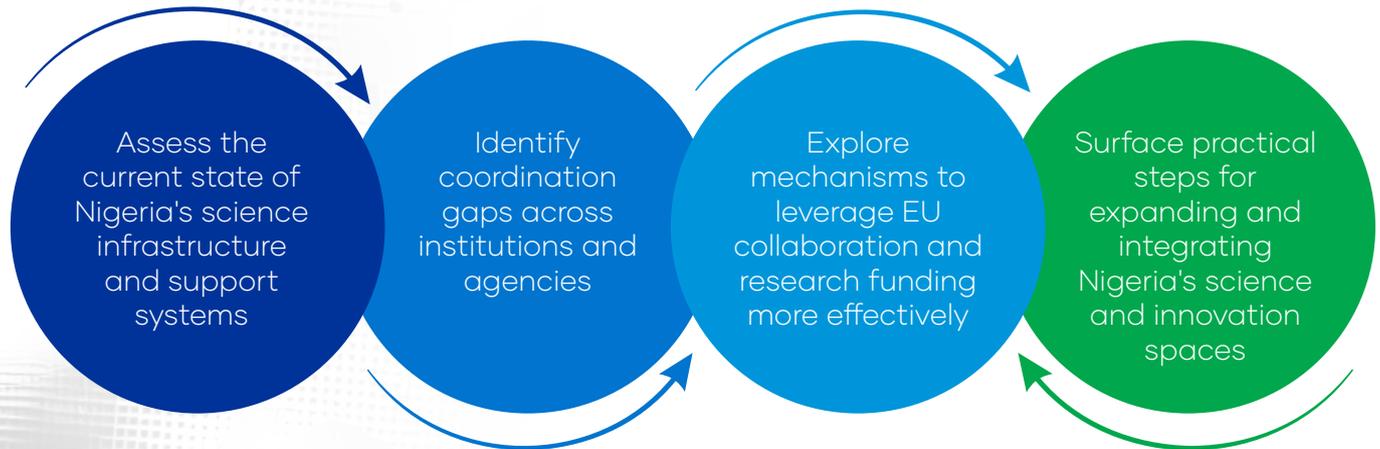
The Nigeria-EU Science Agreement offers concrete pathway to jointly envision a framework could foster strong Science and Innovation Ecosystem in Nigeria. TETFUND is the most visible in expanding space for science in Nigeria, while the space agency also offers good opportunity to accelerate innovation, so it would be expected to see how the interagency collaboration could help realise these potentials.

Prof. Opara will bring to perspective how properly harnessing science and innovation can stimulate economic development as he highlights how his research in South Africa led to a new agritech industry.



Strategic purpose

The session will:



Expected outcomes

The panel is expected to:

1.

·How could Nigeria in collaboration with the EU expand the space for science in Nigeria.

2.

·How could Nigeria better leverage the huge opportunities in Commercial Space Research to promote economic development

3.

·What would be the best pathway to leverage Nigeria huge diaspora talent for a stringer Innovation Ecosystem

4.

·How do we develop a strategic programme to expand and connect the space for Science in Nigeria

Panelists



**Dr. Arc. Sunday Sylva
Togo Echono OON**

Executive Secretary,
Tertiary Education Trust Fund
(TETFund)



**Dr. Matthew
.O. Adepoju**

Director General
National Space Research
& Development Agency
(NASRDA)



**Professor Umezuruike
Linus Opara**

Executive Director, UNESCO
International Centre for
Biotechnology, Nsukka



**Prof. Leila Ben
Amor MATHIEU**

Head, Human Development
Section, European Union
Delegation (EUD Abuja)

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