



Excellence in Science and Innovation for Agricultural and Rural Development

“Feeding 1 billion in Africa in a changing world”

2012/2013 Africa-wide Young Professionals in Science Competitions

Deadline – May 14th, 2012

This competition is open to all young professionals (**25-40 years**) in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), North Africa and the Diaspora¹. It seeks to promote scientific excellence and **recognize and reward** outstanding young professionals who are undertaking innovative research, technology development or scientific and engineering related activities and communicating the outputs (knowledge, technologies and approaches) to improve agricultural performance and socio-economic development in Africa.

Who can participate?

Young nationals of all African countries are encouraged to participate. Individual and group entries will be accepted. The role and contribution of the young professional(s) must be clearly demonstrated in group submissions. Entries should demonstrate effective partnerships and combination of skills and/or engagement with peers and or rural communities.

What is the scope?

Any science, technology and innovation (ST&I) related activity linked to the topic ***“Feeding 1 billion in Africa in a changing world”*** which has been undertaken within the last five years and shows measurable impact (potential or demonstrated) **on agricultural development or rural livelihoods of African communities**. Thematic areas include: agricultural productivity and food security; postharvest and value addition; policy; environmental and eco-system sustainability; economics and trade; knowledge management and ICT; and agricultural machinery/engineering. Communication strategies, methods and tools used to disseminate results - scientific findings, knowledge, technologies, or approaches must be included.

Guidelines

Entrants must submit a two-page (A4) abstract (**1500 – 2000 words**) that clearly details the successful ST&I project. State the title, objective(s), methodology/approach, results, discussion, conclusion, information and communication strategy, and impact (potential or demonstrated). Include the heading ***“Young Professionals in Science”*** and full contact details; name, mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address and proof of age and citizenship. Abstracts should be e-mailed to scicom2012@cta.int and copied to info@fara-africa.org. The deadline for submission is **May 14th, 2012**. Abstracts received after the deadline will not be considered.

Evaluation (Stage I)

Abstracts will be evaluated by a panel of experts including scientists, policy makers, farmers, gender and information and communication experts. Semi-finalists will be announced on **16th July 2012**. Semi-finalists are required to submit full draft papers of not more than 4 – 6 pages by **August 20th, 2012**. The **top 20** young professionals will be invited to attend the Scientific Writing Workshop which will be held in conjunction with the 3rd RUFORUM bi-annual conference, in **Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania** from **September 24-28, 2012**.

¹ African nationals working or studying abroad and doing research on African issues linked to/and contributing to Africa's development. Proof of citizenship is required.

Evaluation (Stage II)

Final papers are due **16th November 2012** after completion of the scientific writing course. All semi-finalists who fulfill the requirements will be invited to attend the **Finals and Award Ceremony** which will be held during the **6th Africa Science Week and FARA General Assembly** scheduled for **June 2013**, in **Accra, Ghana**. The **top 10** finalists who will compete for the cash awards, prizes and trophies will be notified of the requirements in April 2013.

Competition Organizers

The Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (ACP-EU), the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education (ANAFE), the International Foundation for Science (IFS), the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), and the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), in collaboration with the Alliance for a Green revolution in Africa (AGRA).