



6th Challenge Fund for National Committees of Family Farming

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2026

Deadline for the submission of applications: July 31, 2026 at 6:00 pm
(local time in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain)

I. Background

On 20 December 2017, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the period 2019–2028 as the **United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF)**, recognising the vital contribution of family farming to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Resolution A/RES/72/239). This global initiative places family farmers at the centre of food systems, highlighting their essential role in food security, livelihoods improvement, sustainable natural resource management, climate change mitigation, environmental protection, the preservation of local crops and agrobiodiversity, and the promotion of inclusive and sustainable development.

Since its inception, the UNDF 2019–2028 has provided a strategic and coherent framework for dialogue between governments, technical and financial partners, family farmers' organisations (FFOs), and National Committees of Family Farming (NCCFs), against a backdrop of interconnected climate, food, and environmental crises. It aims to support the design, strengthening, and implementation of public policies and investments in favour of family farming, thereby contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. Through the policy dialogue and multi-stakeholder cooperation it fosters, the UNDF represents a key lever for strengthening the role of family farming in the transition towards sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food systems.

The UNDF Global Action Plan notably foresees the development of National Action Plans (NAPs) and other support instruments by governments, in consultation with FFOs, NCCFs, and other key stakeholders.

NCCFs are multi-stakeholder policy dialogue platforms bringing together farmers' organisations, rural development associations, research centres, public institutions, as well as international and development cooperation organisations, with the mission of promoting ambitious policies tailored to the realities of family farming.

Building on long-standing collaboration with NCCFs, the World Rural Forum (WRF) is launching the **sixth edition of the CHALLENGE FUND FOR NATIONAL COMMITTEES OF FAMILY FARMING**, aimed at strengthening their capacity to contribute effectively and in a structured manner to policy dialogue, as well as to the development and implementation of the Decade's National Action Plans and other policies in support of family farming. This initiative seeks to support countries in their transition towards more inclusive and resilient food systems.

The Challenge Fund is implemented by the WRF with funding and support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in accordance with the mandate entrusted by the UN General Assembly to the joint FAO–IFAD secretariat to ensure the coordination and implementation of the Decade.

This sixth Challenge Fund for NCCFs builds on the fifth Challenge Fund, also implemented by the WRF with IFAD funding and support, in collaboration with FAO, between September 2024 and December 2025, which benefited 12 NCCFs.

II. Call Objectives and Priorities

The **overall objective** of the call is to contribute to the creation of a policy environment conducive to strengthening family farming and developing sustainable agri-food systems for the people and the planet in the framework of the UNDF 2019-2028.

The **specific objective** of the Call is to promote and participate in the development and implementation of family Farming National Action Plans in the UNDF framework and other policies in favour of family farming, enabling progress towards more sustainable agri-food systems in IFAD priority countries.

III. Application requirements

Here are the **requirements** that the proposals submitted must meet for applying to the Call 2026. **Failure to comply with one or more of these requirements will result in exclusion from the selection process.**

REQUIREMENTS to be met by the APPLYING ENTITIES:

1. **Be an active member of the NCFE engaged in the UNDF implementation.**
2. **Have legal entity in the implementing country.**
3. **Be a non- profit Civil Society Organization.**

(In the case of legally registered NCFE requirement 1 is not necessary since the NCFE itself submits the application).

REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET BY THE PROJECTS:

1. The project' implementation will tentatively start in **October 2026**, with a **maximum duration of 12 months**.
2. **Be located in an IFAD recipient country.** This call for proposals aligns with the geographic eligibility criteria defined in IFAD's grant funding policy, giving priority to **low-income countries (LICs)** and **lower-middle-income countries (LMICs)**. However, within the framework of this broader initiative, it will be possible to allocate up to 20 percent of the total funding allocation to projects implemented in **upper-middle-income countries (UMICs)**. A list of IFAD country categories is provided in the appendix.
3. The **grant requested** per project will be a **minimum of 10.000 USD and a maximum of 25.000 USD**.
4. **Be aimed at promoting and participating** in the elaboration and implementation of **UNDF National Action Plans** on Family Farming (**NAP**) or of a pro-Family Farming policy, possibly linked to **international agendas relating to family farming and its decade (UNFSS, UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, etc.)** or with **global initiatives such as the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty**.
5. **Be based on the promotion of representative, inclusive and democratic platforms** for policy dialogue at the national level.

