



## Launch of the Women in Agricultural Leadership Program for the Australia-Africa Partnership for Climate Resilient Agriculture

Date: March 23rd to 24th 2026

Venue: World Agroforestry (ICRAF) Campus, Nairobi Kenya

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### About the Women in Agricultural Leadership Program

The Women in Agricultural Leadership Program is a two-year initiative, implemented by African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) under the Australia–Africa Partnership, that seeks to advance gender-responsive, climate-resilient agricultural research for development across Africa. Aligned with this overall goal are two components on institutional strengthening and women’s leadership development. The women’s leadership development focuses on strengthening the capability, confidence, and influence of African women researchers to lead and participate in climate- resilient agricultural research. The Institutional Strengthening component primarily focuses on enhancing organizational readiness to facilitate the application of gender responsiveness in their policies and their research practices to ensure they deliver better in their mandate. Activities are designed to enhance the awareness of institutional leadership on gender and equipping key experts with the skills to design and implement gender-responsive programs for the development of climate-resilient agricultural innovations that address the diverse needs of women and men smallholders.

### About the Launch

The launch will mark the commencement of the institutional strengthening component and seeks to achieve three main objectives:

1. Enhance the awareness, profile and visibility of the program
2. Generate interest and buy-in from potential collaborating institutions
3. Build a shared understanding of the program among institutional leaders and other stakeholders

The event will convene institutional directors and research leaders from the targeted agricultural research institutions in **Egypt, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria, and Senegal**. Other participants will include representatives and partners of the Australia-Africa Partnership for Climate Resilient Agriculture. The program will include two sequences focusing on:

- i. Program design and proposed delivery approach
- ii. Customized training workshop on ‘Why Gender Matters’<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Participants of this training will hold a senior technical or managerial role within the institution, preferably at the level of Director, Head of Department, Program Lead, or equivalent, with responsibility for overseeing agrifood systems research portfolios. Participants should have decision-making authority or significant influence over research priorities, program design, or resource allocation. They should also oversee field-level research implementation or supervise teams responsible for research delivery and be positioned to translate institutional commitments into operational change. Nominations should reflect GESI principles, including balanced representation of men and women in senior or high-potential leadership roles.



### Expected outcomes

- Common understanding between AWARD and target institutions about entry points for institutional strengthening work
- Increased awareness and appreciation of the strategic value of gender responsive leadership in enhancing innovation, credibility, partnerships, and impact.
- Leadership commitment to the program implementation.

### Indicative Program

Time	Day One
9:00 - 10:30 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening and framing</li> </ul>
10:30 - 11:00 AM	Break
11:00 - 1:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linking the Women in Agriculture Leadership Program to African agrifood systems priorities</li> </ul>
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Lunch
2:00 - 3:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutional entry points for the program</li> </ul>
3:30 - 3:45 PM	Break
3:45 - 4:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflections and wrap up</li> </ul>
Day two	
9:00 - 10:30 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions, training overview and important concepts</li> </ul>
10:30 – 11:00 AM	Break
11:00 – 1:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frameworks, tools and approaches</li> <li>• Situational assessment</li> </ul>
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch
2:00 - 3:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leveraging leadership, management and governance for enhanced gender outcomes</li> </ul>
3:30 – 4:00 PM	Break
4:00 - 5:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflections and closing</li> </ul>

### Acknowledgement

*The Women in Agricultural Leadership Program is an initiative of African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) funded under the Australia-Africa Partnership. The Australia-Africa Partnership is delivered by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).*