

# Earth Voices



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## RULES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL POETRY AND SONG CONTEST LAUNCHED BY COLEAD ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF WOMEN FARMERS IN 2026

### 1. Aim of the competition

The main objective of the initiative is to give a voice to those who contribute to making the world a better place for people and their social, cultural and economic environment, and in particular to the producers who feed humanity.

As culture is an important vehicle for conveying the diversity and universality of these voices, we propose to launch a global poetry and song competition called “**Earth Voices**”.

The first edition of this competition aims to **highlight** the essential role of **women farmers and their contribution to the sustainable** economic, social and environmental development of the sector.

### 2. Theme of the 2025/26 competition

We would like to contribute to celebrate and promote the role of women farmers around the world, highlighting their essential contribution to agricultural sustainability, food security and the preservation of ecosystems.

The theme of the 2025/26 competition is “**Women farmers cultivating sustainable futures**”, in line with the theme chosen by the United Nations for the International Year 2026 and **COLEAD's** mission. COLEAD's mission is to implement all actions in the agricultural sector that contribute to the sustainability of the planet and a fairer world. It covers 180 countries, particularly sub-Saharan Africa.

### 3. Patrons and partners of the 2025/26 competition

Mrs [Djaïli Amadou Amal](#), a Cameroonian writer and international advocate for women's issues is patron of the 2025/26 competition.

The competition is open to other patrons and partnerships in line with the project's objectives.

## 4. Conditions of participation

- The competition is open to all adults and minors (with the consent of their parents or legal guardians).
- Entrants guarantee that their work is original and has never been published or awarded before.
- Any entry suspected of plagiarism or copyright infringement will be disqualified.
- Entrants may submit one entry per category (poem or song).
- Entrants may write in their native language, with translation into English, French or Spanish where possible.
- Any use of artificial intelligence in the creation of a work must be mentioned.
- The works must not contain any discriminatory or hateful statements or statements contrary to public order.

## 5. Categories

- **Poetry:** Lyrics of a maximum of 300 words (free verse or regular form).
- **Song:** Text with or without melody (maximum 4 minutes of audio).
- Distinction between adults and minors, and between works created with and without AI.

## 6. Selection criteria

The works will be judged on

- Artistic and literary quality.
- Relevance to the theme.
- Originality.
- Emotional impact and ability to raise awareness.
- Universality of the message.

## 7. Submission conditions

- Submission via online form before **15 September 2025**.
- Accepted formats: **PDF, Word, MP3, MP4 (less than 2 GB)**.
- Parental consent required for minors (official form available for download).

## 8. The Jury

The jury will be made up of experts in the fields of literature, music, agriculture and international sustainable development, with due regard for gender balance.

The jury's decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

## 9. Prizes

- **1 Grand Prix Poetry & 1 Grand Prix Song.**
- **Special Jury Prize for minors.**
- Prize-giving ceremony in the **1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2026**.

- The winning works will be published in an anthology (with the authors' agreement).
- Promotion of the winners on the social platforms of COLEAD and the partners associated with the initiative.

## 10. Rights and responsibilities

- **Copyright:** Participants retain their copyright but authorise COLEAD to use their work for non-commercial purposes (publication, digital distribution and public events), with compulsory attribution.
- The organiser **cannot be held responsible** in the event of
  - Technical problems with the submission.
  - Authorship disputes.
  - Force majeure.
- The organiser reserves the right to exclude any entry that does not comply with the rules.

## 11. Disputes and jurisdiction

- Any dispute will preferably be settled out of court.
- These rules are governed by **French law**.
- In the event of a dispute, the courts of **Paris** will have jurisdiction.

## 12. How to contact us

If you have any questions, please contact us at [network@coled.link](mailto:network@coled.link).

