

BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (BIFAD)

Awards for Scientific Excellence in a Feed the Future Innovation Lab

BIFAD is now accepting nominations for the 2021 Awards cycle through August 13th at 5:00 PM EDT. Please review the information below and submit your nomination via the [online form](#).

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Purpose of the Awards

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- (USAID) funded Feed the Future Innovation Labs.

Two awards are anticipated to be given annually: the Senior Research Award for an individual researcher or a team of researchers and the Student Researcher Award. 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. Recipients are recognized at a public BIFAD meeting, typically in conjunction with the World Food Prize in October.

Learn more about past recipients [here](#).

Senior Researcher Award

Selection Criteria

A successful award recipient should demonstrate achievement and sustainable contributions to the field across all the following award criteria:

1. Demonstrated scientific and technical merit¹ 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 development² and local capacity development³ 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 researchers. Achievements upon which award nominations are based must have been completed primarily while affiliated with a Feed the Future Innovation Lab.

Team Nominations

Research teams are eligible for the BIFAD Award for Scientific Excellence provided all of 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 contract contractor (Tetra Tech), 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 five 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 above. This letter should be addressed to the current [BIFAD Chair](#).

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.

2. A short biography of the nominee(s) (up to one page per nominee).
3. Support letters addressing one or more of the selection criteria (a maximum of three letters, up to three pages each).
4. A list of most significant and relevant 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 extension and education materials, 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 five years will be considered by the Awards Committee. The list should be limited to no more than 10 publications.

Student Researcher Award

Selection Criteria

A successful award recipient should demonstrate achievement and sustainable contributions to the field across all the following award criteria:

1. Demonstrated scientific and technical merit⁴ 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 development⁵ and local capacity development⁶ 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.

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 contract contractor (Tetra Tech), and BIFAD members are not eligible to submit nominations.

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.

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 five 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 above. This letter should be addressed to the current BIFAD Chair.
2. A short biography of the nominee(s) (up to one page per nominee).
3. Support letters addressing one or more of the selection criteria (a maximum of three letters, up to three pages each).
4. A list of most significant and relevant publications. Publications may be research articles and/or other publications that the nominee has authored, as well as other publications, such as extension and education materials, 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 five years will be considered by the Awards Committee. The list should be limited to no more than 10 publications.
5. Proof of student eligibility. For all students, this includes proof of good standing as a student in a recognized university, e.g. a certificate of enrollment or brief letter from the student's graduate committee chair or department representative. For students studying in the United States through a USAID or USDA program, this includes evidence of compliance with USAID Exchange Visitor and Participant Training policies, e.g. a letter from the program coordinator or director of the USG program.

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 one-inch margins on US letter-size paper. All nominations must be submitted through the [online form](#) for consideration.

Application Deadline

August 13, 2021, 5:00 PM Eastern Time

About BIFAD

The Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) is a presidentially appointed federal advisory committee established in 1975 under Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act, as amended. Recognizing the critical role of U.S. land-grant institutions in agricultural development, domestically and abroad, and the importance of their engagement in the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) development programs, BIFAD's main purpose is to advise USAID on agriculture and higher education issues pertinent to global food security in developing countries. BIFAD advances U.S., state, regional, and national strategic interests in international agricultural development and is an important advocate for U.S. public research and land-grant universities and minority-serving academic institutions in their efforts to work with USAID to engage in the fight against world hunger and poverty. Sign up for updates to stay connected to BIFAD events and reports ([LINK](#)).

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