



GLOBAL YOUTH ACTION PLAN 2025–2026 OUTCOME REPORT 2025

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Introduction to WFF Youth Assembly and Youth Policy Board

The World Food Forum (WFF) [Youth Assembly](#) is a year-round, open and inclusive platform led by the Youth Policy Board (YPB). It brings together young individuals, organizations and constituencies to co-create policy priorities, exchange knowledge and develop joint recommendations and solutions. Through regional policy dialogues and global thematic consultations, the Youth Assembly fosters collective youth action on agrifood systems, sustainability and the broader objectives of the SDGs. The Youth Assembly also builds a unique bridge between youth-driven insights and global policy frameworks. By creating spaces for intergenerational dialogue, it ensures that young voices are heard and meaningfully reflected in policy recommendations.

The YPB is an independent group of change-makers from diverse regions and backgrounds that leads the WFF Youth Initiative's work on youth policy positions. The YPB sets strategic priorities, plans activities, defines discussion agendas, contributes to key outcome documents and ensures youth perspectives are represented in key intergovernmental processes.



BRINGING YOUTH TO THE
FOREFRONT OF AGRIFOOD
SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION
TOWARDS INCLUSION AND
SUSTAINABILITY



Introduction to the Global Youth Action Plan 2025-2026

The WFF [Global Youth Action Plan \(GYAP\) 2025–2026](#) acts as a two-year blueprint to guide the activities of the YPB, the Youth Assembly Secretariat and relevant stakeholders.

The GYAP was shaped through four years of inclusive consultations that brought together farmers, Indigenous youth, parliamentarians, youth organizations and other stakeholders to define actionable items and embed diverse perspectives to transform agrifood systems.

The process began with a global consultation that outlined youth policy priority areas under each of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO) four betters, as presented in the [2021 Global Action Compendium](#). In 2022, efforts focused on regionalizing these priorities through surveys, regional consultations and an analysis of youth declarations, which led to the [Regional Compendium](#) presenting five policy priorities per region.

In 2023, additional consultations with over 2 600 young people worldwide helped refine the focus from five to one policy priority per region, reflecting the key gaps identified by youth. To address these gaps, participants proposed two actionable items that integrate capacity development, policy advocacy and partnerships, turning commitments into concrete implementation.

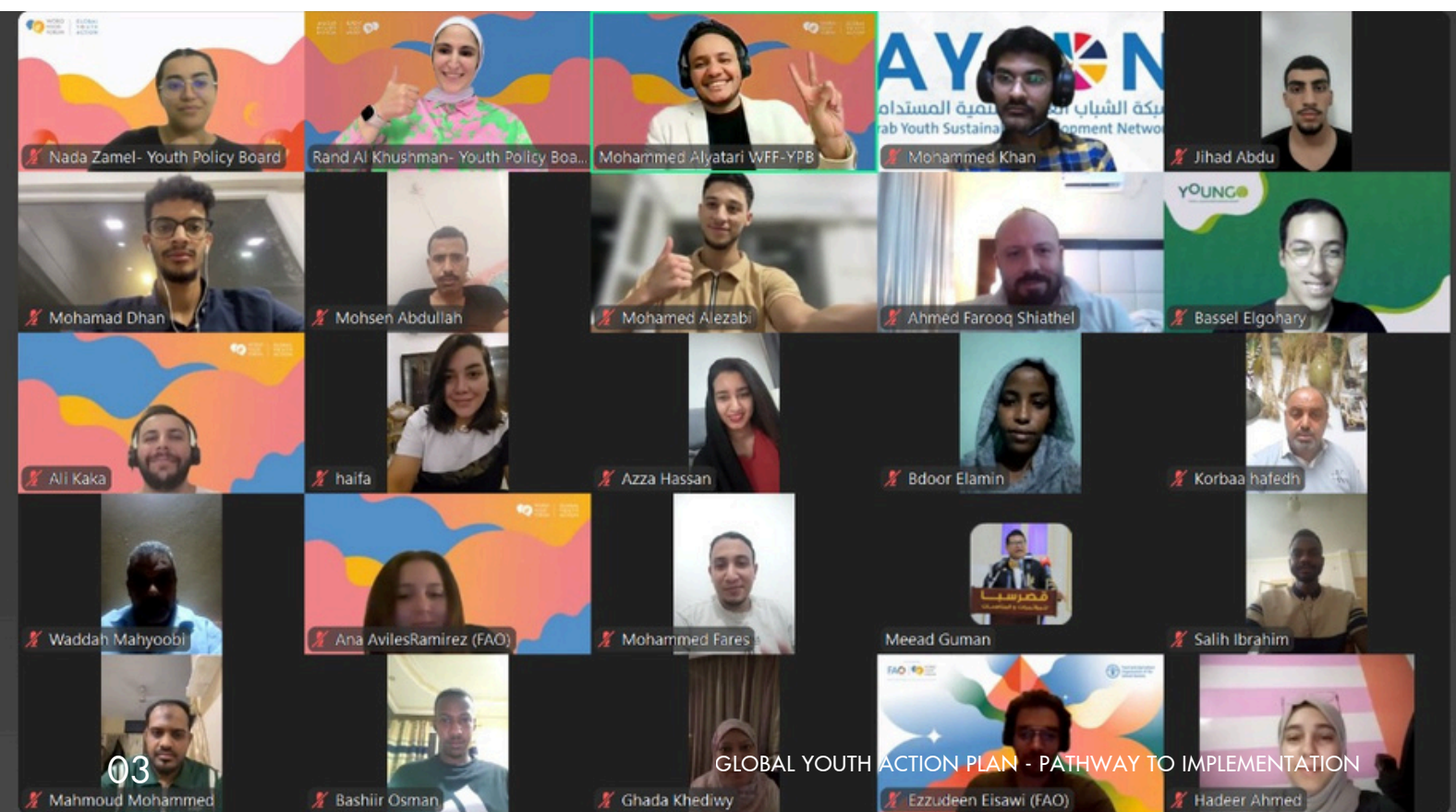
Grounded in innovation, sustainability and ancestral knowledge, the GYAP offers an adaptable blueprint to amplify youth voices and drive change at local, regional and global levels.

