



# THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(NIFST)

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The background of the slide is a composite image. On the left, a woman in a white lab coat and safety goggles is using a microscope in a laboratory setting. On the right, a vibrant outdoor market is filled with various fresh produce like corn, tomatoes, and beans in woven baskets, with people browsing. A dark blue geometric line with circular nodes connects the two scenes, passing through the central text.

**TOWARDS AN  
AFRICAN  
CONSORTIUM OF  
FOOD SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY  
ORGANIZATIONS**



# The Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFST)

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- The Institute is the Professional Body of Food Scientists, Technologists, and Allied Professionals in Nigeria. It was established in 1976 as a non-profit organization and has grown to over 15,000 active members working in the Food Manufacturing Industries, Tertiary Institutions, Research Institutes, Regulatory Agencies, Government Ministries and Departments. The Profession of Food Science & Technology in Nigeria became chartered with the establishment of the Nigerian Council of Food Science & Technology (NiCFoST) Act Cap A2 LFN of 15th October 2019, signed into law by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari.
- **VISION:** Good and abundant food for all through service to country and humanity leading to food security and the well-being of all Nigerians
- **Mission:** To harness the abundance of Talent, Knowledge and Skills among Food Professionals in Nigeria towards Food Sufficiency and Good Nutrition of the Masses.



# A Legal Mandate Rooted in Scale and History

## 1976

Established as a non-profit organization to professionalize Nigeria's food systems.



Officially chartered via the **Nigerian Council of Food Science & Technology** (NiCFoST) Act Cap A2 LFN (Oct 15, 2019), signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari.

## 15,000+

Active members across key sectors:

- Food Manufacturing
- Tertiary Institutions
- Research Institutes
- Regulatory Agencies
- Government Ministries

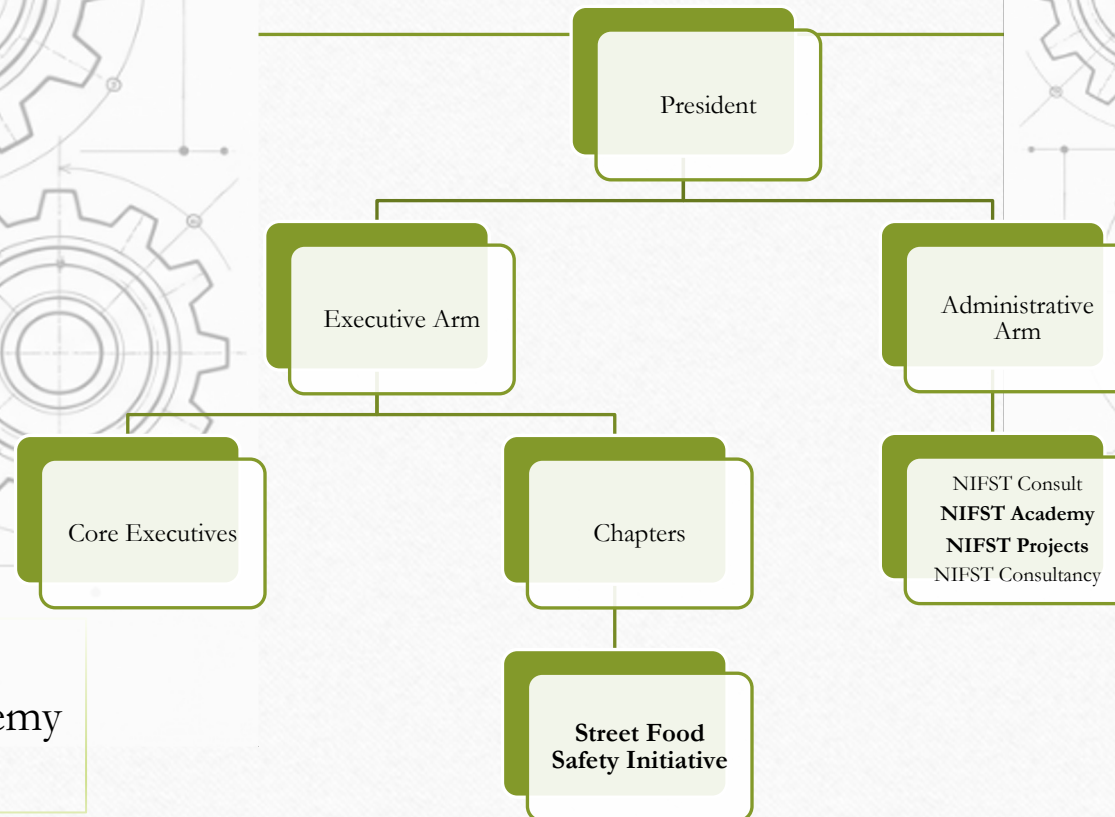
The definitive **Professional Body of Food Scientists, Technologists, and Allied Professionals in Nigeria.**

