

African Agriculture Science Competitions and Awards: *Recognizing Excellence in African Science and Innovation*

First Announcement

The Science Competitions and Awards

The science competitions seek to identify and give recognition to outstanding agricultural scientists and innovations led by African researchers, scientists and professionals who are effectively engaged in communicating the outputs (knowledge, technologies, approaches) of innovative agricultural research to farmers and agro entrepreneurs as well as advocating for policy change to optimize the benefits from scientific and technological developments. Excellence in science and innovation with high economic impact is seen as major criteria in promoting investments in agricultural research for development. The science competitions and awards are categorized as:

- 1. Young Professionals in Science Award (25-40 years); and**
- 2. Women in Science Award**

Each category is unique and will follow a specific and meticulous process to identify the winners.

The Young Professionals in Science Award

The purpose is to identify the most promising and innovative work and excellence of young scientists; ages **25 – 40** years old. Specifically the competition and award will recognize and highlight the future leaders and innovators in agricultural science with the potential to have high impact and contribution to the African development.

Women in Science Award

The purpose is to give recognition to outstanding women engaged in innovative research and communication of scientific results and technologies to end-users that contribute towards improved productivity and incomes of farmers and agro entrepreneurs especially women. This competition and award is expected to raise the profile of innovative women involved in science who can act as role models for other women and the youth and contribute towards achieving the eradication of poverty, hunger and gender inequality.



What is the scope?

Entries can include existing or ongoing research work and projects or programmes undertaken within the last five years that show measurable impact (potential or demonstrated) on agricultural development and / or rural livelihoods of African communities.

What are the guidelines?

Entrants must submit a two page (A4) **abstract** (1500 – 2000 words) that clearly details the objectives, methodology, results and conclusion of the successful project/programme and the information and communication tools and strategy used, and the impact on agriculture and/or rural livelihoods. Entries must include full contact details; name, mailing address, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address on submissions. **Young professionals must submit proof of age.** Abstracts should be e-mailed to agsci_award@fara-africa.org and copied to sciencecom@cta.int. The deadline is **6 January 2010**. Abstracts received after the deadline will not be considered. Abstracts will be evaluated by a panel of experts including scientists, gender specialists and information and communication technologies (ICT) experts according to the established criteria; logic, content, communication, impact, innovation and originality. Successful entrants will be invited to submit full papers of not more than 4 – 6 pages by **15 May 2010** in keeping with competition guidelines.

How do we evaluate and reward the winners?

Scientists whose full papers are received on time in response to the second stage May 15 deadline and are approved by the expert panel will be supported to participate in the finals of the competitions which will be judged during a side event leading up to *the Africa Agriculture Science Week and FARA General Assembly in the week of 19-24 July 2010 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso*. The top 5 in each category will be recognized and suitably rewarded. Outstanding contributions for ground-breaking science and for communicating outputs which have transformed or have the potential to transform the agricultural sector or lives of rural communities and policy will also be rewarded as appropriate.

IMPRESSA Award

The Impact Research and Science in Africa (**IMPRESSA**) Award recognizes outstanding researchers and scientists who have made significant contribution in the field of agricultural research and science for development in Africa, including human and institutional development.

The Award recognizes outstanding contributions to development through agricultural research and science, human and institutional capacity building in sub-Saharan Africa. It promotes (i) awareness of challenges and prospects in agriculture, (ii) the unique social conditions of



agricultural communities and the global dynamics affecting agriculture, food and nutrition security (iii) the unfulfilled role of African universities in Africa's development through agriculture, and (iv) gender issues in agricultural research and science, human and institutional capacity building.

What is the scope?

The inaugural (2009/2010) IMPRESSA Award competition will be restricted to agricultural researchers and scientists from the **25 member universities of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)**. Participation in the competition is by peer nomination. Both individuals and teams whose work, done in sub-Saharan Africa has contributed to the objectives of IMPRESSA Award are eligible for nomination. Nomination can be made with reference to specific contribution or efforts and results, which could be recent or past, but judged as viable, having had impact, and sustainable.

What are the guidelines?

The **Nominator** must provide his or her full name, and contact details including email, professional and organizational affiliation. The nominator will provide: (i) **Part A** (Max. 500 words) - full names, full contact details including email, professional and organizational affiliation, and biographical data of the nominee; (ii) **Part B** (Max **1000** words) - A succinct factual summary outlining the nominator's key arguments for the nomination; (iii) **Part C** (Max 6000 words) - A detailed background and factual argument for the nomination including direct measurable and non-measurable achievements and impacts, supporting documents including citations, honors, written works and other references. All submissions should be sent by email to RUFORUM Secretariat (secretariat@ruforum.org) with a copy to ekaya@africaonline.co.ke. Deadline for nominations is **31 March 2010**. Further details available at www.ruforum.org and <http://RUFORUMsecretariat.blogspot.com>

How do we evaluate and reward the winners?

Submissions will be evaluated by a panel of experts from diverse fields related to applied agricultural development which link science to evidence-based outreach and policy. In its evaluation, the Award Committee will emphasize proven and tangible results from the nominee's work in line with the objectives of IMPRESSA Award. The circumstances under which the work was undertaken, complexity of the problem and results achieved will be duly considered by the Award committee. The top 3 will be recognized and suitably rewarded.

Awards Ceremony

The final awards ceremony for the Science Competitions and IMPRESSA Awards will be held during the Ministerial Forum at **the Africa Agriculture Science Week and FARA General Assembly in the week of 19-24 July 2010 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso**. This occasion is considered as one of the major gatherings of agricultural research for development stakeholders



in Africa by political bodies, scientists, local entrepreneurs, farmers' groups and NGOs and the international donor community. The top entrants in the competitions will be funded to attend the awards ceremony.

Organizers

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the ACP-EU Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and the African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education (ANAFE).

