



WORLD
FOOD
FORUM

GLOBAL
YOUTH
ACTION

AGRIFOOD LEADERSHIP EDUCATION PROGRAMME (ALEP)



BACKGROUND

The World Food Forum's (WFF) Agrifood Leadership Education Programme (ALEP) is a transformative initiative aimed at empowering youth to become catalysts for change in agrifood systems. By providing young leaders with essential tools, skills and mentorship, the programme equips them to make a tangible impact on the future of food and agriculture.

Real Food Systems (RFS) is a global community of youth, advocating since 2019 for nourishing people and the planet through real food. RFS empowers youth to influence their future, promoting real-time solutions to fight climate change through a just transition to healthy agrifood systems for future generations. RFS has a network of over 80 youth ambassadors and associates in 43 countries. RFS especially has a keen interest in supporting young women in agrifood systems

As part of both the WFF and RFS's mission, ALEP places a special focus on youth leadership, particularly empowering young women, to ensure more equitable and thriving agrifood systems for both current and future generations. The programme nurtures collaborative leadership that values ecosystems and human well-being.

ALEP not only builds leadership capacity, but also actively supports young leaders in launching impactful local projects, encouraging them to participate in meaningful dialogue and decision-making. By fostering job readiness and advocacy skills, this WFF initiative prepares youth to lead the transformation of agrifood systems at the local, regional and global levels, sparking action for a more sustainable and resilient food future.

THREE PILLARS

EXPLORE

- Candidates will explore various topics to develop their technical knowledge and soft skills to become successful agents of change for agrifood systems transformation.
- A series of learning materials composed of masterclasses and workshops will be delivered by the World Food Forum (WFF) Youth Skills Hub.

ENCOURAGE

- The programme will encourage selected candidates to lead and take action in agrifood systems transformation within their communities.
- Candidates will receive presentations by seasoned young global agrifood actors, researchers and award winners who will share their experiences, including challenges, outcomes and lessons learned.

EXPERIENCE

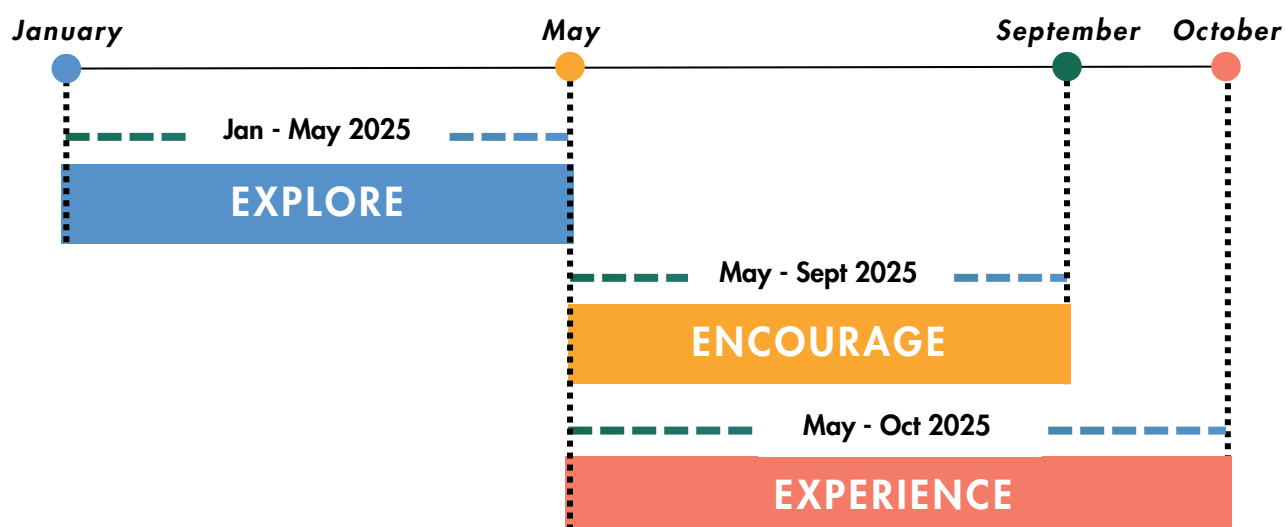
- Selected candidates will gain experience to become leaders in agrifood system transformation by formulating their own projects.
- Candidates' projects will be developed with mentors and address local agrifood systems needs, based on each candidate's local insight and experience. Additionally, these projects will address the priority issues of [WFF National Chapters](#).

