

What to Expect at the Official AI Unipod Launch and National Flag-off Ceremony Market Place.

Six sectors. Thirty-three startups. One launchpad.

■ EDTECH

Classrooms across Africa look different when you hand them the right tools. At AI Unipod, the EdTech startups are doing just that. Think VR and African storytelling used to teach children about oral health, robotics kits landing in school labs, and coding curricula finally built for the Nigerian context.

Not everyone learns the same way or has the same access. One startup here built its platform specifically for visually impaired learners, while another ships a tablet pre-loaded with STEM content, Nigerian languages, and WAEC/JAMB prep that works even without a stable internet connection.

AI is quietly changing how students study too. You will see tools that take a whole course PDF and turn it into summaries and practice quizzes tailored to the actual syllabus. And for students who have always found maths difficult, there are short AI-powered lessons designed to actually make it click.

■ HEALTHTECH

Getting the right care in Nigeria can still feel like a lottery. The HealthTech startups at AI Unipod are chipping away at that. One has built an AI that looks at your symptoms and history and connects you to the most suitable specialist, not just the nearest one. Another is linking hospitals through a shared health data network that has already gone live across multiple facilities.

Cost is as big a barrier as access. One startup lets informal workers set aside as little as 100 naira a day and automatically turns those savings into health coverage. It is a small habit with real consequences for people who have always fallen through the cracks of formal insurance.

Then there is a platform using crowdsourced health data to give communities real-time local health insights, the kind that governments and NGOs actually need to respond well. It caught enough attention to be featured at the Microsoft Global Hackathon in 2025.

■ AGRITECH & CLEANTECH

This is the biggest sector at the event, and for good reason. Nigeria loses billions every year to supply chain gaps, livestock death, and energy waste. The startups here are going after all of it. One has already moved 396 metric tonnes of produce by connecting over 2,000 smallholder farmers to export and institutional buyers through a proper cold chain. Another is cutting into the country's 1.5 billion dollar annual livestock loss with a co-ownership model and digital vet services.

Clean energy and waste are getting serious attention too. There is patented technology that takes waste and turns it into clean energy, fertilizer, and fire-retardant paint, with the Federal Government of Nigeria, Innovate UK, and the German environment ministry already on the client list. Another startup is recycling old fridges and air conditioners into solar-powered cold storage, which is a neat fix for a real problem.

On the farming side, a computer vision tool can detect disease in tomato leaves just from a photo taken on a phone. Cocoa farmers are getting GPS mapping and remote sensing to meet European deforestation regulations. And anyone tired of guessing when NEPA will return can check a crowd-sourced outage tracker covering all 36 states and every distribution company.

■ FINTECH & AI

Some of the most interesting fintech coming out of Nigeria right now is not inventing something new so much as fixing something old. One startup has taken the traditional esusu savings circle and built a proper digital product around it. Another is using AI to underwrite credit for African businesses in a way that does not depend on the kind of credit history most people here do not have.

Pharmacies might not sound like a fintech story, but one of the startups here is proving otherwise. Their AI system manages procurement across more than a thousand pharmacies and has cut losses by up to 30 percent. That is the kind of operational problem that was hiding in plain sight.

There are also platforms here working on savings access and regulatory infrastructure for people and businesses that existing financial products were never really designed for. The goal is not disruption for its own sake, it is coverage.

■ TOURISM TECH

Africa has no shortage of places worth visiting. What it has sometimes lacked is the tooling to make those places easy to find and book. The Tourism Tech startups at AI Unipod are building that. An AI travel platform puts together personalised itineraries and handles bookings in real time, while actually surfacing local guides and cultural spots that generic travel apps tend to ignore.

One startup is doing something particularly interesting with VR, scanning real locations across Africa and turning them into interactive 360-degree experiences you can explore from your phone. It is a way to let people experience a destination before committing to the trip.

Across all three startups in this sector, the common thread is giving local knowledge a proper platform. Whether that is a guide in Lagos or a hidden attraction in the South-South, these tools are built to make sure tourism money finds the people and places that deserve it.

■ DATA & DEEP TECH

Not everything at AI Unipod is an app. The Data and Deep Tech startups are building further down the stack. One has developed data acquisition and decision-making infrastructure already being used by governments and large enterprises across public health, mining, energy, and consumer goods. It is the kind of foundational work that makes everything else run better.

Then there is a drone built specifically to clean the glass facades of mid-rise buildings. It is a practical robotics solution aimed at a maintenance task that is genuinely difficult and expensive to do at scale. Straightforward in concept, but technically serious.

Alongside it, a miniature robotic arm prototype built at UNILAG shows what is being developed inside the university. It is early stage, but it is a signal that applied engineering talent is growing here, and that not all of it will end up somewhere else.