



## **RUFORUM YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD (YSA)**

### **Background**

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), established by ten Vice Chancellors in 2004, is a consortium of 105 African universities operating within 37 countries spanning the African continent. RUFORUM is coordinated by a Secretariat hosted by Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. RUFORUM supports universities to address the important and largely unfulfilled role that universities play in contributing to the well-being of small-scale farmers and economic development of countries throughout the sub-Saharan Africa region. The consortium has several unique features for building Africa's innovation capacity and for engaging universities in development process and practice.

RUFORUM has seven strategic goals:

Train a critical mass of Masters and PhD graduates, who are responsive to stakeholder needs and national/regional development goals;

Develop collaborative research and training facilities that achieve economies of scope and scale;

Increase the participation and voice of women in agricultural research, production and marketing;

Improve the adaptive capacities of universities to produce high quality and innovative training, research and outreach activities that can contribute to policy and development practice;

Increase the use of technology to support effective, decentralized learning and the sharing of knowledge;

Mainstream new approaches within university teaching and research that emphasize quality, innovation, and impact across the agricultural sector's full value chain; and,

Create a dynamic regional platform for policy advocacy, coordination, and resource mobilization for improved training, research and outreach by universities.

Since its establishment about 15 years ago, RUFORUM has been building and consolidating partnerships among African Universities, Higher Education Networks in Africa, Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), African Policy Advocacy Networks, Private Sector, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET Institutions), International Universities and Think Tanks in order to transform the continent.

For the first time, the Annual General Assembly/Meeting (AGM), which is the supreme organ of RUFORUM, will be held in West Africa. The AGM is scheduled for the University of Cape Coast (UCC), Ghana in December 2019 on the theme “***Delivering on Africa’s Universities Agenda for Agricultural Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESTI): What will it take?***”

In commemoration of the AGM, RUFORUM is unveiling the Young Scientist Award to honour young and dynamic scientists who hold tremendous promise for scholarly achievement in RUFORUM member universities in Ghana. There will be three RUFORUM Young Scientist awardees from four award categories (please see page 2). One category is exclusively reserved for women scientists. Each recipient will receive a citation and an amount of two thousand US Dollars.

## Award Categories

The RUFORUM YSA 2019 will be presented in at least two of the following categories:

WOMEN IN SCIENCE	To recognize Ghana's most promising women researchers who have demonstrated excellence in scientific field. Female applicants only.
AGRICULTURE, PLANT SCIENCES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	To recognize Ghana's most promising researchers who are working in the field of AGRICULTURE and are committed to developing sustainable models that help in increasing food security and improving the quality of life of people living in rural areas.
ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	To recognize Ghana's most promising researchers who are working in the field of EARTH, OCEANOGRAPHIC, ENVIRONMENTAL and ECOLOGICAL STUDIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES and ECOSYSTEM and are contributing to protecting our planet and conserving its natural resources.
INNOVATION IN ENGINEERING AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES	To recognize Ghana's most promising researchers who are working in the field of ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY and are harnessing it to drive disruptive and sustainable growth, with a potential for high industrial and/or societal impact.

## Eligibility Criteria

- Individual from a Ghanaian University/Research Institution
- Has completed at least MPhil/PhD or equivalent degree
- Must be born on or after May 1, 1980
- Female only application for Women in Science Award Category

## Activity entered for this award must have been:

- undertaken no more than five (5) years prior to the closing date of entries
- published in one or more respected, externally-refereed scientific journal(s), book(s) or equivalent electronic publication(s) and the publication must be indexed in Scopus

## Nomination Guidelines

The following is required for nomination for the award:

1. A statement by one (1) nominator supporting the applicant's suitability for the award with respect to:
  - Innovative and creative nature of the applicant's work
  - Interdisciplinary character of the applicant's work
  - Potential shown by the applicant as a future leader in the field of agriculture and natural sciences
2. Supporting information and documents; e.g., curriculum vitae including first permanent position hire date and a current publication list. Up to three important papers relevant to the award contribution may also be included.

## Evaluation Criteria

Complete Applications together with the supporting documents should be received latest by **31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019**. All applications will be judged by a panel of subject experts from RUFORUM's academic community based on criteria such as:

- Quality and number of publications
- Nature and uniqueness of research
- Outcomes of research
- Impact on society
- Vision of the researcher

## **Deadline and Procedure for Submission of Nominations**

All materials comprising a nomination package, including the support letters, must be submitted electronically by the nominator through this [link](http://www.ruforum.org/AGM2019/content/ysa) (<http://www.ruforum.org/AGM2019/content/ysa>). Nomination packages for the RUFORUM Young Scientist Award should be submitted by **31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019**, to be eligible for consideration to receive the award at the annual general meeting.