



GUSII
INNOVATION
WEEK 2026

Concept Note

October
26-30



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Kenya

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Introduction and Background

Gusii Innovation Week 2026 (GIW2026) is a regional flagship event to accelerate climate-smart agrifood innovation in Southwestern Kenya. Building on the inaugural GIW2025; which convened over 300 participants and produced 16 tech prototypes addressing agrifood challenges; the 2026 edition will scale up these successes. GIW2025's theme, *"Resilient Agrifood Systems for Nutritional Security & Economic Sustainability,"* highlighted the power of partnership and youth-led innovation in agriculture.

GIW2026 advances this journey with a focused theme of **"Scaling Innovations for Climate-Smart Food Systems,"** aiming to turn proven ideas into widespread action. The event is scheduled for **October 26–30, 2026** in Kisii, Kenya. It will be convened by Fie_Labs Innovation Hub in collaboration with academia, government, industry, and community partners, reflecting GIW's successful quadruple-helix model. High-level support from national and county leadership in 2025 underscored the initiative's importance, and GIW2026 will deepen these ties to ensure innovations not only emerge but also scale to transform livelihoods.

Objectives:

GIW2026 is designed to achieve the following goals:



Catalyze Climate-Smart Innovation

Inspire development and scaling of technologies and practices for climate-resilient, regenerative agriculture and food systems.



Empower Youth & Women

Engage young innovators and women agripreneurs at the forefront of solution design and entrepreneurship, building on GIW2025's momentum in youth and female participation.



Accelerate Agribusiness Growth

Connect startups, MSMEs and cooperatives to mentorship, markets, and investment to boost value addition, market access, and agro-industrialization.



Foster Partnerships

Strengthen multi-stakeholder networks (public, private, academia, civil society, diaspora) to drive collective action in food systems innovation beyond the event.



Influence Policy & Investment

Align innovation efforts with policy frameworks and attract funding (public and private) into climate-smart agrifood initiatives, supporting Kenya's development agendas (Vision 2030, BETA) and global goals.

By achieving these objectives, GIW2026 will solidify the South Western Kenya region's emerging role as a hub for agritech and climate-smart agriculture, ensuring local solutions contribute to national and continental priorities.

Lessons from GIW2025

GIW2025 provided a rich learning ground that informs the 2026 edition. Key takeaways and achievements from 2025 include:



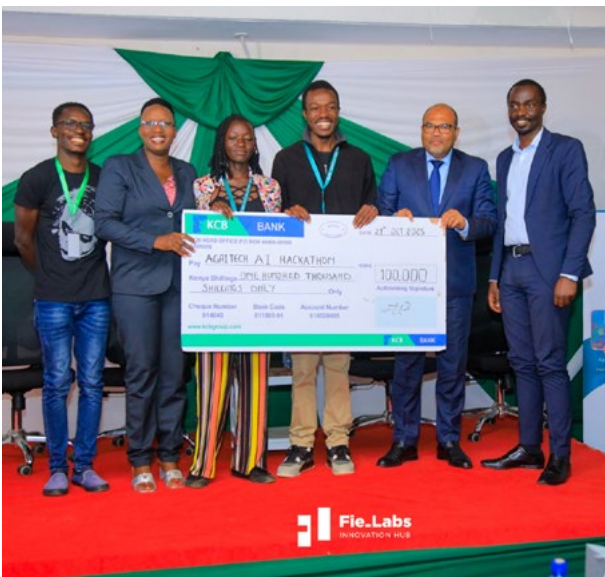
- **The Power of Partnership:** GIW2025 demonstrated the value of collaboration across government, academia, industry, and community. The event brought these actors “under one roof,” creating a robust support system for innovators. New partnerships were formed including startups connecting with investors, and county officials linking with tech hubs; underscoring that multi-stakeholder collaboration is the engine of innovation. GIW2026 will continue this ethos, retaining core partners and inviting new ones to broaden the support base.



- **Youth and Women at the Center:** The inaugural event showed that given the opportunity, youth and women innovators deliver high-impact solutions. Many hackathon teams and summit panelists were youth or female-led, prompting calls by policymakers to further empower these groups. In 2026, deliberate outreach will ensure strong participation of youth-led startups, women farmers and professionals, thereby promoting inclusive innovation.



- **Local Problems, Homegrown Solutions:** Innovations were most successful when tailored to local needs. Solutions like AI-driven crop disease diagnosis and farmer market linkages resonated because they addressed challenges faced in farms across Africa. This affirmed that rural counties are not short of talent or ideas; what they need is support to refine and scale these homegrown solutions. GIW2026 will double down on relevance; focusing on priority local value chains and ensuring community voices shape the agenda.



- **From Ideas to Impact – Follow-through is Vital:** A major lesson was that prototypes and pitches must translate into real-world impact. GIW2025 instituted follow-up mechanisms including an Ecosystem Tour and a post-event Food Systems Innovation Platform) to keep the momentum going. A follow-on AgriTech AI Incubation Programme was launched to incubate the top 15 hackathon teams and summit pitch winners over the next year. Top performers from the incubation programme with scalable and sustainable business models will be onboarded into Fie-Ventures (the Venture Studio arm of Fie_Labs Innovation Hub), for further funding and support to formalize and scale the Agritech startups. GIW2026 will build on this by integrating structured post-event incubation and pilot deployment for promising innovations. By GIW2026, many of the 2025 alumni will have demonstrable pilots, to be showcased as success stories. This continuity approach ensures GIW is not a one-off event but part of a year-round innovation cycle.



- **Greater Visibility and Policy Influence:** GIW2025 garnered significant media attention and government buy-in. High-level speakers noted that GIW aligns with Kenya's national agendas and should be "part of a sustained national innovation drive". A policy brief capturing GIW2025 insights was prepared for agriculture and innovation authorities. For 2026, the aim is to amplify public engagement targeting media reach well over 1 million; and hold an Executive Policy Breakfast to directly engage policymakers with event outcomes. This will help translate summit recommendations into supportive policies (such as county innovation funds or agri-tech adoption programs).

These lessons reinforce the strategic design of GIW2026; a forum that not only sparks innovation, but also provides the support systems to scale it into tangible, policy-aligned impact.



