

**Rules and regulations**  
**and**  
**Further information for applicants**  
  
**2021 Edition**

*Membres fondateurs/ Charter members :*

## Rules and regulations

### Article 1 – Objective of the Prize

The Prize, given once every two years, aims to recognize individuals, or a group of individuals, for their exemplary and promising contribution in promoting innovation through research, development and/or capacity building in the North, South or in the Mediterranean in order to improve food and agricultural systems sustainability as well as to address food security and poverty reduction.

The Prize recognizes individuals whose scientific works are not only important contribution to the production of knowledge but are also actively promoting the use of knowledge in addressing current development challenges, and are involved in fomenting collective action across stakeholders.

For the 2021 edition of the Prize, the Foundation is looking for individuals whose work are contributing towards agroecological transition, in particular, through efforts designed to address (1) agricultural adaptation and/or mitigation to face climate change; (2) conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity; or (3) responsible production and consumption.

### Article 2 – Modalities in awarding the Prize

1. The Prize has three categories:
  - a. Young Promising Scientist Prize;
  - b. Distinguished Scientist Prize; and
  - c. Outstanding Career in Agricultural Development.
2. The Young Promising Scientist Prize comes with a €5,000 cash prize and a €15,000 worth of scientific mobility grant to any of the research labs that are part of [Agropolis Fondation's scientific network](#).
3. The Distinguished Scientist and the Outstanding Career in Agricultural Development Prizes come with a €20,000 cash prize.
4. In the event that the Prize is conferred to a group, the prize should be equally divided among the winners.
5. Agropolis Fondation, based on the conditions stipulated in Article 4, reviews the eligibility of nominees.
6. An international jury constituted by the Board Chair of Agropolis Fondation evaluates eligible applications.
7. The Prize is awarded to the winners in a ceremony organized by AgropolisFondation.

### Article 3 – Launch of the Prize

The Call for Nominations of the Prize is published and disseminated through the website and mailing list of Agropolis Fondation and partners, among others.

### Article 4 – Eligibility

1. To be eligible for the Prize, candidates should be from any of the following categories, and working in any of the fields stated in Article 1.
  - a. Academic or research organization, public or private;
  - b. Civil society organization;
  - c. Private sector group (e.g., small/medium enterprises).

2. A group nomination should consist of no more than three persons. Each nominee (and each member of a group, in the case of a group nomination) should meet the following criteria:
  - a. For the “Young Promising Scientist” Category
  - b. Holds a PhD degree;
  - c. At least 5 years of professional experience (outside of PhD education);
    - i. Demonstrated potential in one or various fields covered by the Prize, as stated in Article 1;
    - ii. Should be no more than 40 years old by 01 January 2021. Due consideration will be accorded to female candidates who have had maternity leave(s) in the course of their career.
  - d. For the “Distinguished Scientist” Category
    - i. Holds a PhD degree;
    - ii. At least 15 years of professional experience;
    - iii. Proven significant contribution in one or various fields covered by the Prize, as stated in Article 1.
  - e. For the “Outstanding Career in Agricultural Development” Category
    - i. At least 20 years of professional experience;
    - ii. Given to a person who is still professionally active and whose career has been devoted to agricultural development, be it in the field of research, training, innovation, capacity building, development or policy in any of the fields covered by the Prize, as stated in Article 1.
  - f. Only complete Application Packages submitted no later than the set deadline will be considered for the Prize. (See Article 5)

#### **Article 5 – Nomination /Application**

1. A person can be a candidate in only one category. Previous nominees can still apply for the new edition of the Prize.
2. The Application Form should be duly completed in English. It should be signed and sent to Agropolis Fondation together with all the required annexes. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.
3. All entries must be submitted electronically on or before the specified deadline via the Application submission platform <https://agropolisfondation.optimytool.com/en/> (Note: Applicants need to create an account).
4. Applicants may be requested to provide additional documentation related to their candidature at any point of the process.
5. Applicants are bound by the rules and regulations of the Prize.

#### **Article 6 – Selection criteria**

1. The selection by the jury is based on the relevance of the dossier with respect to the category of the Prize the application belongs to.
2. Candidates are evaluated and selected based on the following criteria:
  - a. Scientific quality of the contribution of the Candidate;
  - b. (Potential) Impacts of the contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
  - c. Quality of partnerships developed and established, notably with the civil society, e.g. non-government organizations, farmers and producers organizations, etc.