GYAP 2025-2026 achievements

Key global figures in the first nine months of implementation:

- As of November 2024, activities for the implementation of the GYAP have recorded over 6 200 registrations from 124 countries, engaging 4 400 participants across all FAO regions.
- More than 1 900 young people have participated consistently – meaning that around 40 percent of youth engaged with GYAP activities more than once.
- 45 percent of participants are young women.

To strengthen implementation across all regions, the YPB has teamed up with other WFF Youth Initiative activities. The Young Scientists Group reviewed concept notes and followed up during rollout; Academic Delegations were invited to design school- or community-level projects that mirror GYAP regional priorities; National Youth Chapters were invited to support and join the implementation; and Youth Innovation Lab winners were identified to support implementation and scale-up.



Regional progress: Africa

Policy priority: Support smallholder families, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth farmers by enhancing their capacities through targeted training and workshops on digital technologies, strengthening partnerships with research institutions and promoting climate-smart agriculture.

In the Africa region, the YPB has laid the foundation for its activities by compiling a list of nearly **50 local partners**, agritech hubs, FAO technical divisions, WFF National Youth Chapters and WFF Youth Innovation Lab winners. This list will serve as a pool of tactical and strategic partners to help address regional priorities and bridge identified gaps.

Actionable item 1: Enhance skills in digital technologies and preserve traditional knowledge

Under the first actionable item, the YPB conducted market research on digital applications active in Africa's agrifood systems. The study reviewed apps of varying complexity, company size and geographic coverage.

Aim: To establish a foundation for identifying suitable partners to support regional-scale GYAP implementation.

At the same time, the YPB disseminated a digital literacy survey. The survey received **1 036 responses**. The findings will inform the design of next steps, including a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme and workshops on digital technologies and applications.

Aim: To build credibility and create leverage for potential partnerships, sponsorships and strategic collaborations in the second year of GYAP implementation.

Actionable item 2: Advocate for inclusive policies that support agrifood systems transformation

For the second actionable item, the YPB launched a survey titled "Call for youth policy input on the status of African youth in agrifood governance: from participation to decision-making".

The survey gathered more than 700 responses from youth across Africa. It was promoted during the "AgriVoice dialogue series 1: Pathways for African Youth inclusion in agrifood governance", a youth-led initiative in Africa amplifying the voices of young people, women, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized communities in agrifood systems governance.

