

Young Scientists Group

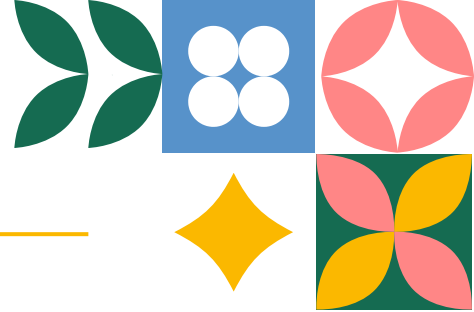
Selection process 2025-2027

BACKGROUND

The World Food Forum's (WFF) Young Scientists Group (YSG) was launched in 2022 with the aim of providing scientific evidence and technical knowledge to the various initiatives of the Forum, including but not limited to, the Youth Assembly, the Youth Innovation Lab and the Youth Education Programme. A primary output of the group is the publication of a biennial report focusing on specific technical issues of particular concern to youth, related to agrifood systems transformation. The publication feeds into the various activities of the WFF's Global Youth Action Initiative (Youth Initiative) and acts as a technical and informative document for youth and partners of the Initiative.

Key attributes and experience sought in YSG members:

- Present record of academic excellence;
- Possess experience and knowledge acquired by training or work experience on one or more thematic areas related to agrifood systems transformation – connected to FAO's Strategic Framework;
- Experienced or familiar with inter/transdisciplinary research in fields related to global agrifood systems and enthusiastic about joining a young, multidisciplinary team;
- Demonstrated commitment to serve society at large and engagement towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and
- Ability to work cooperatively in a team and respect differences between people; ability to develop creative and practical solutions; ability to take initiative for delivering high-quality work; and ability to communicate to different target audiences.



Selection process

ROUND 1

In the first round of selection, each complete and eligible application is reviewed by the WFF Youth Initiative team, following a common scoring grid. They assess the criterion as listed above, adding up to a total score for each candidate.

At the end of the first round of selection, scores are added up to shortlist the higher-scoring candidates. Approximately 20 percent of the top-scoring candidates are then submitted for a second round of selection.

ROUND 2

In the second round of selection, the top-scoring candidates are reviewed by members of the selection committee, composed of FAO experts from different areas of work. Reviewers follow a common scoring grid as provided by the WFF Youth Initiative. They assess each criterion as listed, making up for a total score for each candidate.

At the end of the second round, reviewers' scores are totaled and a shortlist of the highest-scoring candidates is prepared for review in the third round of selection.

ROUND 3

At this stage, the top candidates are invited to interviews. The interview panel is composed of members of the WFF Youth Initiative and representatives of the YSG alumni network. Interviewer rankings are then combined to create a final list of top-scoring candidates. A final selection is made based on these scores, while also ensuring regional diversity, gender balance and a multidisciplinary composition of the overall cohort.