

100 FAO Women Heroes in Agrifood Systems and Rural Development

In celebration of the International Year of the Woman Farmer, nominations are now open for the first 100 FAO Women Heroes – an annual recognition of women whose work is driving real and positive change across agrifood systems!

Purpose

This recognition honours women who are transforming agrifood systems around the world, in big and small ways. It recognizes women whose sustained, practical efforts are improving lives, strengthening communities, and advancing agrifood systems transformation.

It shines a light on both visible leadership and the often unseen work that supports transformation and progress on the ground – ensuring that no woman or girl is left behind – while raising awareness of the vital role women play across the agrifood landscape.

Who we are recognizing

We invite nominations of women contributing to a better life for all, including:

- Farmers, producers, innovators and entrepreneurs
- Community leaders and changemakers
- Environmental and sustainability champions
- Scientists, extension agents, civil society leaders and public officials.

Nominees may be active across the full agrifood systems continuum – from sustainable production and environmental stewardship to nutrition security and rural development; from local small-scale farming to global markets; and from traditional knowledge to innovative solutions.

We are looking for nominations of women whose work – at community, national and global level – is helping to build more efficient, inclusive, sustainable and resilient agrifood systems for the future.

How to nominate

FAO Members are invited to submit nominations **no later than Monday, 15 June 2026**, either via their Ministry of Agriculture or their Permanent Representation to FAO. The submission should be done through the online portal, which will open soon.

Further details will be shared in a forthcoming letter from the FAO Director-General to Ministers.

Recognition

The selected honourees will be acknowledged at the World Food Forum in October 2026, where they will receive much-deserved recognition for their leadership, dedication and transformative contributions to agrifood systems and rural development.

Submit your nominations – and help us honour the first 100 FAO Women Heroes shaping a better future for all!