Membership Categories

- Graduate Members
- Associate Members
- Licentiate Members
- Professional Members
- Fellows



# Operational Structure



Major outreaches through the Chapter network and the Academy of the Institute



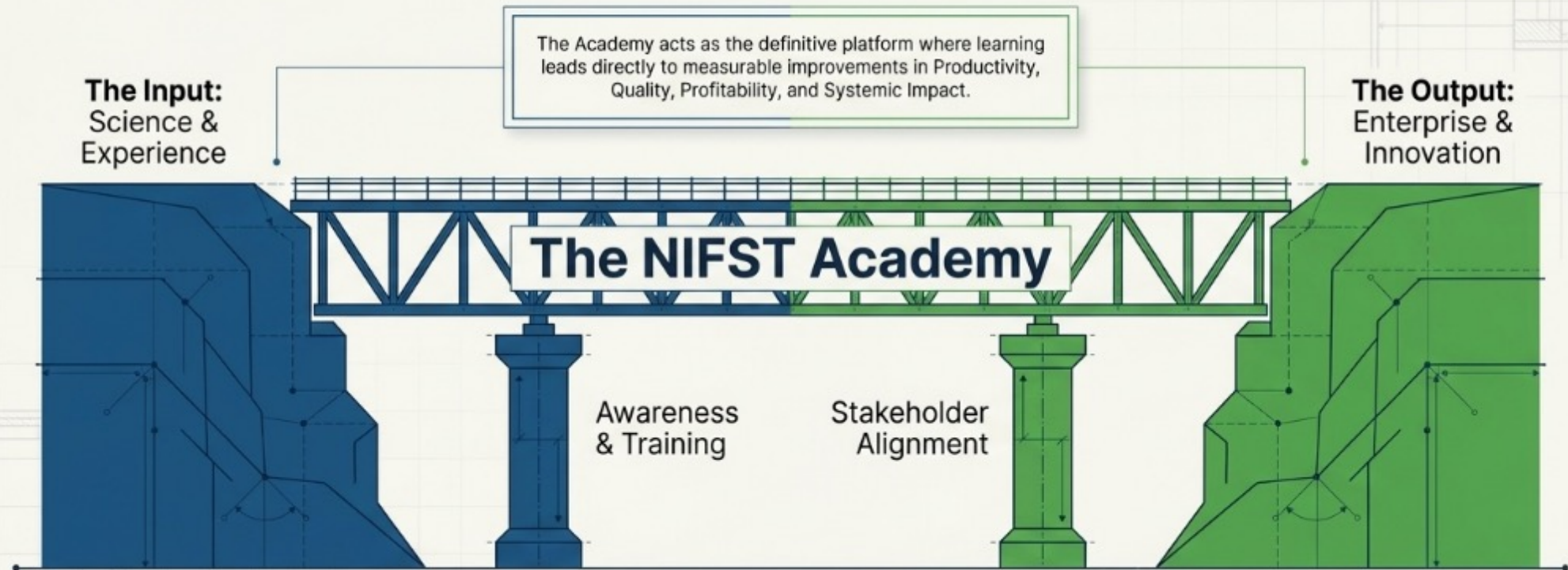
**NIFST Academy**

Coaching | Mentoring | Professional Development

# NIFST Academy

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- Our **vision** is to create a platform where science meets enterprise, where experience meets innovation, and where learning leads directly to measurable improvement in productivity, quality, profitability and impact.
  - We believe that the future of food security, industrial development, employment creation and economic growth depends on building the capacity of people across the entire food system—from farmers and processors to manufacturers, distributors, exporters, entrepreneurs, **regulatory** and consumers.

# The NIFST Academy: Bridging Theory and Industry





# Partnerships and Collaborations

- NIFST has Memorandum of Understanding with the major Regulatory Agencies for Food in Nigeria, that is NAFDAC & SON
- NIFST through the Academy creates awareness across stakeholders for issues of National & Professional interest. Recently, a 3-day stakeholders forum was held in conjunction with the International Sweeteners Association in order to broaden knowledge in the Industry, within Regulatory and the Policy Makers, as regards usage and safety of Low- & No Calorie Sweeteners in Nigeria
- NIFST through the Chapter initiatives such as the Street Food Safety Initiative, work with food handlers, food sellers, SMEs, and other stakeholder in the Food sector by conducting free webinars, market campaigns (which FAO has recognized consecutively since 2023 till date), radio advocacies, etc to bridge the knowledge gap and call attention to Food Safety and its regulations.



## The Anchor: Proving the Model at Scale



**15,000+**  
**Professionals**

The largest organized body of food professionals on the African continent, spanning academia, industry, and government.



**1976**  
**Established**

Decades of continuous operational stability, institutional memory, and resilient growth.



