

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**NASCO  
FEEDING  
MINDS**

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends, supporters, partners and volunteers.

It is with deep gratitude and emotion in my heart that I address you as president of NASCO Feeding Minds. Since the beginning of our work in 2012, our goal has been clear and transformative: to offer digital education to Ghanaian children and youth, to provide them with information, training and opportunities. All in the hope of preventing forced migration, an experience I unfortunately know first-hand.

I am immensely proud to share that we have managed to establish 17 digital classrooms to date. Each classroom represents an open door to a world of possibilities, a beacon of hope and a step forward in the fight against the lack of educational opportunities. More than 66,000 students have already passed through our classrooms.

In the year 2023 we have witnessed significant progress in digital education, women's empowerment and environmental projects, but we are aware that there is still much to be done. The ongoing promotion of quality education and the prevention of forced migration are complex challenges that require continuous effort and ongoing collaboration.

For this year 2024, our main objective will be to intensify the use of existing ICT Labs that offer basic training in the mornings, with the creation of Academies that will provide advanced training in the afternoons. These academies will offer more advanced digital training spaces and will be aimed at introducing young people between 16 and 25 years of age from the Sawla, Tuna, Bole and Gentilpe areas in Ghana (Africa) to the world of work. It is a project that seeks to address the gap between the student stage and the first contact of young people with the world of work, providing them with greater technological skills to seek professional opportunities and, ultimately, contribute to the development of their communities.

Friends, collaborators, partners and volunteers, together we are making it happen. We are creating sustainable and effective solutions to change the lives of students, building a better future for the communities and supporting the development of the country.

Dear NASCO Feeding Minds community, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that has been achieved and invite you to continue sharing a vision that is becoming more and more real.

Together, we are changing the world.

"If you give me a plate of rice,  
you feed me one day, but if you educate me,  
you will do it for more than 100 years."

**Ousman Umar**  
Founder and President of  
NASCO Feeding Minds



## **PROJECTS**

### **Educational:**

- ICT Labs - Digital Education
- Sports with Values - Soccer League
- Scholarships

# COMPUTER CLASSROOMS- DIGITAL EDUCATION

NASCO Feeding Minds creates computer classrooms and provides digital literacy training to prepare students to develop opportunities in the digital age.

Currently, we have created a network of 17 digital classrooms, the vast majority of them in rural northern Ghana to provide quality digital education to children and young people annually. Allowing them to acquire knowledge, develop their talents and create future opportunities without the need to migrate.

We provide a teaching, training and learning platform to develop the Information Technology skills necessary in the 21st century industry.



## New centers inaugurated in 2023

We began the activity in 2012 with the inauguration of the first classroom and currently we have a total of 17 computer classrooms. During 2023, we achieved significant milestones in our mission to promote digital literacy and equal opportunities. These are the new computer classrooms that we put into operation:

**January 19:** We inaugurated an ICT center in the Department of Political Science at the University of Ghana.

**January 24:** Opening of computer rooms in the St. Augustine RC group of schools and in the Sawla Girls Model. The digital divide is also a gender gap, which is why it was very important for the organization to be able to inaugurate the first digital classroom exclusively for girls. Digital education is provided to the 83 girls at that center.

**January 25:** The inauguration of the computer room in the Mempeasem Schools Cluster.



## Challenges and our continued commitment

Throughout 2023, we offered digital education in 58 schools through our 17 active computer classrooms. However, we encounter challenges which affect the use of our computer rooms on the part of some of the schools. Twelve of them have not been using our computer rooms for various reasons which has resulted in reduced attendance rate of 72.41%. Consequently, the total number of students has decreased from 7,312 to 6,681, which represents a reduction of 8.63%.

Initially, the total number of 7,312 students was comprised by 3,738 males and 3,574 females. At year end, attendance is 6,681 estudiantes, consisting of 3,451 males and 3,198 females. These figures represent a 7.68% reduction in the total number of men and a 10.52% in the total number of women.

