4TH AFRICA FOOD ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH NETWORK CONFERENCE (FERN2026)

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Scientific programme at a glance

Time	DAY 1 • THU 26 NOV	DAY 2 • FRI 27 NOV	DAY 3 • SAT 28 NOV
Morning	Opening ceremony Keynote Generation-H project WHO Best Buys 📹	Policy pathways Equity Regional and continental action 📹	Food policies in Africa FERN partners marketplace 📹
Lunch	Parallel lunch-time symposia	Parallel lunch-time symposia	Parallel lunch-time symposia
Afternoon	Adolescent voices; implementation; scaling initiatives 📹	Asia-Africa exchange (CCHeFS); City transformation (Afrifoodlinks) 📹	From commitments to action Commitments-to-action 📹
Abstract-driven sessions	90 minutes - parallel tracks 📹	90 minutes - parallel tracks 📹	90 minutes - parallel tracks 📹
Late afternoon	Adolescent voices and ECR actions 📹	Open consultation Collaboration marketplace 📹	Final reflections Communiqué outputs Closing ceremony 📹

- All timelines are Ghana local time (GMT / UTC+0).
- 📹: hybrid format.
- Lunch-time symposia: Participants collect their lunch and move to either parallel symposium rooms.
- Visit add-on registration for lunch packages.

DAY 1 • THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2026 • GENERATION-H

Morning: Official opening and Generation-H project - from co-design to real-world implementation

Session outcome: Shared understanding of how adolescent-centred, context-responsive interventions can move from co-design to delivery and scale in Ghana, Kenya and comparable African settings.

TIME	PROGRAMME ITEM	FOCUS AND FORMAT	LEAD / CONTRIBUTORS
08:00–09:00	**Registration, networking and poster set-up**	Participant arrival; badge collection; posters installation; online platform and speaker technical checks.	FERN Secretariat
09:00–09:55	**Opening ceremony**	Opening ceremony.	Conference Conveners; Government; Partners; Funders
09:55–10:40	**Keynote 1** **Topic: Operationalising Evidence - From Research to Action in Africa's Food Environments**	The address frames the WHO Best Buys and other Food Environments implementations, equity and scale across the three days.	Keynote speaker
10:40–11:00	**Photo Session, Health and Networking Break**	Photos.	All
11:00–12:00	**Session 1 • Inside Generation-H**	Introducing the project's philosophy, motivations, scope and expected impacts. Multi-component intervention co-design in Accra and Nairobi; WHO Best Buys alignment; partnerships.	Generation-H project
12:00–12:45	**Session 2 • Leveraging WHO Best Buys to Tailor Interventions**	What does it take to implement WHO Best Buys in urban sub-Saharan African settings? Barriers and enablers, with co-design of contextually appropriate implementation strategies for diet and physical activity.	Delegates

Noon: Lunch-time symposia 12:45–14:00

Participants collect lunch and move to selected symposium room; online participants join the relevant Zoom link.
Partner-led, dialogue-based symposia timing for each room: 5-minute welcome; 35-40 minutes of contributions and dialogue; 10-15 minutes of Q&A; 5-minute action takeaway.

Track	Session	Title and lead
LS1-A	Lunch-Time Symposium	Food environment frameworks
LS1-B	Lunch-Time Symposium	TBD
LS1-C	Lunch-Time Symposium	TBD

Afternoon: From Lived Experience to Delivery, Scale and Emerging Evidence

Session outcome: Shared understanding of how adolescent voices, real-world implementation, and cross-sector partnerships can strengthen the delivery, sustainability, and scale-up of similar interventions across Ghana Kenya and comparable African countries.

TIME	PROGRAMME ITEM	FOCUS AND FORMAT	LEAD / CONTRIBUTORS
14:00–14:40	**Adolescent Voices and Lived Experiences** 🎥	Adolescents share experiences and narratives, followed by a facilitated exchange on what meaningful participation requires.	Adolescent representatives
14:40–15:25	**Session 3 • Implementation in the Real World** 🎥	Lessons from household listing and baseline work; intervention delivery planning, training and pilot activities; trial preparation across Kenya and Ghana. Dissemination and knowledge translation, emphasising ownership and sustainability.	Ghana and Kenya delegates
15:25–15:40	**Physical activity break**	Connect with colleagues, strengthen existing relationships, and build new connections.	All
15:40–16:25	**Session 4 • Scaling Generation-H and Similar Interventions** 🎥	Moderated panel discussion on implementing WHO Best Buys: financing, governance, partnerships and replication across Africa.	WHO representative; researchers; and government representatives

