



A Toolkit for Impact Film Screenings: Empowering women in agrifood systems



WORLD
FOOD
FORUM

GLOBAL
YOUTH
ACTION



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE
WOMAN FARMER
2026



We speak of impact screenings when we use film as an advocacy tool to foster dialogue, learning and action on a determined topic. World Food Forum (WFF) impact screenings are designed to create spaces for conveying collective reflection and action for more inclusive, sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.

The WFF Impact Screenings general guide has been designed by the [WFF Youth Initiative](#) to encourage the adoption of youth-centred communication for raising awareness on multifaceted issues around agrifood systems - from social issues, such as gender equality, food heritage and Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems to technical challenges, such as biodiversity preservation, climate resilience and beyond.

You can access the general guidelines on how to host an impact screening for agrifood systems transformation [here](#) and [some communication templates and useful materials here](#).





About this spotlight guide for the International Year of the Woman Farmer

This impact screening spotlight guide has been designed with the objective of amplifying the advocacy efforts around the 2026 International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF) using film as a communication tool through the organization of impact film screenings worldwide that highlight the central role that women play across agrifood systems and foster the conversation on persistent inequality in the sector.

Bringing women and communities together

These screenings should aim to bring together diverse voices and perspectives around women's empowerment in agrifood systems. They are particularly suited for engaging with:

- women farmers, women-led cooperatives and producer organizations;
- youth and women's associations active in agrifood systems and rural development;
- civil society organizations and NGOs working on women's empowerment, food security and agrifood systems;
- students, educators and academic communities to organize educational events in the context of the International Year of the Woman Farmer; and
- policy makers and public institutions.



Do you want to host a film screening?

If you are interested in hosting a screening focused on women's roles in agrifood systems, this guide is a great place to start!

Choose a film from our [catalogue](#), follow our [step-by-step guide](#) on how to organize an impact screening and [check out useful resources here!](#)





Our IYWF film selection

Led by young film directors, since its launch in 2021, the WFF Youth Film Festival has recognized over 50 films focusing on rural transformation, climate action, biodiversity and women's empowerment.

You can download some useful templates from our Communication Package here!



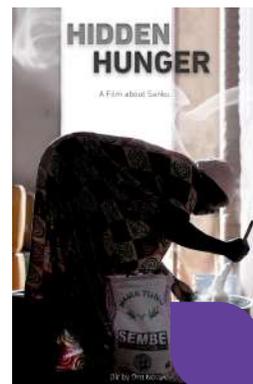
Hidden Hunger

WATCH TRAILER

Director: Orit Novak

About the film: Shedding light on East Africa's hidden malnutrition crisis, Hidden Hunger centres the stories of women leading change, driving Sanku's fortified maize project to fight illness, improve nutrition, and secure a healthier future for their communities.

Perfect for a screening about: malnutrition, food security, women's leadership



Usugilix Awakun

WATCH TRAILER

Director: Palmer Morse & Matt Mikkelsen

About the film: In the waters off the remote island of Iluuluġ or so-called Unalaska, Alaska, toxic algal blooms are mysteriously infecting filter feeding fish. After a community member dies from eating blue mussels, a staple cultural food, Unangaġ scientist Shayla begins working with her tribe to research and understand the harmful blooms and what might be done about them.

Perfect for a screening about: Indigenous women's knowledge, women in STEM, climate change

Millet: Fields to Meals

WATCH TRAILER

Director: Pranjal Joshi

About the film: Once a humble grain of the past, millets are reemerging as food for the future. From nourishing farmers with ragi soup and bajra bhakri to inspiring urban cafés with millet wraps, they embody resilience, heritage, and innovation, sustaining both body and tradition amid changing times.

Perfect for a screening about: food heritage, innovation, nutrition



The Harvest

WATCH TRAILER

Director: Laura Boada

About the film: When Nina and Maria's harvest is rejected, mother and daughter enter one of Europe's largest food markets. Together they strengthen their relationship as they face this challenge.

Perfect for a screening about: smallholders and family farmers, access to land, food markets, intergenerational cooperation and generational knowledge transfer

How to choose the right film:

When selecting a film for your impact screening, please contact the WFF Youth Culture and Food Heritage Team at culture@world-food-forum.org.

Next, consider both a thematic focus on the IYWF and define your target audience. Based on this, choose a film that resonates with your local context, highlights women's lived experiences in agrifood systems, and could spark meaningful discussion and concrete follow-up action.



A. Facilitators' spotlight guide: The 4S facilitation principles

SCOPE

Frame the impact screening around one of the key messages of the International Year of the Woman Farmer and clarify the purpose of the screening. This means:

- **Contextualize** the film and panel discussion within the global advocacy of the IYWF and beyond.
- **Remind** the audience that the screening is not just cultural, but part of a broader international moment of visibility, advocacy and policy attention.
- **Clarify** to the audience the objectives of the IYWF, the screening and its activities.

