

Information

Registration

Please register until 20 November 2015
at www.sfiar.ch/award.htm

Cost and refreshments

Participation is free of charge.
Refreshments will be served after the event.

Language

The event will be held in English,
no translation will be provided.

Directions

University of Bern
UniS – Room A022
Schanzeneckstrasse 1
3012 Bern

Contact

Felix Hintermann (SFIAR Secretary)
Tel. 031 910 21 91
E-mail: felix.hintermann@bfh.ch



Photo: © Z. Tadele, Ethiopian farmer with semi-dwarf tel.

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Swiss Forum for
International Agricultural Research



Orphan crops and agrobiodiversity Potential and challenges for food and nutrition security

Award ceremony event organized by the Swiss Forum
for International Agricultural Research (SFIAR) hosted by the
Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern

University of Bern (UNI-S, Room A 022)
25 November 2015, 16:15 – 18:30

Award

The Swiss Forum for International Agricultural Research (SFIAR) offers an annual Award for graduates and scientists of a Swiss institution who work in agricultural research for development. This year's Award goes to Dr Zerihun Tadele and his team from the University of Bern for their Tef Improvement Project. The project aims to boost productivity of tef – a staple food in Ethiopia – by developing cultivars with desirable agronomic traits. The Award for the best Master Thesis goes to Madeleine Kaufmann (former student at HAFL) for her work on agrobiodiversity in Man and the Biosphere reserves in Cuba.

Event

The two awarded research projects will be presented and set into a wider context during a panel discussion. Tef is an orphan crop in the sense that it has not yet received much attention by research and development. Around the globe numerous such neglected and underused (orphan) crops exist, with considerable importance and potential for food and nutrition security. What are the opportunities of developing orphan crops, what are the challenges? And on more general terms: What is the significance of agrobiodiversity for food security? How can this diversity be maintained? This event aims to give some answers.

Programme

- 16:15 Welcome
(Beate Huber, SFIAR President / Markus Giger, University of Bern)
- 16:25 Keynote – Setting the scene
(Stephan Weise, Deputy Director General of Bioversity International)
- 16:45 SFIAR Award Laudatio
(Beate Huber, SFIAR President)
- 16:55 Tef Improvement Project:
Promoting Research and Development of an African Understudied Crop
(Zerihun Tadele, Winner of SFIAR Team Award, University of Bern)
- 17:15 Maintaining Agrobiodiversity in Man and the Biosphere (MaB) reserves in Guantánamo, Cuba – Driving forces influencing on-farm agrobiodiversity
(Madeleine Kaufmann, Winner of SFIAR Master Thesis Award, former student at HAFL)
- 17:35 Questions / Comments
- 17:45 Panel Discussion: Development of an orphan crop – opportunities and challenges
(Zerihun Tadele, SFIAR Award winner; Stephan Weise, Bioversity International; Martin Fischler, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation; Jonas Jörin, ETH Zürich; Yuan Zhou, Syngenta Foundation)
- 18:25 Presentation of the Awards
- 18:30 Refreshments