GIW2026 Programme Overview

GIW2026 spans five days of high-energy activities, each tailored to a specific purpose in the innovation lifecycle. Table 1 outlines the program schedule and key components:

Table 1: GIW2026 Programme Schedule (October 26–30, 2026)

Date	Event Component	Opportunities for Partners
Oct 26–27	Agri-Tech AI Hackathon	A 48-hour innovation sprint for young developers, engineers, and agripreneurs to build AI-driven solutions for agriculture. Teams will be guided by mentors to address real challenges in climate-smart farming, value addition, and market access. The hackathon fosters co-creation, rapid prototyping, and a spirit of competition. (Day 2 ends with judging and selection of top teams.)
Oct 28	Food Systems Innovation Summit – Day 1	<p>Morning: Opening Ceremony with keynote addresses by high-level leaders, highlighting the urgency of climate-smart agrifood innovation and opportunities under Vision 2030 and Agenda 2063. An Opening Plenary will set the stage, discussing the event theme and framing the five summit tracks.</p> <p>Mid-day: Parallel Workshops and Panel Sessions across the five thematic tracks (see next section). Each track features expert panels, interactive discussions (e.g. fishbowl format for inclusive dialogue), and case studies. Deal rooms run concurrently; curated B2B meetings connecting startups or cooperatives with potential investors, buyers, or partners (facilitated by GIW organizers).</p> <p>All Day: An Innovation Exhibition hall showcases solutions and products from across the agri-value chains (including hackathon prototypes, agri-tech startups, agribusiness SMEs, research projects, etc.). Exhibitors will engage participants and demonstrate technologies (e.g. precision farming tools, agro-processing equipment). This expo-style interaction proved highly effective in 2025, spurring dialogue between tech developers and end-users.</p>
Oct 29	Food Systems Innovation Summit – Day 2	<p>Morning: <i>Fishbowl Plenary</i> – a dynamic roundtable where representatives from each track synthesize Day 1 outcomes in an interactive session open to audience input. This collaborative plenary allows cross-pollination of ideas among tracks and yields an integrated set of recommendations and next steps. .</p> <p>Mid-day: Startup & MSME Pitching – Top innovators (including winning hackathon teams and selected agribusiness startups) pitch their ventures on the main stage to a panel of investors, development partners, and industry leaders. This was a highlight in 2025, resulting in several entrepreneurs securing mentorship and follow-up meetings with financiers. GIW2026 will expand this session, expecting 30+ startups/ MSMEs to pitch to a diverse investor jury.</p> <p>Afternoon: Closing Keynote and Awards – A prominent thought leader will deliver a closing keynote, tying the week's insights to broader national and global efforts (e.g. Kenya's Climate-Smart Agriculture Strategy, SDGs). Awards will be presented for hackathon winners, top pitches, and outstanding exhibitors. The Governor of Kisii (or a senior official) will officially close the summit, with a call to action and announcements of any major commitments (such as new funding programs or partnerships formed during the week).</p>

Date	Event Component	Opportunities for Partners
Oct 30	Innovation Ecosystem Tour	<p>A guided field tour for participants (especially guests, investors, and partners from outside the region) to visit innovation hotspots across Southwestern Kenya. Stops will include: a local agritech incubation hub and Venture Studio (Fie_Labs & Fie-Ventures), an agribusiness processing facility (showcasing value addition in action), a model climate-smart farm or regenerative agriculture project, and a cooperative or agri-MSME success story site.</p> <p>This mirrors the 2025 ecosystem tour which grounded visitors in the region's context. The tour facilitates on-site demonstrations, networking with grassroots innovators, and exposure to investment opportunities. It also helps external partners understand local needs and opportunities, reinforcing the "seeing is believing" effect to encourage follow-on support.</p>

Programme Details

Agri-Tech AI Hackathon (Oct 26–27):



The two-day hackathon kicks off GIW2026 by harnessing the creativity of young tech innovators to solve pressing agricultural problems. Building on last year's success, where over 160 participants developed 16 prototypes; the 2026 hackathon will emphasize climate-smart solutions. Challenges will be drawn from real smallholder pain-points identified via pre-event consultations (e.g. drought prediction, soil health management, post-harvest loss tracking). Teams will have access to datasets, APIs and hardware (IoT kits, drones) to build AI-powered and digital tools. Seasoned mentors from tech companies, research institutes, and agribusiness will provide hands-on guidance.

The hackathon culminates in a pitch judging session where top teams are selected based on innovation, feasibility, impact, and scalability. Prizes (cash awards, gadgets, and in-kind support) and **incubation slots** will be awarded to the winners to ensure continuity beyond the event. This hackathon is a flagship youth engagement tool; demonstrating how rural youth talent, given the right platform, can create solutions that align with national agricultural priorities. The winning teams will later showcase their solutions during the Summit, bridging into the next phase of GIW.

Food Systems Innovation Summit - FSIS (Oct 28–29):



The two-day summit is the centerpiece of GIW2026, convening stakeholders from across the agrifood ecosystem.

Day 1 focuses on idea exchange and networking through keynotes, thematic panels, and workshops aligned to five critical innovation tracks (detailed in the next section). Interactive formats will dominate; rather than long lectures, sessions will use moderated panels, Q&A, breakout discussions, and participatory “fishbowl” dialogues to maximize engagement.

A parallel **deal room** service will facilitate direct conversations: for example, a horticulture cooperative might meet a produce exporter, or a solar dryer startup might connect with a microfinance fund.

The **exhibition** runs throughout, providing a marketplace of ideas and technologies; participants can learn from exhibits ranging from AI crop disease diagnosis demos to new value-added products from indigenous crops.

Day 2 shifts to synthesizing and celebrating outcomes. A morning plenary will capture insights across tracks, ensuring that the silos of Day 1 merge into a cohesive roadmap. Next, the spotlight turns to entrepreneurs: a curated set of startups and MSMEs will pitch in front of investors and an audience. This event-within-event serves to mobilize financing and partnerships on the spot; an approach that in 2025 led to at least 10 ventures securing partnership or investment leads. Finally, the summit concludes with high-level reflections and awards, leaving participants energized and committed to action.

Innovation Ecosystem Tour (Oct 30):



To cap the week, GIW2026 offers an immersive ecosystem tour, recognizing that seeing innovations in context is crucial for learning and commitment. Delegates (especially those from outside the region or country) will board a guided tour to various sites in counties across Southwestern Kenya region. This may include: visiting a successful horticulture aggregation center using digital market platforms; touring a new agro-processing

SME turning local crops (e.g. bananas or sunflower seeds) into value-added products; meeting a women's poultry cooperative adopting climate-smart feeding and solar incubation; and stopping at a farm trialing regenerative practice (like agroforestry or water-saving irrigation).

Along the way, participants interact directly with farmers, startups, and community leaders. The tour not only provides experiential learning but also helps forge B2B and institutional linkages in a relaxed, practical setting. For local innovators, it's a chance to showcase their work to potential partners; for visitors, it's an eye-opener to the region's opportunities. Ultimately, the tour reinforces the week's lessons and often sparks ideas for pilot projects and investments to be pursued post-event.