Through virtual and hybrid dialogues, the series connects grassroots perspectives with policymakers to identify barriers, map participation channels and co-create strategies for youth influence in policy design and implementation. It aims to generate actionable recommendations, build youth capacity and embed youth priorities in agrifood systems policies across Africa. The first dialogue engaged nearly **1 140 participants**.

Aim: To establish a platform that enables youth to actively engage in agrifood systems governance and promote inclusive participation, as emphasized by participants during the dialogue.

In parallel, the YPB secured a **micro-grant** to support on-the-ground activities. With these funds, and in partnership with the Sustainable Agriculture for Climate Adaptation project, a training-of-trainers programme was conducted in Nigeria between February and July 2025. **50 teachers** joined the programme and gained practical skills in composting, water conservation and greenhouse farming; they then trained more than **350 school students** under the age of 18.

Aim: To strengthen climate education and promote sustainable agricultural practices through hands-on learning and intergenerational knowledge transfer.

Regional progress: Asia and the Pacific

Policy priority: Invest in and promote the production, accessibility and consumption of safe and nutritious food for healthy diets by educating stakeholders, offering capacity development tools and enhancing their understanding of the interconnected challenges within agrifood systems.

Actionable item 1: Increase awareness and knowledge on better nutrition and food labeling literacy

In the Asia and the Pacific region, the YPB engaged with educational institutions and nearly **20 local nutrition and food labelling experts** to co-design a masterclass series aimed at strengthening youth awareness and literacy in food labelling.

Three sessions were held in November 2024, January 2025 and August 2025, under the titles: “Understanding food labels – your key to healthier choices”, “From awareness to action – advocating for better food labelling” and “[From policy to practice: empowering youth for sustainable nutrition across generations](#)”. These sessions engaged approximately **430 youth participants** from across the region.

Aim: To raise awareness and strengthen youth knowledge on food labelling and nutrition through collaboration with local nutritionists and educational institutions, fostering both grassroots engagement and institutional outreach.

Actionable item 2: Support skill development for sustainable food production policies and practices

Under the second actionable item, YPB members partnered with Habib University in Pakistan to design a ToT programme. As part of this effort, a pilot regional workshop titled “From policy to practice: Empowering youth for sustainable nutrition across generations” was held on 27 September in Kemari Port and Machar Colony, Karachi.

The workshop brought together youth leaders, community fishers and institutional partners to build practical skills in sustainable aquaculture and nutrition.

Aim: To strengthen local livelihoods and promote food safety through hands-on training and dialogue, creating a scalable model for community-led marine resource management.

Regional progress: Europe and Central Asia

Policy priority: Increase youth involvement across various fields and positions within the supply chain by fostering local collaborations. These efforts will focus on reducing food loss throughout the supply chain, while also promoting youth participation in rural development initiatives.

In the Europe and Central Asia region, the YPB established the Stakeholder Network to advance structured engagement and inclusive governance. This multi-stakeholder platform embodies the region’s collaborative approach, uniting diverse actors to shape priorities and actions together.

On 15 September 2025, youth leaders and experts from across the region convened for the inaugural virtual roundtable of the [Stakeholder Network](#) from over 220 expressions of interest, 30 founding members were selected, representing youth organizations, academia, Indigenous communities, civil society, governments and the private sector. The session introduced the network’s vision and facilitated interactive exchanges to co-define key systemic barriers including gender inequality, limited access to finance and mentorship, misinformation, weak market linkages and the erosion of traditional knowledge. The Stakeholder Network will serve as a strategic partner to the YPB in advancing regional priorities.

Actionable item 1: Enhance knowledge and awareness on food loss in Western Europe

To build youth capacity for sustainable agrifood systems transformation, the YPB launched a panel series titled “Capacity building session on food loss - Reduce to renew: youth-led solutions to food loss in Europe and Central Asia”. The first module, “Understanding food loss” was held on 29 September 2025 in observance of the **International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste**, engaging more than **420 youth participants** from across the region. The next two modules, “Innovative youth-led interventions” and “From loss to action,” are scheduled for 20 October 2025 and 10 November 2025, respectively. In parallel, Academic Delegations under the WFF Youth Initiative proposed and began implementing university- and community – level projects aligned with the same priority.

