

## PRESS RELEASE

### 2019 Agropolis Louis Malassis International Scientific Prize for Agriculture and Food 2019 Olam Prize for Innovation in Food Security

*Award ceremony during the 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Agroforestry  
22 May 2019, Montpellier, France*

30 APRIL 2019, MONTPELLIER (FRANCE) - The **2019 Agropolis Louis Malassis International Scientific Prize for Agriculture and Food** is awarded to Dr. Baldwyn Torto (International Centre of Insect Physiology & Ecology, Kenya) in the “Outstanding Career in Agricultural Development” category; Dr. Jan Leach (Colorado State University, USA) in the “Distinguished Scientist” category and Dr. Julius Adewopo (International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, Rwanda) in the “Young Promising Scientist” category. The winners will receive a plaque certificate and prize of €20,000 each.

The **2019 Olam Prize for Innovation in Food Security**, has been awarded in parallel to the project “*Innovation Mapping for Food Security – IM4FS*” led by Dr. Tomaso Ceccarelli (Wageningen Environmental Research, The Netherlands) and Dr. Elias Eyasu Fantahun (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia). The winning research project receives US\$75,000 funding to support its further development.

The 2019 Award ceremony will be held in Montpellier (France) during the 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Agroforestry, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, 2019.

Agropolis Fondation’s Louis Malassis International Scientific Prize is given once every two years. It aims to recognize individuals for their exemplary and promising contribution in promoting innovation through research, development and/or capacity building in order to improve food and agricultural systems sustainability as well as to address food security and poverty reduction. The Prize was created as a tribute to Louis Malassis, an ardent supporter of farmers’ cause, and founder of the Agropolis scientific cluster in Montpellier, home to one of the world’s largest concentration of scientific skills and expertise in agriculture, food and environment.

*“The Prize means a lot to me because it reminds all of us that the vision of Louis Malassis for sustainable agriculture and global food security and education, is still very relevant and alive today. The challenges to food security in Africa are even more complex today than in the past and need urgent attention. It is our collective responsibility (scientists, innovators, technologists, policy makers, farmers and development partners) to respond to these challenges with long-lasting science-driven solutions,”* says Dr. Baldwyn Torto, Principal Scientist and Head of behavioural and chemical ecology at Icipe, in Kenya. He is also extraordinary Professor at the University of Pretoria (South Africa).



An expert on chemical ecology and entomology, Dr. Baldwyn Torto, has largely contributed in addressing the challenges associated with agricultural production and food insecurity in Africa through developing pest management strategies. His contribution to the training of the next generation of scientists in Africa has been exemplary too.

*“Solving agriculture’s grand challenges will require a well-trained, international workforce and will benefit from robust collaborations. I have been privileged to train many excellent scholars who now hold positions in research centers, universities, industries, and governments. These scholars many international collaborators contributed to the work honoured by this Prize. I am proud that they continue the quest to stabilize agriculture in a world that is facing tremendous environmental challenges, and my hope is that they enjoy the process as I have,”* says Dr. Jan Leach.



A distinguished professor and Research Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture at the Colorado State University, Dr. Leach's work on plant pathogens and insect pests has been focused, throughout her scientific career, on how to stabilize disease resistance in rice to reduce losses particularly in the developing world. Her research findings are enabling the development of rice with long-lasting (durable) disease resistance that is effective against diverse pathogens.

*"The prize marks a new beginning for me, a call to higher pedestal in the pursuit of my long-held vision. Without doubt, this award is a distinguished honor that validates my accomplishments so far, however, I strongly consider it as a beckon to do more and to become more. I am humbled by this calling to uphold the ideals of the Agropolis Foundation and to advance the legacies of Dr. Malassis through research and collaborations that will further advance food security and agricultural sustainability globally"* says Dr. Julius Adewopo.



As Geodata Scientist, he has managed researches to address major challenges related to management intensification in diverse agroecosystems, and support development of digital tools for agronomic decision making in smallholder farming systems.

The Olam Prize recognizes an innovative scientific research project for its potential impact on the availability, affordability, accessibility and adequacy of food.

*"This prize is a recognition of years our hard work which gives an immense pleasure and honor to all involved in the project. It is the recognition of a team work which tried to put together researchers from five Ethiopian universities, extension workers in the bureaus of agriculture in four main regions, decision makers and communities across disciplines, scales and geographies. But more importantly, the prize is a morale booster to work with more vigor to help poorer and food insecure households operating in marginal lands in Ethiopia,"* say Drs. Ceccarelli and Fantahun.



The winners of the 2019 Olam Prize added that co-designing, with Ethiopian researchers and stakeholders, smart solutions for the zero-hunger and the other societal challenges, has been extremely important.



An independent jury composed of internationally recognized individuals is appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Agropolis Fondation. This group deliberated and selected the winner in both Prizes. This year's jury was chaired by Dr. Guido Gryseels, Director-General of the Royal Museum for Central Africa.

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**About Agropolis Fondation**

*Agropolis Fondation is a French scientific foundation established in 2007 to promote and support high-level research and higher education as well as to broaden international research partnerships in agricultural sciences and sustainable development research. It supports a research network with scientists working on all aspects of the plant and addressing issues concerning cultivated plants of tomorrow to face increasing demand for plants and plant by-products for food and non-food uses; agro-ecological transition through the development of related knowledge, methods and tools; integrated approaches of the quality of agricultural and food products; sustainability of agricultural and food systems; and interaction between climate change and crops.*

Agropolis Fondation is located at 1000, avenue Agropolis 34394 Montpellier Cedex 5 - France  
Telephone: +33 4 67047574, Facsimile: + 33 4 67047543; Email: malassis-prize@agropolis.fr  
www.agropolis-fondation.fr

**About Olam International Limited**

*Olam International is a leading food and agri-business supplying food, ingredients, feed and fibre to over 22,000 customers worldwide. Our value chain spans over 60 countries and includes farming, processing and distribution operations, as well as a sourcing network of 4.7 million farmers. Through its purpose to 'Re-imagine Global Agriculture and Food Systems', Olam aims to address the many challenges involved in meeting the needs of a growing global population, while achieving positive impact for farming communities, our planet and all our stakeholders.*

*Headquartered and listed in Singapore, Olam currently ranks among the top 30 largest primary listed companies in terms of market capitalisation on SGX-ST.*

Olam is located at 9 Temasek Boulevard #11-02 Suntec Tower Two Singapore 038989  
Telephone: +65 63394100, Facsimile: +65 63399755; Email: zoe.maddison @olamnet.com  
www.olamgroup.com.