

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS INTERNS/FELLOWS (CSIS / CSFS)



Introduction

The ***Building Women & Youth-led Network Alliances for Agroecology and Organic Agriculture Programme*** invites applications for **six Community Solutions Interns or Fellows** to join a transformative initiative that promotes agroecology and organic agriculture across Africa. This programme is a collaboration between the [Young Professionals for Agricultural Development \(YPARD\)](#), [Participatory Ecological Land Use Management \(PELUM\) Kenya](#), [African Green Store Network \(AGSN\)](#), and the [Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology \(KCOA\)](#), funded by the [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\)](#). It aims to empower youth and women as leaders in sustainable agrifood systems through entrepreneurship, capacity building, knowledge exchange, and network linkages.

Selected interns and fellows will design and implement Community Solutions Projects addressing local agrifood challenges. Through the internships and fellowships, young professionals will be able to either scale existing initiatives or establish new ideas into projects while receiving stipends, mentorship, and access to KCOA knowledge products and partner networks. The programme emphasizes gender-transformative approaches and youth leadership, targeting young professionals aged 18 to 35 years in Africa, particularly in KCOA network countries.

Opportunity Overview

The core objective of this programme is to enable young people to implement youth-led **Community Solutions Projects in agroecology or organic agriculture** that respond to local needs such as sustainable farming, SME development, and community resilience. Examples

of existing projects include:

1. [Mushroom farming with young women in Benin](#)
2. [Organic fertiliser production in Tanzania](#)
3. [Rural Grown Farms in Eswatini](#)
4. [Tilapia fish production in DRC](#)

The fellowship/internship will run for 10 months, from September 2025 through June 2026. Participants will be based in their local communities within Africa and will receive virtual supervision, with potential in-person support from local partners. The commitment expected is approximately 16 to 20 hours per month, which includes project work, mentorship, and other relevant programme activities.

Benefits & Support

- Participants will receive a modest monthly stipend of 200 EUR to support living expenses.
- Up to EUR 1,000 will be provided as direct financial support to help scale or establish their Community Solutions Project.
- Approved expenses such as data, internet, airtime, and travel (both national and international) will be covered upon prior authorization.
- Financial support for attending at least one relevant program event, including costs related to travel, accommodation, and registration—for example, the AWOLA Regional Forum, YALTA Youth Congress, or AGSN workshops.
- To facilitate their work, each participant will be provided with a laptop and phone.
- Access to KCOA knowledge products, mentorship opportunities, and network linkages through partner organizations such as PELUM Kenya, AGSN, and YPARD.
- Technical support from YPARD will be available throughout project implementation.

Eligibility Criteria

- **Age:** This programme welcomes applications from young people **aged 18 to 35** who currently have an active community solutions project or a project idea that can be brought to reality during the program.
- **Education: Interns must be enrolled in** a formal education program such as university or vocational training in fields related to agriculture, agribusiness, environmental science, or similar disciplines. **Fellows must have completed** formal education and aim to advance their careers in agroecology or organic agriculture.
- **Interest:** Candidates should demonstrate a **genuine interest in agroecology, organic agriculture, or sustainable agrifood systems**. While prior experience in community projects, agribusiness, or advocacy is beneficial, it is not mandatory.

- **Location:** Applicants must reside in Africa, preferably within KCOA network countries, including **Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Cameroon, Benin**, or **other Sub-Saharan African nations**.
- **Language and skills:** Proficiency in **English and/or French** is required, and knowledge of local languages is considered an asset. Basic project management and communication skills are required, along with the ability to work independently and collaboratively in low-resource settings. Familiarity with digital tools such as Zoom, Google Meet, Teams and the KCOA Digital Platform is advantageous. Candidates must commit to the full program duration and have reliable internet access to facilitate virtual mentorship and supervision.
- **Inclusivity:** The program strongly encourages applications from women, youth from marginalized communities including Indigenous peoples, rural populations, or persons with disabilities and those facing systemic barriers such as limited access to land, finance, or markets.

Key Responsibilities

- Selected participants will be responsible for developing and implementing a Community Solutions Project that either creates or scales a small or medium enterprise (SME) or community initiative aligned with agroecology and organic agriculture principles.
- They will participate in regular virtual mentorship sessions with assigned mentors, working together to set and achieve project milestones as well as personal development goals. The use of KCOA knowledge products will inform project activities, and participants are expected to produce a final youth-led case study to be published on the KCOA Digital Knowledge Platform.
- Active participation in program events, including the YPARD Farm Days Out, AWOLA Forum, YALTA Congress, YPARD Cafes, and AGSN workshops, is expected to share experiences and build networks. Furthermore, fellows and interns will advocate for agroecology and organic agriculture within their communities using available platforms such as the YALTA Digital Story Map or local media.
- Monitoring and reporting duties include submitting monthly progress updates and a comprehensive final report documenting project outcomes, challenges faced, lessons learned, and overall impacts.

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit a single PDF file that contains the following documents:

- A Curriculum Vitae of no more than two pages highlighting education, relevant experience, and skills;
- A Motivation Letter of no more than 500 words outlining their interest in agroecology or organic agriculture;

- A description and proof of existence of Community Solutions Project or description of the new idea including its relevance to local needs, and how you expect to benefit from mentorship and network support;
- A one-page summary of 400-800 words of your Community Solutions Project including any relevant links or supporting materials. If the project is still at the ideation stage, a one-page summary including a clear description of the concept and its intended benefits to the community should be included;
- Proof of current enrollment in a formal education program (required for interns only). For fellows, proof of formal education in Agriculture, Entrepreneurship, project management, Rural development or related field;
- Contact details for two references from academic, community, or professional sources;
- Optionally, samples of prior work such as project reports, business plans, or advocacy documents, not exceeding two pages.

Application Process

Applications should be submitted via email to tadeo.ajuna@ypard.net with the subject line ***"Community Solutions Intern/Fellow Application-Your Country"*** by **30 August 2025** at 11:59 PM EAT. Only Shortlisted candidates will be contacted and invited to virtual interviews by mid-September 2025.

Important Notes

Only complete applications submitted by the deadline will be considered. The program is committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion and strongly encourages applications from women, youth, and marginalized groups.

Contact Information

For any inquiries, please contact the YPARD Global team at tadeo.ajuna@ypard.net and include "Community Solutions Intern/Fellow Inquiry" in the email subject line.