AWARD
African Women in Agricultural Research and Development

African Women in Data Science Fellowship

About the Fellowship

An initiative of African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD), the African Women in Data Science Fellowship seeks to cultivate and empower a growing pipeline of African women working at the intersection of data science, agrifood systems, and climate resilience. Fellows will be equipped to apply data- driven approaches to solve challenges in agrifood systems and climate resilience, develop innovative solutions, and lead initiatives that foster sustainable, gender-responsive outcomes at different levels.

Women remain severely underrepresented in the field of data science in Africa, limiting the diversity of voices shaping digital innovation in agriculture and climate response. The Women in Data Science Fellowship will serve as a powerful catalyst for gradually narrowing the gender gap and women's underrepresentation in the sector, empowering them to take on more leadership roles and drive innovation in data science and its applications with expertise and confidence.

Objectives

- Equip African women professionals with advanced skills to apply data science in developing solutions for climate resilient agrifood systems.

- Enhance the visibility of women data scientists.

- Foster career progression and leadership capabilities of women in data science

- Nurture collaborative networks of data scientists focusing on agrifood systems in Africa.

Fellowship Highlights

The Fellowship is an immersive non-residential experience that will include various face-to-face and virtual activities over a 12-month period. Activities are designed to:

1. Enhance leadership capacities and foster mentoring partnerships:
- Fellows will undertake a seven-day in-person leadership training course focused on self-leadership, influence, communication, and confidence building. They will also participate in a structured mentoring program where they will be paired with seasoned experts in data science applications.

2. Increase understanding and ability to apply advanced data science techniques for agrifood systems development and climate resilience:
- Fellows will participate in a two-week immersive bootcamp that will equip them with hands-on technical training on practical data science skills. Participants will develop expertise in techniques like Python for machine learning, data wrangling, visualization, statistical analysis, and AI applications, with a strong emphasis on real-world solving.
- Fellows will also start conceptualizing their Data Science Projects during the bootcamp.
- In addition to the bootcamp, Fellows will undertake a two-month virtual training on application of data science to African food systems research and development.

3. Accelerate application of data science for agrifood systems development and climate resilience:
- Fellows will be equipped to leverage data science to drive sustainable change and build climate resilience in Africa's Food Systems by supporting them to design and implement Data Science Projects.
- Fellows will receive support to implement their projects during their participation in Advanced Science Training.

Who we are looking for

This pilot fellowship targets African women who:

- Are nationals of **Benin**, **Côte d'Ivoire**, **Ethiopia**, **Kenya**, and **Malawi**.
- Have a background in data science or related fields and application to agriculture or climate change.
- Hold a master's degree in statistics, economics, engineering, or climate-related fields.
- Have 5–10 years of experience in development, research, or data analytics.
- Are committed to leadership, collaboration, and long-term impact in the field.

How to Apply?

Interested candidates should submit their applications via an online application portal on the AWARD webiste. Only complete applications submitted via this portal will be reviewed.

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