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Youth Recommendations
Closing the gender gap in
agrifood science, technology
and innovation

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Introduction

Digital technologies, innovation and science are increasingly shaping the future of agrifood systems. Yet young women continue to face significant barriers in accessing, using and leading these transformations. Gender inequalities in digital access, education, technology, finance and decision-making limit young women's ability to participate fully in agrifood innovation and to shape the systems that affect their lives and livelihoods.

These challenges are particularly significant for young women in rural areas, especially those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers related to disability, Indigenous People's identity, age and socio-economic circumstances. At the same time, young women farmers, pastoralists, fishers and agripreneurs are important actors within agrifood systems, yet their contributions, innovations and leadership remain insufficiently reflected in data, policy and investment.

Against this backdrop, the World Food Forum (WFF) Youth Assembly, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), convened a global consultative process titled **"Young women as leaders of agrifood futures: Closing the gender gap in science, technology and innovation in agrifood systems"**. The process builds on the WFF Youth Assembly's previous work, including the [Youth Recommendations Empowering Young Women in Agrifood Systems](#) and the 2026 [Youth Recommendations for Smart Farming: Shaping Priorities for the Next Generation of Changemakers](#). It further examines how young women can access, shape and lead digital transformation in agrifood systems, while bringing their perspectives into efforts to close the gender gap in agrifood science, technology and innovation (STI).

This paper brings together the experiences, priorities and proposed solutions emerging from the process and translates them into action-oriented, youth-led recommendations. It aims to support policymakers, institutions and partners in strengthening the conditions that enable young women to participate, lead and shape the future of agrifood systems.



Methodology

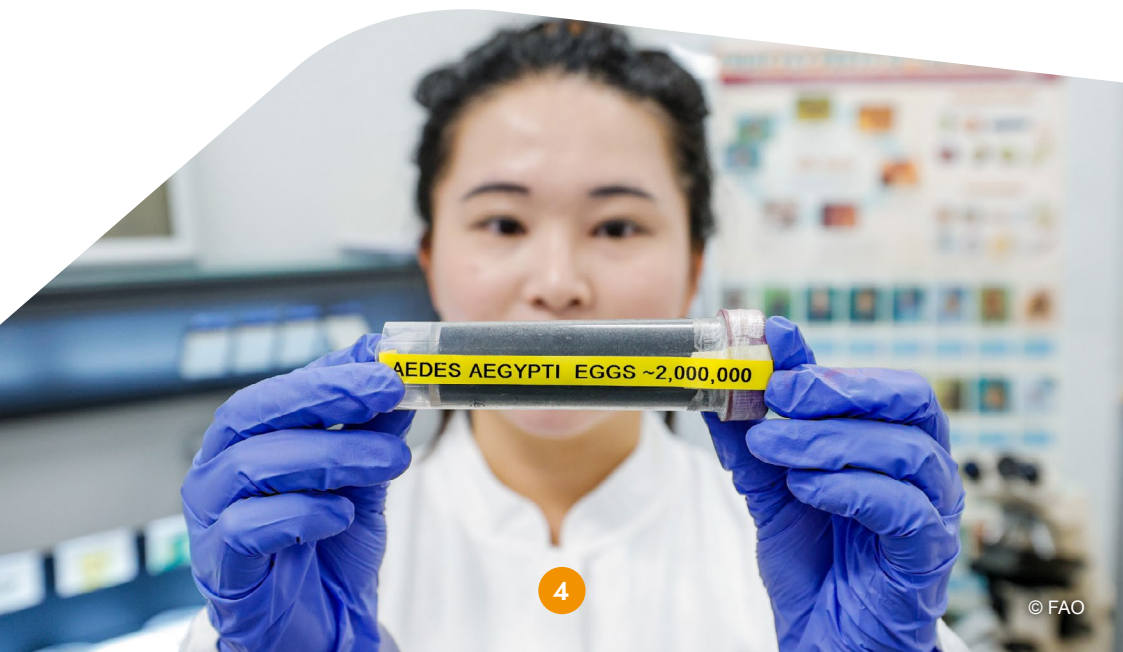
To gather evidence reflecting the diverse realities across different regions, sectors, and circumstances, the WFF Youth Assembly convened a global youth consultative process, involving an online consultation and a global survey. Together, the two evidence streams engaged 432 participants and explored four interconnected areas:

- Access to Resources and Digital Inclusion in Agrifood Systems;
- Social Norms, Mentorship and Education;
- Investments and Intersectional Approaches;
- Technology: Risks and Opportunities for Gender Equality and Young Women's Empowerment.

The consultation provided an opportunity for participants to share experiences, identify structural barriers and explore solutions, while the survey gathered broader perspectives on priorities and challenges across different contexts. Both evidence streams provided distinct and complementary perspectives that directly informed the findings and recommendations of this paper.

