



Application Guidelines

Eligibility Criteria

The She Leads African Food Futures (SHEAF) Fellowship is open to African women who meet the criteria below:

- Citizens of one of the following countries: Kenya, Malawi, and Senegal;
- Holds at least a master's degree in a relevant discipline in agrifood systems;
- Have at least 5 years of professional experience in agrifood systems related areas;
- Demonstrated interest and contribution to addressing gender issues in agrifood systems;
- Employed in national and international organizations in agrifood systems, including the private sector, civil society, non-governmental organizations, farmers' organizations, government ministries and agencies, regional and sub-regional organizations, or academia;
- Demonstrated intermediate proficiency in English (reading, writing, and speaking);
- Be committed to full participation in the 18-month program, including online and in-person activities;
- Resident in Africa, specifically in the listed countries (Kenya, Malawi, and Senegal) for the entire duration of the Fellowship;
- Not a Fellow of any other programs offered by AWARD.

Ideal SHEAF Fellows

The ideal SHEAF Fellows will:

- Show how they have played a leadership role in agrifood systems policy development, program design, and implementation, particularly in projects at the nexus of agricultural development, food systems, and gender equality;
- Convincingly explain ongoing programs and policy challenges or questions they are currently working on.
- Not use artificial intelligence (AI) to fill out the application form.

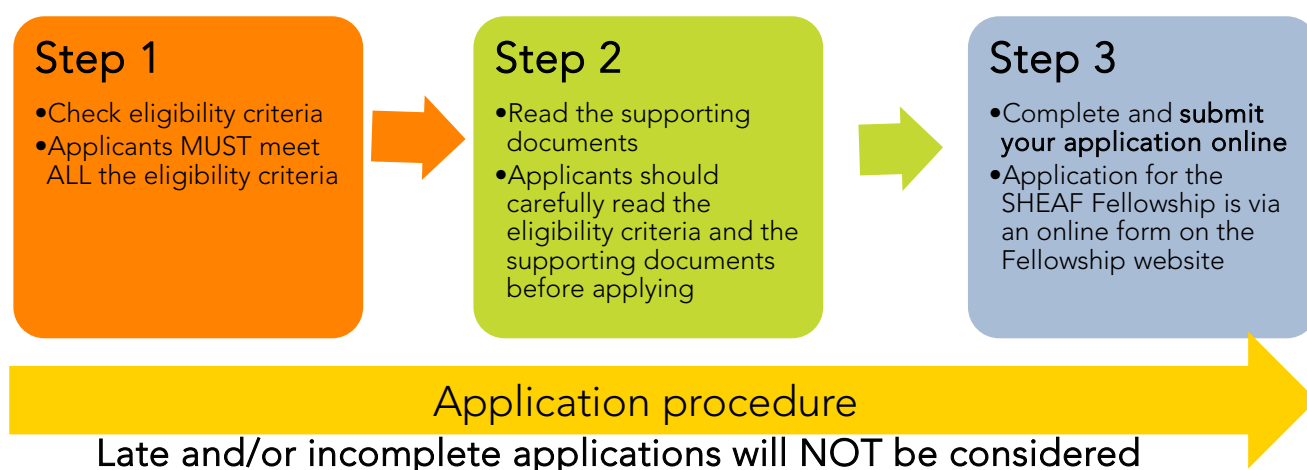
Pre-conditions for Participation in the SHEAF Fellowship

Notification of an offer to the successful applicant does not guarantee participation in the Fellowship. Participation will be guaranteed upon the applicant's:

- provision of details of the institution's head or responsible supervisor and his/her endorsement of the applicant's participation in the Fellowship
- submission of the required documentation (copies of passport and academic certificates) to support the information provided in the application form;
- acceptance of the AWARD's code of conduct;
- timely communication to AWARD on their participation in any other capacity-building programs.

Application Procedure

The call for the Fellowship opens on December 16, 2025, and closes on January 31, 2026. Late and/or incomplete applications will NOT be considered. The application process will include the following steps:



Supporting Documents

- The SHEAF Fellowship brochure [download here](#)
- Frequently Asked Questions -FAQs [download here](#)

Important Dates to note

Call for Applications open	December 16, 2025
Call for Applications closes	January 31, 2026
Selected participants notified	March, 2026
Fellowship begins (in-person training in Kenya)	April 2026

Contact and Support

For questions about the application or the Fellowship, please send an email to awardqueries@cifor-icraf.org