



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

AWARD Climate Action Fellowship

Accelerating African Women's Leadership in Climate Action

General Information

Q: What is the primary goal of this Fellowship?

A: The Fellowship aims to increase the number of African women leading climate change action. It will enhance their capacity to produce climate solutions tailored to the needs of women and men smallholders in the African agri-food systems. Fellows will also be equipped to implement gender transformative solutions that challenge and address the root causes of systemic gender inequality.

Q: Who is eligible to apply for this Fellowship?

A: African women at different stages of their professional careers **currently actively engaged** in finding solutions to the effects of climate change. They should have at least a master's degree and two years of experience in climate-related work in diverse areas such as research, policy, academia, extension and advisory services, climate information services, community mobilization, climate justice, and advocacy, among others. Women working in government, non-government organizations, community-based organizations, international and regional bodies, and the private sector are all eligible to apply.

Application Process

Q: When does the call to apply for the Accelerating African Women's Leadership in Climate Action Fellowship open?

A: The application period for the second Cohort of the Fellowship begins on May 15, 2025, and closes on June 30, 2025, at 23:59 East Africa Time (GMT+3). Only complete applications submitted within this period will be accepted. Late submissions will NOT be accepted.

Q: How can I access the application form?

A: Application for the Fellowship is via an online form available on the Fellowship website. The application form is available in both English and French. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications in the language where they are most proficient.



Q: Can I log back into the application system and continue my application after logging out?

A: Yes, you can return and continue completing your application by accessing the form from the link sent to your email. The online platform automatically saves your work as you navigate through the application form.

Q: Do I need to attach official academic transcripts/certificates?

A: No, you do not need to upload documents relating to your academic qualifications during the application process. The information provided in the application form is sufficient for evaluation. However, successful applicants will be required to submit their academic certificates and identification documents after selection to verify the information provided.

Q: Can I make changes to my application after I submit it?

A: No, all submitted applications are final and cannot be amended through the online system or via email.

Q: How can I increase the chances of having a successful application?

A: To distinguish your application, demonstrate the alignment between your career goals, current work, and the Fellowship's objectives. Show genuine interest in gender responsive and inclusive climate change action by providing tangible evidence of your contributions to climate change issues in Africa.

Q: What are the common reasons for unsuccessful applications?

A: Common reasons include incomplete applications, minimal information, lack of consistency, and focusing exclusively on personal benefits without addressing the broader impact on smallholder farmers and agrifood systems.

Eligibility

Q: What is the minimum education level required to apply for this Fellowship?

A: You must have completed and been awarded a master's degree by the time you apply for the Fellowship.

Q: I am a PhD student and expect to complete my studies soon. Am I eligible to apply for this Fellowship?

A: Yes, you are eligible to apply if you meet the Fellowship requirements. Please indicate your expected graduation date on your application.

Q: I am not sure if my country is eligible for the Fellowship. Where can I find a list of the eligible countries?

A: Eligible countries include **Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, and Senegal.**



Q: I am a citizen of an eligible African country, but I currently reside outside Africa. Am I eligible?

A: No, you must reside in an African country throughout the Fellowship period to be eligible.

Q: I am African, but not from any of the countries listed. Am I eligible to apply?

A: No, you are not eligible. This fellowship specifically targets African women from the above-listed countries.

Q: I am a citizen of an eligible country, but I reside in a different African country. Am I eligible for the Fellowship?

A: Yes. You are eligible. Applicants living outside their country of citizenship may apply but they must reside in Africa throughout the Fellowship period.

Support and Benefits

Q: What kind of support will Fellows receive?

A: Fellows will receive world class training in leadership, negotiation and intergenerational mentoring. They will also attend a course on how to integrate gender in climate change interventions.

The Fellowship will equip Fellows with the skills and techniques to develop gender-responsive and inclusive climate adaptation innovations, including climate-smart technologies. Climate Fellows will be supported to conceptualize collaborative climate projects on gender and climate adaptation also known as **Climate Research and Innovation Projects (CRIPs)**. The Climate Fellows will implement their CRIPs either with other Fellows or mentors or with colleagues from their institutions. This activity will foster peer learning and practical application of technical skills gained in the Fellowship.

They will receive coaching from experts during the project design and implementation to further sharpen their skills in gender-responsive climate change action. The program will also facilitate access to a network of climate change professionals.

Q: Will I receive any financial compensation for participating in the Fellowship?

A: The Fellowship does not provide cash payments except for covering direct expenses for participation in events. There are no sitting allowances provided.

Expectations and Responsibilities



Q: What is expected of me during the Fellowship?

A: Successful applicants are expected to set attainable career goals, work closely with their mentors to achieve these goals, participate fully in the training courses, and apply the knowledge and skills gained in the CRIPs. They are also expected to mentor at least one upcoming climate professional and continue championing climate solutions after the Fellowship period.

Q: Will I be able to continue working at my current institution and take time off for fellowship activities?

A: Yes, the Fellowship is non-residential, and participants are expected to remain fully engaged at their institutions. However, attendance at all training courses and activities is mandatory. In-person training courses are approximately one weeklong, while virtual training lasts up to two months, with sessions held twice a week for two hours each. Fellows will also need to meet with their mentor at least once a month.

Funders' Acknowledgement

Informed by the innovative AWARD Fellowship model, the Fellowship is designed as a blended (virtual and face-to-face interventions), non-residential career accelerator under the CLARE programme. CLARE is bridging critical gaps between science and action by championing Southern leadership to enable socially inclusive and sustainable action to build resilience to climate change and natural hazards. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the UK government, IDRC, or its Board of Governors. Learn more about CLARE: www.clareprogramme.org. The Fellowship is implemented by African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD). For more information, visit: www.awardfellowships.org.