SYSTEMS

Guide the conversation to explore how collective action can address the issues explored in the film, reminding the audience that gender inequalities in the agrifood sector are systemic and structural, not standalone and individual. This means:

- **Highlight women's contribution to agrifood systems** and how power dynamics, social norms and gender roles undervalue them.
- **Avoid portraying women as victims or exceptional heroes.**
- **Discuss how intergenerational dialogue and youth-led action can advance equality** in agrifood systems and reduce barriers and gaps.

STORIES

The IYWF is meant to be a moment of global advocacy placing women and their stories at the center of the conversation, make sure to align your screening discussions around this principle. This means:

- **Start with people, not with concepts:** avoid complex theoretical openings that speak about women farmers, instead leverage real life examples. In doing so, remember to respect confidentiality and uphold safety standards throughout the event.
- **Break the fourth wall:** help participants connect emotionally and engage directly with the audience through reflexive questions. You can use interactive tools such as Mentimeter or Slido for live polls, word clouds or simple icebreaker questions related to women in agrifood systems.
- **Connect the dots:** start connecting the film's key topics to the lived realities of your target audience. Study your audience to ask the right questions and make the right links.

SOLUTIONS

Conversations on gender inequality can easily channel frustration and disillusion among participants. Facilitate the conversation to balance discussion of challenges with solutions and discuss concrete follow-up actions. This means:

- **Highlight resilience and leadership of women,** especially young women and success stories.
- **Open the floor for suggested solutions and collaboration,** also using digital tools and workshop materials.
- **Provide, at the start, a name/organisation badge for each participant and consider organising a post-event activity** (e.g. reception or networking event) to ensure they connect after the event.



B. **Activities spotlight guide: during and post-screening**

In the following pages, you will find a guide on how to create a compelling event agenda and warm-up the room with a number of activities.

B.1. Introduction



OBJECTIVES

- To frame the screening objectives and showcase their alignment with a global advocacy initiative;
- to familiarize the audience with the principles of the IYWF and the key topics of the screenings; and
- to connect global advocacy to lived realities.

PREPARATION

- Select a speaker who can share personal experiences and leverage the feelings of the audience.
- Remember that representation matters: give the floor to women farmers, Indigenous women, young women, rural women, women scientists and anyone who can speak to the topics of the IYWF in a sincere and personal way.
- Prepare one slide that summarizes the objectives and key messages of the IYWF to be shared with the audience after the talk.

Do you need help selecting a young woman speaker? Reach out to culture@world-food-forum.org!

WHAT HAPPENS

Keynote speech

- The talk, delivered by a woman leader, will help frame the IYWF starting from direct experience and real-life examples.

Overview of the IYWF

- Building on the talk, the facilitator can present one slide about the IYWF and its key messages.

TAKE IT FURTHER

Ask the audience to engage in the conversation by sharing their personal connections to the IYWF and how the talk resonated with them.

Examples of questions include:

- How do you view your own connection to agrifood systems? (For women in the audience)
- Which aspects of women's roles within agrifood systems do you think is rarely shown?
- Why and how is gender inequality exacerbated when it comes to young women?

B.2. Film for advocacy

OBJECTIVE

Familiarize the audience with the concept of youth-centred communications and how it is possible to use films as a tool for discussing complex topics and current challenges.

TIME
4–6 minutes

PREPARATION

Reach out to the WFF Youth Culture & Food Heritage Team to contact the film directors for their remarks.

WHAT HAPPENS

Introduction to the concept of impact screening

- The facilitator briefly explains what it means to organize an impact screening and how film can be used to channel conversation about agrifood systems.

Film director remarks

- The film director will share their remarks with the audience, sharing the experience that brought them to focus on that topic and what they hope the impact screening will achieve.



B.3.

Post-screening discussion

OBJECTIVE

Create a space for collective reflection and dialogue, helping the audience identify possible solutions, actions or follow-up initiatives related to the film's themes.

TIME
20–30
minutes

PREPARATION

- Identify and invite panelists with diverse and relevant perspectives (e.g. a woman farmer, a policymaker, an educator, a student or an entrepreneur).
- Prepare a concise set of two or three open-ended questions to guide the panel discussion. First, identify the main film theme you wish to focus on, then consult the question bank on the next page, organized by thematic cluster.
- Ensure the panel discussion concludes with a solution-oriented question that encourages participants to reflect on concrete follow-up actions.

POTENTIAL FORMAT

Short panel

Invite the panelists to reflect more deeply on the film's themes and key takeaways. The thematic clusters on the next page will help you reflect on the topics that most closely align with the film and structure the discussion around gender gaps.

Audience reflections

Give the floor to the audience. Emotional and personal questions are a powerful way to open the conversation and capture immediate reactions after the screening.

