Innovative Ideas to Feed the World – Selection process and criteria

The purpose of the event is to open a space for FAO, WFP and IFAD young professionals (including volunteers and interns), up to 35 years old, to share their innovative ideas to overcome world hunger and malnutrition. While competition applications are limited to young professionals up to 35 years old, all FAO, WFP and IFAD staff are welcome to attend and contribute to the discussion.

Due to popular request, we are now opening the competition up to young professionals outside the UN System.

1. Competition Application

If you are a young professional (including Volunteers and Interns), up to 35 years old, and wish to submit your entry for the chance to present your innovative idea at the event, individually or in group (up to three participants), please submit the following:

- a short essay max. 500 words (mandatory)
- supporting materials (optional), such as:
  - video (max. 3 minutes);
  - posters or photos (up to five).

Your essay must provide an outline of your innovative idea and/or work that you have been doing to promote local, national, regional or global food security.

We encourage candidates not based in Rome to submit your entries and participate in the competition! If your idea is selected, you will have the opportunity to make your presentation during the event via video link.

Please note: In order to be eligible for the competition, young professionals who do not work for a UN agency must be linked to a relevant university course or organization working on development issues.

Applications can be submitted until Sunday, 12/05, 18pm, Rome time. No late submissions will be accepted.

2. Selection process

The authors of the five most innovative proposals will be invited to make a six-minute presentation at the Innovative Ideas to Feed the World Conference, which is a great opportunity to share and promote your ideas/work. The event will be held on 21/05 at FAO Headquarters, in Rome.
The selection process is divided into **two rounds. In the first round**, essays will be evaluated according the following criteria:

- **Number of words**: The number of words should not exceed the maximum number the words proposed (500 words);

- **Originality**: Please, be aware that your essay must to express your own ideas. Copying other people ideas or work will result in your automatic elimination from the competition! Harvard’s website gives you nice suggestions about making your essay as original as possible. As a 500 word essay is quite short, you may want to use footnotes for your citations. Detailing your references is also necessary in the end of your essay and will not be included in the word count.

- **Coherence and cohesion**: According to the Oxford Dictionary online, cohesion/coherence is “the quality of forming a unified whole”. Therefore, please organize your essay in a way that clearly presents how your innovative idea could enhance food security.

During this round, complementary materials related to the idea presented in the essay will not be considered.

**In the second round, successful applications** will be evaluated by a selection committee composed by staff of FAO, WFP and IFAD, which will use a scoring system as selection criteria. This scoring system is a total of 10 points and will be divided in three criteria, as following:

1. **Innovation (5 points)** - The extent to which the idea presents an innovative product, process, service or approach that gives new directions for solving the problem of food insecurity;

2. **Impact (3 points)** - The extent to which the idea could significantly impact a local, national, regional or global food insecurity situation.

3. **Adaptation (2 points)** - The extent to which the idea has potential for implementation and replication in different contexts (geographies, beliefs, norms).

The authors of the five most innovative ideas according to the criteria above will be announced on **19/05**.

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1 This scoring system is based on [The Rockefeller Foundation Centennial Innovation Challenge](https://www.rockfellerfoundation.org/innovation-challenge).
1) **What does 'innovative', mean, in the context of this event?**
   Your idea can present a totally original product, process, service, technology, practice or an approach that offers new directions for solving the problem of food insecurity.

2) **Does 'Feeding the World' means that your idea must focus on the promotion of food security on a high scale or global level only?**
   No. Your essay must provide an outline of your innovative idea and/or work that you have been doing to promote [local, national, regional or global food security]. We believe that small local initiatives are equally important and, together, initiatives of all sizes and at all levels can help to feed the world.