**WAAFoST**  
**Regional Secretariat**

Actively hosts the official regional affiliate of IUFoST, proving capacity to manage multinational scientific coordination.

**Takeaway: NIFST already serves as the structural anchor for regional science.**

# The Fundamental Imperative

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A continental network  
is only as strong as its  
quietest member.”

Successful pan-African food policy cannot be dictated from the top down. It requires a chorus of legally backed, expertly trained national voices. The Federation of African Food Science Institutes is the vehicle to empower every nation.



# Exporting the Regulatory Blueprint



## The Mandate

The NiCFoST Act legally requires food scientists to be officially registered, qualified, and licensed to practice.

## The Continental Role

NIFST offers this exact legislative blueprint to other African nations, elevating food science from an informal craft to a recognized, accountable discipline continent-wide.



# Current Food Science and Technology Professional Bodies in Africa



- **Nigeria:** Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFST)
- **Ghana:** Ghana Association of Food Scientists and Technologists (GhAFoST)
- **South Africa:** South African Association of Food Science and Technology (SAAFoST)
- **Tanzania:** Tanzania Association of Food Scientists and Technologists (TAFST)
- **Kenya:** Kenya Institute of Food Science and Technology (KIFST)
- **Senegal:** Institute of Food Science and Technology
- **Ivory Coast:** Institute of Food Science and Technology

# The Mechanism for AfCFTA Harmonization



Harmonized academic curriculum across institutions in each country can support cross-border food safety because a graduate or product in one region meets the exact competencies required in another. Without these, compliance at international levels struggle and trade engines cannot physically turn



# Formalizing the Foundation: MSME Capacity Building

## Train the Trainer

Exporting NIFST's proven mentorship models and curriculum to emerging regional institutes.

## Formalization & Growth

Catalyzing job creation, poverty reduction, and seamless integration into formal international supply chains.



## Local MSME Workshops

Providing accessible, grassroots training on food hygiene, preservation, and value-addition techniques.

Africa's food processing landscape is dominated by informal smallholders. NIFST leads the Federation's mandate to transform these MSMEs into market-ready enterprises.

# The Ecosystem Shift: Why National Institutes Matter



**A continental federation cannot exist in a vacuum.**

Strengthening individual, legally backed national institutes is the crucial mechanism for continent-wide agricultural and economic success. The macro-ecosystem requires every local node to activate.

This therefore calls for All other Institutes in Africa to take a cue from Nigeria to have a legal backing.

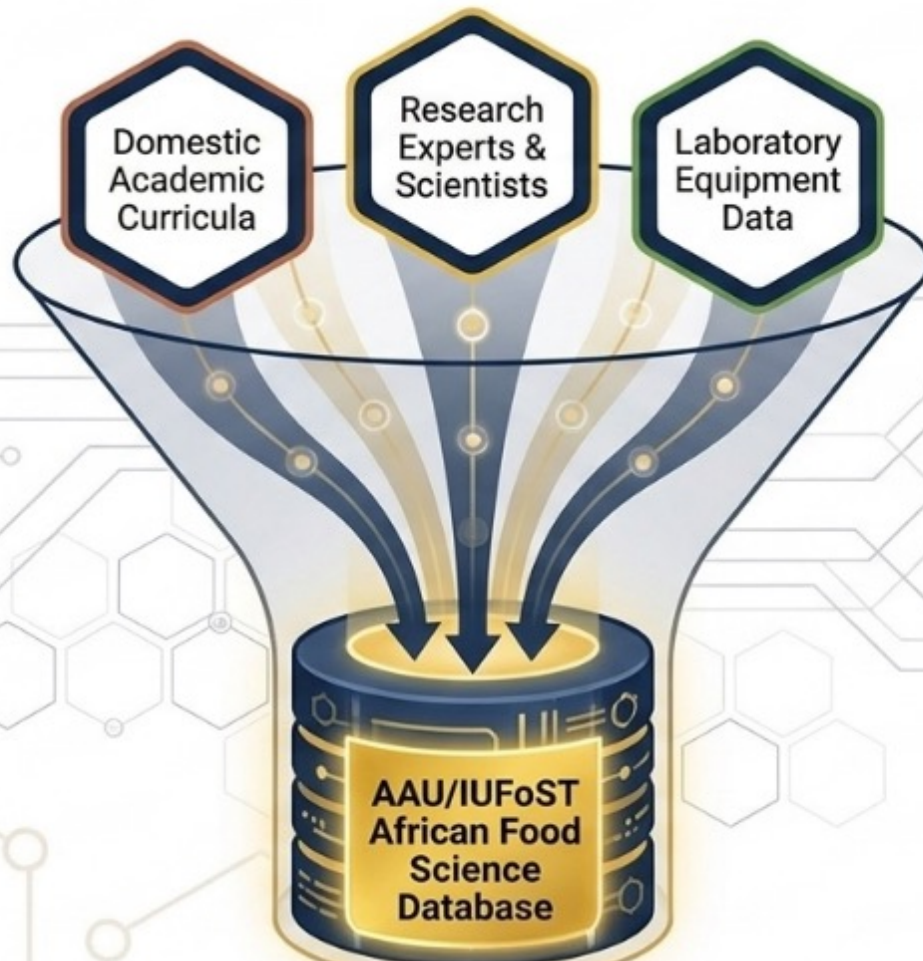


# Bridging the First Mile of Food Security



Food security challenges do not respect broad borders; they are hyper-local. National institutes are uniquely positioned to translate high-level international science into practical toolkits for local MSMEs dealing with specific geographic challenges.