Aim: To build knowledge and awareness on food loss and promote practical solutions for it in the region's agrifood systems.

To amplify these efforts, the YPB will roll out the “Reduce to Renew” social media campaign in November 2025. The campaign will raise awareness by translating food-loss data into digestible facts, spotlighting youth-led innovations and celebrating Indigenous preservation practices.

Aim: To raise awareness of food-loss drivers and mobilize youth to adopt and scale practical, culturally grounded solutions across the region's agrifood systems.

Actionable item 2: Champion youth voices in rural communities in decision-making processes in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the YPB has drafted initial plans to create a digital cultural heritage hub that will showcase, exchange and preserve traditional agrifood knowledge and practices across the region. Within this hub, the **Rural Champions Programme** will serve as a leadership and advocacy track for rural youth innovators and cultural ambassadors.

The programme will have three preparatory modules—leading from the land, leading in community and leading for change—to strengthen identity, collective leadership and policy advocacy skills. Pilot testing will begin in early 2026, following an open call for applications. When fully operational, the hub will connect rural youth champions and amplify their voices regionally and globally.

Aim: To preserve traditional agrifood systems knowledge while equipping rural youth with leadership and advocacy skills, creating a connected network of champions who can influence agrifood system decisions at regional and global levels.

Drawing on the experience gained through the North America Indigenous Advisory Circle, the YPB aims to establish an **Eastern Europe and Central Asia Indigenous Advisory Circle** in partnership with the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus in 2026. The Circle will integrate Indigenous youth voices and priorities into all YPB activities, consultations and outcomes, grounding decisions in local culture and providing a model for other regions.

Aim: To embed Indigenous knowledge and priorities across all YPB policy, training and outreach efforts, ensuring culturally grounded decisions and creating a replicable model for other regions.

Regional progress: Latin America and the Caribbean

Policy priority: Support the dissemination of knowledge on finance, credit and funding to diverse rights holders while preserving, acknowledging and sharing Indigenous knowledge to support agroecology and local and nature-based solutions for the conservation of biological diversity and climate change mitigation.

Actionable item 1: Promote mechanisms to improve access to finance for youth

In the Latin America and the Caribbean region, the YPB laid the groundwork for advancing youth financial literacy and inclusion through a collaborative and regionally tailored approach. As part of the first actionable item, the YPB established a network of collaboration with five institutions and organizations from across the region to co-create the ALCANZA Handbook, a financial literacy resource designed specifically for youth in the region. The handbook, set to be finalized ahead of the 2025 WFF flagship event, is simple, practical and accessible, incorporating local languages and culturally relevant approaches to ensure it resonates with diverse youth audiences. Structured in nine concise chapters, it covers fundamental concepts of income, spending, saving, credit, planning, security, and entrepreneurship, and concludes with a ready-to-use toolkit of resources and appendices.

Beyond serving as a learning tool, the handbook will form the basis of a ToT programme that the YPB plan to roll out in the next phase. Through this ToT, selected young leaders will be equipped with the knowledge and facilitation skills needed to replicate financial literacy training in their communities, amplifying the handbook's impact across the region.

Aim: To equip youth with clear, culturally relevant financial skills and establish a network of peer trainers who can replicate financial literacy education in their communities, steadily expanding youth access to financial knowledge and inclusion across the region.

In parallel, the YPB will convene a sequence of targeted policy dialogues from October 2025 through 2026. Grounded in [Transformative pathways to scale local solutions](#), a brief authored by the YPB that maps the financial and structural barriers facing young agri-entrepreneurs – these dialogues will bring together national governments, value-chain actors and young parliamentarians to co-design barrier-mitigation plans, regulatory proposals and, where feasible, draft bills or motions that expand youth access to finance, technology and markets.

These dialogues will feed directly into the GYAP monitoring framework and open a pathway for sustained intergenerational engagement on financial inclusion.

Aim: To translate Transformative pathways to scale local solutions brief into concrete policies and finance mechanisms that dismantle structural barriers preventing youth from accessing finance, technology and markets.

