



INTERNATIONAL INNOVATION AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Celebrating inspiring success stories
of innovation and innovators



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

During the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), the Federal Government of Switzerland announced an International Innovation Award for Sustainable Food and Agriculture. The Federal Government of Switzerland, with the technical support of FAO, established the **International Innovation Award for Sustainable Food and Agriculture** in 2019 and is pleased to announce the second edition. The award is open to individuals, private companies or institutions and comprises two **categories**:

- Category A awards excellence in digitization and innovation for sustainable food systems (USD 30 000)
- Category B recognises an innovation that empowers youth in sustainable food systems (USD 30 000).

Agricultural innovation is the process whereby individuals or organizations bring new or existing products, processes or ways of organization into use for the first time in a specific context in order to increase effectiveness, competitiveness, resilience to shocks or environmental sustainability and thereby contribute to food security and nutrition, economic development or sustainable natural resource management.

In the spirit of the forthcoming *Food Systems' Summit in 2021* and aligned to the aspirations and goals of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the candidates should demonstrate the important role of their innovation in transforming food systems through sustainable food and agriculture and the improvement of food security and nutrition for all, particularly in the face of increased environmental challenges. In line with the requirements and technical competencies of the Federal Office of Agriculture of Switzerland, all innovations must apply to agriculture and pastoral systems only.

The call will close on 19 March 2021. General terms and conditions of the Award are:

Nature of the Award

- a scroll describing the achievements of the recipient and/or an award;
- a cash prize of USD 30 000 for excellence in digitization and innovation for sustainable food systems
- a cash prize of USD 30 000 for an innovation that empowers youth in agriculture and food systems



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Eligibility

Individuals, private companies and institutions responsible for an innovation that has demonstrated particular efficiency and used novel tools, products or services to enhance and promote sustainable food and agriculture. Both categories of the award consider innovations that have been **successfully implemented and validated**. The Award is conferred for innovations implemented during the biennium preceding the current one. In line with the requirements and technical competencies of the Federal Office of Agriculture of Switzerland, all innovations must apply to **agriculture and pastoral systems only**. Application forms that are incomplete, do not comply with the terms and conditions specified, or are submitted beyond the deadline, according to the instructions provided, will not be considered. No applicants under the age of 18 will be considered for the Award.

1. Basic Criteria

Award specific criteria:

- **Award for digitization and innovation for sustainable food systems (USD 30 000):**
 - The innovation must impact more than one level of the supply chain from farmers to consumers.
 - The innovation must strengthen the link between farmers and consumers, e.g. through tracking sustainability features of traded food and agriculture products on labels.
- **Award for innovations that empower youth in sustainable food systems (USD 30 000):**
 - The innovation must strengthen the role of youth (under 35) in sustainable food systems.

General criteria:

- Quality and merit of the innovation
- Potential benefit, impact and sustainability
- Scalability
- Value for money

3. Procedures and General Guidelines

The procedures and general guidelines to be followed are set out below:



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Submission of Applications

Applications should be submitted using the attached application form by **19 March 2021** to the Secretariat of the Award at the following email address: Innovation-Award@fao.org for endorsement and submission to the screening committee

International Innovation Award for Sustainable Food and Agriculture Screening Committee

A Screening Committee chaired by FAO and the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture will be composed of the Secretary of COAG and representatives of non-State actor/s from the field of research, academia, young agriculture entrepreneurship, civil society and/or the private sector. The screening committee will review a list of valid applications submitted by the secretariat and establish a shortlist of six applications for each category to be submitted to the Selection Committee.

International Innovation Award for Sustainable Food and Award Selection Committee

The Selection Committee, co-chaired by the FAO Chief Economist/Chief Scientist and a high-level representative of the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, and comprising the COAG Chair and high-level non-State actor representative/s, will make a final decision on the basis of the short-list submitted by the Screening Committee.

4. Conferment of Award

The Awards will be presented by the Director-General and a high-level representative of the Government of Switzerland to an individual that represents the winning innovations during the FAO Awards ceremony held in 2021 (date TBC).

The prize may also cover (depending on COVID-19 health and safety measures and/or travel restrictions) the cost of travel and accommodation for the representative of the selected innovations to attend a special ceremony at FAO headquarters in Rome.