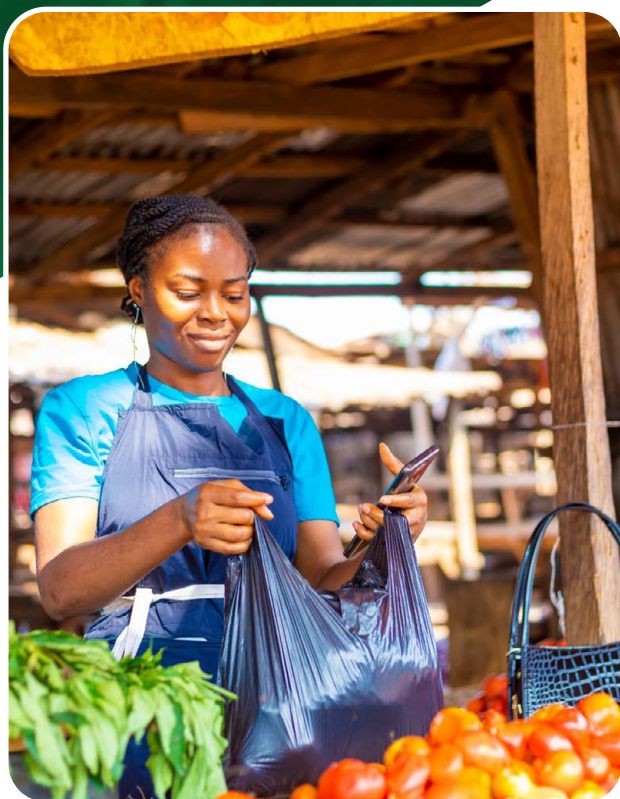
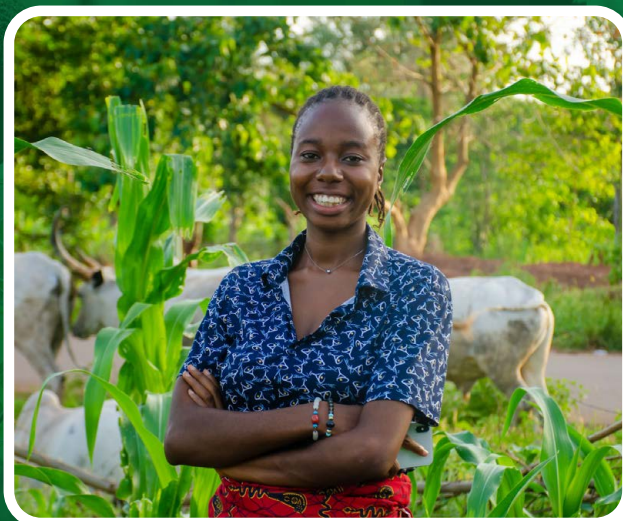


Call for Applications

Youth

Fellowship Competition

Enhancing Youth
Representation and Influence
in Regional Food Systems
Policy Processes in ESA



AGRA
Sustainably Growing
Africa's Food Systems



FANRPAN
Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network

INTRODUCTION

Youth engagement in policymaking remains a significant challenge across Eastern and Southern Africa, particularly in the agriculture and food systems sector. Despite being the largest demographic group in the region, youth often face barriers to participating in decision-making processes due to limited access to resources, lack of representation in key platforms, and systemic exclusion. This lack of inclusion undermines their potential contributions and perpetuates policies that may fail to address the needs and aspirations of younger generations.

Youth hold immense potential to transform agriculture and food systems through innovation, creativity, and digital fluency. Recognizing this, the African Union (AU) has called for greater youth participation in policy and development processes as part of its Agenda 2063 vision. Following the post-Malabo processes, the AU Extra-Ordinary Summit held in Kampala, Uganda, adopted the 10-year Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Strategy and Action Plan, and the Kampala CAADP Declaration on Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa, which will be implemented from 2026 to 2035. The Kampala Declaration highlights the critical role of youth in driving agricultural transformation, emphasizing the need to harness their energy and ideas to achieve food security, sustainable agriculture, and inclusive growth.