6. The proposal aims to **strengthen policy dialogue and the capacities of the main actors in family farming** in the country, with a particular focus on family farming organisations.
7. The proposal needs to be aligned with IFAD's strategic priorities in the country. As such, **formal endorsement of the proposal by IFAD's Country Director is a mandatory eligibility criterion**, while support from the government and other relevant stakeholders, such as the FAO, is an advantage.
8. **A complete application**, comprising: **a structured proposal outlining the implementation arrangements**, based on a **clear intervention rationale** and demonstrating **consistency between the objectives, expected outcomes and planned activities**; **a mapping and analysis** of farmers' organisations, government institutions and other key stakeholders for capacity-building and policy dialogue; **a preliminary cost estimate** and the **implementation period**.
9. **A dedicated bank account for the project must be used. This may be a new bank account or an existing account with a zero balance.**

The **ACTIVITIES** which can be financed are:

- **Carry out studies** to support the process of elaboration or implementation of the UNDF NAPs or other policies in support to family farming.
- Organization of meetings between NCCFF/FOs, government representatives and other key stakeholders.
- **Organization of seminars, forums for policy dialogue** to mobilize stakeholders, conduct consultations, etc, for the elaboration or implementation of the NAPs or other policies in support to family farming.
- **Capacity building activities** in support of the policy objectives of the project.
- **Elaboration of documents:** proposals, policy documents, design of tools to operationalize the NAPs or other policies, etc.
- **Development of communication campaigns** to mobilize stakeholders, knowledge management, and sharing.

The **COSTS** that can be financed are:

- **Consultancy services and technical assistance:** technical and professional services required to carry out the project activities.
- **Travel, accommodation, and food:** traveling costs, accommodation, and food costs of participants in meetings, workshops, seminars, forums.
- **Publications:** written or audiovisual materials.
- **External audit:** An external audit is required at the end of the project.
- **Administrative costs (a maximum of 8% of the grant requested).**

IV. Follow up and reporting requirements

For those proposals selected, the WRF and the grant recipient entities will sign **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** that will refer to the following items: -general conditions; -responsibilities of the parties with regard to planning, implementation and reporting; -description of the action; -duration of the contract; -terms of disbursements; -narrative and financial reports templates and supporting documentation required; -provisions on communication and visibility; -amendments, settlement of disputes, delays and termination.

The grant recipient entities will submit to the WRF **intermediate and completion narrative and financial reports, including the supporting documents of the incurred costs**. The grant recipient entities' **procurement procedures and financial reports should comply with IFAD rules**. The grant recipient entities should **keep original supporting documents in the eventuality of an IFAD audit in the future**.

The WRF will convene **periodical meetings** with the grant recipient entities and the respective NCCF to follow-up on the activity plan, evaluate the progress and define areas of improvement when necessary.

The WRF will be responsible for consolidating all the narrative and financial information generated by the grant recipient entities and incorporate it in the progress and final reports to be submitted to IFAD.

V. Evaluation criteria for the proposals

Those applications meeting all the requirements mentioned above will be evaluated under the following criteria:

- **Institutional and technical capacity of the applying entity** to manage the project.
- **Past experiences of the NCCF** and policy results obtained as well as the ongoing dialogue and collaboration with the government.
- **Clear, relevant and specific objectives for the development or implementation of a UNDAF** national action plan or other policy in favor of family farming, in line with the pillars of the UNDAF Global Action Plan.
- **Strengthening inclusion and sustainability in family farming**, by directly incorporating **women and/or youth**, as well as **climate resilience and environmental sustainability** into the project.
- Progress already realized in the UNDAF implementation by the NCCF alongside the key national stakeholders.
- Contribution of the project to **other national policy processes** on food systems, nutrition, health, biodiversity, climate change, gender equality, youth, poverty and inequality and/or **directly to international agendas implementation processes** at the country level.
- **Linkages with IFAD country programs and strategic priorities. Proposals that have been co-designed with IFAD country offices will be viewed favorably.**
- **Co-funding mobilization capacities**

At the end of the document, you can find the **Evaluation Table** that will be used for the assessment of the proposals.

