How to Nominate the Africa Food Prize Winner

#AfricaFoodPrize
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The Africa Food Prize is the pre-eminent award for recognizing the extraordinary individual or institution whose contributions to African agriculture are forging a new era of sustainable food security and economic opportunity for all Africans.

The USD 100,000 prize celebrates Africans who are taking control of Africa’s agriculture agenda and changing the reality of farming in Africa from a struggle to survive to a business that thrives. It puts a bright spotlight on bold initiatives and technical innovations that can be replicated across the continent.

In 2020, Dr. André Bationo, a researcher from Burkina Faso, and Dr. Catherine Nakalembe, a Ugandan researcher, jointly received the Prize for their exceptional contribution towards the promotion of food security across the continent.

In 2019, Dr. Emma Naluyima, a smallholder farmer and private veterinarian from Uganda, and Baba Dioum, a policy champion and agricultural entrepreneur from Senegal were recognized for their remarkable achievements in demonstrating and promoting innovative and sustainable growth in Africa’s agriculture through improved resource use and market links.

In 2018, International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) was awarded the Prize for generating solutions on and off the farm that have improved the lives of millions in the face of climate change, a surge of crop pests and disease, and an urgent need for youth employment.

The 2017 Prize was jointly awarded to Hon. Prof. Ruth Oniang’o, a professor and advocate of nutrition from Kenya, and Mme Maimouna Sidibe Coulibaly, an entrepreneur and agro industrialist from Mali, for their exemplary efforts in driving Africa’s agriculture transformation.

With the acknowledgement that agriculture is Africa’s surest path to inclusive economic growth and development, the Africa Food Prize exists to reward individuals and institutions that are pioneering efforts to create prosperity in Africa. It is hoped that this will encourage others to follow their lead.

The Africa Food Prize began as the Yara Prize, and was established in 2005 by Yara International ASA in Norway to honor achievements in African agriculture. Moving the Yara Prize to Africa in 2016 and rechristening it the Africa Food Prize gave the award a distinctive African home, African identity and African ownership.

The Prize has brought much-deserved recognition to 18 recipients from Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe whose outstanding achievements point the way forward to a more vibrant farming sector for the entire continent by making African farms more productive, profitable and resilient.

The deadline for nominations is May 25th 2021. The winner will be unveiled at the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) this September.
ii. Prize Objectives

The Africa Food Prize recognizes extraordinary women, men, and institutions whose outstanding contributions to African agriculture are forging a new era of sustainable food security and economic opportunity that elevates all Africans.

Building on the values and principles established by the Yara Prize, the Africa Food Prize puts a bright spotlight on achievements and innovations that can be replicated across the continent to eliminate hunger and poverty and provide a vital new source of employment and income.

iii. Eligibility

The Africa Food Prize can be awarded to any individual or identifiable group of individuals, as well as to established institutions, associations, organizations or government bodies with a formal and recognized judicial and organizational structure contributing to the overall objectives of the Prize.

The Prize can be awarded to any qualified candidate, irrespective of nationality, profession or location, whose work, and contributions deriving from the work, has had a clear impact on the African situation, nationally, regionally or for the continent.

The Prize can be awarded with reference to a specific contribution or achievement, or a series of efforts and results in the recent past, preferably within the last few years.

Current or recent members of the Africa Food Prize Committee, or an institution/organization headed by such a member, are ineligible for the Prize. The Prize cannot be awarded to a person already deceased, but will be presented in the event a Prize winner dies before receiving the Prize.

The Prize can be awarded to more than one winner, but not more than two. If shared, each winner will receive equal prize money (USD 100,000 divided in two), a diploma and a trophy.
iv. Selection Criteria

The Prize Committee considers the following criteria for the Prize:

- Contribution to reducing poverty and hunger and/or improving food and nutrition security in measurable terms
- Contribution to providing a vital source of income and/or employment in measurable terms
- Potential for transformative change through scalability, replication, and sustainability
- Increased awareness and cooperation among African audiences and organizations
- Proven leadership potential of the individual or organization, specifically the ability of the to persevere despite significant challenges or risks

In its assessments, the Africa Food Prize Committee will particularly emphasize proven, tangible results, scalability and value creation derived from the nominee’s work, directly or indirectly, with regard to improvement of sustainable agriculture and food and nutrition security in Africa.

In its deliberations, the Africa Food Prize Committee will furthermore emphasize the value of the nominees’ achievements with regard to visionary thinking, their role as motivator and rallying point in the campaign against hunger and poverty, as well as their inclination to share knowledge and cooperate.

The Africa Food Prize Committee will also consider the circumstances under which the work has been carried out and results achieved, that is the complexity of the problem and the difficulties, hostilities or prejudices encountered.

v. Nomination and Selection Procedure

The nomination process for the Africa Food Prize 2021 starts with nominations being sent to the Africa Food Prize Secretariat by, May 25th, 2021. Nominations must contain the information requested in the Nomination Guide.

The Africa Food Prize Secretariat then assists the Africa Food Prize Committee to screen and select candidates.

The Africa Food Prize Committee chooses the prize winner(s) by unanimous vote. The Committee has absolute authority and its decisions cannot be overruled or appealed.

vi. Guidelines for Submitting a Nomination

To be eligible for the Prize, a nomination must be submitted in writing in either English or French. In order to be considered by the Africa Food Prize Committee, all nominations and supporting documentation must be received by 25th May 2021.

Nominations should be submitted on: https://www.africafoodprize.org/nominate
vii. Information on the Prize and Award Ceremony

The Prize is awarded at a special ceremony attended by the Prize winner(s), the Africa Food Prize Committee and invited guests. The Prize winner(s) is committed to attend this ceremony.

The Africa Food Prize 2021 will be awarded during the African Green Revolution Forum, scheduled for September 2021.

viii. About the Africa Food Prize Committee

The Africa Food Prize Committee is an independent body chaired by Former Nigerian President, H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo.

**CHAIR**

H.E. President Olusegun Obasanjo,
Founder and President, The Olusegun Obasanjo Foundation
President of Nigeria 1999 - 2007

Dr. Joachim von Braun,
Director of the Center for Development Research (ZEF), Bonn University, Professor for economic and technological change

Dr. Eleni Z. Gabre-Madhin,
Chief Executive Officer, eleni LLC
Former CEO of the Ethiopia Coffee Exchange Winner of the Yara Prize in 2012

Dr. Vera Songwe,
Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Dr. Kamau-Rutenberg,
Executive Director for African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD)

Mr. Birama Sidibé,
CEO and President Agro BioTech

Prof Sheryl L Hendriks,
Prof of Food Security, University of Pretoria
ix. FAQs about Nominations

01 Which individuals or organizations are eligible for the Prize?
The Africa Food Prize can be awarded to any individual or identifiable group of individuals, as well as to established institutions, associations, organizations or government bodies with a formal and recognized judicial and organizational structure contributing to the overall objectives of the Prize.

02 Does the nominee need to be an African citizen or of African descent?
Not necessarily. The Africa Food Prize can be awarded to any qualified candidate, irrespective of nationality, profession or location, as long as his or her work, and contributions deriving from the work, have had a clear impact on the African situation, nationally, regionally or for the continent.

03 Is the Prize awarded for a specific achievement and does it need to be within a certain period of time?
The Prize can be awarded with reference to a specific contribution or achievement, or a series of efforts and results in the recent past, preferably within the last few years.