Actionable item 2: Facilitate multistakeholder partnerships and intergenerational knowledge sharing for sustainable agrifood systems

Under the second actionable item, the YPB is designing a dialogue series titled “por la tierra”, scheduled to begin in 2026. This initiative will bring together young people with guardians of Indigenous, local and ancestral knowledge to preserve and share agrifood systems practices.

Online and in-person sessions will be pilot-tested to promote inter-cultural collaboration, document best practices and empower youth to innovate while reinforcing food sovereignty, biodiversity and climate resilience. The project will prioritize Indigenous, Afro-descendant, rural and LGBTQIA+ youth and aims to create a replicable methodology for safeguarding food heritage and supporting biodiversity conservation and nature-based solutions across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Aim: To safeguard and transmit Indigenous, local and ancestral knowledge by bringing youth and knowledge guardians together, strengthening food sovereignty, biodiversity and climate resilience across the region.

In parallel, to broaden engagement and visibility, the YPB will launch a social media campaign immediately following the 2025 WFF flagship event. This campaign will aim to raise awareness and amplify the voices of marginalized youth across Latin America and the Caribbean by showcasing their leadership, ancestral knowledge and nature-based solutions in transforming agrifood systems towards sustainability, equity and resilience.

Aim: To amplify the voices of marginalized youth by sharing their leadership, ancestral knowledge and nature-based solutions on digital platforms, ensuring their priorities are visible to policymakers and embedded in regional agrifood debates.

Regional progress: Near East and North Africa

Policy Priority: Improve living and working conditions for rural communities, particularly social minorities in agrifood systems, by promoting environmentally and socially sustainable agricultural practices.

In the Near East and North Africa region, the YPB began by compiling a list of more than **30 potential partners** with expertise in entrepreneurship, agrifood systems and inclusive governance. From this group, seven individuals and organizations have already committed to long-term collaborations as strategic partners.

To enhance visibility and engagement with youth across the region, the YPB also launched a LinkedIn page, which gained over **700 followers within two months**, expanding outreach and fostering meaningful connections with regional youth networks.

Additionally, the YPB actively pursued funding opportunities and successfully secured several grants.

Actionable item 1: Develop a collaborative platform for agricultural innovation for young farmers

Under the first actionable item, the YPB secured **two micro-grants** to launch a Collaborative Platform for Agricultural Innovation, for youth in agrifood systems across the region. Scheduled to begin after the 2025 WFF flagship event and run through May 2026, the programme will include a selection and screening process for applicants based on the sustainability and scalability of their ideas. Selected participants will receive mentorship from one of the YPB's strategic partners—originally engaged through the ToT programme—focusing on entrepreneurial, administrative and technical guidance. The programme will conclude with a small competition, awarding prizes to three youth-led projects to support their implementation and scale-up.

To raise awareness about the role of youth in agrifood systems and to deepen engagement, the YPB also organized a Youth Lead Dialogue webinar under the United Nations Youth Office initiative. Over **120 young people** from across the region participated, sharing the challenges they face and their vision for the future of agrifood systems. Insights from this dialogue will inform the platform's content and feed into the forthcoming **regional youth recommendations paper**.

Aim: To identify and support youth-led agrifood innovations through mentorship, capacity-building and visibility —empowering young farmers to scale sustainable solutions and influence agrifood systems transformation in the region.

Actionable item 2: Promote accessible education for sustainable agriculture practices

Under the second actionable item, the YPB received a **micro-grant** from the Anna Lindh Foundation to implement a **ToT programme** in Tunisia "[Training of Trainers in Tunisia-empowering rural women for agrifood systems transformation](#)".

The programme comprised four expert-led sessions on gender-based violence (GBV) and gender mainstreaming, green entrepreneurship, family farming, and climate change and agriculture. **Seven youth trainees** completed the ToT programme and drawing on the course content, delivered online and in-person training in local dialects in rural communities to ensure accessibility.

To date, the courses have benefited **220 young people** online; with offline sessions scheduled for January 2026. Designed as a long-term educational effort, the initiative will be replicated in other countries of the region once local partners are identified.

Aim: To empower rural youth, especially women, with accessible, context-relevant education on sustainable agriculture by training youth leaders to deliver sessions in local dialects. The initiative builds long-term capacity for agrifood systems transformation and will be scaled across the region through local partnerships.

