



AWARD Leadership Program for Emerging African Women in Agricultural Science

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: What is the goal of the AWARD Leadership Program for Emerging African Women in Agricultural Science?

A: The program aims to build a pool of confident, capable, and influential young women scientists who can excel in agricultural sciences and thrive in leadership roles. It focuses on enhancing leadership, mentoring, communication, and gender-integration skills to transform agrifood systems in Africa.

Q: Who manages this program?

A: The program is managed by the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) team, leveraging our extensive experience in leadership and capacity-building programs for women in science and other professionals for over 15 years.

Q: Who is eligible to apply for this program?

A: Young African women agricultural scientists under 35 years old, who are nationals of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and Zambia and are currently residing in Africa. They should be pursuing or working in agricultural sciences and demonstrate commitment to building a career in the field and have leadership potential.

Q: What educational background is required?

A: Applicants must hold at least a bachelor's degree in an agricultural-related field.

Q: Can I apply if I reside outside Africa?

A: No, applicants must reside in Africa throughout the program duration to qualify.

Q: I am a citizen of an eligible country but reside in another African country. Am I eligible?

A: Yes. As long as you reside in Africa and are a national of one of the listed countries, you are eligible.

Q: What activities does the program include?

A: The program comprises structured activities that will include:



1. Virtual training workshops and masterclasses on leadership and mentoring, communication and personal branding, and gender integration in agricultural sciences .
2. Monthly mentorship sessions between mentors and mentees to set goals and review progress.
3. Peer Engagement and lesson learning: Documenting learnings and promoting networking.

Q: How long is the program?

A: Each cohort participates in a 9-month immersive leadership program. The selected candidates will also engage in peer and group mentoring, attend webinars with expert speakers and receive support from experience mentors. All training sessions will be delivered virtually.

Q: Will I receive financial compensation for participating?

A: No. The program does not offer stipends or sitting allowances or subsidies. However, all training materials and mentorship provided will be at no cost.

Q: What is expected of me if I am selected?

A: Participants are expected to:

- Attend all virtual training sessions and webinars
- Engage actively with mentors and peers
- Complete assignments and contribute to group discussions
- Participate in knowledge-sharing, and feedback exercises
- Carry out at least one role-modeling activity to inspire future women in science

Q: Can I remain in my current job or academic program while participating?

A: Yes. The Program is designed to be flexible and non-residential. However, you must ensure availability for scheduled sessions, which are typically held twice a week for 2.5 hours each. Mentoring meetings also occur monthly.

Q: I have participated in other AWARD programs before. Can I still apply?

A: No. Fellows of previous AWARD programs are not eligible to apply. However, junior mentees of fellows may apply.

Q: How will mentoring be conducted?

A: Mentoring is a proven and powerful driver for career development and particularly for retaining women in science. AWARD pairs mentees with a Mentor - a senior professional, carefully chosen to match the mentee's area of expertise and career goals. Mentors volunteer their time to the Program, and we deeply appreciate them.



Q: How are the mentors selected?

A: AWARD has built a database of potential mentors from its various Fellowship programs. It is from this database that the mentors are matched with mentees.

For more information, questions and concerns, please contact AWARD by sending an email to awardprograms@cifor-icraf.org

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