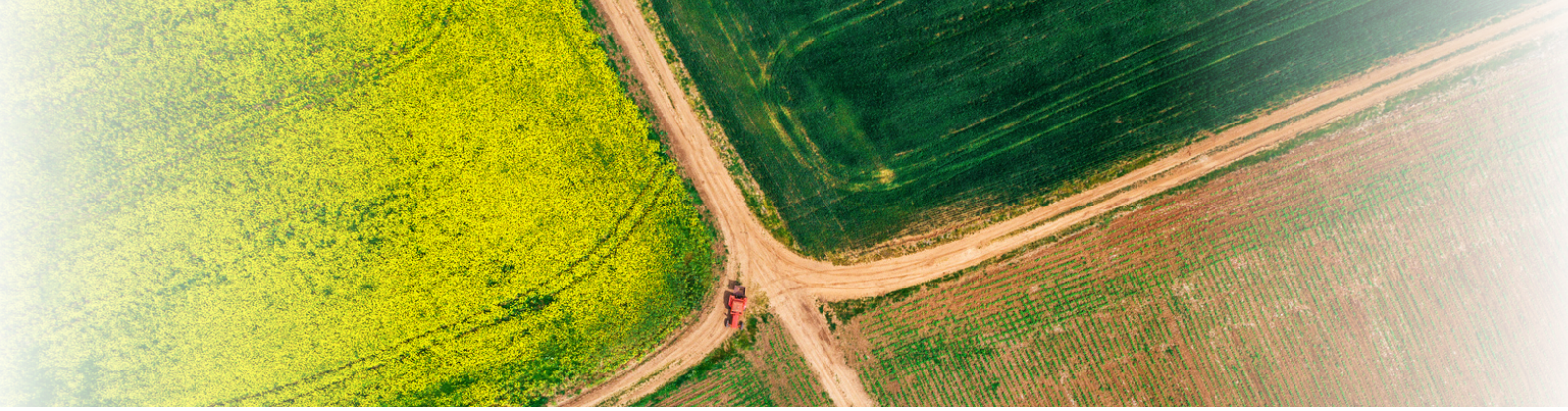


THE WTO SECRETARIAT, GTP & CROPLIFE INTERNATIONAL HACKATHON

International Trade and Food Security

Content, Rules and Conditions





WTO Secretariat, GTP & CropLife International Hackathon

Content, Rules and Conditions

Thank you for your interest in joining the WTO Secretariat, GTP & CropLife International Student Hackathon 2025: International Trade and Food Security.

Organised by the World Trade Organization's Agriculture and Commodities Division alongside the Geneva Trade Platform, and supported by CropLife International, this event will coincide with the September 2025 WTO Public Forum.

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Theme

In an era of geopolitical risk, market volatility, and climate disruption how can the multilateral trading system be harnessed to strengthen global food security?

The WTO Secretariat, GTP and CropLife International are launching a hackathon to uncover bold, pragmatic, and forward-thinking trade-based solutions to this urgent challenge. We invite the next generation of trade leaders—students, young professionals, and innovators across disciplines—to design proposals that are technically sound, action-oriented, and ready for real-world impact.

💡 Participants are encouraged to tackle one or more of the following themes:

- Boosting food trade resilience amid climate and supply chain shocks
- Enhancing market access for small-scale and vulnerable food producers
- Reducing trade-related food loss and waste
- Increasing transparency and predictability in agri-food trade
- Leveraging digital tools and data to improve food system outcomes

This is your chance to shape the future of global trade for food security—from Geneva to the globe.



Eligibility

- Registration is open until **1 July 2025, 15:59 CEST**.
- The Hackathon is open to teams of between **two (2)** and **four (4)** **higher education students**;
- All team members must be **currently enrolled** as Master or PhD students at a higher education institution;
- The competition is open to higher education students of **any age** and within **any discipline**;
- All members of a winning team will need to prove their enrollment prior to any prizes being awarded;
- The Hackathon will be entirely virtual and there are **no geographic or national limitations on participation**.
- The Hackathon will take place from **29nd August 9:00 CEST** till **1st September 9:00 CEST**.
 - Team members will however need to be available to participate virtually for 2 hours during the week of 15-19 September 2025 that coincides with the WTO Public Forum where the 3 teams shortlisted will be asked to present their ideas and answer questions ahead of the jury's final decision. The exact time & date will be communicated closer to the date.