Thematic Tracks of GIW2026

GIW2026 is organized around five thematic tracks that capture the most critical areas for transforming food systems in the face of climate change. All summit content – keynotes, panels, workshops, and even hackathon challenge statements – tie into these tracks. The tracks are:

- Climate-Smart & Regenerative Agriculture:** Emphasizing sustainable farming practices that enhance resilience to climate change while restoring soil and ecosystem health. This track will spotlight innovations in drought-tolerant crops, agroforestry, conservation agriculture, and regenerative techniques that boost productivity without degrading the environment. It builds on discussions from GIW2025 about climate-smart agriculture and circular food economies. Topics include scaling climate-smart extension services, community-based climate adaptation, and success stories of regenerative farming in Kenya. The goal is to surface solutions that help farmers adapt to erratic weather, sequester carbon in farmlands, and improve long-term food security.
- AgriTech, AI & Digital Agriculture:** Focusing on the transformative power of technology – from artificial intelligence and IoT to mobile apps and big data – in agriculture. This track showcases cutting-edge agri-tech solutions that improve efficiency across the value chain: precision farming tools, smart sensors (for soil, weather, livestock), drone and satellite applications, blockchain for supply chains, and farmer-facing digital platforms. GIW2025's "Innovation & Technology in Agriculture" track highlighted the surge of new tools like farm mapping drones and IoT soil sensors; in 2026 we expect even more advanced demos, including AI-driven decision support systems. Panels will explore how to ensure these technologies are accessible and affordable to smallholders, and how to integrate AI ethically in farming. Live demos from startups (including hackathon prototypes) will be a highlight, encouraging farmers and stakeholders to adopt proven digital innovations.
- Value Addition, Agro-Processing & Manufacturing:** Dedicated to strategies for moving up the value chain – processing raw agricultural outputs into diversified, higher-value products. This track responds to the persistent challenge that many African regions export commodities with minimal processing, missing out on job creation and income. Sessions will cover innovations in agro-processing (e.g. affordable processing equipment, mobile processing units), agro-manufacturing startups, food preservation and storage tech, and quality improvement to meet market standards. Examples from horticulture (fruits to juices or dried products), dairy/livestock (milk to cheese/yogurt, meat processing), edible oil extraction (sunflower, avocado oils) and indigenous crops (milling, nutrient-rich flours) will be featured.



The track will also examine how renewable energy and off-grid power can enable rural agro-industries. By convening processors, manufacturers, and product developers, this track aims to catalyze investments in local agro-industrial value addition; a key to economic transformation under the Bottom-Up Economic Agenda.

- Market Access, Trade & AfCFTA Opportunities:** Concentrating on connecting producers to markets; locally, regionally, and internationally. Even the best farm innovations fail to improve livelihoods if farmers cannot sell their produce at fair prices. This track explores solutions for market linkage: digital marketplaces, cooperatives and aggregation models, meeting sanitary and phytosanitary standards, logistics and cold-chain improvements, and leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). In GIW2025, a fishbowl discussion on market access revealed both bottlenecks and big opportunities under AfCFTA. For 2026, we will examine progress and new initiatives that enable farmers and SMEs to tap into larger markets. Experts will discuss trade finance, export readiness, e-commerce for agriculture, and how to capitalize on AfCFTA (which could boost intra-African agricultural trade by over 500% by 2030). The expected outcome is greater awareness of regional market opportunities and concrete B2B linkages; for instance, matching a local producer group with an urban retailer or an export broker. Trade and investment agencies, commodity buyers, and logistics providers will be key participants in this track.
- Green Finance, Climate Finance & Impact Investment:** Addressing the crucial question of financing innovation and climate-smart agriculture. Lack of affordable financing remains a systemic barrier for farmers and agripreneurs. This track will convene financiers (banks, microfinance, venture capital, impact investors, and donors) to discuss and showcase innovative financing models; from climate risk insurance and green bonds, to impact funds and agri-fintech solutions. Building on GIW2025's investment-focused sessions which demystified agribusiness financing, GIW2026 will put a special lens on climate finance: how to fund climate adaptation measures and low-carbon technologies in the agrifood sector. Case studies will include successful blended finance examples or public-private partnerships that unlocked capital for farmers (e.g. a pay-as-you-go solar irrigation financing scheme).
- Additionally, a segment will be devoted to the role of diaspora investment and remittances in agribusiness; a theme identified in 2025 for further development. By the end of this track, we aim to have several commitments or at least MoU signings for funding facilities, challenge funds, or investment deals that can support the innovations emerging from GIW.

These five tracks are cross-cutting and mutually reinforcing. Climate-smart agriculture and technology feed into better value addition; improved market access incentivizes adoption of sustainable practices; and appropriate financing underpins them all. The Summit format allows participants to follow one track deeply or sample multiple, ensuring a holistic understanding. Each track will produce a summary of key insights and recommended actions, which will inform the event's final outcomes document and policy brief.



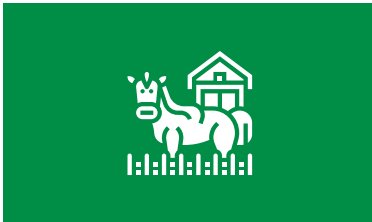
Focus on Priority Agri-Value Chains

GIW2026 will concentrate on five agricultural value chains that are especially important for Kenya's food security, income generation, and climate resilience. These priority value chains are:



Horticulture:

Encompassing fruits, vegetables, and herbs; high-value crops like bananas, avocados, tomatoes, and leafy greens that are widely grown in Kenya. Horticulture offers significant income potential (including export opportunities) but faces challenges in pests, perishability, and market linkages. GIW2026 will seek innovations in cold storage, value addition (juices, dried fruits), and regenerative practices for horticulture.



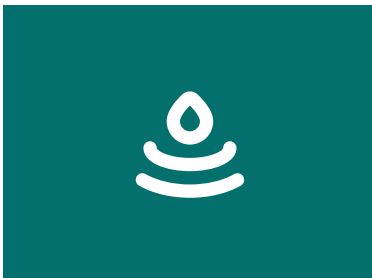
Livestock (Dairy & Beef):

Cattle rearing (for milk and meat) is a key livelihood across the country. The focus is on improving breeds, feed, and veterinary care to increase productivity sustainably. Climate-smart practices such as biogas from manure, drought-tolerant fodder, and improved grazing management will be highlighted. Value addition like dairy processing (cheese, yogurt) and improved market access for livestock products are part of this chain's development.



Poultry:

Many households engage in poultry farming (chickens, eggs) for nutrition and income. There is scope to scale up from subsistence to commercial poultry enterprises. GIW2026 will look at innovations in poultry feeds (e.g. insect protein, hydroponic fodder), disease control, and hatchery technology (small-scale incubators), as well as business models for youth and women in poultry agribusiness. Poultry exhibitors were popular in 2025, and this will continue with an expanded poultry innovation showcase.