VI. Submission of applications

APPLICATION FORM:

Applications shall be submitted following the **Application Form** and the **Budget Sheet attached**.

Applications can be completed in **English, Spanish or French**.

WHERE AND HOW TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS:

The application form, along with the supporting documentation, **should be sent via email** to the following specific email address: challengefund@ruralforum.org

YOU WILL RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION THAT YOUR APPLICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS:

The deadline for the submission of applications is July 31, 2026, at 6:00 pm (local time in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain).

Applications received after the submission period has closed will not be accepted.

VII. Selection procedure

Those proposals which do not meet the application compulsory requirements set out in this Call (Section III) will be rejected.

Proposals still under consideration will be analyzed under the evaluation criteria set out in Section V. of this document.

The proposals will be evaluated and selected per lot (Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean respectively). A minimum of 2 proposals will be selected per region respectively.

The proposals which receive the highest scores will be selected until the amount of funds available for the Call is reached. The amount granted might differ from the amount requested in the proposal and be reduced, according to the Challenge Fund priorities and criteria.

VIII. Notification of the resolution

The applying entities will be informed in writing via email of the decision made in relation to their application. All of the participating NCFs will be informed of what proposals have been approved and the amounts granted.

EVALUATION TABLE

EVALUATION CRITERIA	Maximum Score
1. Institutional and technical capacity of the applying entity	30
1.1. The applying entity's previous experience in the NCFE and managing projects of a similar type. Past experiences and results obtained by the NCFE and ongoing dialogue and collaboration with the government.	18
1.2. Human and material resources available to the applying entity for the correct implementation of the project.	9
1.3. Co-funding capacity.	3
2. Efficacy, impact and viability of the proposal	40
2.1. The proposal presents clear and specific objectives towards the elaboration or implementation of a UNDFE National Action Plan or other policy in support of family farming.	10
2.2. The proposal aims to strengthen policy dialogue and the capacities of the main family farming stakeholders in the country, with particular emphasis on Family Farming organizations.	10
2.3. There is consistency between the proposal objectives, the expected outputs/products, the activities and the resources foreseen for their attainment	15
2.4. Long-term impact potential and inclusiveness criteria, with a specific focus on women and/ or youth	3
2.5. The proposal contributes to climate resilience and/or environmental sustainability	2
3. Progress already realized in the UNDFE implementation by the NCFE alongside the key national stakeholders	10
3.1. Progress in multistakeholder dialogue on the UNDFE	2
3.2. Progress in the NAP or the policy drafting process	4
3.3. NAP or policy already validated or endorsed	4
4. Contribution of the project to other national policy processes on food systems, nutrition, health, biodiversity, climate change, gender equality, youth, poverty and inequality and/or directly to international agendas implementation processes at the country level.	5
5. Linkages with IFAD country programs and priorities	15
5.1. Alignment with IFAD strategic priorities in the country (COSOP if available)	10
5.2. Potential linkage with IFAD-funded operations	5
TOTAL MAXIMUM SCORE	100

IX. Appendices

LOW-INCOMES COUNTRIES (LIC):

Country	Number of Projects	Current Amount
		IFAD
Afghanistan	4	201,357,784
Burkina Faso	40	472,206,154
Burundi	15	370,105,705
Central African Republic	12	131,388,836
Chad	16	256,424,784
Congo, The Democratic Republic	11	260,380,417
Eritrea	9	164,554,315
Ethiopia	49	919,474,738
Gambia	16	157,066,045
Guinea-Bissau	5	63,711,011
Korea, Democratic People's Rep	6	69,206,942
Liberia	10	172,159,586
Madagascar	26	504,317,311
Malawi	22	465,488,060
Mali	26	396,381,859
Mozambique	19	480,303,405
Niger	24	438,893,154
Rwanda	32	566,175,181
Sierra Leone	9	241,066,726
Somalia	8	47,182,000
South Sudan	3	43,939,065
Sudan	41	377,682,250
Syrian Arab Republic	82	176,438,096
Togo	17	122,982,199
Uganda	45	811,151,846
Yemen	28	194,582,933
Grand Total		8,104,620,402