Online Consultation

In July 2026, the WFF Youth Assembly convened a virtual consultation with 177 young people and young women from 54 countries, in collaboration with the [Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research \(CGIAR\) GENDER Accelerator](#), the [Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World \(OWSD\)](#), [United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women \(UN Women\)](#) and [Women in Tech Global](#). The consultation brought together participants with diverse experiences across agrifood systems, technology, education, entrepreneurship and community leadership, including perspectives shaped by rural location, disability, Indigenous Peoples' identity and other intersecting factors. Discussions were organized around the four thematic areas and focused on barriers, experiences, good practices and concrete solutions. Bilingual English–Spanish and English–French breakout rooms supported broader participation.



Global Survey

A global survey was conducted in the six UN languages from July to August 2026 to complement the consultation and gather broader perspectives on gendered barriers and policy priorities.

The survey explored access to digital technologies and productive resources, education and skills, participation in agrifood science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and opportunities for economic participation and leadership. It received 255 responses from 77 countries across all six FAO regions, including young women, farmers, pastoralists, researchers and civil society representatives.

The survey was developed with input from FAO technical experts and disseminated through youth, agrifood, women's, civil society and partner networks to reach participants across diverse contexts.

Considerations for interpreting the findings

The findings reflect the perspectives and priorities of those who participated in the consultation and survey and should not be interpreted as statistically representative of all young people in agrifood systems globally. Participation was voluntary and the online nature of the survey may have limited the participation of people with constrained access to reliable internet, digital devices or digital skills. The survey also included a relatively high proportion of respondents with higher levels of education and smartphone access.

These limitations mean that some experiences of groups facing the greatest barriers to access and participation may not be reflected. However, the convergence of findings across the consultation and survey provides a consistent picture of the barriers and priorities identified by young people and young women across diverse contexts. The findings therefore provide a valuable evidence base for informing more inclusive, responsive and gender-responsive approaches to policy, education, skills development and engagement in agrifood systems.



Demographic profile of respondents

Who participated

Women and girls accounted for 67 percent of contributors across the consultation and survey, while 32 percent were men and 1 percent identified as non-binary, another gender identity or did not disclose their gender. Some responses from male participants reflected observations of young women's experiences rather than direct lived experience.

Age data were available for 222 of the 255 survey respondents. Most respondents were aged 20–35, with 33 percent aged 25–29 and 29 percent aged 30–35. Respondents aged 15–19 accounted for 3 percent of the sample.

The consultative process reached participants across all six FAO regions. Africa accounted for the largest share of responses (59 percent), followed by Asia and the Pacific (16 percent), Europe and Central Asia (12 percent), Latin America and the Caribbean (7 percent), Near East and North Africa (4 percent) and North America (3 percent).

Digital access and engagement with agritech tools

Access to and use of digital and agritech tools remains uneven. Only 40 percent of survey respondents reported using digital or agritech tools regularly and a further 19 percent used them occasionally. The remaining 41 percent reported limited or no practical experience, including 21 percent who were aware of such tools but had not used them and 6 percent who were not familiar with them.

Among the tools survey respondents had used, worked with or observed, AI-based applications and chatbots and digital payment or financial systems were the most commonly reported (45 percent each), followed by climate information tools (42 percent), e-commerce platforms (30 percent) and farm management applications (28 percent). A further 16 percent reported no experience with any of the tool categories.

These findings point to both growing exposure to emerging technologies and persistent gaps in practical access and use. Ensuring that digital and agritech innovation contributes to more inclusive agrifood systems will require attention to affordability, accessibility, digital skills and the specific barriers faced by young women.

Access to productive resources is closely linked to young women's ability to benefit from digital and agritech innovation. Just over one in five survey respondents owned land, livestock or farming equipment solely in their own name, while a further 13 percent reported joint ownership. Meanwhile, 39 percent did not own productive resources in their own name but could access them through family or community, and 23 percent reported no access at all.

Limited ownership and control of productive resources can constrain access to finance, collateral and technology-enabled opportunities. Digital inclusion therefore cannot be addressed in isolation from the wider conditions that shape young women's ability to access, control and benefit from productive resources.

Taken together, these findings highlight that closing the gender gap in agrifood science, technology and innovation requires more than access to technology alone. It also requires the skills, resources, finance and enabling conditions that allow young women to use technology effectively, turn innovation into economic opportunities and participate in shaping the future of agrifood systems.

