



EFCF NIGERIA 2026

ECOWAS FOOD & CULTURAL FESTIVAL

PUBLIC EDUCATION BULLETIN



AFRICAN
FOOD



CULTURAL
HERITAGE



PEACE &
SECURITY



TOURISM



ECONOMIC
GROWTH



27-31 OCTOBER 2026



BENIN CITY, EDO STATE,
NIGERIA

ALL ROADS LEAD TO BENIN CITY

From 27 to 31 October 2026, Benin City, Edo State, will become a major international meeting point for food, culture, heritage, tourism, diplomacy, enterprise and sustainable development as the ECOWAS Food & Cultural Festival (EFCF) Nigeria 2026 brings together participants and cultural communities from Nigeria, West Africa and beyond.

With an anticipated 5,000+ participants and visitors and projected global television and digital-media exposure reaching hundreds of millions of viewers, EFCF Nigeria 2026 is designed to demonstrate how Africa's food systems and cultural assets can become instruments for peacebuilding, tourism development, youth empowerment, cultural diplomacy and economic transformation.



WHY FOODS AND CULTURE MATTER

Food is more than nourishment. It is connected to identity, agriculture, history, family, trade, health and economic opportunity.

Culture is more than entertainment. It preserves the knowledge, values, languages, artistic expressions, traditional practices and historical memory that give communities their identity.

EFCF therefore uses food and culture as platforms for public education and development, encouraging Africans and international visitors to understand the relationship between cultural heritage, food security, tourism and sustainable economic development.



WHY EDO STATE?

Edo State occupies a distinctive position in Nigeria's cultural landscape. Benin City and the historic Benin Kingdom represent one of Africa's great centres of artistic, technological and cultural civilisation.

Hosting EFCF in Edo provides an opportunity to connect this remarkable heritage with contemporary conversations around creative industries, cultural tourism, investment, food security, entrepreneurship and international cooperation. The festival is therefore not simply a celebration; it is an opportunity to present Edo's heritage to Nigeria, Africa and the world.



WHAT SHOULD THE PUBLIC EXPECT?

Participants and visitors can expect a multidisciplinary programme incorporating:

- African food exhibitions and culinary experiences
- Cultural performances and heritage showcases
- Tourism and destination promotion
- Business and investment engagement
- Food-security and agricultural discussions
- Youth and women's empowerment initiatives
- Cultural diplomacy and international networking
- Educational workshops and knowledge exchange
- Creative-industry exhibitions
- Policy and development conversations
- Opening and closing ceremonies at the Samuel Ogburn Stadium, Benin City.



A PLATFORM FOR AFRICA'S FUTURE

EFCF Nigeria 2026 seeks to demonstrate that Africa's cultural resources are not merely relics of the past. Properly documented, protected, promoted and commercially developed, they can contribute significantly to employment, enterprise development, tourism receipts, international relations and sustainable livelihoods.

The festival also provides a platform for communities, governments, businesses, cultural practitioners, farmers, chefs, creatives, young people and development stakeholders to engage one another around shared African opportunities.



WELCOME TO EDO

As the world turns its attention towards Benin City, EFCF Nigeria 2026 invites Nigerians, Africans and international visitors to experience the richness of Edo's heritage while discovering the extraordinary diversity of African food and culture.

Benin City awaits.

Edo State welcomes the world.

EFCF NIGERIA 2026



27-31 OCTOBER 2026



BENIN CITY, EDO STATE, NIGERIA

AFRICAN FOODS. CULTURAL HERITAGE.
PEACE AND SECURITY. TOURISM. ECONOMIC GROWTH.

WELCOME TO EDO STATE —
A WORLD CENTRE OF AFRICAN ARTS, HERITAGE
AND CULTURAL CIVILISATION.

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MAJOR PARTNERS



The Presidency
Office of the Secretary to the
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Edo State
Government
Host



COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE
DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE
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Nigeria Security &
Civil Defence Corp



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Federal Ministry
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ORGANIZING PARTNERS



Federal Ministry of Art, Culture,
Tourism & The Creative Economy



Federal Ministry of Humanitarian
Affairs & Poverty Alleviation



Federal Ministry
of Interior



Nigeria Immigration
Service



Afro Street
Magazine



Edo State
Government
HOST

ECOWAS FOOD AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL (EFCF): “NIGERIA 2026”:

BENIN CITY, EDO STATE, NIGERIA: 27TH – 31ST OCTOBER, 2026

THEME: “African Foods, Cultural Heritage, Peace and Security for Sustainable Development, Tourism and Economic Growth”.

INVITATION PACKAGE AND CALL FOR:

- Participation, Collaboration, Support and Assistance
- Partnership, Corporate Sponsorship and Exhibition
- Nomination and Sponsorship of State/County Official Delegation, Cultural Troupes, Dancers, Musicians, Artists, Pageants, Royal Dishes/Cuisin Chefs, Investors and Multi-Nationals, CSOs/NGOs, Women, Youth and Students.
- Exhibitors, Investors and Development Partners
- Abstracts, Presenters and other Proposals.

The first Edition of this Festival **was very successful, well attended and funded with the Partnership/Support of ECOWAS Commission Abuja, the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF) - The Presidency, with the professional/technical and supervisory support of the Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Tourism and the Creative Economy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Police Affairs, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, DSS Hqs, NSCDC Headquarters, Nigeria Immigration Service, etc.**

Following the remarkable success of its maiden edition hosted in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, the Festival has evolved into a strategic regional initiative designed to harness Africa's enormous agricultural potential, rich cultural diversity, tourism assets and investment opportunities as instruments for sustainable economic growth, regional cooperation and inclusive prosperity. Hence, Edo State Government is hosting “EFCF Nigeria 2026” in Benin City, Edo State.