Edible Oils:

Kenya imports a significant portion of its edible oils; promoting local oil crop value chains (sunflower, canola, groundnuts, avocado, coconut, etc.) has both economic and nutritional benefits. In Kenya, sunflower and avocado are promising oil crops. This value chain focus will drive conversations on supporting farmers to grow oil seeds, establishing small-scale oil extraction mills, improving quality for cooking oils, and creating products like shea butter or avocado oil for cosmetics. This aligns with the value addition track, targeting import substitution and new SME opportunities in processing.



Indigenous Food Crops:

Traditional crops such as sorghum, millet, cassava, sweet potatoes, arrowroots, and African leafy vegetables are crucial for climate resilience and nutritional diversity. These crops are often hardier in changing climates and culturally significant. GIW2026 will shine a light on innovations to commercialize and popularize indigenous foods; from improved varieties and agronomic practices, to processing (e.g. composite flours, gluten-free products) and marketing that increases their appeal to urban consumers. Emphasizing indigenous crops supports climate adaptation and food security, aligning with SDG2 (zero hunger) and SDG13 (climate action).

By focusing on these value chains, GIW2026 ensures that discussions and innovations remain grounded in areas with the highest potential impact for the country. Each of these value chains intersects with the thematic tracks; for example, one could find climate-smart practices for horticulture, digital apps for livestock markets, financing products for oilseed processors, etc. The priority chains also guide the selection of exhibitors, hackathon challenge statements, and case studies, ensuring the event outcomes are relevant to the local economy and can drive real investment into these sectors.

Partners and Stakeholders Engagement

GIW2026 will leverage and expand the ecosystem of partners that was established in 2025, ensuring a diverse coalition aligned with the event's thematic tracks and value chains. The approach is inclusive: **retain the 2025 partners** who were instrumental, and **add new partners** strategically relevant to climate-smart food systems.

Existing Core Partners (GIW2025 Ecosystem):



The inaugural GIW was convened by Fie_Labs Innovation Hub in partnership with Kisii & Nyamira County Governments, local universities (Kisii University, Kisii National Polytechnic, Nyamira National Polytechnic), national innovation agencies and funds, and industry networks. Key supporters included the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA) and Konza Technopolis (who provided technical and strategic support), the Micro and Small Enterprise Authority (MSEA) and Youth Enterprise Development Fund (focusing on MSME and youth entrepreneurship), and the Africa Federation of Business Angel Networks (bringing in investor networks). These partners will continue to anchor GIW2026; providing outreach channels, and resource support. Their involvement also ensures alignment with national programs and that GIW's outcomes feed into ongoing initiatives (e.g. Konza's innovation ecosystem, KeNIA's national startup programs). Additionally, GIW2025 saw participation from Google Developers Group Kisii, Women Techmakers Kisii and Lolwe AI, exemplifying tech community engagement. Such linkages will be maintained and grown (e.g. engaging more developer groups or tech hubs across Kenya).

New and Expanded Partnerships for 2026:

To deepen impact across the five tracks and value chains, GIW2026 will bring new partners on board, including:

- **Financial Institutions:** Commercial banks, microfinance institutions (MFIs), and SACCOs that have agri-finance products. Their role will be critical in the Green Finance & Investment track including sponsoring an Agritech Investor Roundtable and offering on-site financing clinics for SMEs. Engaging banks and SACCOs will open up credit lines or challenge funds for prototypes emerging from GIW. Some banks are increasingly interested in green financing and may co-develop products like climate-smart agriculture loans or insurance.
- **Private Sector Agribusinesses:** Companies in agriculture, food processing, and agri-tech will be invited as sponsors and active participants. For example, large agribusiness processors can lend market insights and potentially commit to sourcing from GIW-incubated startups or farmers. Tech companies (telecommunications, ICT firms) can support the digital agriculture track; Safaricom or other telcos might showcase digital platforms or support hackathon connectivity. Input suppliers (seed/fertilizer companies) and equipment manufacturers (irrigation, solar dryers, etc.) are also valuable partners, aligning with climate-smart agriculture and value addition themes. These private sector partners ensure the event

conversations remain market-oriented and help in scaling pilots to commercial ventures.

- **Agribusiness Associations & Cooperatives:** Bodies such as the Kenya National Farmers Federation (KENAFF), Horticultural Crops Directorate, Dairy Farmers Associations, Poultry Farmers Networks, and cooperative unions from across the country will be engaged. Their presence guarantees representation of farmers and grassroots enterprises. They can help mobilize participants (especially youth and women in rural areas) and also commit to adopting or piloting innovations presented. For instance, a dairy cooperative could partner with a tech startup on a smart milk collection system; an association could sign an MoU to integrate an indigenous crops promotion campaign arising from the summit. These partnerships tie GIW2026 outcomes directly into farming communities.
- **Diaspora Organizations and Foundations:** The Kenyan diaspora is an untapped resource for innovation investment and mentorship. GIW2026 will actively involve diaspora investor networks (e.g. Kenyan Diaspora Investment Fund), diaspora professional associations in agriculture/tech, and even UN diaspora initiatives. A Diaspora Innovation Forum is proposed (see Program Additions) to coincide with GIW, possibly virtually; to allow diaspora experts to contribute ideas and capital. This aligns with GIW2025 plans to create a diaspora challenge fund. New partnerships might include diaspora-led NGOs or philanthropies that focus on agricultural development or youth empowerment in Kenya. Their engagement will lead to dedicated diaspora-funded prizes or incubation of GIW innovations.
- **Development Partners and Donors:** International organizations that focus on agriculture, climate, and entrepreneurship will be courted as sponsors and knowledge partners. This includes agencies like GIZ, UNDP, FAO, IFAD, the World Bank, AfDB, as well as programs under the AU (e.g. AUDA-NEPAD) and CAADP. Such partners can provide technical expertise (speakers, judges, mentors), funding support for specific tracks (e.g. a Green Climate Fund grant for the climate-smart track), and follow-on opportunities (scale-up grants or inclusion in regional programs). GIW2025's success has already drawn interest beyond the region, and GIW2026 will formalize some of these relationships; for example, inviting AGRA (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa) to lead a session on regenerative agriculture, or the World Food Programme to co-host an innovation challenge on post-harvest loss reduction. Development partners are also crucial for implementing the recommendations that come out of GIW (e.g. supporting working groups or policy implementation post-event).
- **Academic & Research Institutions:** In addition to local universities, GIW2026 will partner with research organizations (e.g. KALRO – Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization, CGIAR centers like IITA or CIMMYT, and regional universities with strong agriculture programs). These institutions enrich the content with evidence-based insights and can help validate and refine the innovations on display. For example, researchers can offer to pilot a winning hackathon solution on their research farms, or provide data for AI model development. Such partnerships also pave the way for longer-term collaborations, like co-establishing an agritech research lab in the region.