Late afternoon: Parallel abstract sessions - 16:00–17:45

Session	Session	Presenters
1	Track 1: From evidence to action: e.g., bridging research – policy - practice gaps, operationalizing WHO Best Buys, including physical activity.	TBD
2	Track 2: Food environment interventions: e.g., implementing regulatory and fiscal policies (e.g., labelling, taxation, marketing restrictions, stories of progress), and leveraging city-level innovation.	TBD
3	Track 3: Food systems, climate, and sustainability: e.g., aligning food and nutrition actions, mitigation and adaptation/resilience efforts, sustainability.	TBD



DAY 2 • FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2026 • CCHEFS

Morning: Food Environment Policy Pathways and Implementation Science (CCHeFS)

From Evidence to Policy: Implementing and Scaling Food Environment Interventions Globally - insights from Rwanda, Ghana, Tanzania, South Africa, Kenya, Senegal and Asia. Session outcome: Shared understanding of how equity-focused approaches, and regional collaboration can translate into sustainable action across African settings.

TIME	PROGRAMME ITEM	FOCUS AND FORMAT	LEAD / CONTRIBUTORS
08:30–08:45	**Arrival, poster viewing and technical check**	Posters remain available all day; speakers and online contributors complete final checks.	FERN Secretariat
08:45–09:00	**Opening remarks**	Speaker frames Day 2 and connect the previous day's implementation lessons to policy pathways.	Co-convenor (CCHeFS)
	Keynote 2 Topic (TBC)	TBD	TBD
09:00–10:30	**Session 1 • Credible Pathways to Implementing Food-Systems Transformation - Country Deep Dives**	How policy change shapes what people can afford and access. Cases from Rwanda, Ghana, Tanzania, South Africa, Kenya and Senegal on using evidence for policy influence, stronger governance and institutional capacity.	Panellist
10:30–10:50	**Physical activity and networking break**	Connect with colleagues, strengthen existing relationships, and build new connections.	All
10:50–11:35	**Session 2 • Delivering on Equity**	Integrating equity into food-system transformation, including APHRC's Gender Transformation Analysis Framework and UCAD's work on equity in multisectoral platforms delivering double-duty policy bundles. Short outcome stories followed by moderated discussion.	APHRC; UCAD; invited contributors (TBD)
11:35–12:45	**Session 3 • Regional and Continental Agenda for Action**	Cross-country and regional approaches: school-driven transformation in Rwanda, Ghana and Nigeria; NPM harmonisation for the EAC across Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya; Ghana Double-Duty Food Policy Bundle.	Country reps, regional panel; invited contributors (TBD)

Noon: Lunch-time symposia 12:45–14:00

Participants collect lunch and move to their selected symposium room; online participants join the relevant link.
Partner-led, dialogue-based symposia timing for each room: 5-minute welcome; 35-40 minutes of contributions and dialogue; 10-15 minutes of Q&A; 5-minute action takeaway.

Track	Session	Title and lead
LS2-A	Lunch Time Symposium	FoodSAMSA: Updated results and reflections from assessing the food environment in South Africa.
LS2-B	Lunch Time Symposium	
LS2-C	Lunch Time Symposium	

Afternoon: Inter-Regional Learning, City FE Transformation and Collaboration

Session outcome: Shared understanding of how food environment interventions can be adapted, implemented, and scaled across diverse settings, including Asia and Africa, and how city-level government and citizen engagement can support food environment transformation.

TIME	PROGRAMME ITEM	FOCUS AND FORMAT	LEAD / CONTRIBUTORS
14:00–15:00	Session 4 • Asia–Africa Learning Exchange	A hybrid invited case study and structured exchange on implementing and scaling food-environment interventions. Format: 20-minute Asia case; 10-minute African comments; 20-minute moderated comparison; 10-minute takeaways.	Asia-based contributor and African discussant (TBD)
15:00–15:45	Session 5 • City-Level FE Transformation (AfriFOODlinks)	Urban food-environment innovations, city case studies, governance and citizen engagement. Suggested format: two city cases, one response and moderated dialogue.	AfriFOODlinks team
15:45–16:00	Health and room transition break	Connect with colleagues, strengthen existing relationships, and build new connections.	All

Late afternoon: Parallel abstract session 16:00–17:45

Chair's timing card • 5 min opening | 5 × (10 min paper) | 25 min integrated discussion | 5 min closing, 2min tech glitches buffer = 90 min.

