

Application Guidelines for the 2024 Japan International Award for Young Agricultural Researchers (Japan Award)

1. Purpose and Outline of the Award

This annual award is organized by the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council (AFFRC), the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan, and supported by Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS). Its purpose is to increase motivation among young researchers contributing to research and development in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and related industries in developing regions. Young researchers who show outstanding performance and research achievements that may lead to future innovation will be commended with the Japan Award.

2. Research Fields

The award covers research areas in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and related industries in developing regions, including the food industry sector and the field of environment.

3. Candidates

Candidates should be researchers who have the nationality of a developing country and/or territory, are under 40 years old as of January 01, 2024, belong to a non-Japanese research institute or a non-Japanese university, are engaged in research and development in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and related industries in developing regions, and fall under any of the following criteria (Note: Those who have applied for and missed the award in previous years are eligible to re-apply).

- (a) Those who have shown outstanding performance in research and development in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, or related industries for a developing region, and who show great promise.
- (b) Those who have shown outstanding achievements in research and development that will lead to future technological innovation in agriculture, forestry, fisheries or related industries for a developing region, and who show great promise.

The winning candidates, in principle, must be able to attend the commendation ceremony and deliver a lecture in Japan.

4. Number of Awardees

Up to three award winners will be named.

5. Award

The award winners will be invited to Japan to receive their awards personally and present their research results and achievements. The winners will be bestowed a testimonial by the Chairman of the AFFRC during the commendation ceremony and will also receive a cash prize of US\$5,000 each from JIRCAS (MOTAI-JIRCAS Award*).

* Mr. Shigeru MOTAI is a former Chairman of the AFFRC and the donor of this award. This award is supported by the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS).

6. How to apply

- Applications must be prepared according to the “Instructions in the Preparation of Application Forms” and submitted by the recommending research institute by post. Moreover, word-processed files of each form must be submitted by the recommending research institute via e-mail as they will be used for the preparation of a short-list.
- Only one researcher can be recommended from each institute, including its branches.
- If a research institute recommends two candidates or more, the Secretariat will ask the institute to choose one. If the research institute does not respond by the due date, all applications from that institute will be excluded.
- The application must include supporting materials that substantiate the candidate’s achievements, such as the applicant’s most important research papers (three items), technical handbooks, patent applications or utility models, newspaper articles etc., and the entire publication list directly related to the applicant’s research.
- Applications that are insufficient or incorrect will be excluded from the evaluation.

7. Determination of Winners

The award winners will be decided from among the final applicants by the Chairman of AFFRC based on the outcome of evaluation and selection carried out by the Selection Committee.

8. Criteria for Selection

The Selection Committee will give consideration to the following perspectives in evaluating and judging the applicants’ performance and research achievements for this award:

- The research and development has shown abundant originality.
- Achievements in the research and development have been objectively evaluated, e.g., by being published in academic or technical journals.
- The research and development has shown consideration for the development of agriculture, forestry, fisheries or related industries in developing countries in terms of dissemination and commercialization.
- The research and development has shown potential for great development and for leading to future technological and methodological innovations, even when it might not be fully completed or not diffused enough at the present time.

9. Evaluation Items

The Selection Committee will evaluate the following four aspects of the applicants’ work and will add general remarks which include their future potential.

(a) Evaluation Aspects and Rating (total of 20 points)

Originality (5 points): The research and development has shown originality and uniqueness. In addition to research papers, other achievements such as patent applications will also be given due consideration.

Level of research and development (5 points): Achievements in the research and development have been objectively evaluated, e.g., by being published in academic or technical journals.

Dissemination and practicability (5 points): The research has been conducted from the start with the intention of future dissemination and commercialization, in liaison with concerned parties (e.g. conducting demonstration studies, being given evaluation by beneficiaries).

Future potential (5 points): The research and development has shown potential for significant development and for leading towards future technological and methodological innovations,

even though it is currently at a stage of basic research and the technology is not yet commercialized.

(b) Other Considerations

- In the case of collaborative research results, the candidate's contribution to the research will be evaluated in relation to that of the other collaborators.
- Research results created through business activities will also be properly evaluated as long as they meet the selection criteria.
- Committee members related to a research institute that recommends an applicant will not participate in the assessment and rating of the applicant.
- Consideration may be given to candidates' relationship with Japan, such as research experiences in Japanese institutes and experiences of joint research with Japanese institutes.

10. Schedule

Due date for submission of application: May 17, 2024

Determination of award winners: October 2024 (tentative)

Date of Awarding Ceremony: November 2024 (tentative)

For information:

Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)

https://www.jircas.go.jp/en/young_award/2024

E-mail address: jaward2024@ml.affrc.go.jp

Submit applications by post to:

Secretariat of the Japan International Award for Young Agricultural Researchers

Information and Public Relations Office

Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)

1-1 Ohwashi, Tsukuba City, Ibaraki

305-8686 Japan