Through these partner engagements, GIW2026 will maintain continuity with the previous ecosystem while strategically filling gaps and aligning with each thematic focus. Each partner; whether a bank, a tech firm, a donor, or a farmer group; is given a clear value proposition: GIW offers them a platform to achieve their goals (CSR targets, market expansion, policy influence, talent scouting, etc.) by contributing to an impactful development initiative. In return, their involvement (financial or in-kind) helps ensure the event's success and sustainability. A partnership prospectus and tailored sponsorship packages will be offered (e.g. Title Sponsor, Track Sponsor, Community Sponsor levels) to secure commitments, as outlined in the budget section.



Target Participants

GIW2026 is a multi-stakeholder forum, and its impact hinges on engaging a critical mass of diverse participants. The target participants include:



Youth Innovators and Students:

Young people (especially ages 18–35) from universities, TVETs, and the local community form the backbone of the hackathon and startup pipeline. GIW2026 will reach out to student innovation clubs, recent graduates in agriculture or IT, and young farmers. The aim is to have hundreds of youth directly participate; as hackathon coders, startup founders, volunteers, and audience members. This continues GIW's youth-centric approach to drive bottom-up innovation and addresses youth unemployment by channeling talent into agribusiness.



Women Entrepreneurs and Farmers:

GIW2026 will ensure strong inclusion of women-led initiatives. Women are often the primary actors in value chains like horticulture and poultry but face barriers in scale and finance. Special outreach (through women farmer co-ops, Women in Tech chapters, etc.) will invite women to lead and participate in panels, pitches, and hackathon teams. By highlighting success stories of women agripreneurs, the event aligns with gender empowerment goals. At least 40% of participants are targeted to be female, building on GIW2025's example of elevating women innovators.



Agribusiness SMEs and Cooperatives:

Farmers' cooperatives, producer groups, and small & medium agribusiness enterprises will attend to showcase their products, learn about new innovations, and form business linkages. These stakeholders ensure practicality; they bring the on-the-ground perspective of challenges and can immediately benefit from solutions (e.g. adopting a new agri-tech or partnering with a startup). GIW2026 specifically targets cooperatives in the priority value chains (dairy co-ops, horticulture marketing groups, etc.) and will provide them subsidized access or exhibition space to encourage participation.



Investors and Financiers:

A range of investors; angel investors, venture capital funds, impact investors, social lenders, bank agribusiness departments, and even diaspora investors; are invited to GIW2026 as VIP participants. Their presence is crucial in the pitching sessions and financing track. The goal is to have numerous funders "in the room" so that promising ideas find pipelines to capital. In 2025, having banks and investors on-site led to immediate follow-up meetings for startups; in 2026 we plan dedicated investor engagement moments (like an investor-only roundtable and networking receptions) to deepen their involvement.



Development Partners and Donor Agencies:

Representatives from international development agencies, embassies, and donor-funded programs will be key participants. They often seek innovative projects to support or scale up. GIW2026 offers them a curated view of grassroots innovations aligning with their agendas (food security, climate adaptation, youth employment, etc.). We anticipate participation from agencies like USAID, GIZ, UN agencies, and foundations. These partners may also present their initiatives or funding opportunities during the summit, making GIW a convergence point for development programming in the region and the country at large.



National and County Government Officials:

Policy makers and implementers from relevant ministries and departments (Agriculture, ICT & Innovation, Trade, Youth, etc.), as well as county leadership from the region's counties, are critical participants. Their role is twofold: to provide enabling environment insights (speaking on panels, explaining policies or support available) and to listen and take up policy recommendations emerging from the forum. High-level officials (Principal Secretaries, County Executives) are expected to attend key sessions. An executive policy breakfast (see below) will cater specifically to their engagement. Their presence also demonstrates government buy-in to sponsors and media.



Academia, Researchers and Students:

Faculty members, researchers, and students from universities and research institutes will participate to share knowledge and potentially form collaborations. They will be involved as speakers (presenting research on climate-smart practices, for example), mentors in the hackathon, and judges in competitions. Their participation ensures scientific rigor and that innovations are informed by evidence. It also opens avenues for research partnerships (e.g. testing a prototype in a research station, as noted earlier)..



Diaspora and External Stakeholders:

With a Diaspora Innovation Engagement Forum planned, GIW2026 targets Kenyan diaspora individuals who have interest or expertise in agribusiness and technology. Many may join virtually, but some key diaspora investors or experts could travel to attend. Similarly, international participants (from other African countries or globally) interested in the thematic areas are welcome; such as members of the African innovation hubs, AfCFTA Secretariat representatives, or climate-smart agriculture experts. Their presence brings external perspectives and could foster South-South collaboration (for instance, connecting a Gusii startup with a partner in West Africa).

By clearly defining these target groups, GIW2026 ensures tailored outreach and programming for each. The registration and communication strategy will categorize participants to track diversity and inclusion. The success of GIW2026 will in part be measured by how many from each category attend and actively engage. For example, targets include at least 200 youth participants, 100+ women, 50+ investors/financiers, all major local cooperatives represented, and delegations from at least 5 different counties and 3+ international agencies. This rich mix creates an environment where a young coder might meet a bank CEO, a farmer might network with a researcher, and a county official might sit in a startup pitch – exactly the collisions needed to spark innovation and collaboration.

Expected Outcomes and Impact Targets for 2026

GIW2026 is ambitious in its expected impact, with clear, measurable targets to track success. Building on GIW2025's outcomes (which included 16 prototypes developed and broad multi-stakeholder engagement), the 2026 edition aims even higher. **Table 2** outlines the key performance indicators and targets for GIW2026:

Table 2: GIW2026 Impact Targets and Indicators

Impact Metric	GIW2025 (Baseline Achieved)	GIW2026 Target (Ambitious & Realistic)
Innovations (Tech Prototypes Developed)	16 prototypes developed at hackathon (Top 3 awarded) Note: ~10 incubated post-event via Agri-Tech AI Incubation Programme.	20+ prototypes developed during hackathon, addressing track-specific challenges; Top 10 to receive incubation support post-event.
Startups/MSMEs Pitching	~15–20 startups & MSMEs pitched at summit (estimated).	30+ startups/MSMEs to pitch to investors and partners during the summit and deal rooms (at least 6 per thematic track), spurring funding discussions.
Deals / MoUs Facilitated	Several MoUs and mentorship agreements initiated (≥5 in progress); at least 10 partnership or investment leads formed.	10+ formal deals/MoUs signed or firmly committed by end of event (e.g. investment deals, partnership agreements, pilot project MoUs). Follow-up mechanism in place to track their implementation post-event.
Strategic Partnerships Formed	4 thematic working groups formed for ongoing collaboration; new partnerships between startups, gov't and hubs noted.	15+ new strategic partnerships forged, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation working groups for each of the 5 tracks (industry, academia, government members) • At least one diaspora partnership (e.g. diaspora fund or mentorship program launched) • New sponsor or institutional partners committing to support GIW beyond 2026.
Participant Engagement	~300 in-person attendees (inaugural) across 5 days; plus community members at expo and online viewers.	800+ in-person participants over the week (more than doubling 2025), including international delegates. 1,500+ public visitors to open events (e.g. Food & Innovation Fair). Virtual reach: Live-stream audience of 1,000+, enabling diaspora and remote participation.
Public Awareness & Media Reach	Media reach ~500,000 via local press, radio, and social media; GIW2025 trended locally on Twitter; post-event report widely circulated.	1,000,000+ media impressions (print, broadcast, online) with coverage in national media and trending on social media (#GIW2026). Publish 2+ policy briefs (climate-smart agribusiness, youth innovation) for government and stakeholders. Secure on-site presence of media houses and produce a professional documentary of GIW2026.

