The BIFAD Awards for Scientific Excellence in a Feed the Future Innovation Lab recognize individual researchers and/or research teams for significant achievements originating from work performed under the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) funded Feed the Future Innovation Labs. Two awards are anticipated to be given annually: one for an individual researcher or a team of researchers and one for a student researcher. The awards recognize research efforts that contribute to the interrelated and interdependent objectives of the Global Food Security Strategy: inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led economic growth, strengthened resilience among people and systems, and a well-nourished population.

The 2020 Awards cycle is now accepting nominations through April 15th, 2020 at 5:00pm EDT. Please review the information below and submit your nomination via the online form.

Contents
2020 Call for Nominations .............................................................................................................. 1
Senior Researcher Award ................................................................................................................ 2
   Selection Criteria .......................................................................................................................... 3
   Eligibility ..................................................................................................................................... 3
   Basis of Nomination .................................................................................................................... 4
Student Researcher Award ............................................................................................................. 4
   Selection Criteria .......................................................................................................................... 5
   Eligibility ..................................................................................................................................... 5
   Basis of the Nomination ............................................................................................................... 6
Submission of the Nomination ....................................................................................................... 6
   Application Deadline: .................................................................................................................. 6
More Information ........................................................................................................................... 7
Senior Researcher Award

Selection Criteria

A successful award winner should be able to demonstrate achievement and sustainable contributions to the field across all of the following award criteria:

1. Demonstrated scientific and technical merit\(^1\) of the nominee’s research.
2. Demonstrated relevance of the nominee’s research to developing country national and/or regional agricultural research priorities.
3. Demonstrated and/or potential for the nominee’s research to have broader impact at scale that contributes to improvements in developing country food security, nutrition, resilience, and inclusive, sustainable agriculture-led economic growth.
4. Evidence of commitment for integrating inclusive development\(^2\) and local capacity development\(^3\) considerations into the nominee’s research process.

Eligibility

Eligibility of Nominees

Individual researchers and research teams are eligible for the senior research award. Nominees for the Award must be living at the time their nominations are submitted. Nominees must be associated currently or formerly with a Feed the Future Innovation Lab. Team nominations are limited to a maximum of three (3) researchers. Achievements upon which award nominations are based must have been completed primarily while affiliated with a Feed the Future Innovation Lab.

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\(^1\) Scientific and technical merit connotes the quality of the scientific approach, e.g., the presentation of clearly stated objectives and research questions, valid research protocols that are aligned with the research questions, proper procedures for data collection, appropriate interpretation and dissemination of research findings.

\(^2\) Inclusive development is the concept that every person, regardless of identity, is instrumental in the transformation of their own societies and their inclusion throughout the development process leads to better outcomes.

\(^3\) Capacity development is a “process of unleashing, strengthening and maintaining the ability of people, organizations, and society as a whole to manage their affairs successfully.” USAID is committed to creating the conditions whereby countries own, resource, and sustain their development. Achieving and sustaining development results stems from interactions between numerous and diverse actors within partner countries, who are part of a local system, thus emphasis on local capacity development is prioritized.
Team Nominations

Research teams are eligible for the BIFAD Award for Scientific Excellence provided the following conditions are met: (1) at least two members of the team belongs or belonged to a Feed the Future Innovation Lab, (2) 50 percent of more of the team effort must be attributable to a Feed the Future Innovation Lab, and (3) the nomination must show that the team effort was critical to the outcomes. No more than three team members may be nominated as a research team.

Eligibility of Nominators

Eligible nominators include all Feed the Future Innovation Lab researchers and/or their partners, scientific peers, donor agencies, the private sector, or any individual or group wishing to recognize Feed the Future Innovation Lab contributions to food security and agricultural development. USAID staff, staff of the BIFAD support agreement implementing partner (the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities), and BIFAD members are not eligible to submit nominations.