### Impact

## 7.312 Students:

- 3.574 Females
- 3.738 Males



Changbalyiri schools stopped using the classroom due to the great distance between their schools and the center. Both St. Monica's Primary, JHS and Kulmasa Primary have their own computer rooms now and because of this they no longer need to use our computer rooms. The Kalba center was inactive in 2023, which had an adverse impact on accessibility, robustness and overall effectiveness. However, it is important to highlight the considerable progress made in the revitalization of the center. The center is currently fully furnished and awaits the final electrical connection step before it can be fully operational.

Some of the subjects taught in digital classrooms are basic computer concepts, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel and PowerPoint) and graphic design with Canva, among others.

## Collaboration with Cisco Systems: Official NetAcad Center

For the second consecutive year, we have the collaboration of Cisco Systems and NASCO has become an official NetAcad.Center. We offer ICT related training as well as teacher training whereby graduates receive globally recognized certificates within this sector.



## Collaboration with Profuturo

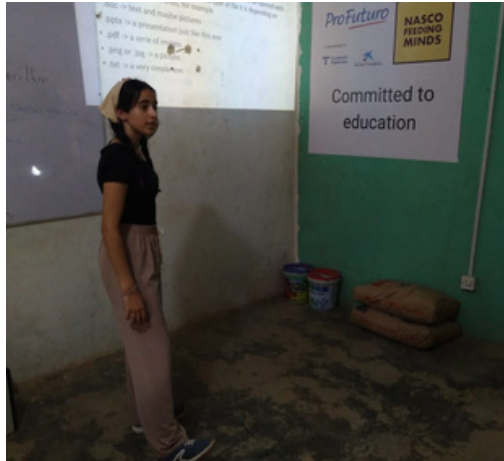
For the second consecutive year we have the support of ProFuturo, a digital education program of Fundación Telefónica and Fundación "la Caixa", whose mission is to reduce the educational gap in the world by providing quality digital education to boys and girls in vulnerable environments. Their functions are to train and accompany other teachers and directors of educational centers to ensure the acquisition of digital and transversal skills (management and leadership), as well as benefit children by incorporating digital content and tools to promote communication, cooperation and teamwork skills, and improve the learning experience in the classroom.





## Voluntary work

During the months of August and September, we host students from the UPC , Polytechnic University of Barcelona who volunteer as well as a private family who supports digital literacy through training sessions in Microsoft Office, social networks and photo editing.