The Second Edition represents a significant step towards establishing the Festival as West Africa's foremost annual platform for policy dialogue, investment promotion, cultural diplomacy and international partnerships. It is envisioned as a meeting point where governments, development institutions, diplomatic missions, investors, the organised private sector, academia, traditional institutions, youth organisations, women entrepreneurs and the African diaspora collaborate in shaping practical solutions to shared regional challenges.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

INTRODUCTION:

1.1 Background: EFCF uses food and culture as tools for integration. Uyo proved the concept. Benin 2026 expands it.

1.2 Vision: To establish EFCF as West Africa’s premier annual platform for food security, cultural diplomacy, tourism and investment.

1.3 Mission: Unite stakeholders to celebrate heritage while promoting investment and inclusive growth.

1.4 Strategic Objectives: Promote food security, showcase culture, position Benin as tourism hub, drive AfCFTA trade, empower youth/women, facilitate investment.

1.5 Strategic Alignment: Supports ECOWAS Vision 2050, AU Agenda 2063, SDGs 1,2,5,8,9,11,12,17.

THE STRATEGIC BUSINESS CASE:

2.1 Food Security: Promote climate-smart agriculture, agro-processing, and regional food systems.

2.2 Culture and Tourism: Position culture as economic asset. Use Edo's heritage to drive visitor arrivals and jobs.

2.3 Trade and Investment: B2B, B2G, Exhibitions and MoUs aligned to AfCFTA.

2.4 Youth and Women: 500+ entrepreneurs to get training, finance and market access.

2.5 Impact: Edo: hotel occupancy, jobs, investment.
Region: stronger cooperation, exports, cultural diplomacy.

The ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival (EFCF) Nigeria 2026 is conceived as West Africa's foremost platform for promoting food security, cultural diplomacy, tourism, regional integration and sustainable economic development.

Following the remarkable success of the maiden edition hosted in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, the second edition will reposition the Festival as a globally competitive event that integrates policy dialogue, investment promotion, cultural exchange, tourism development, agribusiness and creative enterprise into one internationally recognised platform **hosted by Edo State Government**, with its rich historical legacy and globally acclaimed cultural heritage, EFCF Nigeria 2026 will convene government leaders, development institutions, diplomatic missions, investors, multinational corporations, financial institutions, academia, tourism operators, cultural organisations, entrepreneurs, youth leaders, women groups and members of the African diaspora.

EFCF Nigeria 2026 is the 2nd Edition of a Flagship ECOWAS Initiative for Food Security, Culture, Tourism and Investment. **Participants** are expected from Governments, ECOWAS, AU, DFIs, Investors, SMEs, Diaspora.

Core Components of the Festival is: Food Security Summit, Exhibition Village, Business Forum, Culinary Olympics, Fashion Showcase, Miss EFCF, Parade of Nations.

Expected Outcomes: \$100M+ Deals, Tourism Growth, Youth/Women Empowerment, Stronger Regional Partnerships.

The Festival is designed to strengthen regional cooperation, stimulate investment, expand intra-African trade, promote indigenous African cuisine, encourage innovation within agricultural value chains and position West Africa as an attractive destination for tourism and business.

Beyond the celebrations, EFCF Nigeria 2026 seeks to create measurable economic impact through investment facilitation, business networking, public-private partnerships, export promotion and long-term legacy projects that will continue to benefit Edo State and the ECOWAS region.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL:

The ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival is an annual regional initiative established to celebrate Africa's rich cultural diversity while using food, tourism and cultural diplomacy as instruments for economic growth and regional integration. The Festival provides a platform where governments, businesses, investors,

development partners and cultural institutions collaborate to create opportunities for sustainable development.

EFCF is built upon the belief that Africa's greatest competitive advantage lies within its people, heritage, agriculture, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit. Through strategic partnerships, the Festival transforms these strengths into practical opportunities for trade, investment, innovation and employment.

WHY EDO STATE:

Benin City remains one of Africa's Oldest Centres of Civilisation. It's internationally recognised cultural heritage, traditional institutions, artistic excellence and historical significance provide an exceptional setting for a Festival of continental importance.

Hosting EFCF Nigeria 2026 will further strengthen Edo State's position as one of Nigeria's leading tourism and investment destinations while creating immediate and long-term economic opportunities for businesses and local communities. The Festival will increase hotel occupancy, stimulate transportation services, support local agriculture, encourage creative enterprises and enhance international visibility for Edo State.

FESTIVAL OBJECTIVES:

The Festival seeks to:

- Promote regional food security and agricultural innovation.
- Showcase African cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge.
- Strengthen regional integration among ECOWAS Member States.
- Encourage investment in agriculture, tourism and the creative economy.
- Promote intra-African trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
- Create employment opportunities for young people and women.
- Strengthen cultural diplomacy and peaceful coexistence.
- Position Benin City as an international destination for conferences, tourism and investment.
- Promote sustainable economic growth through strategic partnerships.

FIVE-DAY FESTIVAL PROGRAMME:

DAY ONE: Arrival and Networking: Exhibition Village Opens, Airport Cultural Welcome, Arrival of International Delegates, Accreditation, Exhibition Setup, Media Briefing, Welcome Reception and Cultural Performances.

DAY TWO: Presidential Opening and Parade of Nations: ECOWAS Countries. African Food Exhibition. Official Opening Ceremony, Parade of ECOWAS Nations, Food Exhibition, Tourism Expo and Diplomatic Reception, Heritage Evening with African Musical Orchestral band by Tar Uko-AU Music Ambassador.

DAY THREE: ECOWAS FOOD SECURITY And investment Summit: Sessions on Climate Agriculture, AfCFTA, Agri-Financing, Women, Youth & AI, Food Tourism. Business Matchmaking + Investment Roundtable, International Food Security and Investment Summit featuring high-level Policy Dialogue, Business Presentations, Technical Sessions and Investment Roundtables.

DAY FOUR: Heritage and Cultural Day: Cultural Village. ECOWAS Culinary Olympics. African Fashion Showcase/Runway. Music Concert, ECOWAS Cultural Heritage Day featuring Traditional Performances, Arts Exhibitions, Culinary Competitions, the **Grand Finale of the Miss/Face of ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival - Golden Calabash Award** to the best Pageant.

