

PRESS RELEASE

2020 OFAB Africa Media Awards open call for entries from Journalists reporting on science

Promoting excellence in science journalism and appreciation of journalists' contribution in advancing sustainable agricultural technologies



Nairobi, June 29, 2020 - The Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa (OFAB) project has kicked off the 2020 edition of the Africa Media Awards.

The annual award sponsored by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) through its OFAB project rewards and celebrates African journalists who distinguish themselves in agricultural biotechnology reporting.

Entrants have been invited to submit original articles or clips of news videos written or produced between **August 30, 2019 through August 30, 2020**. The Award is open to journalists in the seven countries where OFAB is operational which are Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana and Burkina Faso. Consideration is



based on three categories including Print & Online Category; Radio Category; and Television Category.

Last year's overall winner was Gabriel Kudaka, a broadcast journalist from Kenya, who also was the Television Category winner.

Journalists from the respective countries are invited to submit entries through the various institutes and organisations including the Institute for Environmental and Agricultural Research (INERA), Burkina Faso; the Ethiopian Institute for Agricultural Research (EIAR); the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ghana; the International Service for Acquisition of Agribiotech Application (ISAAA), Kenya; the National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA), Nigeria; Tanzania's Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH); and the Uganda National Council of Science and Technology (UNCST).

The OFAB Media Awards was initiated to; i) promote excellence in science journalism and appreciate the contribution of journalists in promoting sustainable agricultural technologies particularly agricultural biotechnology and ii) reward the critical roles played by journalists in promoting constructive dialogue on modern biotechnology through responsible, professional, ethical and effective reporting.

The culmination of the Award is the OFAB Africa Media Awards contest that brings together OFAB country level finalists from which the overall winners are selected.

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About OFAB

OFAB is a partnership platform that contributes to creation of an enabling environment for biotechnology research, development and deployment for the benefit of smallholder farmers in Africa. Driven by a vision of sustainable food security and agriculture-driven economic development in Africa, OFAB enhances knowledge and awareness on agricultural biotechnology to build understanding of the technology and inform decision making. Established by AATF in 2006, OFAB operates in 7 countries - Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Nigeria. The OFAB key stakeholders include policy makers, the media, farmers, biosafety regulators, scientists, industry and consumers.



About AATF (<https://www.aatf-africa.org/about-us/>)

Founded in 2003 to address Africa's food security prospects through agricultural technology, AATF believes that the agricultural sector is a key foundational pillar as Africa consolidates its economic growth and carves out its new position as a major global economic powerhouse and the next growth market in the world. It was formed in response to the need for an effective mechanism that would facilitate and support negotiation for technology access and delivery and formation of appropriate partnerships to manage the development & deployment of innovative technologies for use by smallholder farmers in SSA.

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