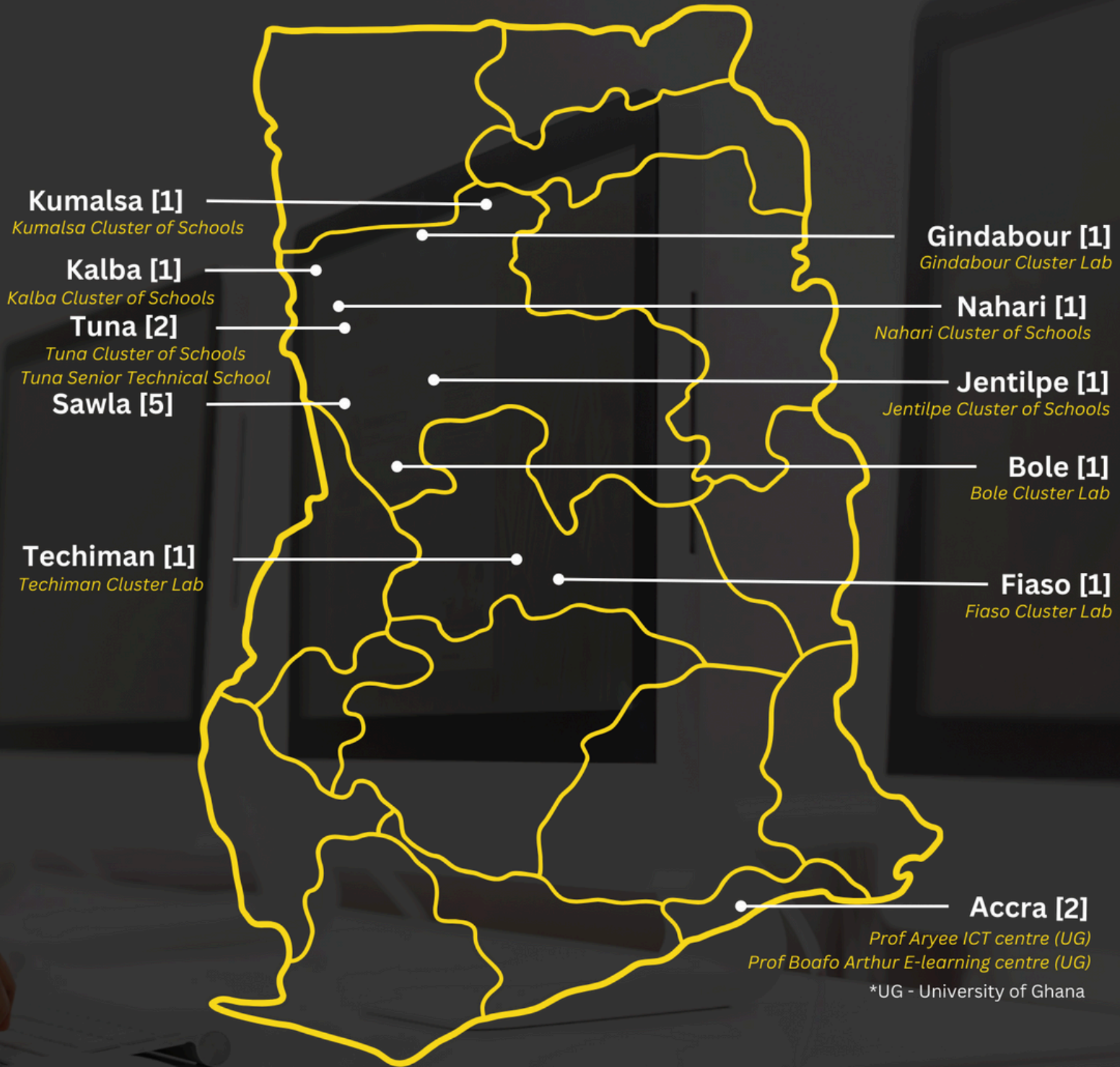


## ICT Training

Throughout 2023, we realized three important one month training programs in ICT for Ghanaian youth. Those who benefited were both students and the public in general. The participants were trained in intermediate level skills in Microsoft Office, cybersecurity, and graphic design with Canva. Over 100 participants attended the 3 sessions.



## A Map showing the 17 NASCO ICT Training Centres in Ghana



### The 5 Sawla NASCO ICT Centres locations

- St. Augustine's JHS
- D/A Junior High School
- Sawla Community Library
- Sawla Girls Model JHS
- St. Cyprien SHS

# SPORTS WITH VALUE

This is a Soccer league for Ghanaian children and youth at risk of social exclusion. The project seeks to preserve the right to the right to childhood and development through physical activity, play, leisure and the transmission of human values.

In 2023, the year concluded with a total of 232 players participating in four different categories (Under 10, Under 13, Under 15, and Under 17). Among these players, there were 226 males and 6 females. The players are from Sawla, Tuna, and their surrounding areas.

**Impact** | **232 Players**



**Nasco SC Under 13**



**Nasco SC Under 15**

The knowledge and practical experience acquired by our coaches during a program led by Coach Asprila in collaboration with the President of the Wa Regional Football Association (RFA) has been decisive in improving the team's performance in the upcoming tournament, organized by the Overlord of Bole Traditional Area (Bole Wura) for the 2023 Damba Festival celebration in Bole. The successful qualification of the Nasco Feeding Minds Sporting Club team for this prestigious event highlights a significant achievement, aimed at raising the level and reputation of the Feeding Minds Sporting Club within the local and international sporting communities.

They also participated in the Damba Tournament playing friendly matches organized by the Sawla Football Association.

# SCHOLARSHIPS

A scholarship program to finance university studies from beginning to end for youth who do not have the necessary financial resources. The scholarships are awarded to students with the best academic records and are part of our commitment with the communities.

In 2023, our scholarship program continued following 21 students. During this period, NASCO Feeding Minds extended the scholarship program for 5 young students who are studying abroad: three students in Barcelona (Spain) and two students who are majoring in Business Studies in Ireland within the framework of the program, Learn Africa, launched by the Women for Africa Foundation.