DAY FIVE: Business and Legacy Day: Business CEOs Breakfast, Business-to-Business Meetings, Investment Agreements, Benin Declaration, MoU Signings, EFCF Cultural Excellence Awards. Grand Gala, Awards Ceremony and Closing State Banquet.

FACE OF ECOWAS FOOD AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL:

The introduction of the Miss/Face of ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival represents one of the most innovative additions to the second edition. The competition is designed to celebrate intelligence, leadership, cultural knowledge, advocacy and public service rather than conventional beauty alone. Selection processes will begin months before the Festival across participating ECOWAS countries, creating sustained publicity and stakeholder engagement throughout the region. Contestants will participate in leadership development, cultural diplomacy, tourism promotion, food advocacy and community service programmes. The winner will serve as the official Ambassador of Food Security, Culture and Tourism for the ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival throughout her one-year tenure.

BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT PLATFORM:

EFCF Nigeria 2026 has been designed as a practical investment marketplace.

Activities include:

- Investment Roundtables, • Business Matchmaking Sessions, • Government-to-Business Dialogues, • Business-to-Business Networking, • Trade Exhibitions, • Investment Pitch Sessions, • Product Launches • Memorandum of Understanding Signings • Regional Export Promotion Forums

These engagements will facilitate new commercial relationships capable of generating investment, employment and long-term regional collaboration.

CORPORATE VALUE PROPOSITION: Corporate partners will benefit from:

- Premium brand exposure. • Direct engagement with government leaders. • Access to investors and development institutions. • Product exhibitions. • Corporate presentations. • Executive networking. • International media visibility.
- Corporate Social Responsibility positioning. • Customer acquisition opportunities. • Regional market expansion.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS: Expected participants include: ECOWAS Institutions, African Union, Federal Government of Nigeria, Edo State Government, State Governments, Diplomatic Missions, Development Finance Institutions, United Nations Agencies, International Development Organisations, Financial Institutions, Telecommunications Companies, Airlines, Hospitality Groups, Agribusiness Companies, Manufacturing Companies, Creative Industry Professionals, Tourism Operators, Universities, Research Institutions, Youth Organisations, Women Associations, Traditional Institutions, Members of the African Diaspora.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

An integrated communications campaign will position the Festival among Africa's leading international events.

The strategy includes: National Television, International Television, Radio Networks, Newspapers, Magazines,

Digital Media, Social Media Campaigns, Live Streaming, Documentary Production, International Press Conferences

Daily Media Briefings, Strategic Public Relations

LEGACY PROJECTS: The Festival will establish long-term initiatives including: The ECOWAS Food Innovation Centre. The ECOWAS Cultural Village. Youth Agribusiness Development Programme. Women in Agribusiness Leadership Network. Annual ECOWAS Tourism and Investment Forum. Miss/Face of EFCF Ambassadors Programme. Regional Culinary Excellence Awards.

These initiatives will ensure that the Festival delivers sustainable developmental outcomes beyond the annual event.

CALL TO PARTNERSHIP:

The ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival Nigeria 2026 offers governments, development partners, corporations and investors an exceptional opportunity to participate in a landmark regional initiative that combines culture, commerce and sustainable development.

By supporting EFCF, partners become part of a transformational movement promoting regional integration, food security, tourism, innovation and economic prosperity across West Africa.

Together, we will strengthen partnerships.

Together, we will promote investment.

Together, we will celebrate Africa's cultural richness.

Together, we will create opportunities for future generations.

CONCLUSION:

The ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival Nigeria 2026 is more than a Festival—it is a strategic platform for regional transformation. It reflects the aspirations of West Africa for stronger economic cooperation, increased investment, sustainable tourism, food security and cultural diplomacy. Benin City stands ready to welcome the region and the world to a Festival that will redefine excellence in international event management and establish a lasting legacy for Edo State, Nigeria and the ECOWAS Community.

Celebrating Heritage. Connecting Nations. Driving Investment. Creating Prosperity. Building the Future of West Africa.

BENEFITS OF THE ECOWAS FOOD AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL TO THE HOST STATE & NIGERIA:

A Strategic Platform for Tourism, Trade, Culture, Investment & Regional Integration.

The **ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival (EFCF)** “Nigeria 2026”, will be hosted by Edo State Government with the partnership and collaboration of relevant Stakeholders in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. The Festival is designed as more than a cultural celebration, it will serve as a strategic platform for tourism development, food security advancement, trade expansion, investment promotion, cultural diplomacy, creative enterprise growth, and regional integration.

KEY BENEFITS:

1. Tourism and Destination Promotion: Positions Edo State and Nigeria as leading destinations for heritage, cultural exposition, culinary hub, eco-tourism, entertainment city, and hospitality experiences.

2. International Branding: Enhances the global image of Edo State and Nigeria by showcasing their heritage, achievements, tourism and economic potential for regional and international audiences.

3. Cultural Heritage and Diplomacy: Highlights the historic Benin Kingdom, indigenous traditions, cuisine, arts/crafts, fashion, music, and creative heritage while strengthening people-to-people relations across West Africa and world at large.

4. Trade and Market Access: Provides a platform for farmers, producers, manufacturers, SMEs, and creative entrepreneurs and corporate organizations to showcase their products, access wider markets, and establish regional business partnerships.

5. Agriculture and Food Security: Promotes indigenous foods, agricultural development, agro-processing/packaging, food innovation, and investment across the entire food value chain.

6. Investment Attraction: Offers a structured platform for Edo State and participating countries/ institutions to present investment opportunities in tourism, agriculture, hospitality, manufacturing, creative industries, technology, and infrastructure.

7. Hospitality and Visitor Economy: Stimulates demand for hotels, restaurants, transportation services, tour operations, entertainment, retail outlets, and other components of the visitor economy.

8. Youth and Women Empowerment: Creates opportunities for entrepreneurship, employment, skills development, innovation, and market access, particularly within arts/crafts, tourism, agriculture, hospitality, and the creative economy.