LOWER-MIDDLE-INCOMES COUNTRIES (LMIC):

Country	Number of Projects	Current Amount
		IFAD
Algeria	11	62,427,782
Angola	15	223,875,925
Bangladesh	61	1,134,428,629
Benin	32	269,743,886
Bhutan	15	89,256,192
Bolivia	28	191,526,992
Cambodia	17	371,955,925
Cameroon	29	230,258,427
Cape Verde	11	53,381,820
Comoros	12	41,727,594

Congo	12	75,627,058
Cote D'Ivoire	25	280,075,516
Djibouti	10	61,817,110
Egypt	27	651,232,377
Eswatini	8	81,169,580
Ghana	34	414,508,445
Guinea	25	236,719,404
Haiti	16	170,542,021
Honduras	23	167,465,775
India	92	1,382,404,586
Iran (Islamic Republic Of)	1	200,000
Jordan	30	133,203,771
Kenya	148	733,018,034
Kiribati	1	6,599,832
Kyrgyzstan	8	114,718,244
Lao People's Democratic Rep	24	181,807,908
Lebanon	14	46,128,800
Lesotho	16	124,690,432
Mauritania	22	208,952,447
Mongolia	6	50,858,796
Morocco	22	368,552,252
Myanmar	5	91,500,050
Nepal	46	399,782,849
Nicaragua	18	149,469,672
Nigeria	73	805,441,528
Pakistan	42	969,799,069
Papua New Guinea	6	92,162,986
Philippines	75	451,963,792
Samoa	3	6,491,999
Sao Tome and Principe	11	42,759,928
Senegal	45	475,581,502
Solomon Islands	5	20,885,540
Sri Lanka	44	354,140,123
Tajikistan	5	115,163,374
Tanzania, United Republic of	28	535,609,775
Tunisia	31	248,530,438
Uzbekistan	4	166,537,300
Vanuatu	1	500,000
Viet Nam	30	498,815,011
Zambia	19	262,304,852
Zimbabwe	17	164,309,420
Grand Total		14,010,624,767

UPPER-MIDDLE-INCOMES COUNTRIES (UMIC):

Country	Number of Projects	Current Amount
		IFAD
Albania	7	52,009,533
Argentina	25	166,375,812
Armenia	14	89,895,942
Azerbaijan	7	67,581,177
Belize	5	15,019,524
Bosnia and Herzegovina	11	113,043,825
Botswana	7	49,405,139
Brazil	33	415,307,948

Country	Number of Projects	Current Amount
		IFAD
China	61	1,327,871,435
Colombia	43	156,110,058
Costa Rica	37	59,954,111
Cuba	7	64,292,062
Dominica	3	5,560,300
Dominican Republic	13	93,846,691
Ecuador	17	140,172,742
El Salvador	19	176,043,903
Equatorial Guinea	4	16,602,100
Fiji	10	14,855,329
Gabon	4	22,300,763
Georgia	9	70,425,048
Grenada	4	15,112,622
Guatemala	24	120,322,085
Indonesia	37	778,607,129
Iraq	3	19,609,000
Jamaica	3	15,618,000
Malaysia	14	6,516,700
Maldives	8	22,504,938
Mauritius	6	24,431,854
Mexico	31	317,157,930
Moldova, Republic of	12	131,737,088
Montenegro	1	6,124,383
Namibia	2	6,123,000
Palestinian Territory	6	15,111,000
Paraguay	10	90,289,831
Peru	41	235,036,030
Saint Lucia	2	3,432,900
South Africa	10	3,259,151
St Vincent and the Grenadines	3	2,470,600
Suriname	2	3,620,000
Thailand	19	63,471,996
The Republic of Türkiye	14	356,876,914
Tonga	6	22,042,408
Grand Total		5,376,149,001