

18th RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

CALL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ZIMBABWE YOUNG SCIENTISTS AWARD (YSA)

Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), established by ten Vice Chancellors in 2004, is a consortium of 147 African universities operating within 38 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. For more details about RUFORUM, see www.ruforum.org and a profile of RUFORUM activities on this link.

Since its establishment 18 years ago, RUFORUM has been building and consolidating partnerships with Universities and Higher Education Networks in Africa and globally, Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), African Policy Advocacy Networks, Private Sector, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET Institutions), and Think Tanks in order to transform the continent. Among its thrusts, RUFORUM aims to promote and recognize contribution of scientists and individuals in especially Africa, who are making contributions towards advancing science to address Africa's development needs. As such, RUFORUM runs a series of awards (see previous awards (Ghana Young Scientist Award)) to promote excellence in the continent.

For the first time, the RUFORUM Annual General Meeting will be held in Zimbabwe. The event will be hosted by the Republic of Zimbabwe Government and RUFORUM Member universities in Zimbabwe from 12-16 December 2022. In commemoration of the event, RUFORUM is issuing a call for the Young Scientists Award to recognize young upcoming scientists in Universities and research institutions in Zimbabwe. There will be five awards from three award categories (please see award categories below). Each recipient will receive a citation and a token financial award.

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Award Categories

The RUFORUM YSA 2022 will be presented in any of the following categories:

Agriculture, Plant & Animal Sciences and Rural Development	To recognize Zimbabwe's most promising researcher who is working in the field of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT and has developed innovative model(s) that help in improving agricultural productivity, increasing income, and improving the quality of life of people especially in rural areas.
Environmentally Sound Sustainable Development	To recognize Zimbabwe's most promising researcher who is working in the field of EARTH, OCEANOGRAPHIC, ENVIRONMENTAL and ECOLOGICAL STUDIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES and ECOSYSTEM and is contributing to protecting our planet and conserving its natural resources
Innovation in Engineering and Physical Sciences	To recognize Zimbabwe's most promising researcher who is working in the field of ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS & CHEMISTRY and is harnessing it to drive disruptive and sustainable growth, with a potential for industrial and/or societal impact.

Eligibility Criteria

- Individual from a University/Research Institution in Zimbabwe
- Has completed at least MPhil/PhD or equivalent degree
- Must be below 35 years of age

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

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three important papers relevant to the award contribution may also be included.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications complete in all respect with the supporting documents 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 Applications and Nominations

All materials comprising a nomination package, including the support letters, will be submitted electronically by the nominator.

- a) Before you fill the form, please read the eligibility and evaluation criteria specified above.
- b) Complete the soft copy of the RUFORUM YOUNG SCIENTIST application form ([link](#)).
- c) All parts should be completed and “N.A.” should be stated where it is not applicable.
- d) If you have attachments, combine all your files into one pdf file and name it as “Name_YSA_application”. E.g. Rukarwa R.J_YSA_application.
- e) Submit your application through the young scientist application platform using this [link](#)
- f) The referees should submit nomination letters using this [link](#)

Deadline: 15th September 2022 at 00:00 Central Africa Time

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