

GOLD FOR GROWTH

Event Press Release:
Workshop

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, CREATING GLOBAL VALUE

In Taraba, a model of mining formalization is born, uniting communities, institutions, and enterprises.

Jalingo, Taraba State (Nigeria) | October 16–17, 2025

The *“Gold for Growth”* Workshop, organized by the Bureau for Solid Minerals and the Government of Taraba State, in collaboration with Legacy River International marked a turning point for Taraba’s artisanal mining sector. The event brought together government authorities, international experts, and mining cooperatives, laying the groundwork for the formalization of artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) communities and the creation of a transparent, regulated, and sustainable gold value chain. It is with this spirit that *“Gold for Growth”* was born – not as a project to be presented, but as a collective and profoundly necessary act.

For the first time, over 250 artisanal miners from across Taraba State, together with government officials and community representatives, gathered to bring the *“Gold for Growth Workshop”* to life – a historic step toward the formalization of artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Taraba.



The workshop marks the beginning of a shared vision of responsible mining development, grounded in the recognition of the human and professional value of artisanal miners, with the aim of transforming Taraba’s mineral wealth into a driver of inclusive and sustainable growth for the entire region.

The Strategy of the Taraba State Government: Regulate to Prosper

Declaring open the formalization process, Hon. Peter Abel Diya emphasized that the establishment of the Bureau for Solid Minerals represents a strategic move by the state administration to regulate and supervise mining activities throughout the territory.



"We have established a clear and modern regulatory framework to ensure that mining activity contributes to security, sustainability, and economic diversification," stated Diya. "Executive Order 001 prohibits all forms of illegal mining and mandates that every operator must be profiled and approved by the Government of Taraba State. Our goal is simple: to turn gold into a shared source of growth."

He further highlighted that the workshop aligns fully with the state government's vision – one focused on the sustainable management of natural resources, the creation of local employment, and the promotion of responsible mining practices.

Training, Safety, and Justice as Pillars of Change

During the workshop, government representatives reaffirmed the centrality of technical training and legality in the formalization process.

The Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Hon. Yakubu Maikasuwa (SAN), stated:

"Only those who comply with the provisions of the mining law will be allowed to operate in the State. Those who do not will see their activities suspended. Legality is the first step toward prosperity."



The Permanent Secretary of the Bureau for Solid Minerals, Hon. David Masse, stressed the importance of training as a key instrument for real transformation within the sector:



"This training is essential to gradually abandon outdated and unsafe mining methods, providing miners with the knowledge and tools for safer and more efficient operations. The Bureau for Solid Minerals was created to ensure that the wealth derived from our minerals is fairly distributed among all citizens."

The Contribution of Green Mining Italia: Innovation, Training, and Local Value Addition



Representing Green Mining Italia, contributions were made by Dr. Geol. Edoardo Ghirelli, Dr. Ria Hinds, Dr. Geol. Nazzareno Romani, and Dr. Vito Pignatelli, bringing a multidisciplinary perspective that combined technical, environmental, and social expertise.

Green Mining Italia Srl is an Italian innovative SME dedicated to developing sustainable and responsible mining models that integrate technology, environmental protection, and

social inclusion. The company promotes the formalization and enhancement of artisanal mining activities as instruments for shared growth and territorial progress.

The team's contribution went beyond the technical dimension, addressing in depth the formalization of artisanal gold mining as a lever for socio-economic development within local communities. Throughout the training sessions, concrete models were presented for cooperative organization of miners, ethical gold traceability, and integration of mining practices into regional environmental policies.

Special attention was given to training on eco-friendly extraction technologies, enabling the elimination of mercury use in gold recovery processes, as well as to the theme of local value addition. Through practical examples and technical demonstrations, Green Mining Italia demonstrated how the adoption of clean, efficient, and scientifically validated extraction and refining techniques can generate measurable and tangible impacts on local economies. These practices not only improve production performance but also transform mining into a true engine of local development, capable of generating skilled employment, social inclusion, and trust in international markets.