Track	Session	Title and lead
4	Track 1: From evidence to action: e.g., bridging research–policy–practice gaps, operationalizing WHO Best Buys, including physical activity.	TBD
5	Track 2: Food environment interventions: e.g., implementing regulatory and fiscal policies (e.g., labelling, taxation, marketing restrictions, stories of progress), and leveraging city-level innovation.	TBD
6	Track 3: Food systems, climate, and sustainability: e.g., aligning food and nutrition actions, mitigation and adaptation/resilience efforts, sustainability.	TBD

Evening: CCHeFS networking session

All collaborators on CCHeFS are invited to join a cocktail session and informal networking.

TIME	PROGRAMME ITEM	FOCUS AND FORMAT	LEAD / CONTRIBUTORS
From 18:00	Informal networking	Come with a card. Room TBD	CCHeFs



DAY 3 • SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2026

Morning: Implementation and Evaluation Science, Policy Science, Advocacy and Accountability Science

Session outcome: Shared understanding of current and emerging policy priorities in Africa, the contribution of key initiatives and evidence to policy action, and opportunities for collaboration across scientific tracks and partner networks.

TIME	PROGRAMME ITEM	FOCUS AND FORMAT	LEAD / CONTRIBUTORS
08:30–09:00	Arrival, poster viewing and technical check	Posters remain available all day; speakers and online contributors complete final checks.	FERN Secretariat
09:00–09:15	Opening	Opening	Convenor and Day 2 rapporteur (TBC)
09:15–10:00	Keynote 3 Topic: Food policy in Africa now and in the future 🎥	Keynote to cover ANH-ARC, HD4HL, BTD, ECOWAS F2P, RECAP, CCHEFS, AFRIFOODLINKS, PRICELESS SA, REPSAO, APHRC, and other initiatives	TBD
10:00–11:20	Marketplace Posters sessions from partners; INFORMAS; CIDIA / Food SAMSA; UNESCO Chair in World Food Systems; ANH / ANH-ARC; AfriFOODlinks; Global RECAP; ECOWAS Food Policies Project; ANS; FANUS; and additional confirmed partners. 🎥	Explore work from across the continent and beyond.	All
11:20–11:35	Physical activity and room transition break	Connect with colleagues, strengthen existing relationships, and build new connections.	All

Late Morning: Parallel abstract session 11:35–12:45

Session	Track	Presenters
7	Track 4: Equity, power, and food justice: e.g., addressing structural inequities, improving outcomes for equity-deserving groups, youth leadership, and community-driven change.	TBD
8	Track 5: Policy and accountability: policy evaluation/monitoring approaches, impact assessment, advocacy or buying efforts, stakeholder mobilization, policy coherence.	TBD
9	Track 6: Innovative methods: e.g., LLMs, forecasting, or simulation applicable to food environment research and practice.	TBD

Noon: Lunch-time symposia: 13:00–14:00

TRACK	TITLE	FOCUS / PROPOSED HOST
LS3-A	INFORMAS 2.0, Policy Evaluation and Accountability Tools	Monitoring frameworks, benchmarking and accountability pathways • Proposed hosts: INFORMAS / accountability partners (TBC)
LS3-B	Climate–Gender-Nutrition Integration - Climate-resilient, healthy and sustainable food environments	Aligning food systems, climate resilience and health outcomes. Integrating climate, nutrition, equity and environmental outcomes in policy and implementation Hosts (TBC).
LS3-C	Implementation Science and Policy Science	Methods and evidence for adopting, adapting, implementing and scaling food-environment interventions and policies.

Afternoon: From Evidence to Commitments

Session outcome: Shared commitment to translating the conference evidence and discussions into priority actions, strengthened partnerships, investments, and agreed outputs to advance food-systems transformation in Africa.

TIME	PROGRAMME ITEM	FOCUS AND FORMAT	LEAD / CONTRIBUTORS
14:00–15:00	Closing Plenary Keynote 4 Topic: • From Commitments to Action 📹	Keynote Panel discussion What next for Africa? High-level panel on scaling policies, partnerships and investments.	Keynote (TBD) High-level panel; Madiha and additional panellists (TBD)
15:00–15:25	Final Reflections • What We Heard and What Must Happen Next 📹	TBD	TBD
15:25–16:00	Closing Ceremony 📹	Awards Presentation of the conference communiqué, closing ceremony.	Convenors; partners; funders; organising committee
16:00–16:10	Official group photograph	Delegates assemble promptly for the official photograph; transport and departure announcements.	All