9. Creative Economy Development: Provides regional exposure for Nigerian and West African talents in music, film, fashion, culinary arts, performing arts, crafts, technology and digital creativity.

10. Regional Economic Integration: Advances ECOWAS integration from policy to practice through meaningful engagement in food, culture, commerce, arts/crafts, tourism, and business exchange.

11. Nigeria's Regional Leadership: Positions Nigeria to demonstrate leadership in West African cultural diplomacy, tourism development, trade facilitation, food systems, and economic cooperation.

12. Media and Global Visibility: Generates significant international media coverage and destination marketing opportunities for Edo State, Nigeria, participating countries, and strategic partners with over 300million tele/social media viewers expected worldwide.

13. Public-Private Partnership: Creates a collaborative platform for government, financial institutions, corporations, development partners, and communities to drive sustainable tourism and economic development.

14. Event and Conference Destination: Strengthens Edo State's capacity and reputation as a preferred destination for hosting major regional conferences, exhibitions, festivals, diplomatic engagements, and international events, thereby placing Nigeria as a foremost tourism destination in Africa

EXPECTED LEGACY:

The Festival is expected to deliver a sustainable legacy of increased tourism inflows, expanded trade opportunities, enhanced investment attraction, job creation, stronger cultural ties, improved hospitality capacity, and elevated international visibility for Edo State, Nigeria and ECOWAS region.

THE STRATEGIC MESSAGE:

Food Becomes Trade. Culture Becomes Diplomacy. Tourism Becomes Investment. Creativity Becomes Employment. And Celebration Becomes Sustainable Development.

ECOWAS FOOD and CULTURAL FESTIVAL (EFCF): “NIGERIA 2026”.

Celebrating West Africa's Heritage • Connecting Markets • Creating Opportunities • Strengthening Regional Integration.

BENEFITS TO SPONSORS, PARTNERS and SUPPORTERS:

Participation in the ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival (EFCF) Nigeria 2026 offers sponsors, partners and supporters:

- **Premium Brand Visibility** – Prominent exposure across Festival venues, host city environment, media, digital platforms and official publications.
- **Massive Audience Reach** – Direct engagement with local, regional and international audiences.
- **Corporate Brand Positioning** – Association with a prestigious ECOWAS-focused platform for food, culture, arts/crafts, music, dance, tourism and economic development will promote branding and high publicity mileage for partners, sponsors and participating states / countries / organizations.
- **Business and Networking Opportunities** – Access to government officials, diplomats, investors, CEOs, entrepreneurs and industry leaders.
- **Product and Service Activation** – Opportunities to exhibit, demonstrate and market products directly to consumers and stakeholders.
- **Media and Publicity** – Strategic exposure through television, radio, print, digital and social media platforms, with over 300million viewers expected globally.
- **Thought Leadership** – Speaking, panel and participation opportunities at business, tourism, investment and cultural forums.
- **VIP and Protocol Access** – Invitations to exclusive receptions, gala events, state banquet and high-level networking engagements.
- **Market Expansion** – Opportunity to access new customers, markets, partnerships and regional business networks.
- **CSR and Social Impact** – Demonstrate commitment to youth, women, culture, tourism, food security and community development.
- **Government and Institutional Relations** – Build meaningful relationships with public-sector institutions and development partners.
- **Brand Legacy** – Become associated with a landmark platform advancing ECOWAS integration, African culture and sustainable economic development.

WHY PARTNER?

Visibility • Credibility • Networking • Market Access • Impact • Legacy

Your brand. Our heritage. One West African platform.

BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, STATES AND INSTITUTIONS:

Participation in the ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival Nigeria 2026 provides a strategic platform for:

1. **Nation and State Branding** – Global visibility and promotion of national/state identity, heritage and economic potential.
2. **Tourism Promotion** – Showcase of destinations, cultural attractions, festivals, hospitality and tourism investment opportunities.
3. **Trade and Market Access** – Connect businesses, producers and entrepreneurs with new regional and international markets windows.
4. **Investment Attraction** – Present investment opportunities, bankable projects and Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives to investors and financial institutions.
5. **Food Security and Agriculture** – Promote indigenous foods, agricultural products, agro-processing, food innovation and sustainable food systems.
6. **Cultural Diplomacy** – Strengthen people-to-people relationships, cultural exchange and regional understanding.
7. **Creative Economy** – Promote music, film, fashion, culinary arts, crafts, performing arts and other creative industries.
8. **Youth and Women Empowerment** – Create platforms for entrepreneurship, skills development, innovation, networking and market access.
9. **Business Networking** – Facilitate B2B, B2G and government-to-government engagements, partnerships and commercial opportunities.
10. **Diplomatic Engagement** – Provide opportunities for policymakers, diplomats, development partners and private-sector leaders to connect.
11. **Exhibition and Product Showcase** – Dedicated platforms for countries, states, institutions and businesses to display products, services and cultural assets.
12. **Media and Global Exposure** – Extensive visibility through television, radio, print, digital media, social platforms and international media partnerships.
13. **Hospitality and Visitor Economy** – Stimulate demand for hotels, restaurants, transportation, entertainment, retail and tourism services.
14. **Regional Integration** – Advance ECOWAS cooperation through food, culture, tourism, trade and people-to-people engagement.
15. **Institutional Recognition** – Recognition and visibility for participating and supporting governments, institutions and strategic partners.
16. **Long-Term Partnerships** – Build enduring opportunities for tourism, trade, investment, cultural exchange and development cooperation beyond the Festival.

THE CORE VALUE:

Showcase • Connect • Trade • Invest • Collaborate • Integrate

The ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival will transform West Africa's rich cultural diversity into a platform for tourism, trade, investment, food security, creative enterprise and sustainable regional development.

PARTICIPATION FRAMEWORK FOR COUNTRIES, STATES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, COMPANIES AND ORGANISATIONS:

Building a Living Exhibition of West Africa's Culture, Cuisine, Creativity and Enterprise.

The ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival Nigeria 2026 is conceived as a truly participatory regional platform in which every participating country, state, local government, corporate organisations and institution is encouraged to bring its people, products, culture, creativity and enterprise to the Festival.

Rather than passive attendance, participating entities are expected to constitute representative delegations that will actively contribute to the Festival's exhibitions, cultural showcases, culinary experiences, business engagements, entertainment programmes and regional integration objectives.

DELEGATION COMPOSITION:

Participating Countries, Nigerian States and Local Governments are encouraged to nominate and support a minimum Delegation of fifty (50) participants, representing a balanced cross-section of their cultural, creative, economic and entrepreneurial communities.

Delegations may comprise:

- **Cultural and Traditional Troupes** – Indigenous dancers, musicians, performers, storytellers and cultural custodians.
- **Culinary Delegates** – Chefs, food entrepreneurs, indigenous food experts and culinary ambassadors showcasing authentic local and regional cuisines.
- **Food and Agricultural Exhibitors** – Farmers, processors, manufacturers and food-value-chain enterprises.
- **Fashion and Creative Designers** – Fashion designers, textile artists, stylists and creative practitioners.
- **Face of ECOWAS Representatives** – Eligible Pageant participants and Cultural Ambassadors representing the identity, values and heritage of their respective jurisdictions.
- **Musical Artistes and Entertainers** - Established and emerging performers contributing to the Festival's entertainment programme.
- **Arts and Crafts Practitioners** – Sculptors, Painters, Craftsmen, Artisans, Jewellery Designers and other Custodians of Indigenous Creative Expression.
- **Dancers and Performing Artists** – Traditional and contemporary dance groups presenting the diversity of West African artistic expression.
- **Comedians and Contemporary Creatives** – Talents capable of connecting cultural heritage with contemporary entertainment.
- **Youth Representatives** – Young entrepreneurs, innovators, creatives, technology enthusiasts and emerging cultural leaders.
- **Women Entrepreneurs and Cultural Ambassadors** – Women-led enterprises and talents across food, fashion, agriculture, tourism, arts and creative industries.
- **Tourism and Hospitality Stakeholders** – Tour operators, destination managers, hotel representatives and tourism promoters.

- **Business and Investment Representatives** – SMEs, Investors, Manufacturers, Exporters and Private-Sector Stakeholders Seeking Regional Partnerships.

- **Media and Content Creators** – Journalists, Photographers, Broadcasters, Filmmakers and Digital Creators Documenting and Amplifying the Festival experience.

THE PARTICIPATION PRINCIPLE:

The Guiding Philosophy Is Simple:

Every Delegation Must Bring a Story. Every Story Must Showcase a Heritage. Every Heritage Should Create An Opportunity.

Accordingly, participating entities are encouraged to present a balanced combination of Culture + Cuisine + Tourism + Fashion + Arts + Entertainment + Enterprise + People.

CORPORATE AND INSTITUTIONAL PARTICIPATION:

Companies, financial institutions, development organisations, professional associations and other strategic institutions are equally encouraged to participate through sponsorship, exhibition, product activation, corporate showcases, knowledge sessions, business networking and community-impact initiatives. Corporate participation may include the nomination of executives, entrepreneurs, brand ambassadors, creative talents, youths and women representatives, subject to the approved Festival protocol.

THE REGIONAL SHOWCASE:

The cumulative participation of countries, states, local governments, companies and institutions will transform the Festival venue into a living West African marketplace of culture, food, tourism, creativity and enterprise.

Visitors will not merely watch West Africa; they will taste it, hear it, see it, experience it, engage with it and discover opportunities within it.

This participatory model is intended to ensure that the ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival Nigeria 2026 becomes a platform for cultural exchange, economic interaction, tourism promotion, youth and women empowerment, and the strengthening of people-to-people integration across West Africa.

PARTICIPATION MODEL:

Minimum of 50 Delegates Per Delegation of a Country or State.

Culture • Cuisine • Tourism • Fashion • Arts • Music • Youth • Women • Enterprise.

One Region. Many Cultures. One Shared Future.

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES AND INVESTMENT: Exchange: at USD 1 = ₦1,500. VAT exclusive

Table 1: Main Sponsorship Tiers: *Tier *Investment *Key Benefits

a. TITLE PARTNER: ₦500,000,000.00 (USD 320,000.):

Festival naming rights, Keynote, 12x12m Pavilion, 20 VIP, CEO Breakfast, Lead Media

b. DIAMOND PARTNER: ₦250,000,000.00 (USD 160,000.):

Diamond Branding, Panel Moderator, 9x9m Pavilion, 15 VIP, 2 Media Interviews

c. PLATINUM PARTNER: ₦120,000,000.00 (USD 75,000.):

Platinum Branding, Speaking slot, 6x6m Pavilion, 10 VIP, Business Matchmaking

d. GOLD PARTNER: ₦60,000,000.00 (USD40,000.):

Gold branding, 5-min pitch, 3x3m Booth, 6 VIP

e. SILVER PARTNER: ₦30,000,000.00 (USD20,000.):

Banner Branding, 3x3m Booth, 4 VIP

f. BRONZE PARTNER: ₦12,000,000.00 (USD8,000.):

Website logo, 2x2m SME Booth, 2 VIP

g. SUPPORTING PARTNER: ₦3,000,000.00 (USD2,000.):

SME Table, 2 Passes, Youth Pitch

Table 2: Brand Activations: *Activation *Investment

Culinary Olympics Sponsor: ~~₦~~30,000,000.00 (USD20,000.)

Miss/Face of EFCF Title Sponsor: ~~₦~~35,000,000.00 (USD22,500.)

Fashion Showcase Sponsor : ~~₦~~20,000,000.00 (USD12,800.)

Exhibition Pavilion: ~~₦~~15,000,000.00 (USD10,000.)

Transport Partner: ~~₦~~18,000,000.00 (USD11,500.)

Payment Terms: 30% on MoU, 40% at 60 days, 30% at 30 days.