Regional progress: North America

Policy Priority: Promote a timely and sustainable transition towards a closed-loop food supply chain that minimizes waste and maximizes resource efficiency by confronting policy and implementation barriers within university settings, identifying cross-functional solutions and leveraging existing research and experiences to drive youth-led impact.

In North America, the YPB launched consultations on food-waste reduction in partnership with Indigenous youth, establishing a multi-stakeholder, culturally responsive process that positions Indigenous young people as co-leaders in shaping regional priorities.

Actionable item 1: Enhance knowledge and engage North American youth in learning about the food waste hierarchy

Under the first actionable item, the YPB launched a panel series titled “Food waste hierarchy: Youth-led solutions for a circular food system”.

The series included **three sessions**: “[Food waste prevention](#)” in July 2025, “[Food waste recovery](#)” in August 2025 and “Food waste recycling” in September 2025, engaging more than **160 youth participants** from across the North America region. In parallel, Academic Delegations under the WFF Youth Initiative proposed and began implementing university- and community – level projects aligned with the same priority

Aim: To educate and mobilize North American youth around the food waste hierarchy by fostering student-led innovation, institutional change and cross-sector collaboration. Through a youth-led panel series and academic initiatives, the programme aims to build enabling environments in postsecondary settings, reduce food waste through practical solutions and connect young innovators with industry leaders to advance circular agrifood systems.

Actionable item 2: Establish an Indigenous Advisory Circle

Under the second actionable item, the North America YPB and the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC) are co-developing an eight-month Partnership Framework that positions Indigenous youth as co-leaders in agrifood systems governance. Central to the agreement is an Indigenous Advisory Council, co-chaired by one GIYC and one YPB representative. Meeting every two months, the Council will guide Youth Assembly policy development, co-design training materials, and ensure that all YPB activities uphold cultural protocols and traditional knowledge systems.



The partnership will also deliver joint capacity-building workshops, accessible virtually or in hybrid format and in local languages whenever possible, to equip Indigenous youth with skills to draft policy documents, apply for YPB membership and moderate inter-generational dialogues. GIYC members will serve as panelists and co-moderators in the forthcoming Food-waste Panel Series and the 2025 WFF flagship event, embedding Indigenous perspectives in Youth Assembly discussions. A shared funding protocol and an annual review mechanism will allow other regions to replicate the model once local Indigenous partners are identified.

Aim: To integrate Indigenous youth leadership and knowledge into agrifood systems governance by establishing a formal advisory circle that guides policy, training and events - ensuring cultural sensitivity and creating a replicable model for other regions.


Way forward

These achievements highlight the efforts of the YPB, supported by the WFF Youth Assembly Secretariat and the WFF Youth Initiative team, in advancing regional priorities and addressing identified gaps through the actionable items outlined in the GYAP during its first year of implementation.

Feedback from regional partners, including the trainees of the ToT programme, has been instrumental in shaping strategy and guiding the next phase of implementation. Collaboration with local organizations has helped refine regional priorities and enhance the reach and impact of these activities. These insights will continue to guide adaptive planning moving forward.

A mentorship programme for the YPB has also been launched, pairing members with experienced mentors who provide guidance on overcoming implementation challenges, strengthening the impact of initiatives and sharing cross-sectoral knowledge. This support ensures that the YPB approaches implementation in a holistic and inclusive manner.

Building on the progress achieved in 2025, the next phase of the GYAP will focus on deepening impact, strengthening partnerships and ensuring sustainability across all regions. The YPB, together with the WFF Youth Assembly and key collaborators, will prioritize scaling successful models, expanding interregional knowledge exchange and reinforcing youth-led monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.



A key priority will be the implementation of the second phase of actionable items, ensuring that lessons learned from initial pilots inform inclusive and scalable solutions. The mentorship programme launched in 2025 will continue to support YPB members and regional partners, fostering leadership continuity and intergenerational learning.

The call to action is clear:

Governments, organizations, partners, universities and young people are invited to collaborate with the YPB to invest in youth leadership, scale up inclusive agrifood systems innovations and co-design pathways that ensure no young person is left behind in shaping the future of agrifood systems. Young people are encouraged to implement the GYAP within their own communities and share updates on their achievements with the Youth Assembly secretariat.

Together, we can co-create a future where youth leadership drives global agrifood systems transformation.



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