Who We Are

We are women and non-binary farmers, allies, and advocates working together for a just food and farming system. WFAN’s role in building a just food and farming system is to support our members in sharing the information, resources, space, and power needed to organize justice-centered communities.

The health of our food systems and our communities are interdependent; as an intersectional feminist agricultural organization, we are committed to social justice and actively challenging oppression. We are committed to fostering spaces inclusive to the experiences of individuals whose identities may not fit the gender binary, and/or who many not identify with the sex they were assigned at birth. As a majority-white organization, we recognize that the US food system is based on Indigenous genocide, the enslaved labor of African Americans, and the continuous exploitation of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. The control of land -- and the food growing upon it -- have long been weapons of white supremacy. As a network, we commit not only to disrupt patriarchal control of resources and land in agriculture, but white settler control of resources and land. We provide information, resources, space, and power for our members to do this work.

Since WFAN’s founding in Iowa in 1994, we have been organizing for gender justice in agriculture through advocacy, knowledge-sharing programs, and local, regional, national, and global connections. Our beginnings in the heart of Big Ag keep us grounded, reminding us of the real and ongoing harms of our current food and farming system upon all life. We grow stronger as our membership continues to grow, representing a plurality of experiences and knowledge.

WFAN acknowledges that the industrialization of food and agriculture systems has resulted in the depletion of soil, desertification, water contamination, habitat destruction, and species decimation.

Further, we acknowledge that we are part of systems such as environmental racism and capitalism that encourage and reward disconnection and extraction from natural systems and non-humans with which we are interdependent.

WFAN acknowledges the dismissal, silencing and undervaluing of rich oral traditions among Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and among women, and incorporates storytelling as a key component of all programs.

WFAN acknowledges that justice in food and agricultural systems has been meted out inequitably as manifested in the gross disparities in areas including labor, access, ability, power, money, agency, decision/policy making, health, and wellness.
What We Want to See

As an organization, we advocate for gender justice as a critical foundation for a more equitable and ecological food and farming system.

We strive to create a non-exploitative and inclusive food system by engaging and welcoming supporting collective sharing and learning around sustainable agriculture practices and principles of food justice and sovereignty. We work towards the creation of an agricultural system that not only feeds but heals and improves the land and can be a solution to climate change, oppression, and hunger. We do this by engaging women landowners in land decisions that are beneficial to the environment, connecting mentors to beginning women and non-binary farmers, encouraging women and non-binary people to take on local, regional, and national leadership to advocate for sustainable agriculture and equitable food systems through collaborative learning among our membership in anti-racist discussions.

How We Do This Work

WFAN is committed to RICE - Resourcing, Informing, Connecting, and Engaging. All programs are deeply rooted in our values, which in turn are responsive to the acknowledged challenges outlined in this theory of change.

Specifically, we:

- **Resource**: we identify opportunities for both WFAN and our members to sustainably enhance and expand our work. Additionally, we value our funding partners not just for their monetary contributions, but also for their thought leadership and connections to like-missioned organizations
- **Inform**: we include, and go beyond, traditional education through learning circles, media engagement, publications, and storytelling
- **Connect**: we support and build relationships among members, supporters, affiliates, and partners
- **Engage**: we engage women and non-binary people leading food and agricultural development, policy advocacy, reckoning and resilience, and radical inclusiveness

Why Our Work Is Needed

Our members are active changemakers in a multitude of food and farming groups and caretakers on many fronts; and yet, the prevalence of patriarchy across the food and farming sector continues to demonstrate the importance of a feminist agricultural organization. We know that our food and farming systems change for the better as women and non-binary people are respected and supported as leaders and decision-makers in agriculture. From the microbiota of the soil to the agricultural committees in congress, we need greater diversity if we are to address the compounding injustices of climate change, social inequality, and ecological degradation. Systems change requires collaboration and WFAN will continue to hold and make space for members to engage and work together as we address the intersections of rural, agricultural, and environmental problems and work toward gender justice.