

VALUE4HER

Women Agripreneurs of the Year Awards (WAYA)

About WAYA

Launched in 2021 by AGRA's VALUE4HER initiative, WAYA is Africa's premier platform recognizing outstanding women driving transformation across the agri-food value chain. The awards Recognize, Catalyze and Inspire women agripreneurs – shining a continental spotlight on excellence, connecting winners to markets, finance and mentorship and motivating the next generation of women leaders in African agriculture.



Since 2021 5 Years of Impact

WAYA by the Numbers

45 women agripreneurs awarded | **48** African countries represented | **32,000+** smallholder farmers impacted | **6,000+** new jobs created (60%+ to women) | **USD 880,000+** in prize money disbursed | **USD 4,000,000+** leveraged in finance | **121** new products, services & markets developed

Apply at: waya.awardsplatform.com

What we Stand For: Our Pillars

RECOGNIZE – Shine a continental spotlight on outstanding women agripreneurs, validating their excellence, elevating their visibility and positioning them as credible leaders in Africa's agri-food systems.

CATALYZE – Provides practical, growth-enabling support such as prize money, mentorship, market and investor linkages, to help winners convert momentum into scale.

INSPIRE – Amplifies role models and stories that shift mindsets, motivating more women, especially young women, to enter agribusiness, take leadership and innovate boldly.



Six Award Categories

1. Women Empowerment Award
2. Ag-Tech Innovator Award
3. Resilience & Inspirational Leader Award
4. Outstanding Value-Adding Award
5. Young Agripreneur Award (Rising Star)
6. Grand Prize Award

Each category recognises a unique kind of excellence that showcases the diverse contributions of women shaping Africa's food future. **18 winners will walk away with a total prize pool of USD 300,000.**

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Are You Eligible to Apply?

Mandatory Eligibility Criteria – All Required

1. **GENDER** – Must be as a woman.
2. **CITIZENSHIP** – African citizen of one of the 55 AU-recognised countries, with valid national ID or passport.
3. **BUSINESS REGISTRATION** – Legally registered in an AU-recognized African country.
4. **BUSINESS OPERATIONS** – Business must be actively operating in Africa.



5. **AGRIFOOD RELEVANCE** – Must operate in the agri-food value chain: farming, fishing, livestock, processing, packaging, storage, distribution, retail or agri-inputs/services.
6. **SHAREHOLDING** – At least 51% of shares owned by you or another woman/women.
7. **WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP** – At least 51% of board seats OR 30% of senior management held by women.
8. **BUSINESS MODEL** – For-profit OR non-profit with income-generating activities.
9. **PREVIOUS AGRA AWARDS** – Winners of AGRA competitions in the last 3 years are ineligible.

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WAYA Returns to Kigali, Rwanda

About WAYA 2026

WAYA 2026 will convene women agripreneurs, industry leaders, partners and policymakers from across Africa to celebrate excellence, innovation and impact in agribusiness. The ceremony will spotlight 18 outstanding women-led enterprises and amplify their voices that are shaping the future of African agrifood systems.



Venue: Kigali Convention Centre, Rwanda
Date: September 2026
Theme: Women Leading Africa's Food Future
Hosted by: AGRA under the VALUE4HER initiative

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