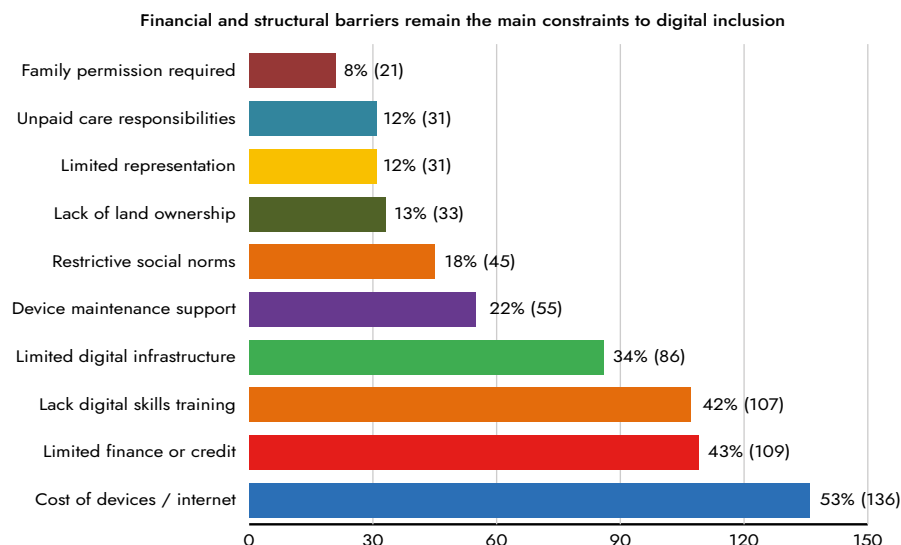
Thematic Findings

This section presents the integrated findings emerging from both evidence streams. For each thematic area, qualitative insights from the consultation are presented alongside evidence from the survey, generating a combined analysis.

1. Access to resources and digital inclusion in agrifood systems

1.1 Access to digital technologies and resources

Figure 1 (survey): *Percentage of respondents identifying each barrier; multiple responses permitted*



Access to digital and agrifood technologies is shaped by a combination of financial, infrastructural, skills-related and structural barriers. The survey findings show that the most commonly reported constraints were the cost of devices and internet access, limited access to finance or credit and gaps in digital skills and literacy. Other barriers included limited connectivity, lack of device maintenance support and structural constraints such as limited access to land and decision-making spaces. Respondents could select multiple barriers, reflecting the interconnected nature of these constraints.

The gender differences in responses point to some distinct experiences. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to identify lack of land ownership and limited representation in decision-making spaces as barriers, while male respondents more frequently identified device maintenance support as a barrier. These differences should be considered alongside the consultation findings, which highlighted that digital exclusion is not limited to access to devices or connectivity.

Participants described gaps in digital literacy, limited awareness of available platforms, time and mobility constraints and unequal access to productive resources as important factors shaping young women's participation. Care and household responsibilities were also identified as constraints, particularly where training and technology programmes are designed around urban, formal work or training schedules that do not reflect the realities of rural and agricultural livelihoods.

The consultation further highlighted how these barriers can reinforce one another. Restrictive social norms, unpaid care responsibilities and unequal decision-making within households can affect young women's ability to access finance, own or use digital devices, participate in training and make productive use of technology. While these factors were reported less frequently in the survey than financial, infrastructure and skills-related barriers, their prominence in the consultation suggests that they can shape how effectively young women are able to benefit from available resources and opportunities.

Taken together, the findings indicate that closing the digital gender gap in agrifood systems requires more than improving access to devices and connectivity. Effective digital inclusion also depends on digital skills, affordable finance, access to productive resources and programme design that reflects the time, mobility and care responsibilities of young women, particularly in rural areas.

1.2 Governance and accountability mechanisms

Figure 2 (survey): Responses for governance and accountability mechanisms need; multiple responses permitted



Persistent barriers to digital inclusion point not only to gaps in affordability, infrastructure and skills, but also to how digital agrifood systems programmes are designed, implemented and held accountable.

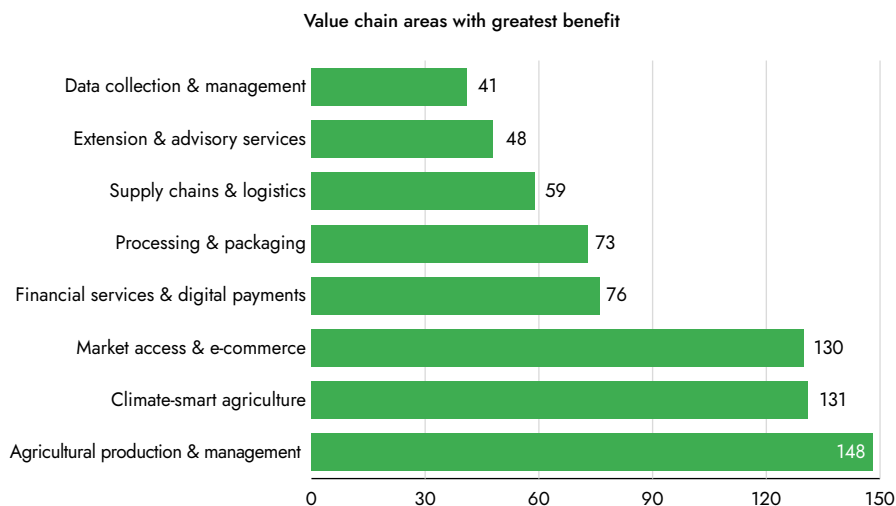
The strongest priority identified through the survey was the direct participation of young women in programme design and evaluation, alongside gender-responsive budgeting. This points to a broader expectation that young women should have a meaningful role in shaping the technologies and programmes intended to serve them, rather than being engaged only as end users. Independent reviews, sex- and age-disaggregated data and regulatory standards for inclusive design were also identified as important accountability mechanisms. As survey respondents could select multiple mechanisms, these priorities should be understood as complementary rather than as a ranked hierarchy.

