



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

African Food Baskets: Country Researchers

First round: ten countries, one researcher per country

Assignment	Documentation of the country food basket using the African Food Baskets Toolkit
Positions available	Ten (one researcher per selected country)
Duration	Two months from the close of training
Facilitation	USD 1,000 per researcher, paid on submission of the complete country data package
Application deadline	6th September 2026

1. Background

The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) is the largest civil society movement in Africa, bringing together smallholder farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, women, youth, faith groups, consumers and environmentalists from across the continent. Through the My Food Is African campaign, AFSA works to restore pride, visibility and policy support for African foods, African food cultures and the agroecological systems that sustain them.

African foods carry more than nutrition. They carry language, seasons, seed systems, memory, ceremony and the knowledge of the people who grow, gather, cook and share them. Much of this knowledge is held orally and is being lost as diets shift towards imported and ultra-processed products. It has never been systematically documented in a way that African institutions, movements and policymakers can use.

The African Food Baskets initiative which is part of the TAFS Project funded by Sida responds to this gap. Each country food basket is a documented collection of the foods, dishes, beverages, recipes, food sources, menus, proverbs, stories and images that define what a country eats and why. Together, the country baskets will form a continental record of African food heritage that can be used for advocacy, research, education, communication and policy engagement.

2. Purpose of this call

AFSA is inviting applications from African individuals, preferably researchers, to serve as Country Researchers for the first round of African Food Baskets documentation.

This first round will cover ten countries. AFSA will select one researcher per country. Selected researchers will be trained on the African Food Baskets Toolkit and will then lead the documentation of the food basket in their own country over a period of one months.

Countries will be selected to reflect regional balance across Africa and to include Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone contexts. AFSA will confirm the final list of countries after reviewing the applications received.

3. The African Food Baskets Toolkit

Documentation will be carried out using the African Food Baskets KoboToolbox Toolkit, which is available in English, French and Portuguese and works offline on a phone, tablet or computer. The toolkit contains ten modules:

Form	Module
Form 1	Community and Territory Profile
Form 2	Food, Dish and Beverage Record
Form 3	Food Source and Production System
Form 4	Recipe and Preparation Record
Form 5	Daily, Seasonal and Festive Menus
Form 6	Food Stories, Proverbs and Cultural Meanings
Form 7	Photography, Media and Consent Record
Form 8	Field Data Quality and Validation Checklist
Form 9	Recipe Books and Recipe Sources
Form 10	Visual Basket Design Inputs

Every record begins with common identification and consent fields. Where consent is not given, the record is not collected. This principle is not negotiable.

4. Scope of work

The selected Country Researcher will:

- a) Attend the AFSA online training on the African Food Baskets Toolkit and complete the practice exercises.
- b) Prepare a short country workplan identifying the communities or food territories to be documented, the knowledge holders to be engaged and the fieldwork schedule.
- c) Conduct community entry, explain the purpose of the initiative and obtain consent from communities and individual participants before any documentation begins.
- d) Collect data using the KoboToolbox modules, meeting at least the minimum country data package set out below.
- e) Collect and caption photographs and other media in line with the consent recorded in Form 7.
- f) Complete the Field Data Quality and Validation Checklist and validate the findings with the communities concerned before final submission.
- g) Submit the complete country data package to AFSA together with a short narrative report of no more than eight pages covering the process followed, the people engaged, the main findings, foods identified as being at risk, and recommendations.

h) Participate in one continental review session with the other Country Researchers.

5. Minimum country data package

Data type	Minimum target
Community or food territory profile	1 to 3 records
Food, dish and beverage records	30 to 50 records
Recipe and preparation records	At least 10 records
Daily menu examples	At least 3 records
Seasonal or festive menu examples	At least 3 records
Food stories, proverbs or cultural meanings	At least 10 records
Foods at risk of disappearing	As many as identified
Photographs and media	At least 3 good photographs for each priority food or dish
Recipe books and sources	All known relevant sources
Visual basket design inputs	At least 10 priority design elements
Community validation checklist	At least 1 record per community or food territory

6. Duration and indicative timeline

The assignment runs for one months from the close of training. Fieldwork may be organised flexibly around local seasons, market days and community availability, provided the deadline is met.