# Fueling the Pan-African Knowledge Engine



**A continental database is only as good as the data feeding into it.**

By supporting national institutes, the Federation creates localized centers of data collection. This eliminates redundant research and accelerates collaboration on shared climate and pest challenges.



# The Strategic Impact Matrix

## Action at the National Level

## The Mechanism

## Impact on the Continental Network

Legislative Chartering  
(NiCFoST model)

Establishes  
Accountability

 Uniform Safety  
Standards across  
borders.

Local Curriculum  
Benchmarking

Standardized  
Training

 Globally Recognized  
Competency for any  
African graduate.

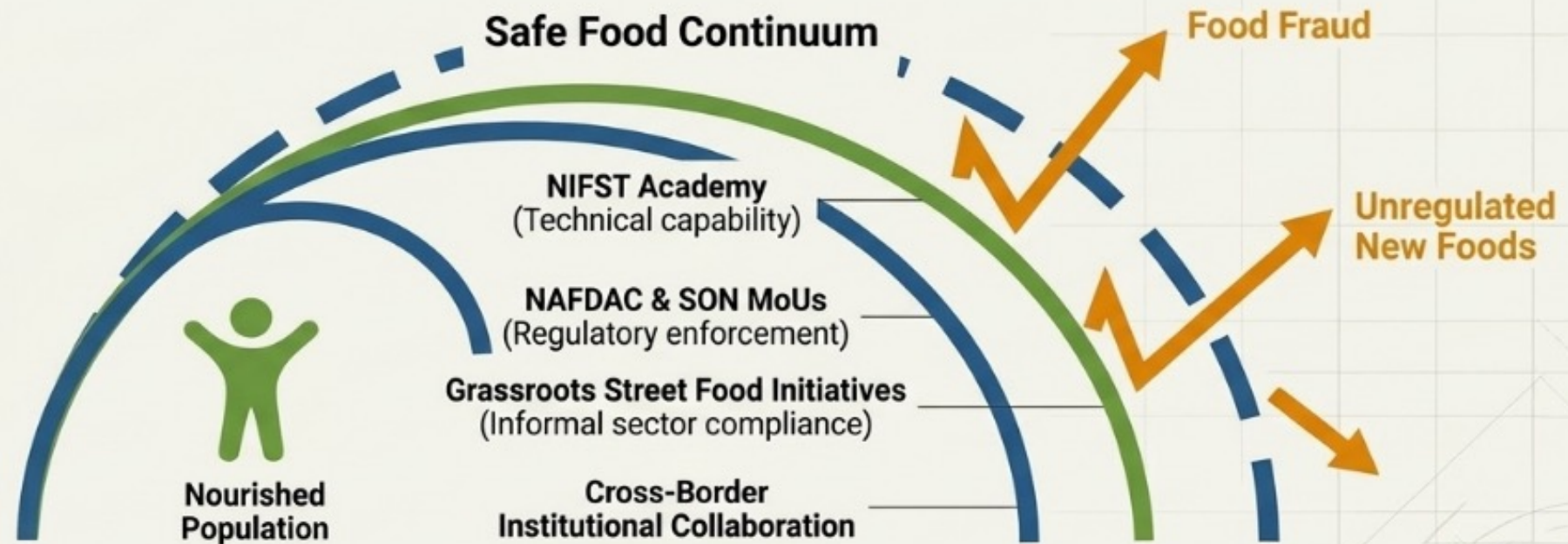
Grassroots MSME  
Training

Value-Addition &  
Hygiene

 Compliant, Formal  
Supply Chains ready  
for international  
markets.



# Constructing the Continental Shield



National infrastructure alone cannot deflect cross-border adulteration.  
The shield remains incomplete without unified pan-African regulatory alignment.



# The Future Unified Network

Transforming Africa's food systems requires local roots and continental scale. The Federation of African Food Science Institutes—anchored by proven models like NIFST—can support the vehicle for a legally credible, trade-ready, and fundamentally food-secure continent.



## References

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- <https://www.foodakai.com/when-lies-cost-lives-economically-motivated-adulteration-in-the-food-industry/>
- <https://nifst.org/>

THANK YOU