

# MAIS, Terra Industries, Launch National Drone Surveillance Programme to Safeguard Nigerian Farmlands

**T**erra Industries, a global leader in infrastructure security technology, has announced a strategic partnership with Mechanized Agricultural Investment Services (MAIS) Limited to deploy thousands of surveillance drones across Nigeria's farmlands—beginning with 40,000 hectares in Kogi State. The initiative, unveiled during the launch of the \$5 Billion Assured Invest™ Cooperative Trust Fund, marks a bold new step in protecting Nigeria's food supply chain by providing 24/7 aerial surveillance, persistent situational awareness, and rapid-response security for over 237,000 farmers nationwide. According to Benjamin Aduli, Chief Vision Officer of MAIS Limited, “This national drone programme will be deployed in phases, starting with our 20,000 rice farmers across eight LGAs in Kogi State. It reflects our commitment to protecting livelihoods and boosting food security.” The project leverages Terra's advanced drone platforms and proprietary operating systems to deliver continuous monitoring and threat response capabilities across agricultural zones. Nathan Nwachuku, CEO of Terra Industries, emphasized the urgency: “Our mission is simple—protect Nigerian farmers so they can feed the nation. Food insecurity is a national emergency, and this programme is simple—protect Nigerian farmers so they can feed the nation. Food insecurity is a national emergency, and this programme is a critical response.” Deployment of the first fleet of drones is already underway, with immediate plans to expand the programme across MAIS-supported farms nationwide.

In another development Maistrade Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited has unveiled a new \$5 billion financial initiative aimed at channeling cooperative capital into critical sectors of Nigeria's economy. The fund, named Assured Invest Cooperative Trust Fund, is designed to support national priorities such as agriculture, affordable housing, micro, small

and medium enterprises (MSMEs), education, green energy, and digital inclusion. Announcing the launch, the Cooperative Society described the fund as a bold step toward empowering Nigerians through inclusive and secure cooperative finance. According to the President and Chief Vision Officer of Maistrade, the AssuredInvest Fund represents more than just a financial product—it is a platform for millions to actively shape their economic future. “The AssuredInvest Fund is more than an investment model; it is a national call to action,” he said. “Through this fund, we are enabling millions of Nigerians to collectively shape their economic destiny through secure, trusted, and inclusive cooperative finance.” The fund introduces several distinctive features aimed at safeguarding contributor investments and enhancing transparency. These include a 10-year convertible debenture structure, supervision by independent



trustees, insurance-backed capital protection, and a split custodial account system to monitor fund movement. It also offers digital access to individuals, institutions, and Nigerians in the diaspora, with an ambitious target of onboarding over one million contributors in its initial phase. Maistrade Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited operates as a federated cooperative network comprising over 150 independent cooperative entities. With a membership base of more than 237,000 individuals and businesses spread across Nigeria's 37 states and territories, the society is positioning the AssuredInvest Fund as a major tool for cooperative-led economic development. This launch adds to a growing trend of alternative financing platforms in Nigeria aimed at addressing long-standing gaps in access to credit for underserved sectors.

# Digital learning boost: 50 million students to get free SIMs, tablets

A new private sector national initiative will see Nigerian secondary school students equipped with specially designed hybrid tablets and restricted-access SIM cards as part of a broad effort to enhance digital learning while curbing harmful internet use among minors. The project will launch in Abuja with an initial rollout of 5 million SIM cards, with plans to scale up to 50 million nationwide over the next five years. The program will operate through a centralized digital learning platform called SabiHub, which serves as a secure space for students, parents, and educators to access and share educational materials. The platform, according to the developers, will help standardize digital learning across schools, foster engagement, and provide real-time monitoring of content consumption.

While the first phase targets private schools, discussions are underway with education commissioners to extend the program to public schools. Unveiled during a press conference at Funtaj International School in Abuja, the initiative is a collaboration between OMobile World and telecommunications provider Globacom, with backing from key financial and educational institutions. The project aims to bridge the digital divide in education while addressing growing concerns over children's exposure to harmful content online. The SabiHub-branded SIM cards are designed exclusively for students, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of OMobile World, David Ogunbanjo, said, stressing that, unlike regular SIM cards, the special restricted SIM cards are pre-configured to limit access only to educational, recreational, and age-appropriate content. He said the cards will not be sold in open markets but distributed through partner schools and monitored by the National Association of Private Schools (NAPPS), ensuring tight control over their use. "This isn't just about SIM cards. It's about what they represent: inclusion, equity, and a future where no child is left behind simply because they lack access. "In a time when learning is moving online, when information is digital, and when opportunity is increasingly linked to connectivity, our children must not remain disconnected.

"That's why this partnership is so important. With Globacom's infrastructure and reach, and OMobile's educational and community-driven platforms, we are bridging the gap between access and impact. "Through the SabiHub platform, students will not only stay connected, but also gain access to curated educational resources, interactive

tools, and learning experiences designed for the world of today and tomorrow". Describing the project as a bold step into the future, Ogunbanjo said, "We are not just distributing devices. We are building a digital ecosystem where no Nigerian child is left behind."

Explaining further, David Ibrahim, Industrial Awakening's Missions Director said the digital learning project will introduce three key tools to enhance safe education access for Nigerian students. "These include hybrid learning tablets preloaded with educational content, specially designed SabiHub Glo-SIM cards that restrict internet access to age-appropriate, educational material, and a central SabiHub digital platform that connects schools, parents, and stakeholders to foster a secure and innovative learning environment. "Accompanying the SIMs are hybrid learning



tablets, tailored for school-aged children. The tablets will come preloaded with educational applications, e-learning tools, and interactive content," he said. According to the Mastrade Cooperative Society Ltd President and Chief Vision Officer, Benjamin Aduli, the devices will be given free to students. He noted that over 237,000 cooperative members are contributing at least ₦5,000 monthly to support the initiative. "We are targeting rural and

underserved areas especially. Every child deserves access to quality digital education regardless of background," Aduli said. Globacom's Head of Enterprises Division in Abuja, Julian Oun, assured that the telecom giant has the infrastructure to support the specialized SIM rollout. "Registration isn't a barrier; parents and guardians will register on behalf of the children. These SIMs are not for general retail; they are strictly tied to the schools and beneficiaries."

To provide further financial support for a wider rollout, First City Monument Bank (FCMB) has also joined the initiative. "Once credit requirements are met, we are ready to back the scale-up with the necessary financial support," said the bank's Head of Commercial for Abuja, Mukhtar Aliyu. Mrs. Rukayat Agboola, speaking on behalf of the National Association of Proprietors of Private Schools (NAPPS), praised the program as timely and necessary, saying, "We're seeing a worrying trend of students misusing digital devices, accessing pornographic sites, engaging in financial scams, and losing focus on academics. "This initiative offers parents peace of mind and keeps children grounded in purposeful learning."