Consultation participants also called for a fundamental shift from measuring access in terms of devices distributed or training delivered towards measuring young women's long-term leadership, decision-making power and economic agency. Gender-disaggregated data collection, measurable targets and independent monitoring were identified as essential accountability tools. Community-based digital facilitators were highlighted as an effective and sustainable delivery model than external trainers.

1.3 Technology and economic opportunities across the agrifood value chain

Figure 3 (survey): Areas where digital technology can create economic opportunities for young women

Percentage of respondents selecting each area; multiple responses permitted



Digital technologies can strengthen young women's economic participation when linked to tangible opportunities across the agrifood value chain. The consultation highlighted the importance of complementary measures, including agricultural-cycle-responsive finance, affordable digital tools, mentorship and market linkages.

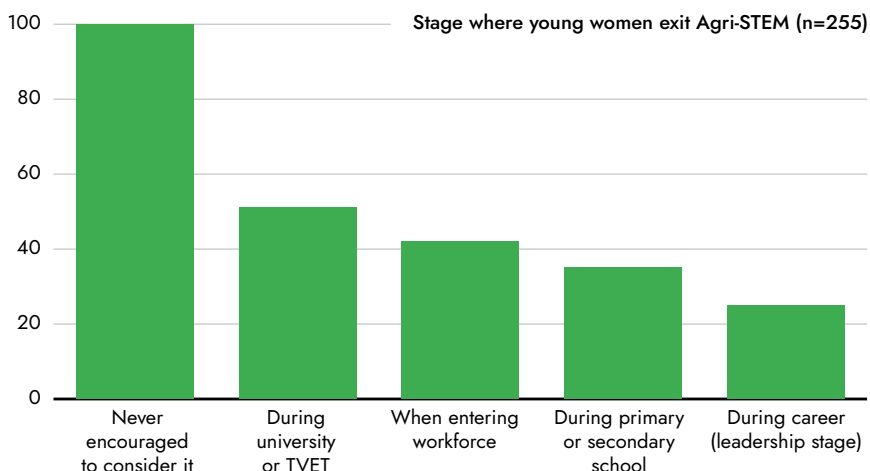
Survey responses point to production, climate resilience and market access as the areas where digital technologies are seen to offer the greatest opportunities for young women. Financial services and digital payments were also highlighted, underscoring the importance of connecting digital access with the finance, skills and market opportunities needed to translate technology into economic participation.



2. Social norms, mentorship and education

2.1 Social and cultural norms shaping young women's Agri-STEM participation

Figure 4 (survey): Stage at which young women most often exit Agri-STEM pathways



Participation in Agri-STEM is shaped not only by access to education and career opportunities, but also by the social and cultural norms that influence young women's career choices from an early age. Consultation participants described agrifood technology as a field that is often perceived as male-dominated, where gender stereotypes across families, schools and communities continue to influence who is encouraged to pursue science, technology and innovation pathways. These challenges were described as particularly pronounced in rural contexts, where access to technology, mentorship and professional networks may be more limited.

Survey findings reinforce this pattern by pointing to limited awareness of Agri-STEM opportunities among young women. Gender stereotypes about science and technology fields emerged as a major constraint to participation, highlighting the influence of social norms across the Agri-STEM pathway. A lack of encouragement to pursue these opportunities was further identified as the primary barrier to retention, participation and career progression.

"Women's participation can highly increase in the field if they are supported in household chores... Agri STEM can be a great field for women if they get equal opportunities, less burden from unpaid labour, and household caregiving responsibilities."