#### **Article 7 – Jury**

1. The Chairman of the Board of Agropolis Fondation appoints jury members. The independent jury is composed of internationally recognized individuals acclaimed for their contribution to agriculture and food as well as knowledge of international issues confronting the sector.
2. The jury deliberates and selects the winner of each category.
3. It has no obligation to justify or defend its choice. Its decision is final and irrevocable.
4. The jury reserves the right not to award a Prize category in a given year.

#### **Article 8 – Confidentiality**

Members of the jury and all persons with access to the submitted Application Forms commit themselves in keeping any information provided confidential. Members of the jury agree not to disclose the results of their deliberation prior to the announcement of the winners.

## Timeframe

DATES	ACTION
29 June 2020	2021 Prize Launch Agropolis Louis Malassis International Scientific Prize for Agriculture and Food Olam Prize for Innovation in Food Security SHIFT Prize for transformative agroecological research for development
11 January 2021, midnight	Deadline for submission of Nomination/Application Forms Submission in English; Online submission
12-15 January 2021	Eligibility check and distribution of dossiers to Jury Members
18 January – mid- February 2021	Individual evaluation by Jury Members
mid-February-early March 2021	Meeting of the International Jury in Montpellier Background/Reference check of winners <i>Winners will be held confidential at this stage and will be contacted by the Foundation</i>
March 2021	Interviews/videos/articles Travel arrangements (Awardees)
April 2021 onwards – to be identified	Award Ceremony

## Louis Malassis



*Louis Malassis was a highly esteemed French educator, agronomist and agro-economist (1918-2007).  
He was an ardent supporter of farmers' cause and founder of Agropolis.*

Born to a modest farming family in Brittany in 1918, Malassis remained faithful to agriculture throughout his lifetime. He studied at the National School of Agriculture in Rennes and started his career as an engineer and later as Professor of Rural Economy in 1945. He obtained a doctorate in Economics at the University of Rennes. He taught at the Graduate School of Agronomy in both Rennes and Montpellier and was among the principal advisers of INRA, the French institute for agricultural research. He became the Director-General for Research and Education at the French Ministry of Agriculture in 1978 and later at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute. He was adviser to several agriculture ministers.

In 1986, he founded Agropolis, an international campus based in Montpellier which groups together various research organizations and institutes for higher learning in agriculture in the Languedoc Roussillon region. Today, Agropolis is home to one of the world's largest concentration of scientific skills and expertise in agriculture, food and environment.

Malassis was also co-founder of various initiatives that supports and promotes farmers' rights. He authored "*L'épopée inachevée des paysans du monde*" (The unfinished quest of the farmers of the world), among others. In 2005, he founded "*Association Paroles de paysans du monde*" a group which aims to promote and disseminate writings and publications that serve as testimony to farming.

He passed away in December 2007.

## Previous Awardees

### 2019



#### 2019 DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARDEE

**Dr. Jan Leach** is a plant pathologist. She is currently Associate Dean of Research at the Colorado State University College of Agriculture (USA). For the past 30 years, her research group has been working to improve the quantity and quality of rice by understanding how it resists disease. Their findings are helping to develop rice that is sustainably resistant to disease and effective against different types of pathogens.



#### 2019 YOUNG PROMISING SCIENTIST AWARDEE

**Dr. Julius Adewopo** is a research associate in geodata at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Kigali, Rwanda. During his doctoral studies at the University of Florida (USA), the Nigerian-born researcher was the first to conduct research on the long-term effects of land-use change on soil carbon in subtropical agro-ecosystems. His innovative, systems-oriented research integrates methods for in situ assessment of changes in soil carbon stocks.



#### 2019 OUTSTANDING CAREER IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

**Dr. Baldwyn Torto** is currently head of the Department of Chemical Behaviour and Ecology at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (Icipe), based in Kenya. Dr. Torto's work, in collaboration with partners from various disciplines, focuses on reducing the devastating effects of insect pests by developing simple, effective and integrated pest management strategies for smallholder African farms.

### 2017



#### 2017 DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARDEE

**Dr. Paul Gepts** is a distinguished professor at the University of California-Davis. He has been awarded the Prize for his outstanding contribution to the understanding of processes underpinning domestication of the common bean (*P. vulgaris*). His studies have had a profound impact on basic crop research and on its application to crop improvement. The Prize also recognizes his work as an inspiring teacher who has trained many students and researchers around the world.



