

## The African Food Fellowship

### African Food Fellowship Exchange Programme

#### Summary of Call

**Purpose:** The African Food Fellowship Exchange Programme is a 3-month residency that aims to advance collaboration between researchers from an African based institution and researchers at Wageningen University & Research, who share an interest in the role of leadership in the transformation of African food systems. We are looking for **one** African and **one** Dutch junior researchers to partner with us in expanding the understanding of food systems leadership in African countries.

**Eligibility:** Upto 45 years of age; doctoral/ post-doctoral researchers; has finished data collection and interested in advancing their writing; identified willing supervisor in host research organisation; willing to complete the 3-month residency on full-time basis.

**Published on:** 21 August 2023

**Deadline for application:** 15 October 2023, 12.00 CEST

#### Description

The African Food Fellowship is building a radical movement of leaders working to transform food systems in Africa. The African Food Fellowship Exchange Programme is a 3-month residency that aims to advance collaboration between researchers from an African based institution and researchers at Wageningen University & Research, who share an interest in the role of leadership in the transformation of African food systems. International experiences are important for diversity sensitive learning, strengthening collaborations and integration of different experiences. For details about the African Food Fellowship, visit our website: <https://africanfoodfellowship.org/>

#### What is the Exchange Programme about

Each year, two young Researchers will be recruited: one residency for African researcher from an African university/research institute, and one residency for a researcher from Wageningen University & Research (WUR). Both researchers will be awarded a research grant for a 3-months to work with senior researchers who have similar interests at WUR (for the African researchers) and with African university/research institutes (for WUR researchers). The grant will cover expenses (including travel costs, accommodation, health insurance) up to a total maximum of 6500 €. The grant will be administered by the African Food Fellowship Secretariat, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation.

#### For whom

The Exchange Programme is open to all junior researchers, that are interested in leadership in food systems change, who wish to reflect on this experience with academic support. Junior researchers should have interest in leadership diversities in food systems transformation in Africa, in particular in the domains of horticulture, sustainable land use, food and nutrition security, agri-finance, aquaculture and sustainable energy.

In terms of content, we are looking for ideas or inquiries that advance our understanding of the role of individual and collective leadership for food systems transformation in Africa. The products of the residency could be e.g. a case study, a comparative analysis, a theory-based essay, or a reflection on your own lived experience as a food systems leader. It is expected that the final product will be published in an academic journal. The residency assumes that data collection has already taken place, so that the majority of time can be devoted to writing and exchange with other scholars. Moreover, it is assumed that the junior researchers have identified prior to the start of the program- a prestigious African university/research institute or WUR chair group where they would like to be based. It is expected that the junior researchers had already contacted Senior researcher from the host university/research institute that they would like to collaborate with.

### **Criteria**

The African Food Fellowship follows WUR equal opportunity recruitment practices to ensure that no applicants are discriminated . The Exchange Programme selection process is a merit-based open competition. After the deadline, all eligible applications will be reviewed by the African Food Fellowship. The final selection of young researchers will be based on the following criteria:

1. **Level** - Doctoral and postdoctoral researchers, and young researchers who completed their doctoral studies in the past 3 years
2. **Collaboration** – Researcher has a written consent from the Senior Researchers with whom to collaborate in WUR or the African Academic/Research Institutes. Moreover, the young researcher has a clear plan with whom they want to work and has supporting documents from the potential supervisor;
3. **Proposal** – The proposal entails research approaches that are written with the highest level of quality, submission of the proposal is part of the application process;
4. **Innovation** – The proposal breaks new ground in systems leadership and it holds the promise of new insights and the potential to produce new knowledge;
5. **Relevance** – The proposal has relevance for leaders in African food systems, and the African Food Fellowship;
6. **Feasibility** – The proposed activities and outcomes of the project are realistically attainable within the proposed time and the researcher is well equipped to deliver on the proposed project;
7. **Interdisciplinarity** – Different academic perspectives and disciplines are used and integrated in the proposal. The work builds on insights from a variety of societal actors and bodies of (African) knowledge.

### **Junior researchers should be:**

- Up to 40 years of age
- Proficient in reading, writing and speaking English
- Minimally equipped with a MSc degree
- Willing to contribute their insights gained in the Exchange Programme with the wider African Food Fellowship, and systems leadership dialogue communities.
- Must be from an African University/Research Institute (for African junior researcher). Applications are welcome from all African countries.

- Must be from Wageningen University & University (for the Dutch junior researcher)

Please note:

- This exchange programme is not meant to support planned fieldwork.
- The grant cannot be used on a part-time basis. Researchers should utilise the grant within the specified duration and deliver on outputs.
- Senior researchers seeking sabbatical are not eligible for this programme.
- There is no financial compensation for Supervisors at the hosting institute. However, co-publishing can be discussed in advance of the residency.

### **Expectation**

The products of the residency could be e.g. a case study, a comparative analysis, a theory-based essay, or a reflection on your own lived experience as a food systems leader. The candidates who benefit from this exchange programme are required to:

- Make a presentation of their research in one of the African Food Fellowship forums, such as the Food Systems Leadership Program and the Country Food Fellowship dialogues
- Write an academic article in an academic journal about the new insights acquired relating to systems leadership in food system transformation.
- Send the African Food Fellowship Secretariate a brief evaluation describing concrete results after completion of the visit abroad.

The residencies enables young researchers to access and practice expertise and research skills that are not available at their home institution, supporting the exchange of knowledge and good practices across institutes. The junior researcher will have 'visiting researcher' status in their host institutions, allowing them to be part of academic life and have access to scholarly supervision and peer support. The researchers are expected to have no academic or professional obligations other than pursuing the proposed research project.

Please note that researchers are not allowed to have dependents, including spouses and children, accompany them during the residency.

### **Timeline**

The African Food Fellowship welcomes applications for the 2024 Fellows in November. The results of the selection will be available in December 2023. The residencies will be flexibly planned in Winter or Spring of 2024.

### **How to apply**

We invite interested researchers to:

- Complete the application forms (Annex 1)
- Letter of approval to participate in the programme from your current Supervisor, employer or Chair group.
- Curriculum vitae

All documents should be submitted to [info@africanfoodfellowship.org](mailto:info@africanfoodfellowship.org), with cc to [Brenda.namugumya@wur.nl](mailto:Brenda.namugumya@wur.nl) and [herman.brouwer@wur.nl](mailto:herman.brouwer@wur.nl) by **15 October 2023** at 12.00 CEST. Use the same emails, if you have any questions about the call. Only shortlisted proposals will be contacted.

To identify potential collaborators at Wageningen University & Research, search these links: <https://www.wur.nl/en/research-results/chair-groups.htm> and <https://www.wur.nl/en/research-results/research-institutes.htm>

### **Application timeframe**

1. Closing date for applications: **15 October, 12.00 CEST**
2. Interviews: Week of 1 November
3. Contractual process: November – January
4. Likely start date: February – April 2024

Timeline for deliverables and milestones to be agreed upon with successful applicants.

### **Queries**

If you have any queries on any aspect of the recruitment process or would like to have an informal discussion with the Fellowship Research Team, please contact by email to [info@africanfoodfellowship.org](mailto:info@africanfoodfellowship.org). Please use the subject heading **Enquiry – AFF Exchange Programme**

“These African Food Fellows are on a journey together that will continue for a generation, to further realise their country’s and continent’s potential.”

Joost Guijt, Director of African Food Fellowship

Initiating partners:  
Wageningen University & Research  
Wasafiri Consulting