Basis of Nomination

Nomination materials must clearly address the selection criteria. The nomination package will consist of the following:

1. A letter of nomination (up to 5 pages) summarizing the most significant professional achievements that qualify the nominee(s) for the award. The nomination package should address each of the four selection criteria described in I.A above. This letter should be addressed to the BIFAD chair.
2. A short biography of the nominee(s) (up to 1 page per nominee)
3. Support letters addressing one or more of the selection criteria (a maximum of three letters, up to 3 pages each)
4. A list of up to ten significant publications. Publications may be research articles and/or other publications that the nominee(s) has/have authored or co-authored, as well as other publications, such as newspaper or other media articles, blog posts, newsletter mentions, etc. that describe or highlight the research undertaken by the nominee. Only publications, presentations, honors, and awards dated within the past 5 years will be considered by the Awards Committee.
Student Researcher Award

Selection Criteria

A successful award winner should be able to demonstrate achievement and sustainable contributions to the field across all of the following award criteria:

1. Demonstrated scientific and technical merit\(^4\) of the nominee’s research.
2. Demonstrated relevance of the nominee’s research to developing country national and/or regional agricultural research priorities.
3. Demonstrated and/or potential for the nominee’s research to have broader impact at scale that contributes to improvements in developing country food security, nutrition, resilience, and inclusive, sustainable agriculture-led economic growth.
4. Evidence of commitment for integrating inclusive development\(^5\) and local capacity development\(^6\) considerations into the nominee’s research process.

Eligibility

Eligibility of Nominee

A student is defined as a registered undergraduate, graduate or professional student at any global accredited institution of higher education. Nominees must be a registered student in good standing (including in compliance with USAID Participant Training and Exchange Visitor regulations and Conditions of Sponsorship) at the time of the nomination and affiliated with a Feed the Future Innovation Lab.

\(^{4}\) Scientific and technical merit connotes the quality of the scientific approach, e.g., the presentation of clearly stated objectives and research questions, valid research protocols that are aligned with the research questions, proper procedures for data collection, appropriate interpretation and dissemination of research findings.

\(^{5}\) Inclusive development is the concept that every person, regardless of identity, is instrumental in the transformation of their own societies and their inclusion throughout the development process leads to better outcomes.

\(^{6}\) Capacity development is a “process of unleashing, strengthening and maintaining the ability of people, organizations, and society as a whole to manage their affairs successfully.” USAID is committed to creating the conditions whereby countries own, resource, and sustain their development. Achieving and sustaining development results stems from interactions between numerous and diverse actors within partner countries, who are part of a local system, thus emphasis on local capacity development is prioritized.
Eligibility of Nominators

Eligible nominators include all Feed the Future Innovation Lab researchers and/or their partners, scientific peers, donor agencies, the private sector, or any individual or group wishing to recognize Feed the Future Innovation Lab contributions to food security and agricultural development. USAID staff, staff of the BIFAD support agreement implementing partner (the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities), and BIFAD members are not eligible to submit nominations.

Basis of the Nomination

Nomination materials must clearly address the selection criteria. The nomination package will consist of the following:

1. A letter of nomination (up to 5 pages) summarizing the most significant professional achievements that qualify the nominee(s) for the award. The nomination package should address each of the four selection criteria described in I.A above. This letter should be addressed to the BIFAD chair.
2. A short biography of the nominee(s) (up to 1 page per nominee)
3. Support letters addressing one or more of the selection criteria (a maximum of three letters, up to 3 pages each)
4. A list of up to ten significant publications. Publications may be research articles and/or other publications that the nominee(s) has/have authored or co-authored, as well as other publications, such as newspaper or other media articles, blog posts, newsletter mentions, etc. that describe or highlight the research undertaken by the nominee. Only publications, presentations, honors, and awards dated within the past 5 years will be considered by the Awards Committee.
5. Proof of student eligibility, including evidence of compliance with USAID Exchange Visitor and Participant Training policies.
Submission of the Nomination

The nomination package must be submitted in electronic format as a single PDF document. Font sizes must be 12 point or greater and all documents must have a minimum of 1” margins on US letter-size paper. All nominations must be submitted through the APLU BIFAD online form for consideration.

Application Deadline

Deadline for receipt of the nomination materials:
15 April 2020, 5:00 PM Eastern Time

Please submit all required documents as a single PDF to the online form here.

More Information

For more information, please contact:

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