



WORLD
FOOD
FORUM

GLOBAL
YOUTH
ACTION

Agrifood Leadership Education Programme on Young Women's Empowerment

BROCHURE



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), 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 STRUCTURE

The ALEP on young women's empowerment is a one-year capacity development programme structured around a progressive learning journey with three pillars: Explore, Encourage and Experience. Throughout the year, participants strengthen their technical skills, refine their leadership and advocacy capacities and progressively develop their project concepts with tailored support.

Explore

The Explore component equips participants with both the technical knowledge and soft leadership skills essential for designing, implementing and leading impactful agrifood systems advocacy projects. Through masterclasses hosted on the WFF [Youth Skills Hub](#), young women will gain knowledge, practical tools, leadership skills, orientation and confidence to address agrifood systems challenges, especially the ones faced by them in their communities. By enhancing their employability and fostering leadership, the Explore component strengthens young women's potential to lead and create initiatives with a positive impact on their local communities. Throughout the Explore phase participants will be tasked with formulating impactful local advocacy project concepts. These concepts will also be supported by or connected to the work of their associated WFF [National Youth Chapter](#) and relevant WFF [Youth Assembly](#) outcome documents.

Encourage

The Encourage component connects participants with two learning experiences:

1. Personalized mentorship with experienced women leaders in agrifood systems; and
2. Network development through interactive group sessions featuring inspiring women from across the globe.

Through these monthly mentorship sessions and online discussions, participants will learn first-hand about the challenges, achievements and lessons from women who are driving agrifood systems transformation, including young global food actors, researchers and award-winning advocates. These exchanges are designed to inspire and equip young women to take action on local agrifood systems challenges, lead advocacy initiatives and create lasting change in their communities. Mentors will also help refine and further develop the local advocacy project concepts during this stage. Together with their mentors and WFF Youth Education Programme partners, they will refine their proposals to ensure that the concepts are realistic, holistic, scalable and sustainable.

Experience

Five participants will advance to the final phase of the programme – Experience - , and receive a grant to implement their selected advocacy projects. These projects will address community-level challenges in local agrifood systems and include a specific focus on benefiting young women. Participants will begin implementation by the end of the programme and, upon successful completion, will graduate as agrifood systems education leaders. Pre- and post-programme surveys will capture participant feedback to inform future editions of the programme. All sessions and resources will be recorded and hosted on the WFF's [Youth Skills Hub](#). All projects will be grounded in youth priority areas, aligned with the IYWF and the [Youth Recommendations on Empowering Young Women in Agrifood Systems \(2025\)](#) developed by the WFF Youth Assembly.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the programme, participants will be able to:

- Apply systems thinking to analyze agrifood systems, understand their complex and interconnected challenges and identify sustainable, gender-responsive solutions;
- Design, manage, and implement evidence-based advocacy projects that address local community needs and contribute to agrifood systems transformation;
- Collaborate with peers, community groups and partners to deliver educational activities, and youth engagement initiatives that promote sustainability and resilience;

- Communicate effectively through inclusive dialogue, storytelling and ethical leadership practices to engage diverse stakeholders and influence policy and community decisions;
- Demonstrate confidence, self-awareness and leadership grounded in resilience, equity and integrity to navigate personal, professional and social challenges;
- Apply soft skills, including communication, negotiation, organization and self-management, to advance career development and leadership roles in agrifood systems; and
- Reflect on personal and collective actions to promote sustainable agriculture and leverage youth-led approaches to advance FAO's four betters.

CURRICULUM

ALEP's curriculum is designed to strengthen participant's technical expertise, strategic thinking and leadership capacity in advancing gender responsive and sustainable agrifood systems. It is structured around two main areas: technical knowledge and soft skills.

Technical knowledge masterclasses

Systems approach

Identify system interactions and translate that understanding into systems-thinking-based project development, highlighting its essential role in strengthening agrifood systems

Technology integration for inclusive agrifood systems

Explore how digital tools, innovation, and inclusive technologies can empower young women, strengthen employability and advance gender-responsive agrifood systems.

Food loss and waste reduction

Learn to identify food loss and waste across the supply chain and design community-driven initiatives to reduce waste through better management and awareness.

Promoting green jobs for young women

Explore opportunities in green jobs to support the economic empowerment of young women.

Intersectional project design and strategy

Learn to design effective advocacy projects using systems thinking, strategic tools and an intersectional lens that empowers young women in agrifood systems.



Project planning and management essentials

Build core project cycle management skills, from planning and risk assessment to budgeting- , to guide advocacy projects through every stage of implementation.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

Develop the ability to track outcomes, adapt strategies based on evidence, communicate impact and apply intersectional MEL practices.

Soft skills masterclasses

Consciousness in agrifood systems: Ethics and integrity as pillars of leadership

Strengthen ethical leadership by cultivating integrity, responsibility, inclusive decision-making and good governance in agrifood systems.

Resilience and self-care

Build personal resilience by practicing self-care, balance, and mindfulness, while understanding the role of purpose, mental health and supportive networks in sustainable leadership.

Policy advocacy I

Learn how to navigate interconnected advocacy spaces, from local to global and leverage key milestones and platforms to amplify youth and women's voices.