To capitalise on this, AGRA through the Youth Employment for Food and Agriculture (YEFFA) in partnership with the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), is launching a Youth Fellowship Competition that aims to empower youth in Eastern and Southern Africa to participate actively in food systems policy processes. By fostering innovation, building capacity, and amplifying youth voices, this initiative seeks to bridge the gap between youth and policymakers while leveraging the power of social media to create broader engagement and advocacy.

FELLOWSHIP OBJECTIVES

1. **Promote youth-led innovation** by highlighting best practices and creative approaches to youth engagement in food systems policy.
2. **Enhance youth contributions** to agriculture and food system policies by providing training, mentorship, and resources.
3. **Amplify youth voices** in regional and continental policy spaces through physical and digital platforms.
4. **Equip youth with tools** to effectively influence food system policies and engage diverse audiences.
5. **Facilitate mentorship opportunities** by connecting young leaders with experienced policy actors in agriculture and food systems.

FELLOWSHIP ROLLOUT

The Fellowship is designed to provide a comprehensive platform for youth to showcase their innovative ideas, build their capacity, and amplify their influence in food systems policy processes. The rollout of the fellowship will include the following:

1. Call for Applications

Interested participants are invited to submit proposals showcasing innovative approaches or experiences in youth engagement in food systems policy.

Proposal requirements:

- A detailed description of the initiative or best practice.
- Evidence of, or potential impact of initiative on policy processes or outcomes.
- Recommendations for scaling or replicating the initiative in the region.
- A social media strategy to advocate for the initiative, including content ideas, platforms to be used, and hashtags.



2. Selection process

A panel of experts will evaluate the proposals based on the following criteria:

- **Innovation and creativity:** The uniqueness of the approach to engaging youth in food systems policy.
- **Impact and scalability:** Demonstrated influence on policy processes and potential for regional application.
- **Feasibility and sustainability:** The practicality of the initiative and its ability to be sustained over time.
- **Advocacy strategy:** Effective use of digital and physical platforms to promote engagement and influence.

3. Capacity Building and Mentorship

Selected fellows will participate in a structured mentorship program, where they will:

- Receive training on policy processes, advocacy, strategic communication, and stakeholder engagement.
- Be paired with experienced policy actors for guidance and support.
- Gain access to resources to refine and implement their initiatives.

4. Policy Engagement and Advocacy

Fellows will have the opportunity to:

- Present their initiatives at national and regional policy forums and conferences.
- Engage with policymakers and development partners to advocate for youth-inclusive policies.
- Utilize social media platforms to amplify their voices and mobilize support.
- Membership and participation to a vibrant community of practice of youth in agriculture

5. Recognition and Awards

Outstanding fellows will receive:

- A certificate of recognition.
- Opportunities for regional and global networking and exposure in agrifood systems space.
- FANRPAN Policy Championship role to advocate for policies at national, regional and global levels.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The competition is open to youth who:

- Are between the ages of 18 and 35.
- Reside in Eastern or Southern Africa.
- Are actively engaged in agriculture, food systems, or policy advocacy.
- Have an initiative or experience related to youth participation in food systems.
- Are committed to knowledge sharing and advocacy.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested youth should submit their completed application form in the link below:

["Youth Fellowship Application form"](#)

Applications must include:

- A completed application form.
- A written proposal (maximum 2,000 words) outlining their initiative.
- Supporting documents or evidence (optional but encouraged).
- References (optional but encouraged)

Deadline for Applications: Thursday **8 May 2025** – 23h59 SAST (GMT+2)

For more information, contact Rachel Mkandawire at programmes@fanrpan.org or visit www.fanrpan.org.

Join us in shaping the role of youth in the transformation of food systems policy in Africa. Apply now and be part of a movement that empowers youth to lead in policy transformation!