

# Slam Poetry for Innovators – The Booklet

*Collection of poetry pieces from the  
2024 Nigeria – EU Innovation Days*

**With contributions by:**

Future Ahiate, Henry Onyedikachi Alozie,  
Matteo Dell'Acqua, Uzoma Ezeoke,  
Zainab Suleiman and Vincenzo Lorusso

# Preamble

This booklet showcases the winning poetry submissions from the "Slam Poetry for Innovators" workshop, held as part of the inaugural Nigeria-EU Innovation Days - Where Ideas Meet Action (9-10 July 2024). During the event, participants were invited to craft and submit original poems exploring themes such as innovation, Nigeria-EU relations, and broader Africa-EU cooperation. The workshop celebrated creativity, entrepreneurship, and linguistic diversity, welcoming submissions in English, Pidgin, and Nigerian indigenous languages.

From over thirty entries, six outstanding compositions were selected for a live performance on the main stage during the closing ceremony on Day 2 of the event. A recording of the performances is available at the link below.





# Foreword (and rhymes)

Cooperating on Research and Innovation  
to address common challenges, realising aspirations  
of our youth, innovators and entrepreneurs  
from Lagos to Rome, Port Harcourt to Borno.  
Joining forces we can, do it together today  
and the time is just now, we no more can delay.  
The Innovation Agenda is the policy framework,  
which we need to implement, make it happen well well o.  
Let us then do it together, work on this common end  
As true Partners we shall, as true Partners we can!

**Dr Vincenzo Lorusso**  
Policy Officer, EU-Nigeria Cooperation  
on Science, Technology & Innovation  
European Commission



**Henry  
Onyedikachi  
Alozie**

Hommaston Limited  
- Training Support;  
Statistics Student,  
Lagos State  
University, Nigeria

# Naija to EU, We Shine Our Light

## Verse 1

Naija dey innovate, fly high  
From Lagos to Kano, we reach sky  
Europe be our partner, we no dey tire  
Together we move, our dreams go higher

## Chorus

Naija to EU, we shine our light  
Innovation and research, make everything right  
Entrepreneurship dey call, we answer loud  
Together we rise, no more struggles allowed

## Verse 2

Lab and workshop, na there we start  
Tech to farming, we play our part  
Naija and Europe, we join body strong  
Together on this journey, we belong

## Chorus

Naija to EU, we shine our light  
Innovation and research, make everything right  
Entrepreneurship dey call, we answer loud  
Together we rise, no more struggles allowed

## Bridge

We sing our song of development  
Chorus of nations, we all belong  
Innovation na our guide, cooperation na key  
Together we go see wetin world fit be

## Outro

So here's to the future, where dreams dey align  
Naija and Europe, united in dis grand design  
With innovation as our beacon,  
and unity our guide  
We go create world where possibilities  
no go hide.

## Field vision

Vincenzo asked us to write a son-net  
About European-African innovation  
So I figured to make an intervention  
And decided to submit this on the net  
I will say my view on agriculture  
Sure, it can be pretty sciency stuff  
On the books it may come across at tough  
But don't forget it is also culture

So let's get together and celebrate  
Although diverse we come together  
Our friendship is to end never  
In EU and AU, innovation is our fate

**Prof  
Matteo  
Dell'Acqua**

Plant Geneticist  
Scuola Superiore  
Sant'Anna, Italy

## **IN-NO-VATE!**

(Clapping in cadence)

Innovate...

The magic is in the way we collaborat

Agro, Healthcare, Literature, Afrobeats  
All connected - from AI to music sheets!

Don't be narrow, the future is BROAD.  
Stay here and fix 'us', don't go abroad.

To our friends from the EU,  
Our eye don clear O! We see you!

God Bless Innovation Days!  
Together we are refreshing our ways!!

**Uzoma  
Ezeoke**

Executive Director,  
Emzor Pharmaceutical  
Industries, Nigeria



## Future Ahiate

Feedbag Agrihub  
(Cafers), Nigeria

# Captain & Founder

Welcome to the 22nd century,  
this is Africa; Nigeria precisely.  
so much change as you can see  
and so it is actually.  
my friend, Future is a farmer;  
a grower of exotic crops  
and his farm is a Lush wonder  
and there we make our stop.  
farmer future's farm is grand;  
a sky scrapper farm 1Km tall.  
the plants don't need sand  
or even sun and air at all.  
strange looking crops growing,  
the work of genetic gambles.  
fat and flesh their flesh glowing,  
enough to safe hungry tables.  
big berries and bulbs drooping,  
green veggies and ripe herbs.  
farmer future farms at ease,  
a smart organic farmer,  
they say he vectors bees  
using them to pollinate flowers.  
he uses AI tech,  
robots that grow his crops,  
efficient agrobots and manual mech  
whose stamina never stops.  
artificial lighting systems,  
regulated temperature and nutrients,  
controlled humidity, without germs,  
without the fury of the elements.  
monitoring scarecrows with laser eyes,  
drones that transport the crops  
as they fly the skies,  
rapid delivery to ready shops.  
even his cattle are mega mutants,  
giant creature for meat and milk.  
his farm is pest resistant,  
his systems are super sleek.  
farmer future's farm is fine,  
an eco-friendly work of art.  
this friend of mine,  
is a farmer so smart.

# My Africa, Innovation I call

For as nigh and high  
Thee lies on the horizon  
Gnawing within the chaos  
Here lies my Africa  
In-between the dreams do I stand  
Waiting for a twilight at sunset  
I strive for nature to see  
Thee presumed by hard work  
and dedication  
Behold my Africa  
Today I beseech the future  
through innovation

**Zainab  
Suleiman**

Communication and  
Dissemination Specialist  
Apodissi, Nigeria