The other 16 young people who have benefitted from the remainder of scholarships are studying in different university degree programs in Ghana such as Computer Science, Nursing, Education and Medicine. Three of the students in the scholarship program have physical disabilities.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of students enrolled in the scholarship program compared to the previous year. This evolution emphasizes our commitment in providing support to students in the pursuit of their studies, regardless of their origin, religious beliefs or tribes. Furthermore, this reflects our dedication to foment inclusion and to offer equal opportunities for educational progress.

**Impact** | **21 Students**



## **PROJECTS**

### **Environmental - NASCO Climate Advocacy Program**

- Planting in Communities:
- Planting in Schools:  
Fruits for Education

# NASCO CLIMATE ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The fiscal year 2023 marks a pivotal period for the Nasco Climate Advocacy Program, offering a comprehensive overview of key developments and strategic initiatives. During this time, a total of 10,750 plants were successfully procured and 7,750 successfully planted (72.09%). This concerted effort spanned across eight (8) schools and five (5) distinct communities, reflecting our commitment to environmental sustainability and community engagement.

The underpinning motive behind this initiative aligns with our organisational commitment to climate change advocacy and the overarching principles of sustainable development.

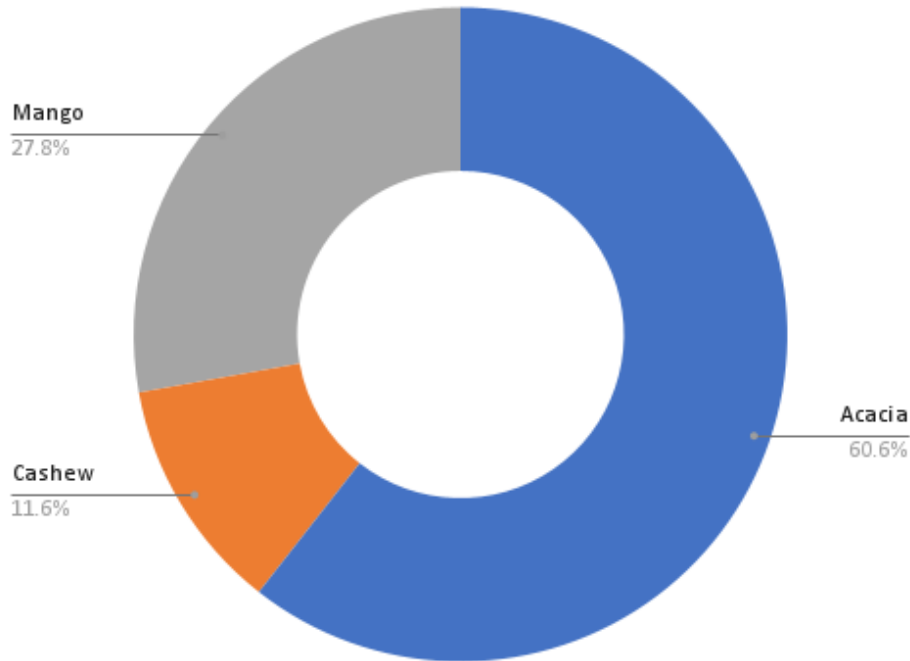
**Impact**

**8 Schools: +80 students**  
**5 Communities: 650 farmers**



## Tree planting

A total of 4,490 trees were planted in schools, communities and the Nasco farm. They were distributed as follows:



### 5 Communities

1. Jilinkon Farm
2. Kong
3. Kurfusi
4. Sanyeri
5. Yipala

### 8 Schools

1. Girls Model JHS - Salwa
2. Kalba Cluster of School
3. St. Agustin RC JHS
4. St. Francis
5. Sawla DA JHS
6. St. Monica's
7. St. Peter's - Tuna
8. Tuna DA JHS

## Planting in Schools/ Fruit for Education

In above listed schools, total of three hundred and ten (310) cashew plants and five hundred and fifteen (515) mango trees were planted across eight different schools.

The students planted under the supervision of Nasco Climate Ambassadors, and school patrons. They learned practical ways of planting and maintaining a tree.



