



WORLD FOOD DAY 2026 YOUTH INNOVATION CHALLENGE

CONCEPT NOTE SUBMISSION TEMPLATE

Innovate Today – Nourish Tomorrow

The World Food Day 2026 Youth Innovation Challenge is a national competition jointly implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education of Sri Lanka and the Hatton National Bank (HNB).

National partners include the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation; the Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources; the Ministry of Environment; the Ministry of Health and Mass Media; and the Ministry of Science and Technology. Technical collaborators include TRACE Expert City, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission (SLIC), the Sri Lanka Agripreneurs Forum (SLAF), the Institute of Food Science and Technology Sri Lanka (IFSTSL), and the National Innovation Agency (NIA), along with Square Hub as the technical and facilitation partner.

The structure and innovation development components incorporated into this template have been adapted from the Innovator's Log Book developed by the NIA.

CONCEPT NOTE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Teams must submit:

Required Documents

1. Completed Concept Note Submission Template as a PDF file
2. Any supporting material relevant to the concept
3. University student confirmation for all team members

Submission Deadline

31 July 2026

Email your perfected concept note submission (as a PDF file) including the link to your video submission and other supporting documents to FAOLK-Media@fao.org by **31 July 2026** - ensure that the total weight of all attachments in the email are **less than 15MB**.

SECTION 1: TEAM INFORMATION

Team Leader's University / Higher Education Institution

Team Name

Team Leader

Name: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Team Members

Name	University	Degree/Program me	Year of study	Email/Mobile

SECTION 2: CHALLENGE STATEMENT

Sector

- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Fisheries
- ☐ Livestock
- ☐ Environment and Climate Resilience
- ☐ Food Security and Nutrition

Challenge Statement

Copy the full challenge statement as published in the guidance note.

SECTION 3: PROPOSED INNOVATION

Innovation Title

One-Sentence Description

Executive Summary

Provide a concise overview of the innovation, how it works, and the problem it solves.

(Maximum 300 words)

Current Development Stage

- ☐ Idea stage
 - ☐ Concept design completed
 - ☐ Early prototype
 - ☐ Functional prototype
 - ☐ Tested with users
 - ☐ Other
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SECTION 4: TARGET USERS AND BENEFICIARIES

Primary Target User

Be as specific as possible.

Avoid broad groups such as "farmers" or "fishers."

Examples:

- ✓ Smallholder vegetable farmers in Nuwara Eliya
- ✓ Dairy farmers with fewer than 10 cattle in Kurunegala
- ✓ Women-operated fish drying enterprises in Mannar
- ✓ Urban low-income households with children under five
- ✓ Secondary school students in Colombo Municipal Council schools

Target user:

SECTION 5: ORIGINALITY, INNOVATION AND PRIOR-ART REVIEW

Which category best describes your innovation?

- ☐ Existing innovation introduced to Sri Lanka
 - ☐ Existing innovation adapted to Sri Lankan conditions
 - ☐ Improvement to an existing Sri Lankan solution
 - ☐ New invention
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VIDEO SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

As part of your submission, teams are required to submit a short video presentation that complements the written concept note.

The video should help the evaluation panel better understand your proposed innovation, its intended users, practicality, potential impact, and pathway to implementation.

The video should not simply repeat information from the written submission. Instead, teams are encouraged to use visuals, demonstrations, diagrams, animations, interviews, photographs, mock-ups, sketches, or storytelling techniques to effectively communicate their idea.

Video Requirements

Maximum duration: 4–5 minutes

Language: English

Format: Shareable video link: <include link to video here>

At least one team member should appear in the video and explain the proposed innovation.

Suggested Video Structure

1. Introduction

Introduce:

- Team name
- Challenge statement selected
- Title of your innovation
- Team Leader details (Name, University, Degree/Programme)

Briefly explain the problem your innovation aims to solve.

2. Understanding the Target Users

Describe the primary users of your solution.

Explain:

- Where they are located
- Their age group (if relevant)
- Their livelihood or occupation
- Income level (if relevant)
- Current challenges they face
- Existing practices
- Access to technology and infrastructure

The evaluation panel will assess how well the innovation responds to the needs of clearly defined users.

3. Solution Design and Innovation

Clearly explain how your innovation works.

Your video should describe:

Technology or Process Used

Explain the technology, scientific process, business model, product, service, or system that forms the basis of your innovation.

User Experience

Demonstrate how users will interact with the innovation.

Consider explaining:

- How users access the solution
- Benefits to the user
- Expected behavioural changes

4. Innovation and Originality

Explain how your team determined whether similar solutions already exist. Briefly describe the research conducted and sources consulted:

If similar solutions already exist, explain:

- Where they are used
- How your innovation differs
- How it has been adapted to suit Sri Lankan conditions (if applicable)

The evaluation panel will assess whether the team understands the existing innovation landscape and can clearly articulate the unique value of their solution.

5. Practicality and Feasibility in Sri Lanka

Explain why your innovation is realistic and practical within the Sri Lankan context.

The strongest submissions will demonstrate a clear understanding of the realities faced by users in Sri Lanka.

6. Prototype Development Plan

Explain how your team intends to develop a prototype if selected for the next stage.

Estimated Prototype Development Timeline

Explain how long your team expects it will take to develop a prototype.

Provide a realistic estimate.

Examples:

- 2 weeks
- 1 month
- 2 months

The panel will assess whether the proposed prototype can realistically be developed within the competition timeline.

Tips for a Strong Video Submission

- ✓ Clearly explain the problem and solution.
 - ✓ Focus on the needs of specific users.
 - ✓ Use visuals rather than reading from slides.
 - ✓ Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
 - ✓ Explain why the solution is practical in Sri Lanka.
 - ✓ Show evidence of research and understanding of existing solutions.
 - ✓ Present a realistic pathway from concept to prototype.
 - ✓ Keep the presentation concise and engaging.
 - ✓ Ensure audio and video quality are clear.
 - ✓ Rehearse before recording.
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Assessment of the Video Submission

The video will form an important part of the evaluation process and will be assessed based on:

- Clarity of communication
- Understanding of the problem and target users
- Innovation and originality
- Practicality and feasibility
- Quality of the proposed solution
- Potential impact
- Prototype development readiness
- Scaling and sustainability potential

Teams should treat the video as an opportunity to bring their innovation to life and demonstrate why it deserves to advance to the next stage of the World Food Day 2026 Youth Innovation Challenge.

SECTION 6: DECLARATION AND ORIGINALITY STATEMENT

We certify that:

- ☐ This submission represents our own work.
- ☐ We have disclosed all known existing technologies and similar innovations identified during our review.

- ☐ The concept has not knowingly infringed upon the intellectual property rights of others.
- ☐ Information provided in this submission is accurate to the best of our knowledge.
- ☐ We understand that false declarations may result in disqualification.

Team Members

Name	Signature	Date

Academic Supervisor Endorsement

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, this concept has been developed by the student team identified above.

Name: _____

Position: _____

Faculty/Department: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

National Partners



Ministry of Agriculture,
Livestock, Land, and
Irrigation



Ministry of Fisheries,
Aquatic and Ocean
Resources



Ministry of Environment



Ministry of Health
and Mass Media



Ministry of Science
and Technology

Technical and Facilitation Partner



Technical Collaborators

