



WORLD  
FOOD  
FORUM

GLOBAL  
YOUTH  
ACTION

Agrifood Leadership Education  
Programme on Young Women's  
Empowerment

# TERMS OF REFERENCE



CLIMATE BRIDGES



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE  
**WOMAN FARMER**  
2026



## BACKGROUND

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF). The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been requested to lead its implementation in collaboration with governments, UN entities, civil society, academia, development partners and the private sector.

The IYWF calls for targeted action to strengthen the empowerment of women working across agrifood systems. In this context and in line with the World Food Forum (WFF) Global Youth Action Initiative (Youth Initiative)'s priority to empower young women, the [WFF Youth Education Programme](#), in collaboration with [Climate Bridges](#), will support the leadership and career development of more than 100 young women from countries with WFF National Youth Chapters in 2026.

Through the [Agrifood Leadership Education Programme](#) (ALEP), more than 100 young women aged 18 to 35, will gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to design and lead advocacy projects in their communities to address the most pressing challenges faced by young women in agrifood systems.

## PROGRAMME EXPECTED OUTCOMES

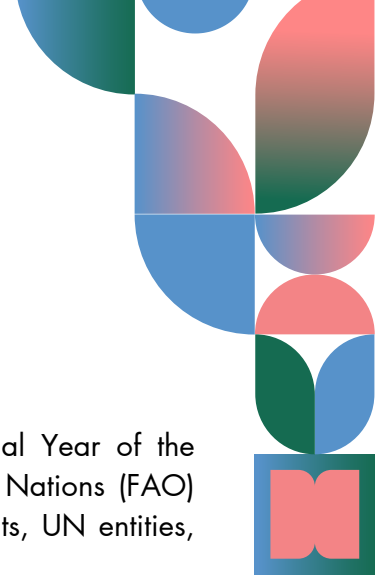
By participating young leaders will:

- Strengthen technical competencies in agrifood systems and young women's empowerment;
- Develop a youth-led, cross-sectoral collaboration proposal addressing barriers and challenges that young women face across agrifood systems;
- Cultivate leadership skills including strategic thinking, communication and decision-making; and
- Support WFF National Youth Chapters through knowledge exchange and capacity development.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Each participant will be expected to:

- Design and refine a collaboration initiative addressing barriers and challenges for young women's empowerment, integrating cross-sectoral perspectives;
- Attend all technical and pedagogical masterclasses to strengthen knowledge and soft skills;
- Participate in five one-hour mentorship sessions with technical experts; and
- Share knowledge gained through ALEP with WFF National Youth Chapters.



*If selected to advance to the Experience pillar*

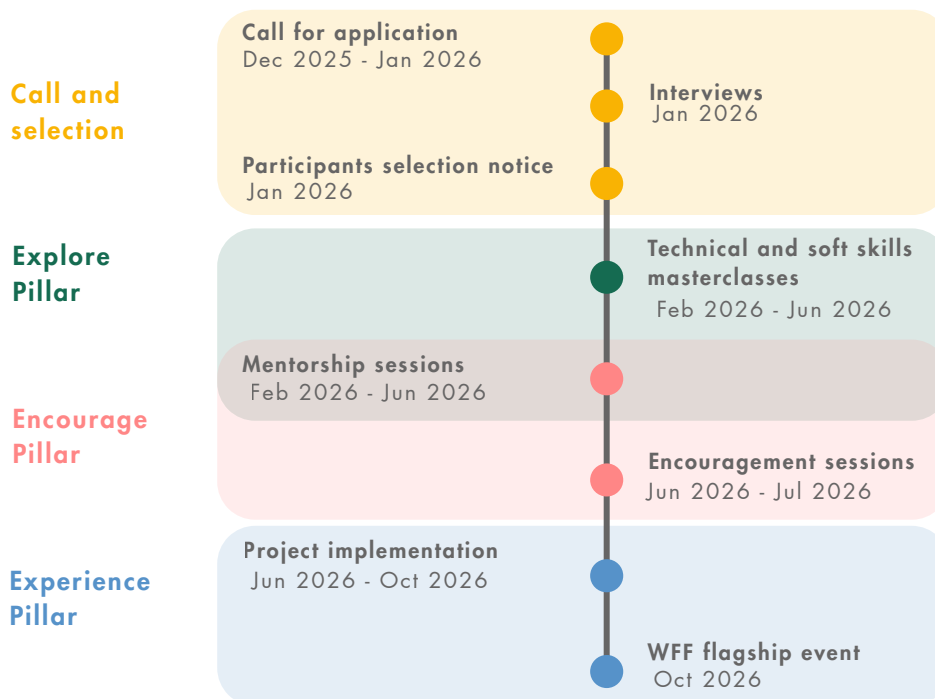
- Implement the approved project in accordance with programme guidelines, timelines and instructions provided; and
- Present the project's results to their peers and at the WFF flagship event in October 2026, receiving feedback and career guidance.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