GOVERNANCE, LEGACY & NEXT STEPS:

5.1 Governance:

International Advisory Council + Secretariat to ensure transparency.

5.2 Legacy Projects:

1. ECOWAS Food Innovation Hub
2. ECOWAS Cultural Village and ECOWAS Food Restaurants
3. Agro Entrepreneur/Youth Agribusiness Programme
4. Women in Agribusiness Network
5. Annual Investment Forum

5.3 The Benin Declaration:

Commitments on Food Security, Trade, Tourism, Youth and PPPs.

5.4 Road to Benin 2026:

Phase 1: Announcement and Sponsorship.

Phase 2: Roadshows and Miss/Face of EFCF Selections.

Phase 3: Countdown and Mobilization.

CONCLUSION AND CALL TO ACTION:

EFCF 2026 is more than an event. It is a strategic investment in West Africa's future.
We invite Governments, Corporates, DFIs and the Diaspora to partner.

Contact: EFCF Nigeria 2026 Secretariat

Together, let us celebrate heritage.

Together, let us connect nations.

Together, let us create prosperity

Secretariat: Network of Young Female Leaders of ECOWAS Community/SCED. No. 34/36 Okotie Eboh Crescent, Utako Abuja.

Government Contact: Federal Ministry of Art, Culture, Tourism and the Creative Economy: E & C S Department, Abuja

Tel: +234 9057124317, 08033026728, 08033498460, 09057124317 Email: hwiorq@yahoo.com

For Donations & Contributions, Visit our Website: <https://efcfdiaspora.org>

“EFCF NIGERIA 2026”: BENIN CITY, EDO STATE, NIGERIA:
27TH TO 31ST OCTOBER, 2026: SPECIAL INFORMATION

1. **Cultural Troupe Group** participation/registration fees @ N1,500,000.00 (USD120) per State/Country/Organization, which covers Participants Tags, Certificate of Participation, bags and relevant souvenirs.
2. **Exhibition Pavilion** @ N3,000,000.00 (USD240) per State/Country/ Organization.
3. **Exhibition Booth** @ N1,000,000.00 per State/Country/Organization.
4. **Customized Exhibition Centre Space Available** for Multi-Nationals/ Interested Countries/States (Contact the Secretariat for details).
5. **Individual Participation** Registration Fee @ N100,000.00 (USD100) which covers participation Tag, Certificate, bag and relevant Festival souvenirs.
6. **Opportunities** for side events are available for interested States/Countries /Organizations with a fee for Venues/facilities (please contact the Secretariat).
7. **HOTEL ACCOMMODATION IN BENIN CITY CATEGORIES/RATES PER NIGHT:**
CATEGORY A: Studio Rooms: N20,000.00 (USD20) – N50,000.00 (USD50)
CATEGORY B: Business Suites: N60,000.00 (USD60) – N20,000.00 (USD100)
CATEGORY C: Luxury Suites: N160,000.00 (USD150) – N220,000.00 (USD200)
CATEGORY D: Diplomatic Suites: N220,000.00 (USD200 – N500,000.00 (USD400)
CATEGORY E: Presidential Suites: N600,000.00 (USD500) – N1,200,000.00 (USD1000)
CATEGORY F: Furnished Apartments rate per Night:
 - a. **2 Bedrooms:** N220,000.00 (USD200) – N300,000.00 (USD250)
 - b. **3 Bedrooms:** N250,000.00 (USD250) – N500,000.00 (USD500)

For other information, please contact the Festival Secretariat.

Thanks.

The Logistics and Accommodation Committee, EFCF NIGERIA 2026

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP AND BRANDING: EFCF: "NIGERIA 2026"

@ USD 1 = N1,500 (Local Currency)

	N	USD
1. Venue (Sponsor Branded) and Facilities @ 30,000,000 Per Day x 5-	150,000,000.00	100,000
2. 500 T-Shirts/Face Caps (Sponsor Logo Branded) @ 20,000 each -	10,000,000.00	- 7,330
3. 500 Sponsor Branded Conference Bags/Folders @ 30,000 each -	15,000,000.00	-10,000
4. 500 Programme of Events @ N15,000 each - - -	7,500,000.00	- 5,000
5. Radio/TV Jingles for 2 Months/Publications/Publicity/Adverts -	15,000,000.00	- 10,000
6. 1000 Invitation Cards, Stickers, Handbills, Brochures, Jotters/Pen-	7,500,000.00	- 5,000
7. Children/Students Essay Competition Expenses/Award Prices -	15,000,000.00	- 10,000
8. Tea/Coffee Breaks @ N15,000 x 1,000 Persons per Day x 3 -	15,000,000.00	- 10,000
9. Group Breakfast for 500 Delegates @ N15,000 per day x 3 -	15,000,000.00	- 10,000
10. Group Lunch for 500 Delegates @ N15,000 per day x 3 -	15,000,000.00	- 10,000
11. Group Dinner for 500 Delegates @ N15,000 per day x 3 -	15,000,000.00	- 10,000
12. Printing and Distribution of Event Package with DHL - -	3,000,000.00	- 2,000
13. 50 Sponsor Branded Mega Banners at the venue @ N60,000 each-	3,000,000.00	- 2,000
14. 15 Billboard Sponsor Branded @N1,500,000 each (Airports/Host State)	15,000,000.00	- 10,000
15. Cost of Booth/Pavilion for Exhibition by Countries, States, Organizations		
(a). 9M ² (10"x10") = -	3,000,000.00	- 2,000
(b). 14.4M ² (10" x 16") = -	4,500,000.00	- 3,000
16. Miss/Face of Ecowas Food and Cultural Pageant 2026 (N75,000,000.00)		
a. Stage/Lightens, Decorations of Venue for 3 Days - -	15,000,000.00	- 10,000
b. Fee to Artists and Cultural Groups/Winner's Prices/Awards -	90,000,000.00	- 60,000
c. Sponsor Branded Stage Back Drop at the event -	15,000,000.00	- 10,000
d. Security, Ushers and Protocol Officers - - -	15,000,000.00	- 10,000
e. Musical Equipment's and Backup Generators - - -	15,000,000.00	- 10,000
17. Festival Float Train for Road Show:		
a. Sponsors Branded Trailer Vehicles and Buses @ N3,000,000 x 10 pcs	30,000,000.00	- 20,000
b. Refreshment for 500 Festival Participants (in packs) @ 10,000 each x 3 -	15,000,000.00	- 10,000
18. State Banquet for 500 VIPs (Buffet, Drinks and Entertainment/Gift) - -	30,000,000.00	- 20,000
19. 5 Nights Accommodation of a Delegation of 20 Persons @N75,000 -	7,500,000.00	- 5,000
20. Festival Secretariat Staff/LOC/ISC/Resource Persons Logistics @ Host State-	30,000,000.00	- 20,000
21. Plane Tickets/Logistics for International Resource Persons (10) -	30,000,000.00	- 20,000
22. Sponsors Branded Stage /Exhibition Pavilion for 5 days - - -	30,000,000.00	- 20,000
23. Sponsorship of Group Registration of 20 Delegates @ N15,000 each -	3,000,000.00	- 2,000
24. Large Exhibition Booth/Pavilion @ N6,000,000.00 per day x 5 - -	30,000,000.00	- 20,000
25. 10 VIPs/CEOs/Heads of Govt. Delegation Registration @ N3,000,00 each -	30,000,000.00	- 20,000
26. Golf Tourism Guest Kitty Sponsorship/Branding- - -	15,000,000.00	- 10,000
27. Sponsorship of Radio/TV Jingles/Coverage @ 15,000,000 per day x 3 days	45,000,000.00	- 30,000
28. Musical Orchestral Dance Band @ N10,000,000 per day x 3 days -	30,000,000.00	- 20,000
29. Food and Drinks Fair @ N5,000 per day x 3 days - - -	15,000,000.00	- 10,000
30. Benin City Tour/ Sponsor Branding @ N10,000,000.00 per day x 3 days -	30,000,000.00	- 20,000
31. Host City Street Decorations and Branding - - - -	30,000,000.00	- 20,000

