

## **PRECALL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR RUFORUM YOUNG SCIENTISTS AWARD (YSA)**

### **Background**

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), established by ten Vice Chancellors in 2004, is a consortium of 128 African universities operating within 38 countries spanning the African continent. RUFORUM is coordinated by a Secretariat hosted by Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. RUFORUM supports universities to address the important and largely unfulfilled role that universities play in contributing to the well-being of small-scale farmers and economic development of countries throughout the sub-Saharan Africa region. For more details about RUFORUM, see [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org) and a profile of RUFORUM activities in [this link](#).

Since its establishment 16 years ago, RUFORUM has been building and consolidating partnerships with Universities and Higher Education Networks in Africa and globally, Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), African Policy Advocacy Networks, Private Sector, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET Institutions), and Think Tanks in order to transform the continent. Among its thrusts, RUFORUM aims to promote and recognize contribution of scientists and individuals in especially Africa, who are making contributions towards advancing science to address Africa's development needs. As such, RUFORUM runs a series of awards (see previous awards ([Ghana Young Scientist Award](#))) to promote excellence in the continent.

For the first time, the RUFORUM Triennial Conference (RTC) will be held in West Africa. The conference will be hosted by the Government of Benin and RUFORUM Member universities in Benin in December 2021. In commemoration of the RTC, RUFORUM will issue a second call for the Young Scientists Award to recognize young upcoming scientists in Universities and other research institutions in Benin. There will be three awards from three award categories (please see award categories below). Each recipient will receive a citation and a token financial award.

## Award Categories

The RUFORUM YSA 2021 will be presented in any of the following categories:

AGRICULTURE, PLANT & ANIMAL SCIENCES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	To recognize Benin's most promising researcher who is working in the field of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT and has developed innovative model(s) that help in improving agricultural productivity, increasing income, and improving the quality of life of people especially in rural areas.
ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND EARTH, OCEANOGRAPHIC, ENVIRONMENTAL and ECOLOGICAL STUDIES, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	To recognize Benin's most promising researcher who is working in the field of ENVIRONMENTAL and ECOLOGICAL STUDIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES and ECOSYSTEM and is contributing to protecting our planet and conserving its natural resources.
INNOVATION IN ENGINEERING AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES	To recognize Benin's most promising researcher who is working in the field of ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY and is harnessing it to drive disruptive and sustainable growth, with a potential for industrial and/or societal impact.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

- Individual from a University/Research Institution in Benin
- Has completed at least MPhil/PhD or equivalent degree
- Must be born on or after May 1, 1981

## **Activity entered for this award must have been:**

- Undertaken no more than five (5) years prior to the closing date of entries
- Published in one or more respected, externally-refereed scientific journal(s), book(s) or equivalent electronic publication(s) and the publication must be indexed in Scopus

## **Nomination Guidelines**

The following is required for nomination for the award:

1. A statement by one (1) nominator supporting the applicant's suitability for the award with respect to:
  - Innovative and creative nature of the applicant's work
  - Interdisciplinary character of the applicant's work
  - Potential shown by the applicant as a future leader in the field of agriculture and natural sciences
2. Supporting information and documents; e.g., curriculum vitae including first permanent position hire date and a current publication list. Up to three important papers relevant to the award contribution may also be included.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

Applications complete in all respect with the supporting documents will be judged by a panel of subject experts from RUFORUM's academic community based on criteria such as:

- Quality and number of publications
- Nature and uniqueness of research
- Outcomes of research
- Impact on society
- Vision of the researcher

## **Deadline and Procedure for Submission of Nominations**

All materials comprising a nomination package, including the support letters, will be submitted electronically by the nominator. Detail procedure will be published on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 when the applications open.

**Deadline:** This is a pre-call announcement; the applications will open on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and close on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021