When representing the programme, participants must:

- Act with professionalism, impartiality and integrity at all times;
- Disclose any potential conflicts of interest to maintain fairness and transparency;
- Commit to consistent participation\*, including in masterclasses, mentorship sessions and support to WFF National Youth Chapters;
- Ensure open, respectful and continuous communication with the WFF Youth Initiative team, promptly responding to requests, updates and programme-related guidance; and
- Respect the time and contributions of peers, mentors and partners.

## TIMELINE AND DURATION



\*Attendance at all scheduled sessions is mandatory. If attendance is not possible, sessions will be recorded, where relevant. Prior written notice, at least 24 hours in advance via email, must be given to ALEP – Young Women's Empowerment coordinators if participation in any scheduled sessions will be unavoidable. Exceptional circumstances and unforeseen urgent situations will, however, be duly considered by the programme's team. In cases where prior written consent is not given on two occasions or more, a meeting will be scheduled to re-affirm the participant's commitment to the programme, objectives and results. If the candidate fails to inform the ALEP coordination team on a third occasion they will be removed from official selection to advance to the third phase of ALEP.

## EXPECTED PROGRAMME RESULTS

By the conclusion of the programme, participants will have:

- Strengthened technical knowledge and leadership skills on young women's empowerment and agrifood systems;
- Attended or viewed all mandatory sessions outlined above;
- Designed and presented a youth-led, cross-sectoral collaboration proposal addressing barriers and challenges that young women face across agrifood systems;
- Provided support to WFF National Youth Chapters, enhancing local-to-global youth action; and
- Built professional connections and gained career-relevant feedback from FAO mentors and global experts.

## ELIGIBILITY CONFIRMATION

- Applicants must be young women between 18 – 35 years old (as of 31 December 2026);
- At a minimum, applicants must hold a high school diploma or equivalent;
- Applicants must demonstrate an interest in engaging in community action, through volunteer or professional experiences preferably in a field related to agrifood systems, international development, policymaking or community-level advocacy;
- Applicants must be nationals of, or based in, a country or territory where a WFF [National Youth Chapter](#) has been established and be either an active member of the Chapter or interested in joining it, and
- Applicants must be proficient in English.

## GROUNDINGS FOR TERMINATION OF PARTICIPATION

Participation in the programme may be terminated under the following circumstances:

- **Non-compliance with obligations:** Failure to fulfill the commitments established in these Terms of Reference, including the timely submission of required assignments and deliverables. At the end of each phase of the programme, the performance and commitment of participants will be reviewed. The continuation of participation in subsequent phases will be subject to satisfactory compliance with the programme's requirements and active engagement in the activities.
- **Repeated unjustified absences:** Accumulating more than 2 unjustified absences from the scheduled activities (masterclasses, mentorship sessions and project development sessions), which affects the participant's ability to meet programme requirements.



- **Inappropriate conduct:** Behavior that undermines the principles of respect, inclusion and collaboration promoted by the programme.
- **Voluntary withdrawal:** When the participant communicates their decision to discontinue their participation.
- **Force majeure:** Circumstances beyond the control of either the participant or the programme that prevent the continuation of participation.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By participating in the programme, participants commit to learning, collaborating and advancing sustainable agrifood systems transformation.

