

Plant Breeding and Nutrition Prize

(co-hosted with [The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics \(ICRISAT\)](#))

This prize, co-hosted by The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), seeks to recognize and incentivize groundbreaking research aimed at developing crop varieties tailored to meet the challenges posed by climate change.

The prize will focus on innovation in crop improvement techniques that deliver high-yielding, stress-tolerant, and nutrient-dense varieties, enhancing the genetic diversity and sustainability of crops. The objective of this prize is to support the development of crops that can withstand abiotic and biotic stresses and adapt to changing environmental conditions.

These advancements should contribute to higher incomes for farmers, better nutrition, and the overall well-being of populations, reducing the impacts of diseases and pests exacerbated by climate change, and addressing the urgent need for improved dietary quality in dryland regions.

The research topics of interest for the Plant Breeding and Nutrition Prize include, but are not limited to:

- Nutritional density of the six crops bred at ICRISAT (sorghum, pearl millet, finger millet, groundnut, pigeonpea and chickpea)
- Effects of climate change on nutritional density reported to date
- Uncertainties and methods to address these experimentally, especially in terms of screening germplasm for resilience to mineral dilution under climate change

Researchers must submit their applications by May 15, 2024. Finalists will receive:

- Personalized mentorship from globally recognized experts in their field to help “translate” their concept note into a concrete research output.
- Coaching to effectively pitch their research proposals during the finals at the WFF flagship event.
- Access to a global network of youth leaders and organizations from the public and private sectors, including the United Nations.

In addition to the above, two winning teams will receive:

- The chance for one team member to participate in a fully funded internship based at the ICRISAT Head Quarters, Patancheru, India, to explore the knowledge and literature related to the effects of climate change on mineral concentration in Dryland crops. Costs of the 6 month internship will be covered including flights to and from country of origin, visa costs, accommodation and a living stipend
- The opportunity to become part of a global platform for youth to showcase their innovative research ideas.
- Ongoing promotion and support through the WFF platforms.