



COMPETITION IMPRESSA AWARD

Preamble

The world's population, about 5.5 billion people is expected to double by 2050. Ninety-seven percent of this increase will be in the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Even today, 700 million people are faced with inadequate food supplies; more than 30% of the developing world's populations live in abject poverty. As living standards rise, the data suggest that, in the next fifty years, the global population will consume twice as much food as was consumed over the past 10,000 years. The challenge for the future is global food security. In sub-Saharan Africa, which is faced with rapidly rising population growth and a stagnant agriculture, this food security challenge is of particular importance.

Advances in agricultural science and research, and technological improvements are, and will continue to be prerequisites for increasing agricultural productivity and improving livelihoods of farmers and the rural work force. Scientists and other development actors will remain key to achieving progress amidst new challenges.

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a consortium of 25 universities in Eastern and Southern Africa, established in 2004. It has a mandate to oversee graduate training and networks of specialization in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) countries. Specifically RUFORUM strives to contribute to the well being of small scale farmers and economic development of countries throughout the sub-Saharan Africa region. This contribution is made through training of quality graduates for the rural development workforce and the production and dissemination of demand-driven, development oriented research that is defined and applied through participatory processes linking researchers, farmers, and policy makers.

RUFORUM recognizes that there are several other actors working towards improving livelihoods in Africa. As a token effort to recognize achievers, and promote excellence, RUFORUM will once every two years, provide awards to outstanding 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 will be known as **IMPRESSA**, which stands for **Impact Research and Science in Africa**.

Objectives of the IMPRESSA Award

The IMPRESSA Award will;

- Recognize outstanding contributions to development through agricultural research and science, human and institutional capacity building.
- Promote the awareness of challenges and prospects in agriculture as the mainstay of most economies in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Promote the awareness of the unique social conditions of agricultural communities and the global dynamics affecting agriculture, food and nutrition security in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Promote awareness of the unfulfilled role of African universities in Africa's development through agriculture.
- Promote awareness of gender issues in agricultural research and science, human and institutional capacity building.

The Award will be presented at special ceremonies attended by the Award winner(s), the RUFORUM Board of Directors and invited guests. RUFORUM commits to work with partners in publicizing and promoting the work of the Award winner(s).

**Eligibility,
nomination,
evaluation and
selection
procedure**

The competition organizers invite nominations to the IMPRESSA Award. The IMPRESSA Award competition is open to all agricultural scientists/researchers/development workers in sub-Saharan Africa. **However, for the 2009/2010 Awards, nominees are restricted to RUFORUM member Universities only.** Both individuals and teams whose work, done in sub-Saharan Africa has contributed to the objectives of IMPRESSA Award are eligible for nomination. All nominations must be submitted in writing, in English or French. All nominations are confidential and the identities of nominators and nominees will be kept in confidence. Nominations should be sent to RUFORUM Secretariat.

The Award 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. 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 Awards committee.

Nominations will be structured as below:

Nominator / promoter:

Give full names, full contact details including email, professional and organizational affiliation.

Nominee:

Part A: (Max. 500 words): The nominator will give full names, full contact details including email, professional and organizational affiliation, and biographical data.

Part B: (i) (Max 1000 words): A succinct factual summary outlining the nominator's key arguments for the nomination.

(ii) (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.

Submissions will be evaluated by a panel of experts from diverse fields related to applied agricultural development which links science to evidence-based outreach and policy

[ADDRESS FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS IS GIVEN ON THE COMPREHENSIVE 2009 AGRIC SCIENCE AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT]

Important dates

- Deadline for nominations is **31st March 2010**
- Presentation of IMPRESSA Award and runners- up prizes: **FARA General Assembly, 2010**

**Competition
Organizers**

The IMPRESSA Award competition is organized by:

**Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building
in Agriculture (RUFORUM) Secretariat
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