The Contribution of Green Mining Italia: Innovation, Training, and Local Value Addition

In this framework, the economic value of gold does not lie solely in the metal itself, but in the chain of responsibility, knowledge, and transparency that accompanies it from mine to market. By providing direct training to miners and supporting the creation of local micro-value chains, Green Mining Italia promotes a model of community autonomy, where technical know-how remains within the territory, fostering an equitable redistribution of value and reducing dependence on large-scale intermediaries.

This approach integrates environmental sustainability, production efficiency, and human development, proving that a formalized artisanal mine can become a hub of stability, innovation, and progress, rather than a source of vulnerability or fragility.

Thus, technology is not conceived as an end in itself, but as a tool for economic and social empowerment, capable of restoring dignity to mining work and reconnecting extraction to its original purpose: to serve the community and the land from which it derives value.

Green Mining Italia also outlined the mission of the Gold for Growth 2025 program, stating:

“Our shared objective is to support a process of formalization in artisanal mining that not only creates value, but also builds trust, safety, and prosperity for the State and its communities. Mining is not merely a technical act — it is a human and transformative process.”



All activities were conducted in close cooperation with state officials and representatives of mining cooperatives, with the aim of promoting good operational practices and replicable models of sustainable mining governance.

The Impact on Local Mining Communities

For the first time, miners from various gold-producing areas of Taraba State were able to engage directly with government representatives and international experts.

The event became a historic forum for dialogue and mutual understanding, where mining communities shared their experiences, daily challenges, and commitment to working in a transparent and sustainable manner.

A representative of one of the local cooperatives emphasized:

“Our goal is not only to extract gold, but to do it in a way that brings lasting benefit to our people. With technical and organizational support, we can show that artisanal mining can be responsible, regulated, and a source of pride for our communities.”

The dialogue between government, private sector, and local communities highlighted participatory formalization as a key instrument for social stability, conflict prevention, and shared value creation along the entire gold supply chain. It is not a process imposed from above, but a co-created pathway, where every actor — public or private, technical or community-based — plays an active role in defining a transparent, traceable, and socially equitable mining model.



Each mining community that took part in the workshop received an Official Certificate of Participation, a document that goes beyond symbolic value: it marks the beginning of a process of recognition, accountability, and structured collaboration among all parties involved. Each certificate represents a shared commitment to build a win-win mining system, where institutions, experts, and miners share benefits, knowledge, and responsibilities, strengthening the bond between legality, productivity, and human development.

This vision is founded on the idea that mineral wealth belongs to the territory and must translate into collective well-being, through education, decent work, and extraction practices that respect life, land, and the memory of the communities that inhabit it.

A Shared Commitment to Create Value Beyond the Mineral

Gold for Growth has proven to be more than a training event — it has become an operational starting point for systemic change in the way local gold extraction is conceived, where knowledge, ethics, and inclusion become instruments of progress.

Through the collaboration between Legacy River International, Green Mining Italia, and the Government of Taraba State, a living laboratory of human, technical, and institutional development has been established — a space where scientific expertise meets local wisdom, and where economic value reconnects with social value.

This approach inaugurates a new grammar of mining cooperation, based on co-responsibility, traceability, and mutual respect. Gold extraction is no longer viewed as an act of exploitation of the land, but as a process of restitution, in which every gram of metal represents trust, dignified work, and harmony between communities and their environment.

The vision shared by all partners places people and territory at the center: the miner becomes a guardian of his own wealth, the government a guarantor of legality and safety, and technology means of empowerment and transparency.

In this perspective, *Gold for Growth* is not merely a technical or institutional project — it is a collective commitment toward a responsible mining future, capable of generating local value beyond the mineral — a human, social, and cultural value that can inspire a new generation of mining practices founded on justice, cooperation, and genuine sustainability.



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