



Transformative Research Challenge 2026

01 Jun 2026

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The WFF Transformative Research Challenge (TRC) is a global competition that empowers teams of young researchers to advance applied research toward real-world agrifood solutions. The TRC is designed for projects that have already demonstrated an initial proof of concept, through lab tests, controlled experiments or small-scale validation and that are looking to further strengthen evidence, refine their solution and prepare for real-world piloting.

Semi-finalist teams receive scientific mentorship, practical masterclasses and expert feedback to help move their work from “it works” to “it is ready to pilot”. Teams are supported to produce a Research-to-Impact proposal that documents their progress and outlines a realistic pathway toward piloting through the Youth Food Lab (YFL) or other innovation pathways.

Finalists are given the unique opportunity to pitch their research during the WFF flagship event in October 2026 at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.

Over the years, the TRC has collaborated with 24 leading organizations, including Wageningen University and Research (WUR), International Fund for

Agricultural Development (IFAD), EIT Food and CGIAR, to offer over 25 unique prizes. Selecting from over 3 600 submissions globally, the TRC has awarded more than USD 650 000 in grants, funding 80+ groundbreaking projects.