## Planting in communities

During our community engagement, ten (10) individuals from each selected community were thoughtfully chosen to undertake the responsibility of planting the teak trees and serving as community ambassadors for our climate change advocacy program. It is vital to underscore that community engagement and involvement constitute pivotal components of the program's success. This initiative signifies a concerted effort to foster environmental awareness and promote sustainability.

An average of one hundred and thirty (130) farmers in each community were motivated by our advocacy/ community engagement activities to undertake the planting of five (5) Acacia trees each on their respective farmlands, reaching a total of 650 farmers in five (5) distinct communities.



## Sharing our commitment for the environment

In the last quarter of the year, we successfully organized a program for the Promotion of Climate Change in Sawla which included the participation of members of the Mundo Club Verde, community leaders, directors of schools, general managers and representatives from the Ghanaian Fire Brigade and the Office of Agriculture.



The main objective of the program was to inform the participants about the importance of tree planting and care and maintenance of green spaces. It is our hope that participants from diverse origins, strategically chosen for their resonance, share acquired knowledge and become defenders of environmental awareness and sustainability in their communities.



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## **PROJECTS**

### **Women's Empowerment**

- Honey Cooperative

# HONEY COOPERATIVE

The objective of the project is to empower women in the villages through labor inclusion and economic emancipation. And thus, being able to gain access to basic needs such as health, healthy eating and education.

During this year, 128 women actively participated in the project in 7 different communities: Jilinkon, Soma, Jang, Yipala, Yolyiri, Kodanyine 1 and Kodanyine 2. The impact of this action extends beyond these women to their families within these communities, reflecting a broader and indirect effect on the communities. In April, the honey harvesting project was successfully completed honey in three communities: Yolyiri, Yipala and Sansayiri.

**Impact** | **128 women**



Bee colony collection activities concluded in all communities in the third quarter, a milestone in beekeeping operations. Sales began after successfully harvesting honey in four communities, but adverse weather conditions in another four meant that honey was not produced due to lack of bees in the hives.

As a result, the total production for the year reached 150 liters which is a decrease of 23,08% compared to 195 liters produced the previous year. These results highlight not only the success of the productivity in these active communities but also the imperative need to apply measures in the remaining communities for their future optimization.

The year 2023 has been marked by achievements, challenges and valuable knowledge for the beekeeping project. Looking ahead, strategic efforts will focus on community engagement, expansion and optimization measures to improve the impact of the project and empower more women through the honey cooperative.

Quantities of honey obtained from each community:

# 150 liters

- Kunlog: 30 liters
- Yipala: 60 liters
- Yolyiri : 30 liters
- Sansa Yiri: 30 liters



In an effort to increase our existing beehives, 24 new hives were made. These were allocated to a group of women from Vondel, a disadvantaged community within the district of Sawla.

The challenge for 2024 will be to set up more programs which include participation and education within the community to provide the residents with the necessary beekeeping knowledge and skills. In addition, providing solid mechanisms of follow up and evaluation to control the performance of the new beehives and evaluate the impact of re-locating the hives in the community.



The final product can be purchased in Spain and the funds raised serve to continue keeping the Honey Cooperative project active to empower women in some rural areas of Ghana.

<https://www.mielmuria.com/es/tienda/90189-miel-solidaria-nasco-feeding-minds.html>

# **INTERNATIONAL PROJECT**

- Reffect Africa

# REFFECT AFRICA

Access to reliable electricity is the backbone of any modern economy. It is even more important in the context of the digital revolution. If African nations want to see their economies transform, access to reliable electricity must be a priority. Access is only the starting point; however, households and firms endure several hours a day without access to power. Even in instances in which power is available, brownouts are prevalent, thereby limiting end users' potential utilisation of electricity.

