



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Women in Agriculture Leadership Program Fellowship for the Africa-Australia Partnership for Climate Responsive Agriculture

General Information

Q: What is the goal of the Fellowship?

A: The long-term goal of the Fellowship is to strengthen the capability, confidence, and influence of African women agricultural scientists to lead and participate in climate- resilient agricultural research.

Q: Is there an application fee?

A: No. There is no application fee and no registration fee to participate.

Q: How much does it cost to participate?

A: There is no participation fee.

Q: Who is eligible to apply?

A: Eligible applicants are African women agricultural scientists working in National Agricultural Research Institutions (NARIs), government agencies, academia, non-governmental organizations, or the private sector, and **currently actively engaged** in research, policy, or practice relevant to climate change and smallholder agriculture. Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Hold at least a master's degree in a relevant discipline
- Hold a minimum of seven years of experience in agriculture, agrifood systems, gender, and climate-related work
- Be nationals of the target countries: **Egypt, Morocco, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Senegal**
- **Reside in Africa during the entire Fellowship period**
- Proficiency in **English** or **French**

Q: Is the Fellowship exclusively for women?

A: Yes, the Fellowship is exclusively for women.

Q: How long is this Fellowship?

A: This Fellowship runs for two years.

Q: How many applicants can apply from one institution?

A: There is no restriction on the number of applicants from a single institution. Anyone who meets the eligibility criteria is welcome to apply. However, selection is competitive and based on the strength of individual applications, reviewed by an independent panel.

Application Process

Q: When does the call for applications open?

A: The application period begins on **March 6, 2026**, and closes on **April 26, 2026**, 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 do I apply?

A: Applications are submitted via an online platform accessible via the AWARD's official website. The application form is available in both English and French. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications in the language they are most proficient in.

Q. Can I use AI and my friends to write my application?

A: All application ideas must be your own original ideas, experiences, and words. You must not use AI tools to generate your answers. Applications that appear to misrepresent authorship or do not reflect the applicant's genuine experience may be subject to further review and disqualification.

Q: When will I receive feedback?

A: All successful candidates will be notified within 6 weeks after the application deadline. Due to the volume of applications, only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Q: Can I edit my application after I submit it?

A: No, once submitted, applications are final and cannot be edited.

Q: What increases the chances of having a successful application?

A: Strong applications clearly demonstrate alignment between the applicant's career aspirations, current work, and the Fellowship's objectives. Applicants should provide concrete examples of their contributions to agricultural research and ensure their responses are detailed, authentic, and impact focused.

Q: What are the common reasons for unsuccessful applications?

A: Applications may be unsuccessful due to incomplete submissions, weak alignment with the Fellowship's objectives, unclear career goals, or insufficient detail in responses that appear generic and not reflective of the applicant's authentic experience or broader impact.

Q: Do I need to attach academic or identification documents at the application stage?

A: No. Supporting documents are not required during the application stage. However, successful applicants will be required to submit academic and identification documents for verification after selection.

Q: Can I save my application and return to it later?

A: Yes. The online platform allows you to save your progress and return to complete your application using the link sent to your email.

Support and Benefits

Q: What kind of support will Fellows receive?

A: Fellows receive tailored leadership and technical training in women's leadership and negotiation, gender integration in climate adaptation, gender integration in agrifood systems, and science communication and proposal writing. The Fellowship also includes a structured three-tiered mentoring model that connects Fellows with senior mentors and provides opportunities to mentor emerging women professionals. In addition, Fellows benefit from cross-country collaboration, networking with African and global experts, storytelling training, and increased professional visibility.

Q: Will Fellows receive any financial compensation?

A: The Fellowship does not provide cash payments or sitting allowances. However, direct expenses related to participation in official Fellowship events are covered.

Expectations and Responsibilities

Q: What is expected of Fellows?

A: Fellows are expected to fully engage in all training and mentoring activities and apply the knowledge and skills gained within their institutions. At the end of the Fellowship, Fellows are expected to act as change agents for gender-responsive agricultural research.

Q: Can I continue working during the Fellowship or take time off for Fellowship activities?

A: Yes, the Fellowship is non-residential, and Fellows are expected to remain fully engaged in their organizations. Fellows are required to attend all virtual and face-to-face activities. In-person training courses are approximately one-week long, while virtual training courses last up to two months with sessions held twice a week for two hours each.

Q: What outcomes are expected from Fellows after completion?

A: After completing the Fellowship, Fellows will be equipped to lead and influence gender-responsive agricultural research within their institutions and networks. They will also contribute to strengthening institutional capacities by integrating gender considerations into agricultural research policies and practices. Additionally, Fellows

will join a collaborative network of policy professionals, working together to advance gender inclusion in agricultural transformation across Africa.

Mentoring

Q: What is the purpose of mentorship under this Fellowship?

A: Mentorship is an important component of the Fellowship. It supports Fellows to strengthen their leadership capability, technical confidence, and professional influence within climate-resilient agricultural research. Through structured engagement with experienced professionals, Fellows are guided to apply their learning, navigate institutional environments, and advance their leadership pathways in a strategic and sustained manner.

Q: What is the mentoring model under this Fellowship?

A: The Fellowship adopts a two-tier mentoring approach. Each Fellow is paired with a senior professional (Mentor) who provides guidance and professional support. In addition, Fellows are expected to support emerging professionals (Fellow Mentees), creating a leadership cascade that strengthens capacity across multiple levels within research systems.

Q: Who can serve as a Mentor?

A: A Mentor is a senior agricultural research professional, policy expert, or development practitioner with demonstrated experience in agriculture, gender, climate, or agrifood systems. Mentors may be male or female and should be able to provide professional guidance aligned with the Fellow's leadership goals.

Eligibility

Q: What is the minimum academic qualification required?

A: Applicants must hold at least a master's degree in a relevant discipline at the time of application.

Q: Can I apply if I am a citizen of an eligible African country, but currently reside outside Africa?

A: No. Applicants must reside in Africa throughout the duration of the Fellowship.

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

A: Yes. Applicants may reside in any African country, provided they are nationals of one of the target countries and remain based in Africa throughout the Fellowship period.

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

A: Yes. Provided you meet all other eligibility criteria. Please indicate your expected graduation date on your application.

Q: Can I participate if I am currently benefiting from another AWARD Fellowship?

A: No. Individuals who are currently participating in or have recently benefited from another AWARD fellowship are not eligible to apply.

Q: If my degree is not specifically in agriculture, can you apply?

A: Yes, provided you hold at least a master's degree in a relevant field, and your professional experience aligns with agriculture, agrifood systems, gender, and climate-related work. The Fellowship values interdisciplinary expertise that contributes to inclusive and climate-resilient agricultural systems.

Q: Can I participate if I have a disability?

A: Yes. AWARD will make reasonable adjustments and reasonable accommodations for applicants and participants to ensure barriers to full participation are removed. If you have a disability and need a reasonable adjustment to submit your application, please contact T.Wangaya[at]cifor-icraf.org to discuss.

Acknowledgement

The Women in Agriculture Leadership Program Fellowship is an initiative of African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) funded under the Africa-Australia Partnership for Climate Responsive Agriculture. It seeks to contribute to the Partnership's end-of-program outcome two (EOP02): "Australia leverages its funding to national and multilateral agricultural research institutes to increase the number of women leading and participating in climate resilient agriculture". The Africa-Australia Partnership is delivered by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.