Contact, Communication and Updates

During the Hackathon, all communication with participating teams will take place via a dedicated group of the Beyond Trade Network (BTN) for Hackathon participants.

This BTN group is where:

- The Hackathon 'Question' will be announced at **09:00 CEST on Friday, 29 August 2025.**
- Teams will receive a link to the form through which to make their submissions;
- Teams will receive instructions on how to upload or share their video submissions, and assistance with doing so;
- Teams can ask questions either publicly or privately of the event organizers;
- Teams can communicate with one another via an optional Hackathon-wide chat and message board.

If you have received an e-mail confirming your team's registration but have not been invited to the private BTN group, message Leo Chauvin on the network immediately with your team name.

If for any reason you are unable to access the Beyond Trade Network, the organizers can be reached by e-mail at: events@genevatradeplatform.org



Submissions and Evaluation criteria

Submissions will consist of three elements:

- **Section 1:** a narrative section explaining the element of the problem the submission is hoping to address, and how the solution is intended to address it (1,000 words max.);
- **Section 2:** a substantive section, outlining how the proposed solution would appear in a Ministerial Declaration, General Council Decision, treaty change etc (500 words max.);
- **Section 3:** a video explaining the proposal and how it would work (3 minutes max.)

Submissions will be anonymised and evaluated by a panel of eminent agriculture and trade policy experts on the creativity of proposed solutions, the feasibility of the proposed path forward and clarity of presentation.

The jury will specifically be evaluating:

- 1.The **originality** and **creativity** of the proposed application
- 2.The extent to which the proposed application resolves a **genuine problem**;
- 3.The **feasibility** of the proposals and the extent extent to which their design demonstrates an awareness of the limitations of existing technologies and techniques;
- 4.The **style, structure and clarity** of the written submissions, video presentations and for the top three teams, their answers to the jury questions during the relevant plenary session;

Initial evaluation selects the top three submissions. These will be presented virtually to the jury by the teams during a session in the week of the 15–19 September 2025 WTO Public Forum, providing the jury the opportunity to ask questions and test the ideas on offer.

Following all three presentations, the jury will then deliberate ahead of an announcement of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers at the conclusion of the panel which will immediately follow the presentations.

Submission Process

When the Hackathon question is announced via the Beyond Trade Network at 09:00 CET on the 29th of August, team captains will receive a unique link to a Google Form through which they can submit on behalf of their team.

The form will include fields for all sections, as well as a place to include the URL to the team's video submission which can be uploaded to Youtube, Vimeo, Google Drive or any other platform where it can be viewed and shared. Staff will be available via BTN to assist with any technical issues that may arise in uploading submissions or videos.





Prizes

The following prizes¹ will be awarded to the top three teams:

- First Place: USD 2,000
- Second Place: USD 1,200
- Third Place: USD 800

All three finalist teams will receive official certificates of recognition and the opportunity to present their proposals before a distinguished jury and international audience during the week of 15-19 September 2025 that coincides with the WTO Public Forum.

Timeline

Date	Milestone
1 July (15:59 CEST)	<u>Team Registration Deadline</u>
29 Aug (09:00 CEST)	Hackathon Topic Announced – 72-hour Hackathon Begins
1 Sept (09:00 CEST)	Submissions Close
8 Sept	Shortlisted Teams Announced
Week of 15–19 Sept	Final Presentations & Winner Announcement

Prizes ¹ : CropLife International is solely responsible for funding the prize, and Geneva Trade Platform is solely responsible for its distribution, with no financial involvement from the WTO.

Outside Assistance

Students can seek advice and input on their submissions from outside their team, but all ideas should be original to the team members and all writing and videography should be done by the team.



