

Accelerator Programme for Women-led SMEs in Sub-Saharan Africa by FAO and Emerging Ag

Programme Plan 2026/2027

Programme duration: Thursday, 1 October 2026 – Wednesday, 30 June 2027

1. Requirements for passing the programme

1.1 Workshops

Active participation in all three workshops is mandatory for this programme. In the first hour of each workshop, an expert speaker will present their topic, followed by questions in break-out sessions.

Date	Workshop	Verification
Thursday, 12 November 2026 15:00 – 17:00 CET	Business Development & Marketing	We will verify through the list of participants
Thursday, 18 February 2027 15:00 – 17:00 CET	Leadership & Human Resources	We will verify through the list of participants
Thursday, 15 April 2027 15:00 – 17:30 CET	Finance Access	Elevator pitch presented by each mentee

If you cannot attend, please get in contact with Irina Wandera (via email or WhatsApp) beforehand.

1.2 Mentoring

You should meet with your mentor at least 6 times, but you can develop your own meeting schedule with your mentor depending on your availability.

We will regularly check in with you and your mentor on how the meetings are going. We ask you to schedule your first meeting before **Monday, 2 November 2026**. If you have trouble reaching your mentor, please get in contact with Irina Wandera (via email or WhatsApp).

1.3 E-Learning courses

To pass the programme, you must complete 4 courses from the [FAO eLearning Academy](#):

Mandatory courses

Course name	Duration	Link
1. Market assessment		
Course 1: Local area and market assessment	20 mins	https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=712

Course name	Duration	Link
Course 2: Selection, assessment, and purchase of power sources and implements	1 h 15 mins	https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=713
2. Business planning		
Introduction: RuralInvest – An introduction	30 mins	https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=754
Course 1: Participatory data collection and investment planning in the field	2 h 30 mins	https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=755
Course 2: Business concept – Feasibility Snapshot	1 h 30 mins	https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=756
Course 3: Business plan – Detailed description	2 h 30 mins	https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=757

The other 2 courses can be chosen according to your interests and specific business needs from the eLearning platform. If you have questions about course choices, please get in touch with Irina Wandera or any member of the FAO team.

After completing each course, you will receive an online badge. Kindly submit your badges to Irina Wandera [via email](#) by the following dates:

Course	Deadline for badge submission
Market Assessment	Monday, 4 January 2027
Business Planning	Friday, 5 March 2027
Optional course 1	Monday, 19 April 2027
Optional course 2	Monday, 14 June 2027

2. Resources

We invite you to actively use the WhatsApp group to share your knowledge, ask questions or inform your peers about upcoming opportunities to increase visibility for your businesses.

Join the mentees' WhatsApp group:

English: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Kddli3j0FMi7YGoFXcz8YX>

French: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/DgOTMpoNqlzDyEbAYFTSB4>

We are organizing an online **Meet and Greet** via Zoom and hope to see you there: **Thursday, 28 January 2027, 14:30 – 16:00 CET**. The link with all necessary information will be sent around just before the event.