Impact Metric	GIW2025 (Baseline Achieved)	GIW2026 Target (Ambitious & Realistic)
Follow-on Incubation and Pilots	Agri-Tech AI Incubation Programme launched to incubate top 15 teams; a Food Systems Innovation Platform (FSIP) initiated for post-event engagement.	<p>Launch at least 2 new programs as a result of GIW2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e.g. a Climate-Smart Agriculture Challenge Fund (with donors/banks) seeded to finance pilots an expanded GIW Accelerator Program to support 2026 innovators for 6-12 months. <p>Target 50%+ of prototypes from GIW2026 to progress into pilots or incubated ventures within one year.</p>

Table 2: Targets in bold are what GIW2026 commits to achieving, based on learnings from GIW2025 and scaled ambitions. These targets are designed to be **ambitious yet realistic**; stretching the team and partners to deliver more impact, while grounded in the growth trajectory observed (for instance, expanding to ~800 attendees is feasible with stronger outreach and support). The targets also align with national metrics (e.g. contributing to youth job creation, number of innovations supported) that would interest sponsors and policymakers.

By the end of GIW2026 we expect dozens of new technologies and business ideas for climate-smart food systems to be on a path towards scaling, backed by concrete partnerships and resources. We also expect heightened awareness and networking among stakeholders that will endure beyond the event; effectively strengthening the regional innovation ecosystem. A post-event monitoring plan will track these indicators (e.g. quarterly check-ins on MoU implementation, incubatee progress reports, media clippings count) to evaluate success and inform future improvements.



<p>800+ in-person participants targeted</p>	<p>20+ Prototypes to be developed during hackathon</p>	<p>30+ startups/MSMEs to pitch to investors</p>	<p>1,000,000+ Media impressions targeted</p>
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Strategic Program Additions for 2026

To enhance the quality and depth of GIW2026 without overburdening the agenda, a few strategic additions are planned. These new elements are designed to fill gaps identified in 2025 and provide more value to participants, sponsors, and the ecosystem. The additions include:

- Investor Roundtable:** A targeted, invite-only roundtable that brings together key investors (angel networks, venture funds, banks, impact investors) for a candid discussion on financing agrifood innovations. Scheduled as a pre-summit session or an evening side-event on Day 1 of the Summit, this roundtable will allow investors to share what they are looking for, discuss co-investment opportunities, and network among themselves. For startups, the outcomes of this meeting could mean refined understanding of investor criteria and possibly a collaborative agrifood investment initiative launched by several financiers. Importantly, having a closed-door forum ensures investors can speak openly about challenges (e.g. risk in agriculture, needed policy incentives) and then bring a unified message to the public sessions. This roundtable complements the open pitching sessions by addressing the “supply side” of capital in a focused way. It requires minimal extra logistics (just a boardroom and facilitator) but could significantly boost investor coordination and commitment at GIW2026.
- Food & Innovation Fair:** GIW2026 will host an expanded Food & Innovation Fair open to the public. This fair would likely be on Day 1 afternoon into early evening, at the Summit venue grounds. It combines a food festival (street food and indigenous cuisine showcase by local vendors) with an innovation bazaar (startup booths, tech demos, farmers' market stalls). The fair would be a vibrant, less formal extension of the Summit; allowing the general public, families, and school groups to engage with GIW. Attractions could include: a “climate-smart kitchen” competition where local chefs prepare dishes from indigenous crops, product launches by agro-processors (e.g. new jam or yogurt product tasting), and interactive demo stations (like a drone flying area or a mobile soil testing lab for farmers). By inviting the broader community, this fair increases public buy-in and awareness, and provides additional exposure for participants' innovations. It also does not conflict with core sessions, as it runs in parallel to late-day workshops or after formal panels, utilizing outdoor space. The Fair can be sponsored by food companies or nutrition programs, offsetting costs.
- Diaspora Innovation Engagement Forum:** Recognizing the interest of the Kenyan diaspora in contributing back home, GIW2026 introduces a forum specifically to engage diaspora innovators and investors. This could be a virtual hybrid event during the week (e.g. an evening webinar that coincides with morning in North America), and/or a physical roundtable if enough diaspora attendees are present on location. The forum will highlight diaspora success stories in agribusiness, present opportunities to co-invest or mentor local startups, and discuss mechanisms like a Diaspora Challenge Fund (which GIW2025 conceptually proposed) or diaspora-led agritech mentorship sub-committee. By structuring a dedicated dialogue, GIW can harness diaspora expertise and capital systematically, rather than just through ad-hoc attendance. The output might be a diaspora network linked to GIW that continues year-round. This addition requires coordination (and possibly tech setup for virtual), but taps into an enthusiastic stakeholder group with high potential impact and no major duplication of other sessions.



- **Executive Policy Breakfast:** To directly translate the Summit outcomes into policy action, GIW2026 will host a high-level "Executive Breakfast" on the morning of Oct 29 (Day 2). This early meeting (by invitation) would gather national and county policymakers, top donors, and industry captains in an informal setting. Over breakfast, the GIW organizers will present a brief on interim findings from Day 1 and key policy recommendations (e.g. ideas for innovation-friendly regulations, funding support, or public-private partnership models identified in the discussions). This format allows decision-makers to respond to ideas and possibly make on-the-spot commitments in a closed setting before the public closing ceremony. For instance, a county governor might commit to budget for an innovation hub, or a Ministry official might pledge to champion certain regulatory changes, when prompted in a small forum. The presence of development partners can add incentive (e.g. a donor could signal funds available if the government co-invests). The breakfast ensures that by the time the Summit ends, there is already policy traction and it avoids overloading the main agenda with lengthy policy dialogues. It's a minimal-addition event (just catering and a room needed) but can greatly increase GIW's influence on policy and resource allocation.

