



Connecting & Empowering a Fellowship of African Food Systems Leaders

PHASE 1

Start-up:

1 January 2021
- 30 June 2022

PHASE 2

Incubation:

2022 - 2027

PHASE 3

Scaling:

2027 - 2032

A world class systems leadership programme & movement for change

Our vision is of a continent-wide fellowship of African food systems leaders who actively contribute to food systems transformation up to and beyond the UN's SDGs. They will be connected and empowered by a long-term, African-led, world class systems leadership programme and a professional movement for change. Over a period of 18 months, Wageningen University & Research, with Nairobi based Wasafiri Consulting, will introduce and test the concept in Kenya and Rwanda.

In this start-up phase, the foundations will be laid for realising our vision by designing and delivering a world-class leadership programme for food systems leaders, fostering African ownership, and working with like-minded parties to help create a professional movement focused on deep-seated change. We are looking for an African anchor organisation, willing to go on the journey with us from the very beginning.



Healthy, sustainable and equitable food systems

Transforming food systems is a global priority. Africa's governments are committed to tackling food systems issues through the [Malabo Declaration](#) and as signatories of international commitments, including the [SDGs](#) and the [Paris Agreement](#). Food systems must contribute much more to better diets for all, to biodiverse landscapes, to carbon neutrality and thriving enterprises that generate fair, living incomes for everyone.

Despite this commitment, staying on course for the necessary transformation is proving a challenge. With the exception of just four countries, Africa is off-track for attaining the goals set in 2014. Strengthened leadership is essential for achieving the transformative change envisaged in the [Africa Agenda 2063](#)

A new paradigm of systems leadership

Many persistent problems within our food systems are immune to top-down, technocratic leadership styles: they are issues without a single root cause. Because they are so complex, no solitary solution will resolve them. No single organisation has the mandate, knowledge or resources required to tackle them alone, so a collective response is required. The system is in a constant state of flux too, which requires adaptivity. Simultaneously, the symptoms of today's food system are by-products of a system that works for some stakeholders. There will be resistance to change. The need to deal with this complexity and resistance requires a new form of leadership: systems leadership.

Successful efforts to re-shape systems tell us that high-quality, dispersed yet connected leadership is essential. The impetus to seek change, organise, and make it happen can come from nurturing such leadership among those engaged in food systems.

The start-up phase of a long term initiative

In the start-up phase, two cohorts of 30 participants in each country will complete a world-class systems leadership development programme.

Participants will be selected based on their 1) passion to work on food system transformation; 2) current leadership experience and potential to lead in the future; and 3) diversity in including leadership experience, perspective, position within the food system and more.

We will actively seek participation across all genders and ages. All participants will be invited to join a new African

Food Fellows Network, dedicated to fostering systems change.

Over the next decade and onwards, the African Food Fellowship will elevate the leadership skills of more than 5,000 emerging leaders.

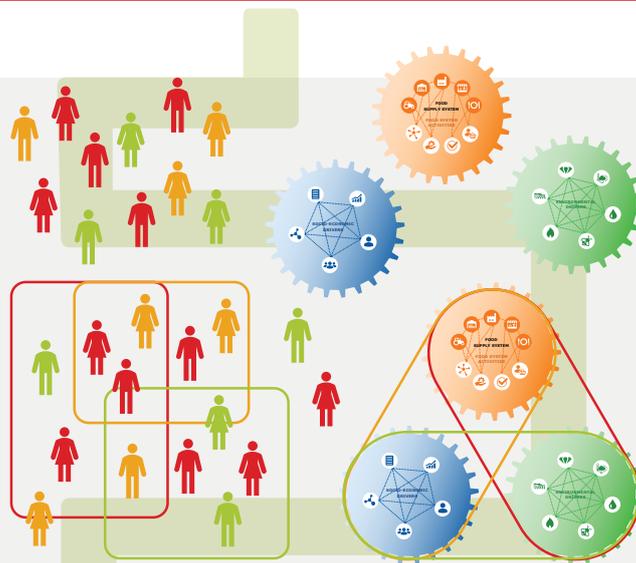
Current situation: food systems are economically, socially and ecologically unsustainable

Key activities

Phase 1, Start-up:

Systems leadership enhanced in two countries based on food systems mapping

New leadership networks are established and strengthened through virtual and physical platforms and anchored by an African partner



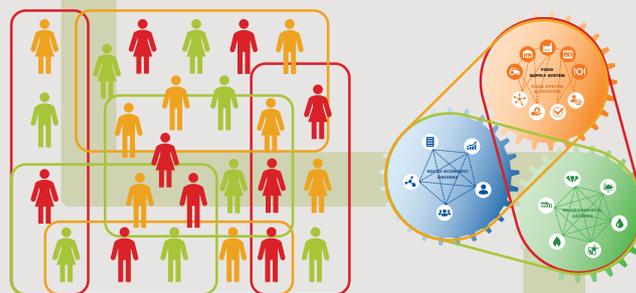
Outcomes

High quality systems leadership is developed across diverse cohorts of participants

Network strategy coordinated and strengthened, changes that connect and align disparate components of food systems towards regenerative and inclusive food systems monitored

Phase 2, Incubation:

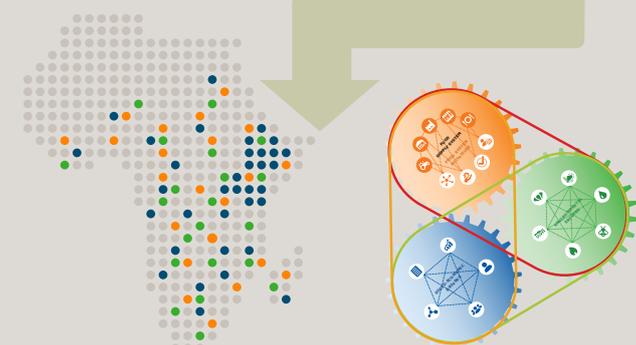
National programs consolidated, regional activities initiated



Support networks, in-country movements, initiatives and drivers of change towards sustainable food systems strengthened

Phase 3, Scaling:

African Food Fellowship model shared and adapted to support ongoing initiatives for sustainable food systems



African Food Fellowship is operating in many African countries; a critical mass of leaders collaborate to make food systems sustainable, circular and inclusive

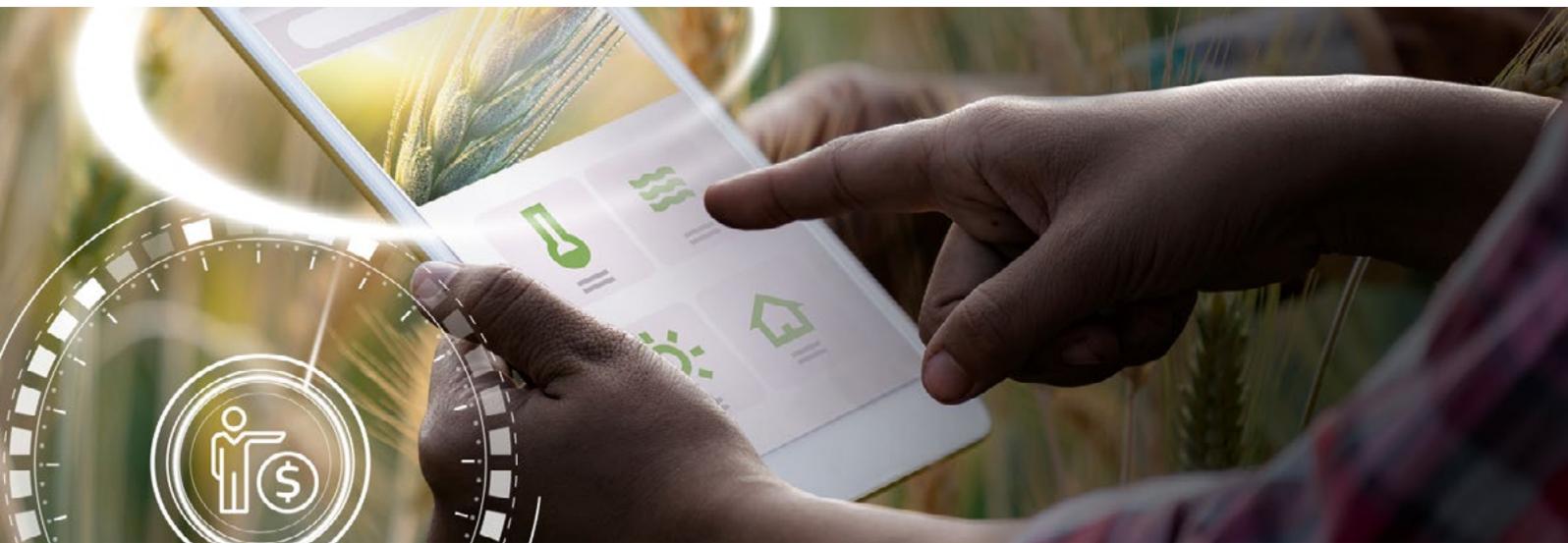
Food system leadership for inclusive, regenerative food systems that generate living incomes, healthy diets and biodiverse landscapes.

Partnership

The Fellowship can bring systems leadership to all parts of all food systems to accelerate transformative change. If such an investment could strengthen your or others' existing efforts, or if you feel that partnership with you on this journey will be mutually beneficial, **please contact us**.

Keen to become an African Food Fellow?

In exchange for the time and effort invest in participating in the leadership programme, we offer you world-class content, a certificate from Wageningen University & Research and membership of a new and dynamic professional network of African Food Fellows. Moreover, the Fellowship will bring value for Fellows through incubating initiatives, conveying knowledge and networking through dedicated events and high quality communications.



Initiating partners

Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation supports value creation by strengthening capacities of professionals and institutions for sustainable development. As the international expertise department of WUR, we turn knowledge into action with the aim of exploring the potential of nature to improve quality of life. With approximately 30 locations, 5,000 staff members and 10,000 students, Wageningen University & Research is a world leader in its domain.

Wasafiri Consulting is a global consultancy, incubator and institute that helps leaders and organisations tackle some of the world's most complex problems. Working on the front lines of change, we have established a unique depth of understanding about what it takes to bring about change at scale.

Contact persons

For more information, please contact **Nina de Roo** of Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (nina.deroo@wur.nl), and **Eunice Khaguli** of Wasafiri Consulting (eunice@wasafirihub.com)

For news and information on our other initiatives, visit www.wur.eu/wcdi and www.wasafirihub.com

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