#### 2017 YOUNG PROMISING SCIENTIST AWARDEE

**Dr. Elena Poverenov** is a materials scientist at the Agricultural Research Organization of Israel. She has been awarded the Prize for her work on developing environment-friendly packaging materials that minimize physiological and microbial damage of perishable agricultural produce, thereby prolonging their shelf life.



#### 2017 OUTSTANDING CAREER IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

**Dr. Bina Agarwal** is a Development Economics and Environment prof. at the University of Manchester (UK). She was a former director and Professor of the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi (India). She has made outstanding contribution in increasing understanding of the processes behind poverty and inequality. Her work on women's land rights and on environmental governance which have helped open up new intellectual and policy pathways.

## 2015

### 2015 DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARDEE



**Dr. Claire Lanaud** is molecular geneticist at the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD). She and her team were among the pioneers to develop molecular tools dedicated to tropical crop studies. She led an international effort to sequence the whole cocoa genome in 2010.



### 2015 YOUNG PROMISING SCIENTIST AWARDEE

**Dr. Kazuki Saito** introduced improved indica -type and aus -type upland varieties to West Africa and identified ones that were superior to popular upland New Rice for Africa (NERICA) varieties in terms of high yielding ability, strong weed suppressive ability, and superior adaptation to low soil fertility. These findings were against widespread belief among scientists in SSA that tropical japonica varieties have much better adaptation than indica varieties to upland conditions in West Africa. His studies have led to a re-focus of variety improvement at AfricaRice, which now includes the materials he identified. He is currently working as rice agronomist/ agro-physiologist at the Africa Rice Center in Coted'Ivoire.



### 2015 OUTSTANDING CAREER IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

**Professor Zeyaur Khan**, together with his team at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Kenya, and colleagues at Rothamsted Research in the UK, uncovered the chemical and ecological relationships at the heart of an innovative system: push–pull technology. More than 96,000 farmers in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia have already adopted push– pull technology to face with striga weeds and stemborers pests, which can cause complete yield losses and affecting more than 40% of its arable land. This approach helps farmers increase food production and raise farm income without the need to buy pesticides and fertilizers.

## 2012



### 2012 DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARDEE

**Dr. Pamela Ronald** has worked on improving rice resistance to diseases and tolerance to flooding, which are serious problems of rice crops in Asia and Africa. Her groundbreaking discoveries in plant science have influenced the research of scientists around the world and have benefitted farmers in the developing world. She has developed a wide range of partnerships which have contributed substantially to the success of her research.



### 2012 YOUNG PROMISING SCIENTIST AWARDEE

**Dr. Matty Demont** is an agricultural economist working to create favorable market conditions for private sector investment in the domestic rice sector through an optimal mix of investment between supply-shifting and demand-lifting R&D as well as optimal public-private linkages in Africa's multiple national and regional rice sector development efforts. He worked with private enterprises and more than 1,600 women consumers throughout Africa employing participatory approaches, providing him unique insights into the bottlenecks in upgrading rice value chains in the region that could not have been obtained through simple surveys or through working with farmers alone. He is currently with the Philippine-based International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

## 2010



### 2010 DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARDEE

**Dr. Ken Sayre's** career has been driven by his determination to see science applied for the benefit of the poor and the hungry. His most extensive work in agronomy deals with the development and extension of bed-planting technologies for both irrigated and rain-fed crop systems. He first implemented permanent bed-planting methods for wheat in Mexico, and further demonstrated their high efficiency: 20 to 40% decrease of irrigation water use, 10% decrease of nitrogen fertilizer use, minimizing erosion and increasing soil fertility. He traveled extensively all over the world to train both farmers and agronomists and help them implement these new technologies which are now being widely used in many Latin American and Central Asian countries as well as in India and China. He was the Regional Agronomist for Asia of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in Mexico.



### 2010 YOUNG PROMISING SCIENTIST AWARDEE

**Dr. Silvia Restrepo's** work as a plant pathologist is focused on most important diseases that attack cassava and potato, studying the genetic and phenotypic diversity of the pathogens and their molecular interactions with their hosts. She is constantly in search for alternative methods of disease control such as the use of natural compounds produced by enemies of pathogens. At the same time, she established close contact with Colombian farmers, thus allowing her to better understand issues they face, the limitations and strengths of Colombian agriculture that could be addressed and harnessed to improve production. She also teaches cellular biology, plant pathology, fungi biology, genomics and bioinformatics) both at undergraduate and graduate levels. She is currently with the University of Los Andes in Bogota.