These strategic additions are carefully chosen to avoid duplicating existing sessions. Each serves a distinct purpose and stakeholder subset: investors, general public, diaspora, and policymakers respectively. They are scheduled at times or formats that do not conflict with core hackathon or summit activities (often leveraging early morning or evening slots, or parallel spaces). The organizing team will ensure these add-ons are well-resourced (through specific sponsorships and partnerships) so they do not strain the main event budget or logistics. In fact, they can enhance sponsor appeal; for example, a bank might specifically sponsor the Investor Roundtable or a ministry might co-host the Policy Breakfast. Overall, these program enhancements aim to enrich the GIW2026 experience, deepen outcome generation, and expand the event's reach and legacy, all while maintaining focus and manageability.



Budget and Resource Requirements

Delivering GIW2026 to a world-class standard will require a robust and well-structured budget. Based on GIW2025's experience, the projected budget for the 2026 edition (including pre-event and post-event activities) is on the order of **USD \$250,000**. This budget will cover all key cost centers needed to prepare, execute, and follow up on the event. **Table 3** provides a detailed breakdown of the proposed budget allocations by major category:

Table 3: GIW2026 Proposed Budget Allocation

Budget Category	Description of Expenses	Estimated Cost (USD)
Pre-event Preparation & Planning	Project management office, planning workshops (including the pre-hackathon problem mapping forum), stakeholder engagement meetings, promotion and outreach (marketing materials, website updates), and team coordination expenses. This includes personnel time for the organizing secretariat in the months leading up to the event, travel for planning visits, and any consultant fees for curriculum/content development.	\$10,000
Programme Execution (Content & Training)	Running the hackathon and summit content: mentor and judge stipends, facilitator fees for workshops, speaker travel and accommodation, content development (track session materials, printing of programs, hackathon coding resources like cloud credits), participant kits (badges, stationery, T-shirts). Also covers side events like the investor roundtable and policy breakfast (venue if separate, minimal catering). By investing here we ensure high-quality facilitation and knowledge delivery during GIW2026.	\$35,000
Venue, Accommodation & Logistics	Venue hire for all days (conference halls, breakout rooms, exhibition space), equipment and infrastructure (sound, projection, internet, generators), and on-site services (catering for participants, security, sanitation). Also includes participant support: accommodations or stipends for about 50 key participants (e.g. out-of-town speakers, hackathon finalists, judges) to ensure attendance, local transport/shuttle for tours, and logistics for the ecosystem tour (buses, site facilitation). Given the plan to expand to ~800 attendees, this is a major cost component	\$50,000
Prizes and Incubation/ Acceleration Support	Award funds for hackathon winners and pitch competition winners (cash prizes to at least top 3 hackathon teams and top 3 startups/MSMEs). Allocation to an Innovation Fund/Incubation program for post-event support including catalytic seed capital for up to 5 –10 ventures to prototype or pilot their solutions, as part of Agri-Tech AI Incubation Programme and follow-on Venture Studio acceleration under Fie-Ventures. This ensures GIW2026 commitments continue beyond the week. Donors or sponsors often appreciate this category as it directly supports entrepreneurs.	\$115,000

Budget Category	Description of Expenses	Estimated Cost (USD)
Media, Communications & Outreach	<p>Comprehensive media coverage and documentation: hiring a media team to handle social media live updates, photography, videography (including a summary video), press conferences and press releases, possibly a media partner (like a national broadcaster or newspaper) to run special features.</p> <p>Also covers design and printing of banners, backdrops, branded materials, and the post-event report publication. Outreach includes radio spots, local language announcements to draw the public to the Food & Innovation Fair, and live-streaming costs for virtual audience. Targeting a media reach of over 1 million requires dedicated investment here.</p>	\$10,000
Post-event Follow-up & Monitoring	<p>Resources to implement follow-up activities: organizing working group meetings after the event, coaching and mentorship for incubated teams, monitoring and evaluation of MoUs/deals progress, and continuous stakeholder engagement (e.g. newsletters, a mid-term workshop).</p> <p>This will include partial funding of the Food Systems Innovation Platform secretariat to ensure sustainability of partnerships formed. Essentially, it bridges GIW2026 and GIW2027, ensuring continuity.</p>	\$15,000
Institutional Capacity & Contingency	<p>Strengthening the capacity of the host institution (Fie_Labs and local partners) to host the event and future ones. This will involve training for the organizing team, minor upgrades to innovation hub facilities (better internet, co-working improvements for hackathon), and covering overhead costs.</p> <p>A contingency reserve for unexpected expenses (typically ~5-10% of total) is also included here to manage risks (e.g. last-minute venue changes, equipment failure backups, COVID-19 safety measures if needed). Building local institutional capacity is vital for GIW's sustainability, as noted in the 2025 post-event strategy.</p>	\$15,000
Total Estimated Budget		\$250,000

Table 3: The budget allocations are approximate and will be refined as planning progresses. They reflect lessons from 2025 where venue/logistics and participant support were significant costs, and also include robust funding for follow-up to ensure long-term impact. Notably, the budget envisions an expansion to ~800 attendees and enhanced activities (e.g. fair, tours), hence the increase relative to the inaugural event.

To finance this budget, a multi-source funding strategy will be employed:

- **Sponsorships:** Corporate and institutional sponsors will be offered tiered packages (e.g. Title Sponsor, Track Sponsor, Supporting Partner), with benefits such as branding, speaking slots, and exhibition booths. For example, a Title Partner contributing ~\$50,000 would get naming rights ("GIW2026 presented by...") and prominent visibility. Multiple mid-level sponsors contributing \$10k–\$20k each for specific tracks or prizes are expected (e.g. a bank sponsoring the Green Finance track).
- **Government and County Support:** As hosts, the County Governments of Kisii and Nyamira are anticipated to contribute in-kind support (venues, security, staff) and possibly direct budget allocations for the event (e.g. covering the ecosystem tour logistics or part of the venue cost). National agencies like KeNIA or the ICT Ministry may also allocate some funding, given GIW's alignment with national innovation goals.

- **Development Partner Grants:** Funding proposals will be submitted to development agencies and foundations focusing on agriculture, climate, or entrepreneurship. For instance, a EU-supported project could justify a grant to GIW2026 as it directly contributes to their objectives (capacity-building, market development, etc.). Multi-year donor support is ideal; GIW2025 reports suggest seeking ~3-year commitments (~\$ 750k) for sustained impact. Even if GIW2026 raises one-year support, framing it in the context of a longer journey can attract these partners.
- **Participant Fees and Exhibitor Fees:** While the core summit will remain free or low-cost for target participants (youth, farmers, etc.), a nominal registration fee or ticket for certain attendee categories (e.g. corporate delegates or international participants) could be instituted to offset costs. Likewise, profitable businesses taking up exhibition booths might be charged a fee (or sponsor the event in kind). A public Food & Innovation Fair might charge a small entry for general public or vendor fees, though primarily it's a community engagement.
- **In-Kind Contributions:** Many partners can contribute non-cash resources that effectively reduce the budget need. For example, a telecom partner providing free internet, a university providing venue space, companies sponsoring prize items (equipment or software credits), media partners giving advertising slots, or volunteers offering professional services. These will be actively pursued to leverage every dollar spent (GIW's collaborative model historically multiplied value through such in-kind support).

