



Call for Youth Exhibitions

HOST A YOUTH EXHIBITION BOOTH OR
BIOCULTURAL AND FOOD HERITAGE PAVILION
SESSION AT THE 2026 WORLD FOOD FORUM
FLAGSHIP EVENT

Showcase youth-led solutions and champion the role of young people in advancing agrifood systems transformation.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: 24 MAY 2025, 23:59 CEST

The World Food Forum (WFF) Secretariat invites Members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and partners of the Forum to organize in-person Youth Exhibition Booth and Biocultural and Food Heritage Pavilion sessions for the sixth annual WFF flagship event to be held from **8 to 16 October** at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.

The WFF flagship event provides a unique global platform for young people and youth allies across the globe to connect on critical issues related to agrifood systems, exchange ideas and contribute to concrete action and impact aligned with the 2026 theme: ***“Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow”***.



Overview

All WFF Youth Exhibition Booths and sessions within the Biocultural and Food Heritage Pavilion will take place from **12 to 16 October 2026** in the Atrium of the FAO headquarters. As a central, high-traffic space, the Atrium offers a dynamic setting that maximizes visibility, interaction and engagement among participants.

Each session will be hosted in a **two-to-four-hour time slot** (this includes setup and takedown) and offers two display options as outlined below.

Two display formats

1. Youth Exhibition Booth

The Exhibition Booth setup should be well suited for the presentation of multimedia content and for active engagement with visitors. Content should be visually compelling and interactive, with short viewing times that allow participants to engage quickly as they move through the Atrium space. Past successful exhibitions have also featured physical products or prototypes, enabling visitors to see, experience and interact with tangible solutions.

To cover the administrative costs of organizing the exhibition, **organizers will be charged a flat fee of USD 1 750.**

** Small, youth-led organizations may apply for a waiver, which may be reviewed and granted at the sole discretion of the WFF Youth Initiative team.*

2. Biocultural and Food Heritage Pavilion

The Biocultural and Food Heritage Pavilion is a curated event space for atrium sessions. It brings together organizations, communities and practitioners to showcase evolving food traditions, knowledge systems and practices as expressions of biocultural relationships between people, nature and agrifood systems. It serves as a platform for dynamic sessions, dialogue and interactive experiences that highlight the role of food heritage in promoting sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.

To cover the administrative costs associated with organizing Pavilion sessions, organizers will be charged a cost-recovery fee of **USD 3 000 for a two-hour session** or **USD 5 000 for a four-hour session**, in accordance with the selected session duration.

** Small, youth-led organizations may apply for a waiver, which may be reviewed and granted at the sole discretion of the WFF Youth Initiative team.*



Conceptualization



- Youth Exhibitions and Pavilion Sessions can be proposed by any entity. All proposals must be youth-led or demonstrate a strong focus on youth engagement and empowerment.
- Organizers are responsible for developing the concept note, as well as the planning, promotion and delivery of their Youth Exhibition or Pavilion Session, including covering all associated costs.
- Proposals should be closely aligned with the work of the WFF Youth Initiative and connect to the 2026 WFF flagship event theme, ***“Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow”***.
- Youth Exhibitions must align with at least one of the following thematic areas related to agrifood systems transformation: policy, entrepreneurship and innovation, education, culture, young women’s empowerment or local action.
- Sessions within the Pavilion must be youth-focused and highlight the role of food heritage in fostering sustainable and resilient agrifood systems, showcasing how traditions, knowledge and cultural practices can inform innovative, locally grounded solutions.
- All Youth Exhibitions and Pavilion Sessions should aim to be gender-balanced, inclusive and reflective of diverse cultural and regional perspectives, in line with the WFF Youth Initiative’s commitment to an inclusive and multicultural platform.
- The WFF Youth Initiative particularly encourages proposals that highlight regional diversity and showcase local cultural and food heritage.
- Only complete applications that meet all criteria will be considered.

