

SFIAR Award 2025 - Guidelines

1) Introduction

The Swiss Forum for International Agricultural Research (SFIAR) is an informal multi-stakeholder group of Swiss institutions and private individuals interested in agricultural research for development (ARD). Members come from research institutions, NGOs, the private sector, farmers' organisations and public agencies, as well as individuals. The goals and objectives of SFIAR are:

- a) Share information between ARD stakeholders in Switzerland.
- b) Promote the visibility of Swiss ARD.
- c) Play an advocacy role at policy level.
- d) Foster partnerships with international organisations in ARD.
- e) Promote collaboration between actors in Swiss ARD.

More information on the SFIAR is available on its website: www.sfiar.ch

2) Aims

In line with its objectives, the SFIAR runs the annual SFIAR Award. With this award the SFIAR pursues the following main aims:

- a) Support agricultural research relevant for development and the achievement of the SDGs.
- b) Promote knowledge sharing on and visibility of Swiss ARD

3) Scope

The SFIAR intends to award new, innovative, and implementation-oriented research with a direct impact on the achievement of the SDGs. Recent outputs, results or milestones can be awarded, however no future plans or project proposals.

The thematic scope of the award is broad. Any research that falls within the following definition of ARD given by the European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development (EIARD) can be submitted:

"ARD is a multi-dimensions research that addresses the agricultural development challenges of developing and emerging countries (DEC). The agricultural domain includes crop production and animal husbandry, agro-forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, agribusiness and related enterprises, animal and human health related issues, as well as the sustainable management of the natural sources on which farming depends and the socio-cultural and bio-diverse landscapes, food systems and ecologies in which it is embedded. ARD provides technological, economic and institutional knowledge and innovations contributing to sustainable development. It encompasses research of a national and international public good character, as well as research that yields private gains."

4) Eligibility

Eligible for the SFIAR Award is research that:

- is within the scope defined under point 3)
- has been completed preferably no longer than three years ago, or is ongoing with recent achievements/milestones
(for Master's Thesis Award: master's thesis submitted not longer than 24 months ago)
- has been carried out at or in close collaboration with a Swiss institution
- is the result of a partnership with institutions and/or individuals located in developing countries

- covers at least one of the following characteristics:
 - a) outreach to the farm level
 - b) tool or product development (or steps thereof)
 - c) project co-developed with local partners

5) Application

Applicants must fill in the attached application form and provide the research summary (maximum 2 pages including illustrations) and the other documents mentioned on the form in English, French or German. The research summary must consist of the following elements:

- a) intro and context
- b) research objectives and questions
- c) approach and methods
- d) key results
- e) relevance for development and the achievement of the SDGs

Applications that do not meet the formal requirements will not be considered. The deadline for applications is **4 August 2025**.

6) Selection

A selection committee of at least three SFIAR experts will review the submissions (based on the 2 pages research summary only) and select the best proposal. If four or less submissions are received, the committee may decide not to make an award that year. The SFIAR members endorse the recommendation by the selection committee, if they do not have a valid challenge.

The main selection criteria are:

- a) research quality
- b) demonstration of potential for development impact and relevance for SDGs
- c) compliance with criteria defined under "Scope"
- d) clear and attractive format of the research summary

7) Award

The SFIAR Award includes three categories: PostDoc/Team projects (CHF 10'000), PhD projects (CHF 5'000), Master's thesis projects (CHF 1'000). The PostDoc/Team and PhD Prizes are usually awarded annually on an alternating basis, the Master's Prize every year. ***In 2025 the following two prizes are given: one prize (CHF 5'000) for the best PhD project; one prize (CHF 1'000) for the best Master's thesis.***

8) Award ceremony

The Award ceremony is organized by SFIAR or integrated into an event organized in Switzerland by one or several SFIAR members. The awardee presents his/her project at the event.

9) Publicity

With the support of SFIAR members and their institutions, the awardee contributes to the publication of a summary of his/her work in the public media.

10) Legal provisions

SFIAR is committed to confidentiality concerning the Award applications. There is no recourse to correspondence or legal action.

SFIAR Award 2025 - Application Form

I am applying for the SFIAR Award 2025 with a: ☐ PhD project ☐ Master's thesis project

First Name:

Names of other researchers involved:

Family Name:

Address:

E-Mail:

Swiss institution with which I have carried out the project:

Partners in developing country with whom I have carried out the project

Title of research:

For PhD project: end date according to contract (or indicate if project is ongoing)

For Master thesis projects: Date of master's thesis submission:

How / from whom did you learn about the SFIAR Award?

Date:

Signature

Please send this application form by post and the following documents by e-mail:

<i>PostDoc/team project:</i>	<i>Master thesis project:</i>
Short CV (max. 1 page)	Short CV (max. 1 page)
Description of your research: intro and context, research objectives and questions, approach and methods, key results, relevance for development and the achievement of the SDGs (max. 2 pages – longer descriptions will be rejected without review)	Description of your research: intro and context, research objectives and questions, approach and methods, key results, relevance for development and the achievement of the SDGs (max. 2 pages – longer descriptions will be rejected without review)
List with further information on your research (publications, websites, referees who may optionally be contacted, etc.)	PDF copy of the Master thesis itself, which may, optionally, be referenced by the Award Committee