Survey respondent, Female, 18, India

2.2 Skills, mentorship, and support networks

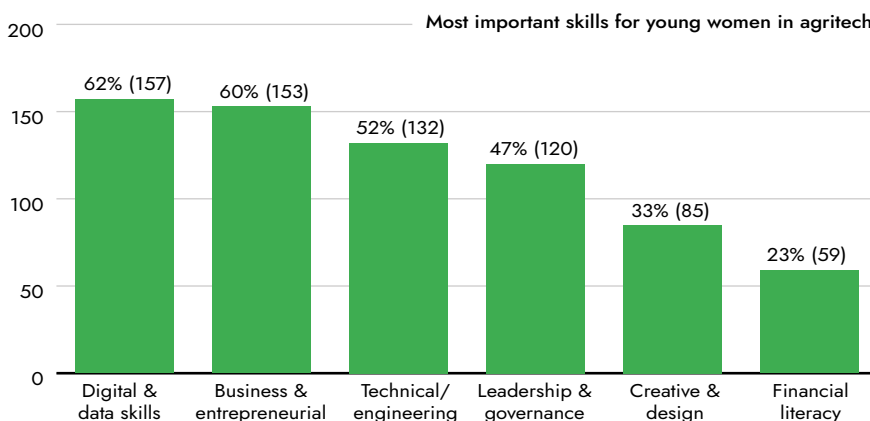
Persistent barriers to young women's participation in Agri-STEM point not only to the influence of social norms and infrastructural constraints, but also to the importance of skills development, mentorship and professional support networks. Survey and consultation findings consistently highlighted mentorship as a critical enabler of young women's participation and leadership, providing not only technical guidance but also access to professional networks and career development support. Participants further emphasised that mentorship is most effective when combined with financial support, helping young women access and remain engaged in education, training and leadership opportunities.

Consultation participants also prioritised practical and applied learning opportunities, particularly those that connect young women with experienced professionals and real-world agritech challenges. Experiential learning was viewed as an effective way to develop both technical competencies and professional networks, while long-term personalised coaching was often preferred over short-term or group-based programmes.

“When young women see other women leading in agritech, climate, and agribusiness, they believe it is possible for them too. Combined with scholarships, this will break stereotypes and keep girls in the pipeline.”

Survey respondent, Female, 25, Zimbabwe

Figure 5 (survey): Skills identified as most important for young women in agritech; multiple responses permitted



Survey findings also carry an important message for curriculum and programme design. The skills identified as most important span technical, digital, entrepreneurial and leadership domains, indicating that young women require more than technical training alone. Integrating these competencies within the same learning pathway can help equip young women not only to use technologies, but also to develop solutions, build enterprises, access markets and take on leadership roles across agrifood systems.

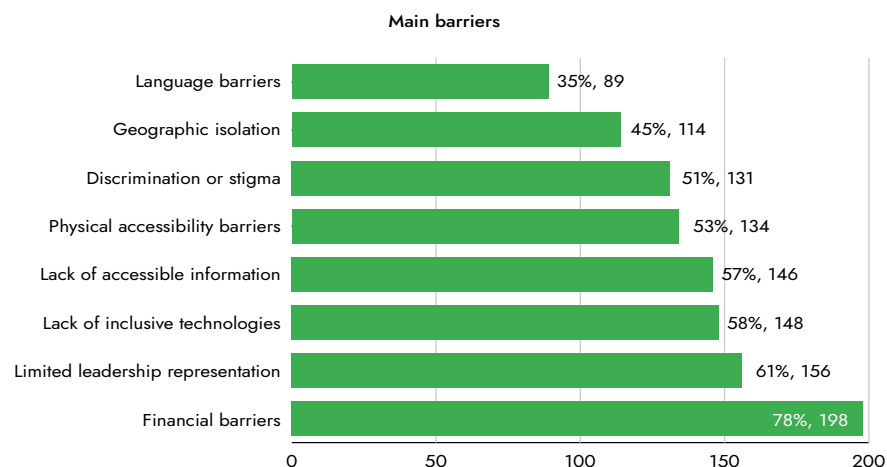
3. Investments and intersectional approaches

3.1 Groups facing the greatest barriers

Barriers to participation in agrifood science, technology and innovation are often intersectional, with multiple factors reinforcing one another. Young women living in poverty, rural young women and young women with disabilities emerged as facing some of the greatest challenges through the survey, suggesting that exclusion is shaped not by a single factor but by the interaction of economic, geographic, accessibility and social barriers.

Survey and consultation findings further indicate that these barriers extend beyond access to technology alone. Financial constraints, limited access to information and support services and limited representation in leadership and decision-making spaces can restrict participation and opportunities for advancement. As a result, interventions targeting a single constraint may have limited impact where multiple barriers continue to operate simultaneously.

