



'Educating and empowering youth for impact'

Conference Science for Impact in Africa, 15 May 2023

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What is the Youth Food Lab?

- The Youth Food Lab is a collaboration between:
 - World Food Forum/FAO (WFF)
 - WUR
 - International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences (IAAS).
- To bring idea stage solutions to implementation, and to scale up existing projects.
- The Youth Food Lab aims to become a leading platform bringing youth-led research and projects to market.





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History of Youth Food Lab



- Officially announced at the World Food Forum flagship event, October 2022, by Sjoukje Heimovaara (WUR) and Kazuki Kitaoka (WFF).
- Launched at the IAAS International Conference of Youth in Agriculture (ICYA) in January 2023 in Wageningen.
- Pilot 2023: Ten teams, consisting of young researchers, entrepreneurs and innovators have been selected for the first cohort of this new incubation programme. The teams are from the following countries: Bolivia, Kenya, Brazil, Nepal, Uganda, Sri Lanka, Italy, Indonesia, Ethiopia and Nigeria.



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Why Youth Food Lab?

- Prepare next generation of leaders
- Involving youth in decisions about their future in the areas of climate, biodiversity and food systems
- Facilitating boundary crossing teamwork
- Stimulating entrepreneurial & problemsolving mindset
- First step towards a start-up or other careerpath



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Where do the selected teams come from?



- WUR Student Challenges
 - 2021 Climate Adaptation in Food Systems
 - 2022 Nature Based Solutions Challenge
 - 2024 Food Systems Innovation Challenge
 - 2025 Nature-based Solutions Challenge – Africa edition
- World Food Forum/FAO Transformative Research Challenge
 - 2023 WUR Global One Health Special Prize
- IAAS Global Project Competition



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1 minute Video message from team Bees and Trees – Uganda



[Samantha and Stephen - Bees and Trees - YouTube](#)





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Cooperation with African universities



- We invite student teams to participate in our student challenges:
 - 2024 Nature-based Future Challenge
 - 2024 WUR Food Systems Innovation Challenge 2025 Nature-based Solutions Challenge – Africa edition
 - 2023 WUR Global One Health Special Prize (with World Food Forum)
- We invite teachers to participate as mentors in the Youth Food Lab



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Questions? Contact me and explore more with us



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