



Nominations Open for the Africa Food Prize 2017

Nairobi, 6 March 2017: The search is on for the winner of the 2017 Africa Food Prize - the preeminent award that recognizes outstanding individuals or institutions that are leading the effort to change the reality of farming in Africa from a struggle to survive to a business that thrives.

Now in its second year, the US \$100,000 prize celebrates Africans who are taking control of Africa's agriculture agenda. It puts a bright spotlight on bold initiatives and technical innovations that can be replicated across the continent to create a new era of food security and economic opportunity for all Africans.

In 2016, the inaugural Prize was awarded to Dr. Kanayo F. Nwanze, the outgoing President of the Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), for his outstanding leadership and passionate advocacy in putting Africa's smallholder farmers at the center of the global agricultural agenda. As one example, Dr. Nwanze was credited with reorienting IFAD's work to focus more on making small-scale farming a viable business through a country-led approach to rural development, moving from one office on the continent just a

decade ago to 40 country offices today. The Prize also acknowledged Nwanze's courage in reminding African leaders to go beyond promising development and change to delivering it.

The 2017 winner will be chosen by the Africa Food Prize Committee, an independent body of preeminent leaders that is chaired by the former Nigerian President, H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo. The other committee members are Prof. Calestous Juma, Dr. Eleni Z. Gabre-Madhin, Prof. Joachim von Braun and Amb. Sheila Sisulu.

With the acknowledgement that no region of the world has developed a diverse, modern economy without first establishing a successful agriculture sector, the Africa Food Prize exists to reward individuals and institutions that are pioneering efforts to create prosperity in Africa. It is hoped that this will encourage others to follow their lead.

The Africa Food Prize began as the Yara Prize, and was established in 2005 by Yara International ASA in Norway to honor achievements in African agriculture. The Yara Prize recognized individuals from Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Malawi, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Mozambique for their success in making African farms more productive, profitable and resilient. Past winners include Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, the former Nigerian Agriculture Minister who now heads the African Development Bank (AfDB); Dr. Agnes Kalibata, the former Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources in Rwanda who now serves as AGRA's President; and Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Africa Director for the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

Moving the Yara Prize to Africa in 2016 and rechristening it the

Africa Food Prize gave the award a distinctive African home, African identity and African ownership

The deadline for nominations is 05 June 2017 and the winner will be unveiled at a high-profile gala dinner at the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), 4-8 September 2017 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

More information on how to nominate is available on the Africa Food Prize [website](#).

Contacts

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For more information about the Prize and the nomination process, please contact the Africa Food Prize Secretariat at info@africafoodprize.org or Tel. No: +254 20 3675 323 or +254 733 141 410

Notes to Editors

All media materials related to the opening of the Africa Food Prize nominations can be found at www.africafoodprize.org. Follow the conversation at [@AfriFoodPrize](https://twitter.com/AfriFoodPrize) and share content using [#AfricaFoodPrize](https://twitter.com/AfriFoodPrize).

About the Africa Food Prize.

The Africa Food Prize—funded by AGRA, the EcoNet Foundation, and Yara International ASA (Yara)—is the preeminent award for recognizing outstanding individuals or institutions that are leading efforts to change the reality of farming in Africa from a struggle to

survive to a business that thrives. The US\$100,000 prize celebrates Africans who are taking control of Africa's agricultural agenda. It puts a bright spotlight on bold initiatives and technical innovations that can be replicated across the continent to create a new era of food security and economic opportunity for all Africans. The winners are selected by an independent panel of distinguished experts in African agriculture, chaired by former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo. The Africa Food Prize began as the Yara Prize, established by Yara in 2005. It was moved to Africa and rechristened the Africa Food Prize in 2016. More at africafoodprize.org.

2016 Africa Food Prize Winner, Dr. Kanayo Nwanze.

Kanayo F. Nwanze, a Nigerian national, is the outgoing President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which is dedicated to ensuring that agriculture is a central part of the international development agenda, and that governments recognize the concerns of smallholder farmers and other poor rural people. He has been a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Food Security since 2010. He served as Director General of the CGIAR Africa Rice Center for a decade, where he was instrumental in introducing and promoting New Rice for Africa, or NERICA, which are high-yielding, drought-tolerant, and pest-resistant varieties developed specifically for African conditions. He has served on various executive boards, has been a member of several scientific associations and has published extensively. Dr Nwanze is a recipient of honorary degrees from McGill University, Canada, and the University of Warwick, United Kingdom. He has also received honors and awards from numerous governments and national and international institutions.