Figure 6 (survey): Main barriers faced by groups experiencing the greatest challenges in agritech; multiple responses permitted

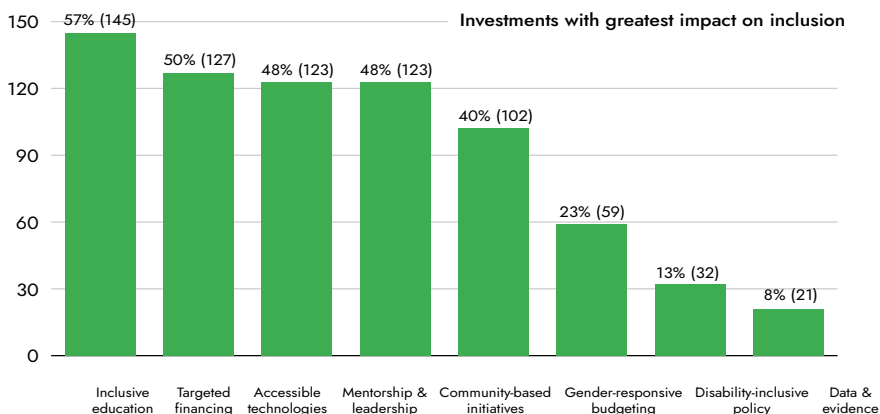


The findings also highlight the diverse ways in which exclusion is experienced across different groups of young women. For young Indigenous Women, barriers may extend beyond access to resources and opportunities to include the limited recognition of traditional knowledge systems and food practices within agrifood innovation processes. Similar considerations apply to young mothers and migrant or displaced young women, whose participation may be shaped by additional caregiving responsibilities, mobility constraints or challenges in accessing services and opportunities.

3.2 Targeted investments and policy approaches

Investments in inclusive education, financing, accessible technologies and leadership development emerged as key priorities through the survey for strengthening young women's participation in Agri-STEM. The findings suggest that inclusion is shaped not only by access to technology, but also by access to the knowledge, resources and support systems needed to use technologies effectively. Notably, the equal emphasis placed on accessible technologies and mentorship and leadership programmes highlights the importance of combining technological access with capacity development and support networks. Taken together, the findings indicate that investments are most likely to be effective when they strengthen both participation and agency, enabling young women not only to access opportunities but also to lead and benefit from agrifood innovation processes.

Figure 6 (survey): Main barriers faced by groups experiencing the greatest challenges in agritech; multiple responses permitted



3.2 Inclusive governance and accountability

Addressing intersectional barriers requires more than targeted investments and programmes. Consultation participants emphasised that young women, particularly those facing multiple and overlapping barriers, should be meaningfully involved in shaping policies and decisions that affect them rather than being consulted only after priorities have already been set.

The findings further highlight the importance of governance approaches that are responsive to diverse needs and experiences. Consultation participants stressed the need for dedicated support for youth-led and women-led innovation, alongside policies that expand access to productive resources while taking into account differences in geography, income, disability and care responsibilities.

Both survey and consultation findings highlighted accountability as a critical component of inclusive agrifood innovation systems. Continuous monitoring, transparent reporting and mechanisms that enable young women to provide feedback were viewed as important tools for ensuring that commitments to inclusion translate into measurable outcomes.

“Governments, private sector and institutions should be held accountable through transparent public reporting of gender and inclusion targets, regular independent monitoring, and clear mechanisms for young women to provide feedback or report discrimination and barriers. Funding and institutional support should also be linked to measurable progress on inclusion, with results publicly tracked.”

Survey respondent, Female, 26, Italy

4. Technology: risks and opportunities for gender equality and young women's empowerment

4.1 Risks and opportunities of technological innovation

Technology emerged as both an enabler of empowerment and a potential source of exclusion for young women in agrifood systems. The findings suggest that while digital innovation can open pathways to education, markets and leadership, it can also reproduce existing inequalities when barriers to access, participation and decision-making remain unaddressed.

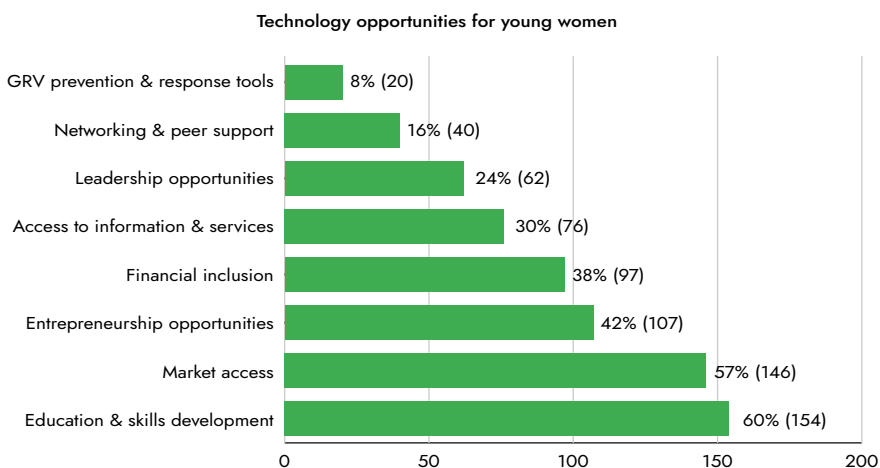
Participants from the consultation identified unequal internet access, device ownership and connectivity as foundational barriers that shape all other forms of digital inequality. They also highlighted the risks of digital literacy programmes that primarily target men and of AI systems trained on data that do not adequately represent local realities. Survey findings reinforce these concerns, identifying cost and access barriers, online harassment and abuse, data privacy concerns and algorithmic bias among the most significant technology-related risks. Participants further stressed that physical access to a technology does not necessarily translate into meaningful inclusion if young women lack the time, resources, decision-making autonomy or family support needed to use it.

