

AN INITIATIVE OF
THE LIVELIHOODS
FOUNDATION



THE YOUNG FARMERS LEARNING AWARD

Celebrating the programs
where a new generation of
farmers truly learns

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS
2026**



About the Award

The Young Farmers Learning Award is an initiative by the Livelihoods Foundation that recognizes and celebrates innovative education programs preparing a new generation of farmers for an agriculture that is productive, sustainable, and fairly paid. It rewards proven programs that have demonstrably helped young people become more viable, resilient and sustainable farmers.

Each year it gives selected programs greater visibility and a financial incentive, helping them mobilize partners and reach more young people, with attention to including young women as well as young men.

This Award is not for ideas on paper. It is for operational programs that have already transformed lives by providing young farmers with the skills, knowledge, and support they need to thrive. We seek initiatives that are co-designed with farming communities, culturally relevant, and grounded in local realities.

Judged by an independent jury, the Award is an open platform that welcomes new partners, the first step of a wider movement for the education of a new generation of farmers.

Why this Award matters

Agriculture must evolve to feed a growing population, combat climate change, and restore ecosystems, all while providing decent livelihoods for farmers. To achieve this, we need a new generation of farmers who:

Master regenerative practices: soil health, agroforestry, water conservation, crop diversification.

Access land, markets, and resources to build viable farming businesses.

Innovate and adapt to environmental and socio-economic challenges.

Yet, too often, rural youth see farming as a last resort: hard work with little reward. The Young Farmers Learning Award exists to contribute to changing this perception by:

Spotlighting programs that make **agriculture appealing, profitable, and sustainable.**

Rewarding practical, **field-based education that actually works.**

Building a network of excellence to **scale impact** across the continent.

This is not about theory. It's about action, empowerment, and real change.





Who can apply

We welcome applications from any type of organization running ongoing education or training programs that have genuinely helped young people become more viable, resilient and sustainable farmers: a cooperative, a farmer group or association, an NGO or local association, a social business or company, a local authority or rural community development association, an agricultural or vocational-technical school, or a university. The Award looks at the quality and impact of the program, not at who runs it.

Your program must have been implemented and delivered concrete impact. Projects that have not been implemented yet are not eligible.



GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS 2026

For this first edition, only programs operating in **Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal or Uganda** are eligible.

What we favor

Programs that can demonstrate one or several of these characteristics.

Be local

Developed and implemented by organizations based in the region of activity.

Be practical

Field-based modules and concrete solutions for young farmers establishing or developing their farming activities.

Be transformative

Genuine, lasting change in the skills, confidence and trajectories of young farmers. Short, intensive programs qualify when learning continues well beyond them.

Be sustainable

Agronomic best practices (soil health, agroforestry, water conservation, crop diversification) and market access.

Be operational

Have already delivered and completed a minimum of two cohorts of farmers.

Be measurable

Measure post-program success: alumni income growth, adoption of regenerative practices, business survival rates.

Be inclusive

Actively address the barriers that limit youth access to farming: gender, land, underrepresented groups, resources.

Be innovative

New tools, techniques or ways of learning, from peer-to-peer methods to the smart use of technology, that others can replicate.

Award benefits

The Award is a recognition for the quality of field education programs having an impact on young farmers. In addition to a financial donation, laureates receive communication support to increase their visibility and help mobilize more resources.

First prize · €30,000

If your program wins, your organization receives €30,000 in financial support, in recognition of its work.

Second prize · €15,000

Your organization receives €15,000 in financial support, in recognition of its work.

For both winners

Beyond the financial award, laureates receive communication support to raise their profile, with help producing high-quality materials that put a spotlight on their work and open doors to new partners. They also join a growing network of like-minded organizations, recognized figures in the field, and potential funders.



Evaluation criteria

Programs will be evaluated by an independent jury on the following.

01 Impact on young farmers

Measurable, positive change in participants' lives: income growth, adoption of sustainable practices, improved livelihoods.

03 Ongoing and practical empowerment

Long-term support with a practical approach for youth to grow and succeed as farmers, not just short-term training.

05 Inclusion

Active strategies that break down structural barriers for young women and marginalized groups regarding access to land, decision-making, and financial resources.

07 Partnerships & collaboration

Strong strategic alliances with local government, off-takers, financial institutions, or community groups that amplify impact.

02 Grounded in local realities

Deep understanding of and responsiveness to community needs, culture, and challenges.

04 Innovative design & delivery

Fresh, effective approaches to education and training: peer-to-peer learning, digital tools, hands-on methods.

06 Regenerative agriculture integration

Practices that preserve or restore ecosystems, build resilience, and align with nature-based solutions.

08 Potential to scale

Scalable, well-documented model with high potential to be adapted in other regions or adopted by local education systems.



How and when to apply

- 1 Check your eligibility**
Your program meets the criteria set out in this Call and operates in one of the nine eligible countries.
- 2 Prepare three documents, in English or French**
The applicants' questionnaire: your organization and program, how it was built with communities, what makes it unique, its results.
Supporting evidence: up to five pages of testimonials, data, photos or video.
A one-page profile of your organization and team.
- 3 Submit by email before 28 February 2027**
Send everything to contact@yflaward.org
Subject line: YFLA_Application_[OrganizationName].pdf
You will receive an acknowledgment of receipt, and every applicant gets an answer.



Tips for a strong application

- **Be specific:** use real examples of how your program has changed young farmers' lives.
- **Show impact:** include data, testimonials, or visuals that prove your success.
- **Highlight innovation:** what makes your approach different and effective?
- **Address inclusion:** particular attention will be paid to the inclusion of young women and marginalized groups.
- **Keep it concise:** follow the page limits. Clarity and focus are key.

About the Livelihoods Foundation

The Livelihoods Foundation, established in 2025, is the philanthropic arm of Livelihoods. A general-interest, not-for-profit organization, it works to improve the sustainable livelihoods of farmers, women and men alike, through ecosystem restoration, sustainable farming, and farmer education, expecting no return from the initiatives it supports.

Its first project, the Young Farmers Learning Award, recognizes and supports the education programs preparing a new generation of farmers, empowering young women and young men equally, starting in Africa in 2026.



READY TO APPLY?

Prepare your application
and submit it by
28 February 2027.

Let's grow the future of farming, together.

APPLY

yflaward.org

CONTACT

contact@yflaward.org



THE YOUNG
FARMERS
LEARNING
AWARD