

IFAR'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 2009

IFAR's Professional Development Program in 2009 will consist of the annual IFAR Small Grants Program, including the Ravi Tadvalkar Memorial Scholarship. Details are set out below.

1. **IFAR's Role:** IFAR is a results-oriented foundation that supports partnerships, collaboration, and awards as a means of fostering scientific excellence in agriculture and related fields (Additional details may be accessed at <http://www.ifar4dev.org/>).

2. **Mission:** IFAR's mission is to:

- Recognize and promote scientific excellence involving the work of international agricultural research centers (CGIAR Centers) supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and their partners.
- Promote science through professional development.
- Give priority to Africa and South Asia.

3. **Professional Development Grants:** In support of its mission, IFAR annually provides small grants to professionals from national agricultural research systems in developing countries (NARS). The award made to the youngest woman grantee each year will be designated the Ravi Tadvalkar Memorial Scholarship, in recognition of the many contributions to the organization by IFAR's first Treasurer and Secretary, his commitment to capacity building in developing countries, and his concern about diversity and gender issues.

The Wilfried Thalwitz Scholarship will not be offered in the 2009 program year.

Nominations for these awards must be sponsored by one or more CGIAR Center/s (see <http://www.cgiar.org/> for a full list of Centers), and the work programs proposed by applicants must be closely linked with the program of a CGIAR Center. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with Center scientists when preparing their project proposals for submission to IFAR.

Up to four professionals sponsored by any individual Center may receive grants each year.

An Awardee will not be eligible to re-apply for a grant following his/her previous successful application.

Applications should be from individual scientists. However, a proponent may wish to collaborate with other proponents, creating synergies through team work. The value of the individual grant (up to \$11,000) will not change in these circumstances.

4. **Objectives:** The objectives of IFAR's grants are to:

- (a) Enhance the professional development of promising professionals from developing countries, who are at the early to middle stages of their careers, and undertaking research in partnership with CGIAR Centers to support sustainable development of agriculture in developing countries;
- (b) Promote values gained from a “System Perspective” involving linkages between CGIAR Centers and NARS, and collaboration among CGIAR Centers;
- (c) Encourage cooperation among national institutions through linkages with CGIAR Centers.

5. Eligibility: Please note that:

- (a) all applicants are expected to hold a graduate degree;
- (b) grants are not intended to finance regular undergraduate or graduate academic programs, in whole or in part.

6. Number of IFAR grants: In 2009,

- (a) Up to 12 grants will be awarded under the IFAR Small Grants Program.
- (b) Each grant awarded will be for up to a maximum of \$10,000. Of this amount, \$1,000 will be sent through the sponsoring Center to each award winner for his/her use on purchases of appropriate books, journals, or equipment. The remainder will be disbursed by the sponsoring Center to meet expenditures in support of the Awardee’s work program. CGIAR Centers and partner institutions in developing countries are expected to support the work program in cash or in kind.

7. Preconditions: All CGIAR Centers are entitled to sponsor candidates for grants/scholarships. Full compliance with award requirements as set out in this announcement will be a precondition for applications to be considered. For Centers whose candidates received grants in 2008, full compliance with 2008 award requirements will be a precondition for applications to be considered in 2009.

8. Call for Proposals: Proposals for 2009 grants under the IFAR Small Grants Program and the following process should be followed by all applicants.

- (a) Proposals should be submitted to the IFAR Board by e-mail addressed to ifar@ifar4dev.org through the Director General of the sponsoring CGIAR Center/s. Proposals that are not routed as specified will not be considered.
- (b) All applicants must use the form provided at the end of this document that can also be accessed at www.ifar4dev.org.
- (c) Proposals should be in English. They should be succinct, should address the evaluation criteria described at Para 10 below, and should contain the following:
 - Work program, including two discrete deliverables clearly stated (maximum length: 800 words);
 - Relevance of work program to the objectives outlined at Paragraph 4 above (maximum length: 400 words);
 - Budget indicating costs to be funded by the grant, by Centers, and by other sources; as well as the value of any contributions in kind (maximum length: 400 words);

- Candidate's short CV (maximum length: 800 words), and recent passport size photograph;
- Consent for the release of personal and professional information, if the candidate is selected for a grant (wording attached).
- All applications will be acknowledged. An applicant who does not receive an acknowledgement within two weeks of the date on which his/her application was dispatched should contact the IFAR Executive Secretary at ifar@ifar4dev.org, with cc to s.tata@cgiar.org.