Please identify which item(s) you/ your Country/State/Organization/Company/Brand can sponsor and get back to us as soon as possible for necessary actions and preparations input in the Festival Programme.

Please request for our designated banks details for donations/financial contributions/sponsorship or grant.

We look forward to your response and acknowledgement for this letter as soon as possible.

Thanks in anticipation of your positive response.

Programme and Budget Committee.



ECOWAS FOOD AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL "NIGERIA": PARTNERSHIP/ COLLABORATION FORM

Country/State/ Institution Name: _____
Address: _____
Local Govt. Area/Province: _____
City/State: _____
Telephone: _____
Fax: _____
Mobile Phone/ WhatsApp: _____
E-mail: _____
Website: _____
Contact Person: _____
Position/Signature/Date: _____

Type of Organization: (Tick as appropriate)

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ☐ Government | ☐ Development Partners | ☐ United Nations |
| ☐ Private Sector | ☐ Academic Institutions | ☐ Religious Institution |
| ☐ NGO/CSO | ☐ Foundation | ☐ Inter-Governmental |
- ☐ I/We support the Festival to achieve its objectives/Goal
- ☐ I/We will contribute to the Festival project in any of the following way(s):
- ☐ *(Tick as appropriate)*
- ☐ Nominate/Sponsor Delegates to attend
- ☐ Provide Financial Assistance (Donation/Grant) to the Festival Organization
- ☐ Help in the Festival Publicity/ Advert/Media Coverage
- ☐ Help in Festival Logistic, Venue(s), Accommodation and Transportation
- ☐ Help in Printing Publications/IEC Materials and Branding
- ☐ Provision of Resource Person(s) Materials and Goodwill Message
- ☐ Donation of Computers, IT and Internet Facilities for Festival
- ☐ Help in provision of Secretariat/Office/Venue Equipment
- ☐ To co-sponsor a segment of the Festival: ☐ Face of EFCF Pageantry ☐ Summit ☐
- ☐ Sponsorship of: ☐ Concert ☐ Float Carnival ☐ State Banquet ☐ Exhibition
- ☐ Any other form of support, state _____

Sponsorship/Partnership Category:

- (a) **Diamond**- ₦150,000,000.00 (USD 100,000) (b) **Gold Sponsor**- ₦75,000,000.00 (USD 50,000)
(c) **Silver** - ₦50,000,000.00 (USD 35,000) (d) **Bronze** - ₦25,000,000.00 (USD 15,000)



**INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT SUMMIT ON FOOD SECURITY,
CULTURE, ARTS AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**
(HEADS OF STATES/GOVERNMENTS/GOVERNORS/PARLIAMENTARIANS/BUSINESS CEOs AND VIPs)

REGISTRATION FORM/FICHE D'INSCRIPTION

Surname/Prenom:.....

Name/Nom:.....

Passport No:..... Date Expiry:.....

Organization:.....

Country/Pays:.....

Tel:..... Fax:.....

E-mail:.....

Date: arrival/arrive.....

Date: departure/depart:.....

Numbers of Accompany Persons (Send Names on Official Letterhead Paper to the Festival Secretariat)

Date:..... Signature.....

Note: Please, all VIPs who will be accompanied by their aids, should attached the list of their Delegation, duly signed on their official letter headed paper with their travelling document information, which should be sent to secretariat as soon as possible for necessary protocol, Visas and documentation arrangement where necessary.

Registration fee: N3,000,000.00 (US\$ 2,000) which covers Accommodation, Meals, Summit Materials and Local Transportation during the Festival.

Secretariat: Network of Young Female Leaders of ECOWAS Community (ROAJELF) C/o SDRE. No. 36A, Okotie Eboh Crescent, Utako, Abuja,

Government Contact: Federal Ministry of Art, Culture and Creative Economy: E & C S Department, Fed. Secretariat Abuja.