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Understand the importance of sustainable agriculture across several of its domains;
- Identify issues affecting our agrifood systems across each of the [Four Betters](#) within the Strategic Framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
- Describe some of the complex, interrelated issues within agrifood systems;
- Develop and create strategies for transforming local agrifood systems to ensure they are more sustainable and resilient;
- Collaborate with peers and local community groups to implement on-the-ground local actions that help transform local agrifood systems;
- Deliver educational workshops to other young leaders in their local communities, sharing the knowledge gained via ALEP;
- Reflect upon the personal and collective actions to promote sustainable agriculture and influence policy and local business; and
- Recognize the importance of soft (i.e. non-technical) skills when entering into agrifood systems jobs markets.

PROGRAMME TIMELINE 2025



EXPLORE PILLAR STRUCTURE

- Technical knowledge developed

FAO Strategic Framework Focus: All 4 Betters

| Topic | Systems approach |
|----------|---|
| Overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify different elements of agrifood systems and how they interact.• Incorporating the systems model approach to project development.• Importance of systems thinking in agrifood systems. |

FAO Strategic Framework Focus: Better Production

| Topic | Technology integration for efficiency |
|----------|---|
| Overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leveraging technology for efficiency gains in food production, distribution and marketing.• Explore innovations like precision agriculture and blockchain for supply chain transparency.• AI-driven predictive analytics to optimize resource utilization and reduce waste. |

FAO Strategic Framework Focus: Better Nutrition | Better Environment

| Topic | Food waste reduction |
|----------|--|
| Overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify food waste along the human food supply chain. • Spearhead initiatives to minimize food waste through better inventory management, surplus redistribution and consumer education campaigns. |

FAO Strategic Framework Focus: Better Nutrition | Better Life

| Topic | Community-centric agrifood systems |
|----------|---|
| Overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building community-centric agrifood systems that prioritize local sourcing, food sovereignty and equitable access to nutritious food. |

• Soft skills developed

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Topic | Communications I |
| Overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storytelling: the art of communication using stories and narratives. |
| Topic | Communications II |
| Overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital communication strategies: leveraging AI. • Creativity in content and design. • Listening skills and ethical considerations. • Adapting to different audiences and contexts. |
| Topic | Ethics and Integrity: pillars of successful organizations |
| Overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity inside and out: respect for others. • Personal and professional responsibility. • Justice/equity/inclusion in decision-making. • Good governance: anti-fraud and ethical risks. |
| Topic | Resilient Leadership |
| Overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-care and mindfulness to avoid burnout. • The role of mentors in a professional journey. • Work-life balance. |

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| Topic | Policy advocacy I |
| Overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know your “why”, “what” and “who”. • Systems Thinking (win-win-win). • The role of interconnectivity in advocacy from local to national and international levels. |
| Topic | Policy advocacy II: negotiating |
| Overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding SDGs (Focus on SDG2 - Zero Hunger). • Targeting your specific policy or advocacy goal. • Negotiating skills (where-when-how). |
| Topic | Financial strategies I |
| Overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgeting a project. • Grant writing and applications. • Grant reporting, monitoring and accountability. |
| Topic | Financial strategies II |
| Overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider lens: financing for long-term viability. • Strategies in both funding sources and partnerships. • Long-term budgeting. • Accountability: longevity. |

APPLICATION PROCESS

Eligibility criteria:

- Applicants must be between 18 - 35 years old (as of 31 December 2024).
- At a minimum, applicants must be enrolled in the final-year of a bachelor's degree, preferably in a field related to agrifood systems.
- Demonstrated commitment to transforming agrifood systems through education, advocacy or practical action.
- Applicants must be proficient in English.
- Relevant professional or volunteer experience is required.
- Only completed applications will be accepted, including:
 - Completed application form;
 - CV;
 - Motivation letter; and
 - 90-second video outlining the applicant's passion, career goals and relevant experiences (see the registration form at the end of the brochure).

The programme prioritizes gender and geographic diversity, with a focus on young women.

Applicants will be selected from countries (see below) where the WFF has launched a National Chapter, a self-organized national youth platform aligned to the principles and mission of the WFF and convened by a local network of partners/organizations. These chapters are currently located in **Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Nepal, Peru, Qatar, Sierra Leone, Tanzania (United Republic of), Uganda, Zimbabwe.*

USEFUL LINKS

- WFF Education Webpage: [Education](#)
- Apply today: [here](#)