Logistics and promotion

- ◆ All costs related to Youth Exhibitions and Pavilion Sessions, including travel, visas and logistical arrangements will be the responsibility of each organizer.
- ◆ Organizers must provide a laptop with an HDMI input (or a laptop and an HDMI adapter), a USB memory stick and visual content for display on the exhibition monitor or LED screen, downloaded and readily available on both the laptop and USB memory stick. English sub-titles should be provided for any video content with dialogue as the use of external audio is strictly prohibited in the exhibition space.
- ◆ Paper handouts, posters or roll-ups are strictly prohibited and the exhibition space branding should be kept visible at all times.
- ◆ Organizers must ensure at least one exhibitor is present at the Exhibition Booth or Pavilion and that the exhibition monitor or LED screen is displaying content at all times throughout their designated exhibition slot.





- ◆ Organizers are not permitted to distribute merchandise.
- ◆ Organizers are not permitted to distribute food or beverage items without a signed disclaimer form.
- ◆ Organizers are responsible for the promotion of the exhibition through their own channels.
- ◆ The WFF Youth Initiative will provide branding guidelines and materials
- ◆ Approved Youth Exhibitions and Pavilion Sessions will be displayed on the WFF flagship event agenda.
- ◆ To further support the promotion of the Youth Exhibitions and Pavilion Sessions, organizers may also apply for additional packages:

PACKAGE 1

Pre-event Promotion Support

Includes promotion of the Youth Exhibition or Pavilion Session on the WFF social media channels – **USD 1 000** (in addition to the administrative fee).

PACKAGE 2

Post-event Outcome Dissemination

Includes one post-event article on the WFF Youth Initiative's website – **USD 1 000** (in addition to the administrative fee).

Application process

- 1.** Use the online form to submit a Youth Exhibition or Pavilion Session proposal. Note that incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- 2.** The deadline to submit side event proposals is **24 May, 23:59 CEST**.
- 3.** The WFF Youth Initiative Secretariat will be responsible for reviewing all proposals and selecting the Youth Exhibition and Pavilion Session proposals based on the criteria listed above.
- 4.** Organizers will be contacted after the submission and will receive a notification regarding the acceptance of their proposal **in June**.
- 5.** Once accepted organizers will be requested to submit a detailed concept note, using a provided template including the confirmed title, description, detailed setup plan and confirmed exhibitors/speakers **within two weeks of notification**.
- 6.** The full schedule of WFF Youth Exhibitions will be posted on the WFF website after the acceptance of the detailed concept notes of all selected proposals.
- 7.** All queries regarding Youth Exhibitions or Pavilion Session should be addressed to youth-exhibitions@world-food-forum.org.

Disclaimer

By submitting the application form, you acknowledge and agree to the following:

- ◆ Selected organizers must adhere to all guidelines and requirements outlined by the WFF Youth Initiative for organizing and hosting a Youth Exhibition or Pavilion Session.
- ◆ The WFF Youth Initiative reserves the right to accept or reject any application at its discretion.
- ◆ Incomplete applications or those not meeting the specified criteria will not be considered for selection.
- ◆ The submission of this application does not guarantee selection to host a Youth Exhibition or Pavilion Session at the WFF flagship event. The WFF Youth Initiative can accommodate **a limited number of exhibitions/sessions** and **only selected applicants will have the opportunity to host Youth Exhibitions and Pavilion Sessions during the WFF flagship event.**
- ◆ The WFF Youth Initiative may modify the format or scheduling of the exhibition/session, based on logistical considerations and space limitations.
- ◆ All information provided in this application must be accurate and truthful to the best of your knowledge.
- ◆ The WFF Youth Initiative and its affiliated partners are not liable for any expenses incurred by organizers in relation to their participation in the forum.
- ◆ Adherence to the established process is required throughout. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of the exhibition/session.
- ◆ By submitting this application, you consent to the collection and processing of your personal data for the purpose of evaluating and selecting Youth Exhibition or Pavilion Session hosts, in accordance with applicable data protection policies and regulations.
- ◆ The WFF Youth Initiative team reserves the right to amend or update these terms and conditions at any time without prior notice.