Tel: +2349057124317, +234 8022710831, 08033026728, 08033498460, Email: hwiorq@yahoo.com

Website: <https://efcfdiaspora.org>, ecowasfoodandculturalfestival.org



NIGERIA 2026: BENIN CITY, EDO STATE, NIGERIA

EXHIBITION FORM

NAME OF INSTITUTION:.....
ADDRESS:.....
L.G.A./PROVINCE:.....
STATE:.....
COUNTRY:.....
TELEPHONE:.....
WHATSAPP:.....
E-MAIL:.....
WEBSITE:.....
CONTACT PERSON:.....
POSITION:.....
SIGNATURE:.....

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: ☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ PRIVATE SECTOR ☐ DIPLOMATIC MISSION
 ☐ DEVELOPMENT PARTNER ☐ ECOWAS MEMBER COUNTRY ☐ ACADEMIC INSTITUTION
 ☐ RELIGIOUS GROUP ☐ NGO/CSO ☐ YOUTH/STUDENT ☐ WOMEN ☐ FOUNDATION

DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCTS OR PRODUCTS INFORMATION TO BE EXHIBITED:

.....
.....
.....
.....

SIZE OF BOOTH REQUESTED:

- A. 9M² (10FT X 10FT) FOR SEVEN DAYS AT ₦3,000,000.00 (US\$2,000)
- B. 14.4M² (10FT X 16FT) FOR SEVEN DAYS2 AT ₦4,500,000.00 (US\$3,000)
- C. EXHIBITION SPACE FOR CUSTOMIZED BOOTH OR PAVILION AT ₦450,000.00(US\$300) PER M²
- D. TABLE STAND FOR NGOs/CSOs/YOUTH/ WOMEN AT ₦100,000.00 (US\$100)

Note: All Exhibitors must be registered as Delegates/ Participants/ Observers/ Presenters

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

☐ CASH ☐ BANK TRANSFER ☐ BANK DRAFT

ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR PAYMENT:

Our Bank: **ACCESS Bank, Account No: 0032216914**

Account Name: **High World International organization.**

OR

Bank Name: **ACCESS Bank, Account No: 0052201434**

Account Name: **NYFL of ECOWAS Comm. ROAJELF Nigeria**

Please make payment to the account above and send the copy of receipt/teller to our secretariat in Abuja or via email or whatsapp.

Secretariat: Network of Young Female Leaders of ECOWAS Community (ROAJELF) C/o **SDRE**. No. 36A, Okotie Eboh Crescent, Utako, Abuja,

Government Contact: Federal Ministry of Art, Culture and Creative Economy: E & C S Department, Fed. Secretariat Abuja.

Tel: +2349057124317, +234 8022710831, 08033026728, 08033498460 Email: hwior@yahoo.com

Website: <https://efcfdiaspora.org>, ecowasfoodandculturalfestival.org



CULTURAL TROUPE REGISTRATION FORM

NAME OF INSTITUTION:.....
ADDRESS:.....
L.G.A./PROVINCE:.....
STATE:.....
COUNTRY:.....
TELEPHONE:.....
WHATSAPP:.....
E-MAIL:.....
WEBSITE:.....
CONTACT PERSON:.....
POSITION:.....
SIGNATURE:.....

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: ☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ COUNTRY ☐ STATE ☐ LOCAL GOVT/PROVINCE
☐ PRIVATE SECTOR ☐ ACADEMIC ☐ TRADITIONAL/ RELIGIOUS ☐

TROUPE SIZE: ☐ 10persons ☐ 30persons above ☐ 40persons above

State total persons in Troupe: _____

Description of Presentation: _____

Registration per Contingent is N1,500,000.00 (US\$ 1,200)

Individual Registration in the contingent is N100,000.00 (US\$100) for Festival Materials, Meals, Health Insurance and Participation in all Festival activities.

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

☐ CASH ☐ BANK TRANSFER ☐ BANK DRAFT

ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR PAYMENT:

Our Bank: ACCESS Bank, Account No: 0032216914

Account Name: High World International organization.

OR

Bank Name: ACCESS Bank, Account No: 0052201434

Account Name: NYFL of ECOWAS Comm. ROAJELF Nigeria

OR

Bank Name: Society of Dev. Rural Eco, Zenith Bank Account No: 1013518375 (Current)

Please make payment to the account above and send the copy of receipt/teller to our secretariat in Abuja or via email or whatsapp.

Secretariat: Network of Young Female Leaders of ECOWAS Community (ROAJELF) C/o SDRE. No. 36A, Okotie Eboh Crescent, Utako, Abuja,
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Website: <https://efcfdiaspora.org>, ecowasfoodandculturalfestival.org



PARTICIPATION FORM (OVERSEA DELEGATES)

The admission will be determine and official invitation will be issued 5days (none Nigerian) 2days (Nigerians) after submission of application. Delegates who need Visa to Nigeria for the purpose of this Festival should apply to the nearest Nigeria High Commission/Embassy/Consulate overseas as soon as possible with presentation of official invitation letter.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT FOR OFFICIAL INVITATION LETTER:

1. Name (Surname First)
2. Name of Organization/Country:.....
.....
3. Address:.....
4. State:.....
5. Country:.....
6. TEL./WhatsApp No.....
7. E-mail:.....
8. Website:.....
9. Date of Birth:
10. Country of Birth/Country of Resident:.....
11. Passport/Travel Document Number:.....
12. Date of Expiry of Travel Document:.....
13. Next of Kin/Telephone:.....
14. Authorizing Person Name:.....
15. Date/ Signature:.....

Secretariat: Network of Young Female Leaders of ECOWAS Community (ROAJELF) C/o **SDRE**. No. 36A, Okotie Eboh Crescent, Utako, Abuja,

Government Contact: Federal Ministry of Art, Culture and Creative Economy: E & C S Department, Fed. Secretariat Abuja.

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Website: <https://efcfdiaspora.org>, ecowasfoodandculturalfestival.org