Gender-disaggregated responses also suggest that technology-related risks may be perceived differently, with male respondents placing greater emphasis on access barriers and the potential for increased unpaid digital work more than female respondents.

“Technology should strengthen users’ trust, respect traditional knowledge and respond to the real needs of those who will use it, while avoiding the reproduction of existing inequalities or biases.”

Survey respondent, Female, 30, Chile

Figure 8 (survey): Technology opportunities for young women; multiple responses permitted



At the same time, both evidence streams highlighted the potential of technology to support young women's empowerment across agrifood systems. Survey findings suggest that the most significant opportunities relate to education and skills development, market access and entrepreneurship, indicating that young women view technology primarily as a tool for learning, income generation and economic participation. Consultation participants further highlighted the potential of technology to expand leadership opportunities, strengthen professional networks and create new roles in emerging agritech fields.

4.2. AI risks and opportunities

As AI becomes increasingly integrated into agrifood systems, survey findings highlight both significant risks and opportunities for gender equality. Respondents expressed particular concern that women are excluded from decisions about how AI tools are designed and used, while automated decision-making processes replicate existing biases in areas such as credit, loans and land access. Concerns were also raised about the transparency of AI systems and about the extent to which AI models reflect women's realities and experiences.

At the same time, respondents identified clear opportunities for AI to advance gender equality in agrifood systems. The strongest opportunities were associated with applications that help young women overcome existing barriers to information, market participation and financial inclusion. The emphasis on practical and problem-solving applications, such as farming advice apps or chatbots and voice assistants and translation tools, further indicates that respondents place great value on AI solutions that respond to the everyday realities and needs of women in agrifood systems. Taken together, these findings reinforce participants' central message: gender equality must be built into technology, including AI, from the design stage rather than addressed after systems have already been deployed.



Youth recommendations

The recommendations below are grounded in the combined evidence from the global survey and the online consultation. The survey provides quantitative evidence on the prevalence and relative importance of key barriers, while the consultation provides deeper insight into how these barriers interact and what young people consider as practical and meaningful solutions. Across both evidence streams, participants emphasized that closing the gender gap in agrifood science, technology and innovation requires action that addresses access, skills, social norms, finance, inclusion, safety and leadership together.

1. Build inclusive digital infrastructure and ensure affordable access to technology

Technology can also create or reinforce inequalities when women's time and workload are not considered. Participants stressed that physical access to a technology does not necessarily mean meaningful inclusion if women lack the time, resources or social freedom to use it.

At the same time, participants recognised opportunities for technology to support women, including through greater anonymity in some contexts and the creation of new economic and leadership roles in emerging agritech fields.

Recommendations to governments, development partners and the private sector:

- Invest in reliable and affordable digital infrastructure, particularly in rural and remote communities.
- Develop accessible, multilingual and locally adapted digital tools, including offline solutions where connectivity is limited.
- Ensure that agrifood applications and digital services are affordable and accompanied, where necessary, by financing or subsidized access.
- Combine digital access initiatives with support for productive resources, including land, finance and equipment, recognizing that access to technology alone cannot overcome structural barriers.
- Provide ongoing technical and maintenance support rather than treating access as a one-time distribution of devices or services.

2. Remove structural barriers to enable young women's participation

Recommendations to governments, institutions and communities:

- Provide childcare and flexible participation arrangements during training programmes, field events and other professional opportunities, reflecting the realities of rural and agricultural communities.
- Challenge gender stereotypes from an early age and create inclusive environments that encourage girls and young women to pursue STI and agrifood careers, while promoting women in agrifood STI as visible role models.
- Reframe agriculture as a scientific, innovative and technology-driven field to challenge perceptions that discourage young women from entering the sector.
- Recognise, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work through supportive policies, labor-saving technologies and shared responsibilities, enabling young women's participants in education, training, innovation and leadership.
- Engage men and boys as active partners in advancing gender equality and sharing domestic and agricultural responsibilities.