Stage	Indicative period
Call opens	24th August 2026
Deadline for applications	6th September 2026
Selection and notification	11th September 2026
Online training on the toolkit	17th September 2026
Fieldwork and data collection, Community validation and data cleaning and Submission of data package and narrative report	16th October 2026
Continental review session	5th November 2026
Continental Dissemination Workshop	25th November 2026

7. Facilitation

Each selected researcher will receive **USD 1,000** as facilitation for the assignment. This amount is paid **after the complete country data package has been submitted and accepted by AFSA**, and it covers the researcher's time, local travel, communication and community engagement costs.

Applicants should note that this is a facilitation towards a collaborative documentation process and not a commercial consultancy fee. Researchers are encouraged to work with AFSA member organisations, community groups and networks in their country to keep costs low and to strengthen local ownership of the results.

8. Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be a national of, or be resident and actively working in, the country they are applying to document.
- Hold a background in research, preferably in food systems, agriculture, agroecology, nutrition, anthropology, sociology, development studies, environmental studies, cultural heritage or a related field. A postgraduate qualification is an advantage, but strong demonstrated field research experience will also be considered.
- Have practical experience of qualitative fieldwork, community interviews or participatory documentation.
- Be able to work in at least one of English, French or Portuguese, and be able to communicate in the main local language of the communities to be documented, or arrange reliable interpretation.
- Have access to a smartphone, tablet or computer and be willing to learn KoboToolbox. Prior experience with KoboToolbox or similar mobile data collection tools is an advantage.
- Be able to take clear, well composed photographs of foods, dishes and food environments, or work with someone who can.
- Be available for the full period.

Staff, members and affiliates of AFSA member organisations are eligible and are encouraged to apply. Women researchers, young researchers and researchers working directly with indigenous peoples, pastoralists, fisherfolk and forest communities are particularly encouraged to apply.

9. Selection criteria

Applications will be assessed on:

Criterion	Weight
Relevant research and fieldwork experience	30%
Quality and feasibility of the proposed country approach	25%
Knowledge of local food systems, food cultures and languages	20%
Existing links with communities, AFSA members or local networks	15%
Data collection, digital and photographic skills	10%

AFSA will apply regional, linguistic and gender balance across the ten selected countries.

10. How to apply

Submit the following in a single email: *(Please take note of the page limits)*

1. A curriculum vitae of no more than two pages with at least two referees.

2. A country concept note of no more than three pages setting out the communities or food territories you would work with, why you have chosen them, the knowledge holders you would engage, how you would obtain consent, and how you would manage fieldwork within two months.
3. One example of previous relevant work, such as a report, article, thesis chapter or documentation product.
4. Where applicable, the name of the AFSA member organisation you are affiliated with.

Send applications to afsa@afsafrika.org by **6th September 2026**, with the subject line "African Food Baskets Researcher: Uganda".

Applications may be submitted in English, French or Portuguese. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

11. Ethics, consent and ownership

- No information, recipe, story, photograph or personal detail may be collected without informed consent.
- Communities and individual knowledge holders retain the right to decide whether their contribution may be published, published with conditions, used internally only, or withheld entirely. These conditions must be recorded and respected.
- Local food names must be recorded exactly as given by the community, and spellings and translations must be checked with knowledge holders.
- Knowledge documented through this process remains the collective heritage of the communities concerned. AFSA will hold and manage the dataset on their behalf for movement building, advocacy, research and communication purposes, and will acknowledge communities, knowledge holders and researchers in all products.
- Researchers may use the data they collect for their own academic or professional work with prior written agreement from AFSA and subject to the consent conditions recorded in the field.
- AFSA will not publish confidential or restricted knowledge under any circumstances.