Policy advocacy II

Develop core advocacy skills by understanding Sustainable Development Goal 2, defining policy goals and negotiating effectively within complex agrifood systems.

Communications I

Strengthen your communication toolkit through audience awareness, active listening and non-violent communication techniques.

Communications II

Enhance your ability to inspire and influence through effective presentations, storytelling and the use of digital tools.

Financial strategies I

Learn to plan and manage project budgets, develop grant proposals, ensure accountability and explore long-term financing for sustainable initiatives.

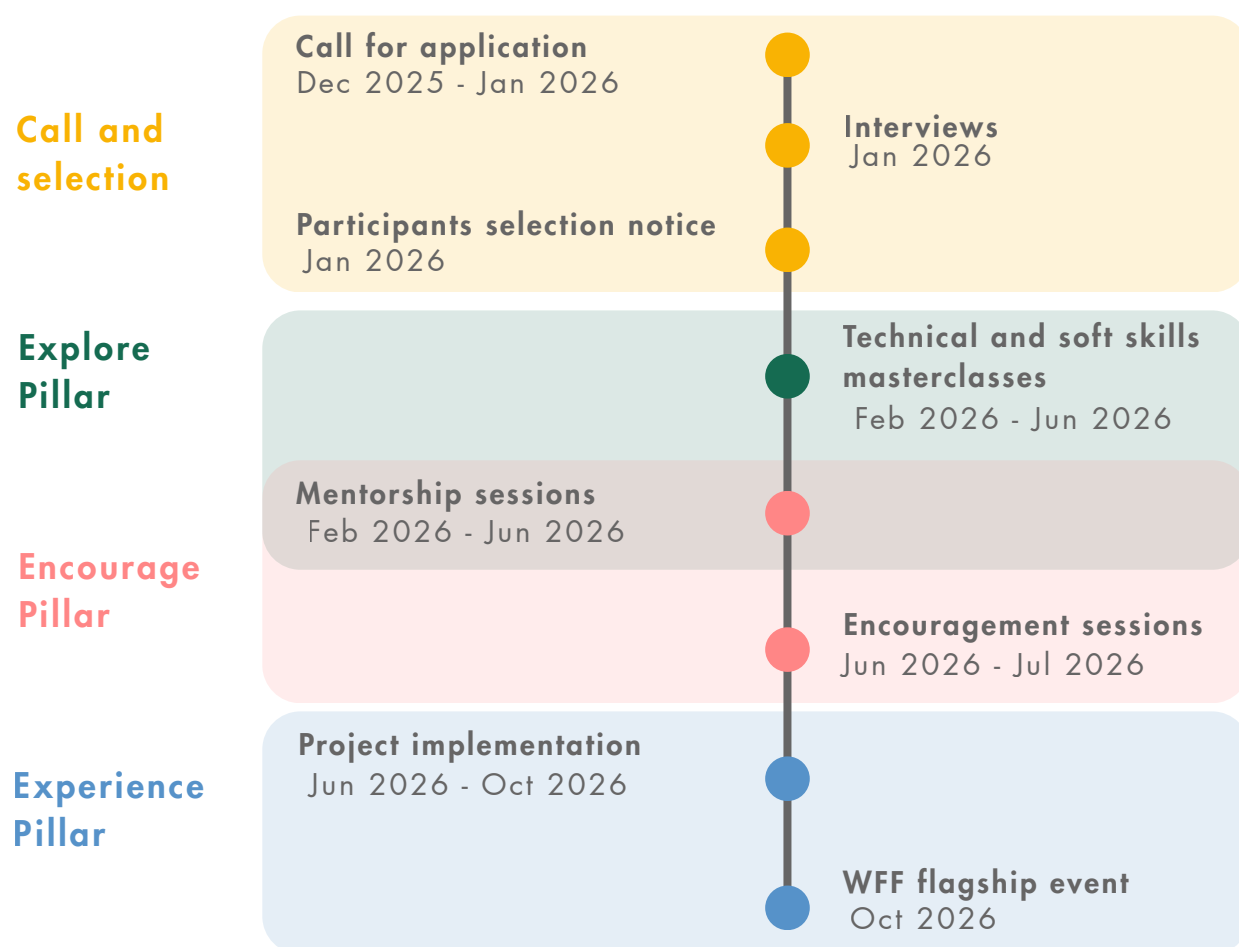
Financial strategies II

Strengthen financial sustainability through effective funding strategies, long-term budgeting and accountable partnership management.

Leadership

Explore the challenges and opportunities of young women's leadership, understand how social norms shape leadership roles and engage men and boys in advancing gender equity.

PROGRAMME TIMELINE 2025-2026



CORE VALUES

All members from ALEP are expected to adhere to the highest ethical standards in line with the mission, values and objective of the WFF Youth Initiative. These standards include conduct that embodies professional integrity, responsibility and collaboration, both within the ALEP cohort and during external engagements.

As part of the WFF Youth Initiative's commitment to foster diversity, equity and inclusion, the involvement of underrepresented minorities and other disadvantaged groups is strongly encouraged.

USEFUL LINKS

[WFF Youth Education webpage;](#)
[Application form;](#)
[Application guide;](#) and
[Written proposal template](#)