



Africa Food Prize 2025

The Africa Food Prize Nomination Guidelines



www.africafoodprize.org

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.

Last year, Tinotenda Mhiko, CEO of the Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (ARDA) of Zimbabwe, was honored with the prestigious Africa Food Prize for his groundbreaking leadership and innovation in advancing food security through strategic irrigation initiatives, revolutionizing Zimbabwe's food systems.

The Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA) was recognized in 2023 for their exceptional leadership in the development of numerous bean varieties that improve farm productivity and profitability, and meet increasing consumer demand.

Dr. Eric Yirenkyi Danquah, a food genetist from Ghana won the 2022 Africa Food Prize. He was awarded for his outstanding expertise, leadership and grantsmanship skills that led to the establishment and development of the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI) as a world class centre for training plant breeders in Africa.

In 2021, The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) was awarded the Africa Food Prize, for improving food security across 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa through the Tropical Legumes Project.

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.

The two trailblazers succeeded the 2016 winner - Dr. Kanayo F. Nwanze, the former President of the Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Now in its 10th year, the Prize has grown in stature and popularity. Nominations come from over 20 African countries in Africa as well as from countries outside the continent.

The winner(s) will be chosen by the Africa Food Prize Committee, an independent body of pre-eminent leaders that is chaired by the former Tanzanian President, H.E Jakaya Kikwete. The other committee members are H.E Ibrahim Mayaki, Dr. Eloufi Ismahane, Mr. Birama Sidibe, Dr Wanjiru Kamau Rutenberg, Prof Dorothy Okello, Dr Nteranya Sanginga and Ms. Nachilala Nkombo










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 deadline for nominations is June 27th 2025. The winner will be unveiled at the Africa Food Systems Forum in Rwanda this September.

Committee



-  **H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete**
-  **H.E. Ibrahim Mayaki**
-  **Ms. Eloufi Ismahane**
-  **Mr. Birama Sidibe**
-  **Dr. Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg**
-  **Prof. Dorothy Okello**
-  **Dr. Nteranya Sanginga**
-  **Ms. Nachilala Nkombo**
-  **Mr. Boaz Keizire**

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.

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.

Selection Criteria

The Africa Food Prize will honor outstanding contributions within every aspect of agriculture and food production that is clearly related to combating hunger and reducing poverty in Africa. Decisions will be based on the Prize Committee's research into and deliberations of the nominees' work and an evaluation of their achievements.

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.

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.

Nomination and Selection Procedure

The nomination process for the Africa Food Prize 2025 starts with nominations being sent to the Africa Food Prize Secretariat by, June 27th 2025. 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.

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 27th June 2025.

Nominations should be submitted on: <https://africafoodprize.org/nominate/>

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 2025 will be awarded during the Africa Food Systems Forum this September.


About the Africa Food Prize Committee

The Africa Food Prize Committee is an independent body chaired by Former Tanzania President, H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete.


For any information about the Prize and nomination, please contact:


Boaz Blackie Keizire

Director, Policy and State Capability

 +254 (20) 3675 000 | +254 703-033356

 BKeizire@agra.org

 +254 733 733 445

 +254 (20) 3675 401

FAQs about Nominations

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.

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.

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.

Criteria Evaluating the Nominations

Evaluation instrument (EI)	Measurable indicators	Weights	Total points
1. Contribution to reducing poverty and hunger and/or improving food and nutrition security in measurable terms	Number of people affected Quantified improvement in food security indicators (e.g., acres of land conserved, % increase in crop yields, % of population food secure, etc)	R x 6.25	-
2. Contribution to providing a vital source of income and/or employment in measurable terms	Number of people employed Number of people using the technology, model, affected by the policy and research	R x 6.25	-
3. Potential for transformative change through scalability, replication, and sustainability	Diffusion rate (Average number of people benefiting from/ using technology per year since its introduction Or any evidence of increasing utilization and sustainability of technology, model, policy and research	R x 6.25	-
4. Increased awareness and cooperation among African audiences and organizations	Number of different regions (villages) within same country using technology Number of different countries using technology, model, affected by the policy and research Number of different organizations using technology, model, affected by the policy and research	R x 3.75	-
5. Proven leadership potential of the individual or organization, specifically the ability to persevere despite significant challenges or risks	Proven evidence of nominee's drive to popularize utilization of technologies (e.g. global conventions, policy influence, etc)	R x 1.25	-
6. Provide inspirational example(s) of African leadership in sustainable agric. transformation	Proven evidence of nominee's effort to drive Ag. Transformation using the technology, model, policy and research	R x 1.25	-
Total			100

Rating Scale:

- 4 = Evidence of exceptional achievement and impact are clearly indicated
- 3 = Evidence of strong achievement and impact are clearly indicated
- 2 = Evidence of reasonable achievement and impact are clearly indicated
- 1 = Evidence of minimal achievement and impact are clearly indicated
- 0 = No evidence of achievement and impact are clearly indicated