A detailed budget and fundraising plan will accompany this concept note to potential sponsors and donors, transparently showing how funds will be utilized and the return on impact they can expect. Regular financial reporting and a post-event audit will be conducted for accountability. Importantly, investment in GIW2026 is not just a one-off event expense; it is **an investment in a year-round innovation ecosystem** that yields tangible development outcomes (jobs, enterprises, partnerships, technologies for climate adaptation). The relatively modest sum of \$250k is poised to deliver outsized results, especially given local cost-sharing and volunteer contributions that stretch each dollar.

Alignment with National and Global Development Agendas

GIW2026 is deliberately aligned with Kenya's national priorities and broader continental and global development frameworks. By ensuring thematic relevance and reporting outcomes in these contexts, GIW2026 enhances its strategic value to policymakers and development partners. Key alignments include:

- **Kenya Vision 2030:** The event supports Vision 2030's economic and social pillars by promoting agricultural transformation, industrialization (through agro-processing), and youth employment. GIW's focus on agritech and climate-smart agriculture directly contributes to making Kenya a middle-income country with food security and enhanced value addition. Innovations and startups coming out of GIW2026 can feed into Vision 2030 flagship projects, especially under the agriculture and manufacturing sectors.
- **Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA):** GIW2026 aligns with the current government's BETA agenda, which emphasizes empowering ordinary Kenyans (youth, women, small businesses) and boosting sectors like agriculture for broad-based economic growth. By incubating grassroots solutions and facilitating MSME growth in the agrifood sector, GIW acts as a vehicle to realize BETA goals on agriculture, MSME development, and job creation. The Bottom-Up approach is evident in GIW's design – it literally brings innovators from the bottom (community level) up to interface with top decision-makers and markets.
- **African Union Agenda 2063 & CAADP/Malabo Declaration:** At the continental level, GIW2026 advances the AU's Agenda 2063 aspirations for inclusive growth, sustainable development, and empowering youth and women. Specifically, it answers the call for an Africa that feeds itself through advanced agriculture and value addition. GIW's emphasis on technology and innovation is in line with Agenda 2063's first aspiration (a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth) and seventh aspiration (Africa as a strong, united, resilient global player) by showcasing homegrown innovations. Moreover, GIW contributes to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) goals and the Malabo Declaration targets; including ending hunger and halving poverty by 2025 through agriculture. By

boosting agri-productivity, market access, and agribusiness investment, GIW2026 outcomes will support Kenya's CAADP commitments and provide a model that could be replicated in other regions. The African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and regional bodies will be looped in, as GIW exemplifies a localized initiative accelerating SDG and CAADP progress.

- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** GIW2026 is inherently an SDG-driven initiative. It directly addresses **SDG 2: Zero Hunger** by promoting innovations for food security and sustainable agriculture. It supports **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** through entrepreneurship and job creation in the agrifood sector, and **SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure** by fostering innovation ecosystems and agro-industrialization. The climate-smart theme targets **SDG 13: Climate Action**, demonstrating locally-led adaptation and mitigation solutions in agriculture. With strong partnerships and international cooperation aspects, it embodies **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals**. GIW2026's inclusivity also touches **SDG 5: Gender Equality** (women's empowerment in tech and agribusiness). Throughout the event, data and outcomes will be mapped to relevant SDG indicators where possible (e.g. number of sustainable agricultural technologies developed, number of youths trained or employed, etc.), to facilitate reporting to development partners and the government's SDG tracking.



- **Kenya's Policies and Strategies:** GIW2026 aligns with specific national strategies such as the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS), which calls for increased value addition, digital agriculture, and youth in agribusiness. It also complements the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy by showcasing innovations for climate adaptation in the sector. Additionally, the event fits within the Kenya National STI (Science, Technology & Innovation) Policy Framework, which promotes regional innovation hubs and commercialization of research. By aligning with these policies, GIW ensures that recommendations and prototypes from the event can be integrated into government programs or scaled with public support. Officials present can directly see how GIW outputs help achieve their ministry targets.

In essence, GIW2026 is not happening in isolation; it is a catalyst positioned within a larger developmental context. As noted by Kenya's Principal Secretary for Innovation during GIW2025, such initiatives "translate research into real impact" and should be sustained as part of the national innovation drive. By consciously linking GIW2026 to Vision 2030, BETA, Agenda 2063, CAADP, and the SDGs, the concept note speaks the language of potential sponsors and policy stakeholders. It reassures them that investing in GIW2026 yields multi-dimensional returns: local community empowerment and also progress on high-level commitments. This alignment will be reflected in all communication; from invitations to the final report, to demonstrate that GIW2026 is a strategic platform advancing common development goals.

Call to Action

GIW2026 is poised to be a transformative gathering that not only showcases innovations but actively drives the scaling of climate-smart solutions for Kenya's food systems. It builds on a strong foundation laid in 2025, incorporates critical lessons learned, and introduces carefully chosen enhancements to maximize impact without overreach. By convening a broad coalition; from a young coder in Kisii to a policymaker in Nairobi, from a smallholder farmer to a global donor; GIW2026 will create the synergies needed to turn ideas into investments, prototypes into products, and pilots into policies.

We invite **sponsors, donors, and strategic partners** to join us on this journey. Your support for GIW2026 is an investment in Kenya's future: in youth and women entrepreneurs, in sustainable agriculture, in local industries, and in the resilience of communities against climate change. The concept presented here outlines an ambitious but achievable plan; with your partnership, we can realize it. Together, let us scale up what works, bridge gaps where they exist, and ensure that the innovations nurtured in Kenya become a beacon for the country and Africa. GIW2026 will not only be an event to remember in October 2026; it will be a **springboard for lasting change**, resonating with the goals of Vision 2030, Agenda 2063, and the global call for sustainable development.

Next Steps: This concept note will be followed by engagement with potential partners to refine roles and contributions. A detailed implementation roadmap and regular planning updates will be shared to maintain transparency and momentum. As Prof. Abdulrazak aptly stated at GIW2025, "GIW is not a one-off event but part of a sustained innovation drive... let's get to work". In that spirit, we are rolling up our sleeves to make GIW2026 a resounding success and a catalyst for climate-smart agrifood transformation. We look forward to your positive consideration and collaboration in this endeavor.



