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2025 Young Impact Associates in Agrifood Systems Fellowship

Our Vision for You

The YIA Fellowship in Agrifood Systems is a **year-long flagship program** designed to prepare a new generation of African leaders capable to make a difference in the impact measurement field and contribute to driving transformative change in Africa's agrifood landscape.

Through the YIA Fellowship, the Mastercard Foundation and its Impact Partner Organizations (IPO)¹ aim to empower you with the necessary knowledge, tools and skills, to evaluate, package, and demonstrate the impact of socially inclusive interventions in the African agrifood systems. Through this unique opportunity, you will accelerate your career in impact measurement, research, and consulting while contributing to Africa's evidence-driven decisions and development.

¹ The IPO is a consortium of partners including CIFOR-ICRAF, African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD), African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), and Akademiya2063 will implement the YIA in Agrifood Systems Fellowship.



About the YIAs Fellowship

The Fellowship provides a unique **learning and professional development experience**. The program will equip a new generation of African professionals with skills, networks and motivation to drive transformative, people-centered, scalable impact measurement approaches across the continent. The **Young Impact Associates (YIAs)** will contribute to Mastercard Foundation’s transformative agenda of “*fostering the professional growth and development of young impact leaders by developing their expertise and maintaining their engagement and interest in the impact field*”. The YIA Fellowship will support African young professionals in data and impact measurement:

- To enhance employability by equipping the young professionals with the skills and practical experience needed to secure fulfilling roles in impact measurement, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (ME&L), and development evaluation.
- To increase their capacity to articulate impact and influence evidence-based decisions in agrifood systems.
- To contribute to the transformative agenda of the impact measurement field by shaping the trajectory of impact assessment in Africa towards contextual considerations of the nexus of social dimensions and agrifood systems.

Fellowship structure

The Fellowship will include a combination of in-person and virtual training, workshops, and coaching sessions. The Young Impact Associates will benefit from:

- **Practical experience** – On-location work placements with leading organizations in the impact measurement sector for intensive industry immersion experiences
- **Mentorship and coaching** – Guidance and support from seasoned professionals
- **Customized training** in leadership, impact measurement and related topics
- **Peer learning and collaboration** to strengthen the YIA networks and promote intra-country partnerships

Who are we looking for?

The YIA Program – Agriculture Impact focus is open to young African women and men who are either starting out or have a background in the agriculture impact measurement field. They wish to deepen their understanding of theories, methods and practices to better assess impact within the agrifood landscape. They are passionate about humanizing agriculture impact measurement and have a strong interest in gender-responsive and transformative approaches. This means recognizing that agrifood systems directly impacts real people and working to highlight their contributions.

Eligibility criteria

- Nationals of Ghana, Kenya, and Uganda, residing in Africa
- Must be aged between 18 and 35 years
- Engaged in full-time, part-time work, self-employment, studying, or unemployed



- With a good command of both written and spoken English
- Have a minimum of a diploma, bachelor's degree in relevant disciplines including social sciences, agricultural sciences, economics, data sciences, environmental and climate science, international development, policy and governance, etc.
- Mission-driven interest and passion for the impact measurement field
- Motivation and clear aspirations to leverage data-driven approaches
- Commitment to a 12-month full-time program participation

YIA Fellowship commitment to Inclusion, Accessibility and Gender Equality

The YIA Fellowship is open to African young men and women in the focus countries – Kenya, Ghana and Uganda - including individuals with disabilities, those living in rural areas, or those who have a refugee status as well as others facing different forms of marginalization.

We are committed to fostering an inclusive and accessible environment at every stage of the application and selection process. Therefore, we encourage potential applicants to indicate any specific needs that would enable them to fully participate in the entire process, as well as throughout the Fellowship cycle, if selected. This information will enable us to customize our support and ensure a similar experience for the YIAs across different locations.

Program benefits

Upon your successful selection, you will join the YIA Fellowship for one year and receive a monthly stipend throughout the program's duration - **12 months**. The program will also cover non-financial items, which will be detailed at the start of the Fellowship activities.

Upon completing the Fellowship, you will become a part of the Mastercard Foundation global alumni, connecting you with a community of passionate individuals committed to leading positive change in the continent.

Program duration

The YIA Fellowship activities will begin in **mid-June 2025** and will run until end **May 2026**.

What to do next?

- Interested candidates are invited to apply by **April 30, 2025**, 23:59, East Africa Time (GMT+3). **Applications will NOT be accepted after this date.**
- Applications must be submitted through this link [click here](#). The applicants should fill out all the necessary fields. Only complete applications will be reviewed by the Selection committee.
- Applicants should have the required documents ready before starting the application process. These include:
 - An updated CV (maximum 3 pages) including the full names, email, and telephone of two reference contacts
 - A one-page motivation letter outlining the reasons for joining the YIA Fellowship, expectations and professional aspirations



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What to expect after your application?

Next steps after applying for the YIA Fellowship are:

- Screening will be conducted based on the eligibility criteria
- Shortlisting through an assessment of experience, motivation, and potential for growth and impact
- Selection of the final Young Impact Associates
- Notification of the results – *All candidates will be notified of the results in due time. There is no need to enquire about the application status until the official announcement is made.*
- The onboarding process will ensure that the successful applicants feel prepared and supported as they embark on their year-long Fellowship program. The selected Young Impact Associates will be required to submit identification documents, copies of certificates and any other relevant information. They will also participate in comprehensive orientation process to introduce them to the Fellowship's objectives, expectations, and key activities.

Any questions? Please send an email to:

awardqueries@cifor-icraf.org / r.jonyo@cifor-icraf.org / t.wangaya@cifor-icraf.org

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