

March 23, 2023

World Farmers' Organisation Scientific Council Call for Interest

To expand the Scientific Council, the WFO is contacting all our member organisations, partners and existing Scientific Council members to nominate scientists and academics.

The WFO Scientific Council creates an interface between different scientific fields, able to propose game-changing ideas and present them at the most important tables in the world. Membership in the Scientific Council will grant scientists access to the largest network of farmers in the world and the ability to interact directly with the WFO and our many member organizations.

Nominations are welcome from WFO members, partners and existing members of the Scientific Council. No limit has been placed on the number of members of the Council and nominations will be accepted at any time going forward.

In 2019, the WFO General Assembly believed the time was ripe and the need urgent to enhance the sound-science perspectives of their policies and positions. To this end, the General Assembly of the WFO established a Scientific Council within the WFO structure.

The Scientific Council first met with 15 scientists on 30 July 2020. The Scientific Council has since then supported WFO providing advice and comment on science-related issues in policies, publishing frameworks and papers and participating in global processes in their scientific capacity. Based on these initial experiences during the first year, a charter was developed and approved by the Scientific Council in early 2023. This charter can be viewed [here](#).

The Scientific Council is an independent body and is composed of scientists with expertise in food systems fields. Information on the current members of the Scientific Council can be viewed [here](#).

In the years since the formation of the Scientific Council, many of the key challenges facing farmers and the global food system have grown, and include subsets of wide policy areas, such as climate change, biodiversity, trade and nutrition. It is, therefore, appropriate to both expand the Scientific Council, while also allowing for increased specialization within the council:

The WFO would like to make the Scientific Council inclusive with new members who have expertise in scientific aspects not yet fully represented. The council will therefore be structured in the following areas:

- Human needs and health
- Agricultural and animal production systems
- Economic, social and governance
- Climate and Environment

A Scientist leader will be appointed for each macro area, supported by WFO staff and given the task of facilitating the interaction of its members. At the same time, the groups will be smaller than the entire scientific council, making meetings and procedures faster and more focused. Partnerships with other institutions can be arranged by every area, and funding can be made available to the council with previous approval by the WFO Secretariat.

The council as a whole and each sub-area can also serve as a means for leading scientists to share developments with fellow scientists and the farming network of the WFO. The aim is for the council to be not another committee for already time-poor scientists, but rather a platform for scientists to highlight important work and to facilitate discussions.

If you or your organisation would like to nominate a new member of the scientific council please contact the WFO via scientific.council@wfo-oma.org.

In your nomination, please include:

- A brief description on why you believe the person(s) are well suited for the Scientific Council,
- A brief bio of the person(s) being nominated,
- The CV of the person(s) being nominated, and
- A professional image of the person(s) being nominated.

Please feel free to pass this invitation on to your networks.

In 2023, the WFO has prioritized processes related to the United Nations Food Systems Summit follow up events, including the Stock-taking moment in Rome, in July, the United Nations General Assembly and the SDG Summit, in September and COP 28. To prepare a scientific-based position of WFO in the above-mentioned processes, we are building a team ready to contribute.

From May 21 to 24 2023, WFO will have its annual meeting in Sun City, South Africa and ideally by that time the Scientific Council should be fully equipped to work in force on these processes. We therefore would appreciate receiving nominations before May 14, but nominations will be accepted on an ongoing basis any time in the future.