9. **Evaluation:** Selections for all grants will be made by the IFAR Board, on the advice of an international Evaluation Committee consisting of individuals recognized for their expertise, who support IFAR's objectives.

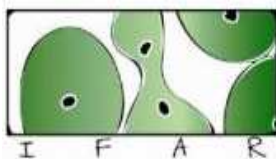
10. **Criteria:** Evaluation criteria, and the total points given to each criterion (indicating relative emphasis), are stated below. Adequacy and clarity of the proposed budget are essential for selection.

- (a) Appropriateness of proponent's skills and experience to implementing the proposal (20);
- (b) Opportunity for the professional development of applicants in the early or mid-stages of their careers (15);
- (c) Quality of proposal, and its relevance to the goals of the CGIAR (20);
- (d) Support from proponent's institution for the work program and activities to be undertaken after completion of work program (15);
- (e) Means by which the proposed work program will improve understanding of the CGIAR System, and its linkages to NARS (10);
- (f) Activities to be undertaken by proponent in her/his own country after completion of work program to promote (a) science-based solutions to development problems, and (b) linkages between NARS and the CGIAR System (20).

11. **Timeline:** The schedule for the award of grants in 2009 appears below:

- (a) Information about the 2009 Program conveyed to CGIAR Center Directors and GFAR, and posted on IFAR's web site – **By January 9, 2009;**
- (b) Receipt of proposals -- **By March 3, 2009;**
- (c) Review of proposals by Evaluation Committee, and submission of Committee's recommendations to the IFAR Board -- **By April 14, 2009;**
- (d) Board discussion and approval -- **By April 28, 2009;**
- (e) Centers informed of selections, and funds released -- **By May 12, 2009.**

12. **End-of-program Report:** All Awardees are required to submit an end-of-program report to IFAR, through the sponsoring Center, immediately following completion of the work program, but no later than February 28, 2010. Reports should be approximately 800 words in length, outline the work completed, confirm that funds received were spent as stated in the candidate's budget, and explain any anticipated follow up. A form for preparing the reports will be provided to the Awardees.



Application for the IFAR 2009 Fellowship Program

Instructions:

Please submit the proposal by email, using this form, through the Director General of the sponsoring CGIAR Center to ifar@ifar4dev.org by March 3, 2009.

The proposal will be evaluated by the Selection Panel using the following criteria

- (a) Appropriateness of proponent's skills and experience to implementing the proposal (20 points);
- (b) Opportunity for the professional development of applicants in the early or mid-stages of their careers (15);
- (c) Quality of proposal, and its relevance to the goals of the CGIAR (20 points);
- (d) Support from proponent's institution for the work program and activities to be undertaken after completion of work program (15 points);
- (e) Means by which the proposed work program will improve understanding of the CGIAR System, and its linkages to NARS (10 points);
- (f) Activities to be undertaken by proponent in her/his own country after completion of work program to promote: (a) science-based solutions to development problems, and (b) linkages between NARS and the CGIAR System (20 points).

I. Work Program (maximum length: 800 words)

(Please include two discrete deliverables, clearly described)

II. Relevance of Work Program (maximum length: 400 words)

III. Proposed Budget (maximum length: 400 words)

IV. Curriculum Vitae (maximum length: 800 words)

Consent for release of personal and professional information, if the candidate is selected for a grant -

I _____ of _____ an applicant for the IFAR grant (Small Grants Program) in 2009, consent to the release electronically or in print of my professional and personal information, including a recent photograph, if I am awarded a grant.

Name
(Typing your name certifies your agreement to the above)
Date.....

Please attach a recent photograph: _____Yes