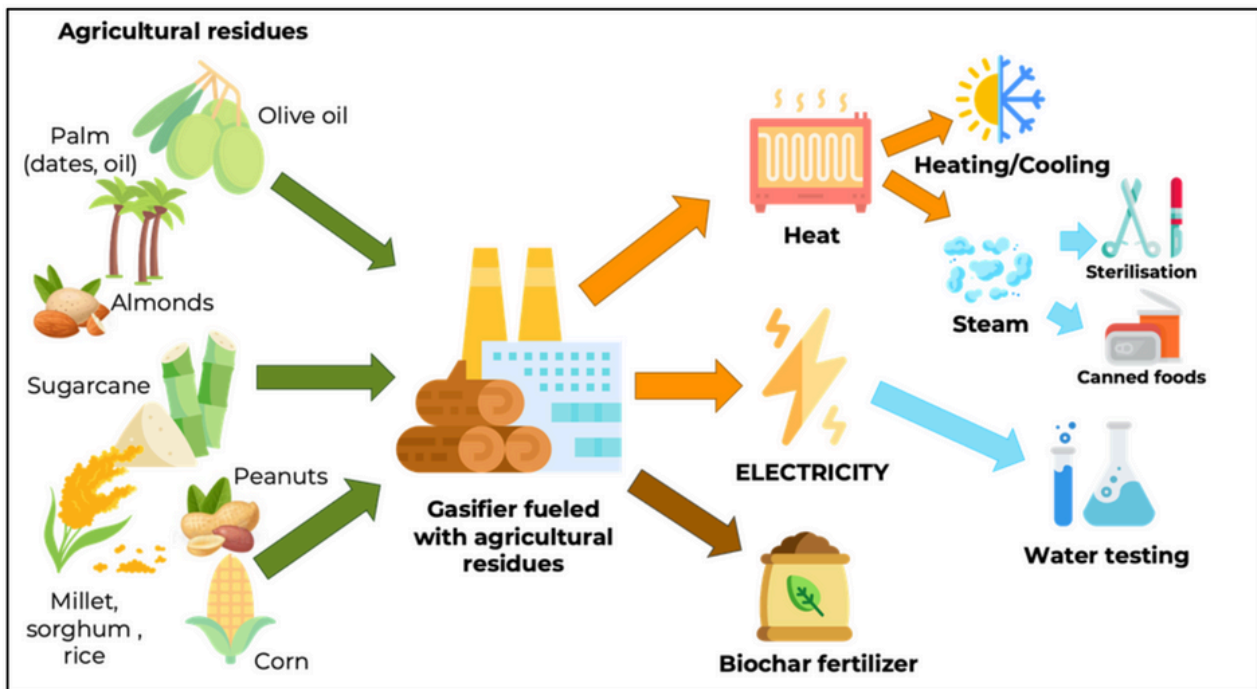
In order to tackle this, NASCO has been involved in the REFFECT AFRICA Project, in order to demonstrate innovative, reliable and adapted sustainable energy solutions based on the valorization of biomass wastes from agriculture and the food industry through biomass gasification.

REFFECT AFRICA will adapt and optimise these technologies to a wide variety of biomass wastes available in different regions. Three full- scale demonstrators will be built in Morocco, Ghana and South Africa to consider both urbanised and rural contexts in Africa, as well as different socio-economic backgrounds.

With the aim of closing all water- energy-food links, REFFECT AFRICA will work on obtaining biochar from the gasifier, which will be improved to provide a valuable fertiliser to local farmers. The demonstrators will include a robust but reliable water laboratory to provide their location with basic but often lacking testing services for their drinking and irrigation water.



The project will address the development of renewable energy sources, providing solutions for communities connected and not connected to the grid, and their integration into the existing energy system. It will also consider renewable energy generation, transmission and the use of storage systems.



## OBJECTIVES

1. Develop a technological concept for in situ treatment and energy reuse of the most important agri-food value chains.
2. Cover energy consumption of the 3 current locations (Ghana, Morocco, South Africa,) through valorization of local agri-food residue.
3. Make the agri-food sector of Africa become self sufficient in terms of supplying energy and independent from fluctuations of energy costs.
4. Create new jobs, sources of income and business models for the residents of these areas.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and Innovation programme under grant agreement N° 101036900

The logo consists of the text "NASCO FEEDING MINDS" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered within a white square with a black border.

**NASCO  
FEEDING  
MINDS**

**OFFICE SPAIN**

Via Augusta, 125,  
4th floor, room 8  
08006 Barcelona  
Mobile: +34 626 30 35 40  
hello@nascoict.org

**OFFICE GHANA**

7 Anderson Close  
Adenta, Accra.  
Mobile: +233 207 291 695

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