3. Strengthen participation, skills and pathways in agrifood STI

Recommendations to governments, technology developers, research institutions and programme implementers:

- Meaningfully involve young women and affected communities in the design, implementation and evaluation of digital and agrifood systems programmes, including through partnerships with women's organizations, Indigenous Peoples' organizations, local communities, universities and other relevant actors.
- Strengthen gender-responsive education and skills development by integrating gender equality and the experiences of young women more systematically into curricula and expand practical training in digital agriculture, AI, agritech tools, management, finance, entrepreneurship and leadership, including critical digital literacy.
- Create experiential learning opportunities and long-term mentorship programmes, peer networks, internships, placements and structured career pathways that connect learning with professional opportunities.
- Combine scholarships and financial support with mentorship and professional guidance to remove economic barriers to participation and support participants beyond entry.
- Move beyond participation numbers by assessing the quality, influence and outcomes of young women's participation and establish gender-responsive targets, disaggregated data collection and independent monitoring mechanisms, while protecting Indigenous knowledge, intellectual property, data sovereignty and collective ownership.

4. Promote inclusive financing, entrepreneurship and economic opportunities

Recommendations to governments, donors, investors and financial institutions:

- Establish dedicated and flexible funding opportunities for young women-led and youth-led agrifood innovations, including grants, patient capital and early-stage investment.
- Develop gender-responsive financial products that move beyond conventional collateral requirements, including alternative collateral, group guarantees, leasing, blended finance and repayment schedules aligned with agricultural seasons.
- Combine financing with financial literacy, business development, mentorship and access to investment networks to strengthen the long-term viability of women-led enterprises.
- Use technology and innovation to connect young women with education, skills, information, markets, investors and value chain actors, ensuring that these opportunities lead to practical economic and leadership pathways.
- Ensure that technology and innovation translate into meaningful improvements in productivity, livelihoods, economic independence, leadership and decision-making, and measure success accordingly.

5. Apply an intersectional approach to all policies and programmes

Recommendations to policymakers, donors and development partners:

- Recognize and address the intersecting barriers faced by young women with disability, geographic location, age, Indigenous People's identity, socio-economic status, care responsibilities, land access and digital exclusion.
- Prioritize groups facing compounded forms of exclusion, including rural and young Indigenous Women, young women with disabilities, small and medium-scale farmers and young women in conflict-affected contexts.
- Design technologies, training programmes and innovation ecosystems that are accessible, inclusive and adapted to diverse local realities, rather than applying a one-size-fits-all approach.
- Provide flexible investment packages that can address several interconnected barriers at the same time, including technology, finance, skills, childcare, accessibility, transport and market access.
- Integrate continuous monitoring and evaluation of inclusion throughout programme implementation.

6. Ensure technology is safe, ethical and designed for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of young women

Recommendations to governments, technology developers and private sectors:

- Institutionalize young women's participation in digital and agrifood governance by establishing youth advisory mechanisms and co-design requirements, and ensuring young women have meaningful opportunities to contribute to national and sectoral policies, programmes and strategies on agrifood digitalization, technology and innovation.
- Mainstream young women's empowerment and inclusion principles throughout the design, development and deployment of digital technologies, ensuring that technologies respond to women's needs, workloads and realities from the outset.
- Strengthen gender-responsive monitoring and accountability through sex- and age-disaggregated data, gender-responsive indicators and transparent feedback and review mechanisms to track participation, access, use and outcomes for young women.
- Strengthen legal and institutional safeguards for digital safety, data protection and responsible AI, including measures to identify and address algorithmic bias, online harassment and technology-facilitated gender-based violence and ensure that digital systems are transparent.
- Develop multilingual and local-dialect technologies that reflect the realities of diverse communities.

Conclusion

Closing the gender gap in agrifood science, technology and innovation requires more than expanding young women's access to digital tools. The findings point to interconnected barriers spanning infrastructure, finance, productive resources, skills, social norms, care responsibilities and the design of technologies and programmes.

At the same time, digital technologies, agritech, AI and emerging innovations can create new pathways for young women to access information, build skills, connect to markets and lead. Realizing this potential requires technologies and programmes that are affordable, accessible, safe and shaped through meaningful participation.

A consistent message emerged across the findings: **young women should not be treated only as beneficiaries of agrifood innovation. They must be recognized as innovators, entrepreneurs, leaders and decision-makers shaping the future of agrifood systems.**

Achieving this shift requires coordinated action and investment across governments, research institutions, the private sector, civil society and development partners. Technology investment must be matched by investment in inclusion, skills, leadership and the enabling conditions that allow young women not only to participate in agrifood transformation, but to lead it.

Acknowledgement

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The WFF Youth Assembly also thanks all consultation participants and survey respondents for sharing their experiences, perspectives and recommendations. Their contributions provide the foundation for this paper and its vision for advancing the empowerment of young women across agrifood systems.