Example of questions you can ask:

- Which image from the film stayed with you the most?
- At what moment did the story feel close to home?
- How would you describe the film in two words?

Role of women in agrifood systems

- In your view what types of work were essential yet invisible? Do you notice any differences compared to your own country/community?
- If the film had followed one woman for ten more years, what future would you imagine for her?
- In situations of crisis or uncertainty regarding land, income, climate or social context, which forms of protection become most critical for women farmers within agrifood systems? Access to land and resources, ensuring food and healthy nutrition, family protection, preserving traditions or defending dignity, agency and self-determination?

Power dynamics and access to resources and opportunities

- Which barrier appeared most difficult to overcome: cultural norms, economic constraints, policy frameworks or time?
- What forms of access (land, credit, education, technology) were central to women's empowerment in the film?
- Which resources appeared most difficult for women to secure, and why?
- How do structural inequalities limit access differently across various contexts?

Women as custodians of food heritage

- What kinds of food-related knowledge do women carry that is rarely taught in schools, written in manuals or formally recognized, yet is essential to everyday food systems?
- In the film, did tradition empower women by giving them knowledge and authority? Did it confine them to roles that remained undervalued or unpaid? Can tradition be both a source of strength and a structural limitation at the same time?
- Women have historically been responsible for cooking, feeding families and preserving food cultures, yet professional kitchens, culinary awards and public recognition are dominated by men. Why do you think this paradox exists?

Climate, sustainability and adaptation measures

- In the film, how were women positioned in relation to climate change?
- Were women shown mainly as people who endure environmental crises or as people who actively shape responses and solutions?
- Which acts of women-led adaptation quietly hold the system together? Care or innovation?

Women in STEM: knowledge and access to the future

- Which barriers prevent women from fully accessing STEM education, tools or leadership roles in agrifood systems?
- How have your personal backgrounds, values, or lived experiences influenced the scientific paths you've chosen and how do you think women's perspectives can shape research priorities in ways that traditional science has often overlooked?
- What conditions are needed to ensure that more young women can pursue careers in STEM, and how can institutions help scale and sustain these women-led solutions across different contexts?
- Based on your different roles in STEM, how do you see women and girls contributing uniquely to interdisciplinary solutions? And what needs to change to ensure their work is recognized, supported and trusted at both local and global levels?

B.4.

From challenges to solutions

OBJECTIVE

Help participants identify concrete solutions to the challenges raised in the film and explore synergies for local action within their own communities.

TIME
(OPTION 1)
20–30
minutes

TIME
(OPTION 2)
45–60
minutes

AUDIENCE

A workshop-style format is optional and it works perfectly for screenings involving audiences such as schools, youth organizations, community groups, educational associations and organizations operating in the agrifood sector.

POTENTIAL FORMAT

Option 1: Solution-focused discussion (20–30 minutes)

Recommended if you have limited time.

Use guided questions to help the audience reflect and propose possible actions. Encourage short, concrete responses and capture ideas on a flipchart or shared document.

Suggested guiding questions:

- Did this movie inspire you to organize an activity to address one of the issues discussed? If yes, what kind of activity?
- Is there an action you could realistically organize in your community (school, university, church, scouts, youth group, association, etc.)? Who might be a good partner for this activity (e.g. NGOs, local authorities, teachers, parents, youth groups)?
- What is one small but achievable step that could be taken in the next three months?

Option 2

If you have more than 30 minutes, opt for a workshop format.

Step 1: Group formation

Divide participants into working groups of 10–15 people maximum.

Step 2: Assign a challenge

Each group receives one key challenge related to the film's themes (e.g. climate resilience, women's empowerment, safeguarding or revitalising food heritage).

Step 3: Solution-oriented exercise

Ask each group to design an activity they could realistically organize themselves, using the following guidelines:

- What problem are you addressing?
- Who is your target group?
- What concrete action will you organize?
- Which local partners or stakeholders could support this initiative?
- What resources are needed (e.g. space, people, materials)?
- What would success look like?

Step 4: Sharing and wrap up

Each group briefly presents their idea (two or three minutes).

They identify common themes, overlaps, and opportunities for collaboration.



Rather than prescribing a rigid format, the guidance presented here encourages adaptation to local contexts, audiences and priorities. Whether the screening is hosted by youth groups, academic institutions, civil society organizations or public bodies, the aim remains the same: to ensure that storytelling becomes a catalyst for awareness, participation and locally grounded impact.

Please ensure that, during the event, the audience completes the [impact-assessment surveys](#) to help us track audience's feedback and measure the event's immediate impact. Also, we kindly encourage you to share feedback about the event by emailing culture@world-food-forum.org.



WFF Youth Film Festival Award Ceremony

Are you ready to host a film screening?
Contact us to get started at
[**culture@world-food-forum.org**](mailto:culture@world-food-forum.org)