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News Release

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Thirteen promising scientists from developing countries gained today a chance to build their skills through cutting-edge research on key challenges facing world agriculture. Each will receive a grant of US\$11,000 from IFAR to work on topics such as stress resistance in food crops and the effect of land-use change on greenhouse gas emissions.

IFAR, a foundation that promotes scientific excellence through awards and partnerships, offers 13 grants annually to enhance the professional development of promising scientists in developing countries. Among the grants are the Wilfried Thalwitz Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of CGIAR Chairman Wilfried Thalwitz by his family, and the Ravi Tadvalkar Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to the youngest female scientist among each year's IFAR grant recipients.

The 2007 IFAR award recipients were announced by Ruth Haug, a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors. She commented that for the 2007 round the Foundation had received 34 nominations through Centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

The 13 scientists, representing 10 countries in Africa and East, South and Central Asia, were selected based on the careful evaluation and recommendations of an international panel of reviewers, with the endorsement of the IFAR Board of Directors.

The 2007 winners of the IFAR grants are as follows, in alphabetical order:

Timur Abdurakhmanov, Uzbekistan

Enhancing the resistance of potato to abiotic stresses, using natural plant stimulators, with the International Potato Center (CIP).

Muhammad Yusuf Ali, Bangladesh

Strategic biophysical and socioeconomic assessment of current and future rice-maize systems in Asia, including an in-depth country assessment for Bangladesh, with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT).

S. Anitha, India

Impact of dietary exposure to aflatoxins on hepatocellular carcinoma in India, with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

Kassaye Aragaw, Ethiopia

Identification of best anthelmintic type for strategic control of helminthes and evaluation of the economic advantage of strategic de-worming of sheep owned by smallholders in the central highlands of Ethiopia, with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

Papa Madiallacke Diedhiou, Senegal

Comparative aflatoxin-producing potential of *Aspergillus* strains isolated from maize and sesame in Senegal, with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA).

Beloved Mensah Dzomeku, Ghana

Measuring the impact of IARC and NARS development projects for clean seed multiplication and new cultivars of banana and plantain, with Bioversity International.

Ana Gulbani, Georgia

Testing potato resistance to late blight or *Phytophthora infestans* in Georgia, with the International Potato Center (CIP).

Enamul Hoque, Bangladesh

Pyramiding of genes for resistance to bacterial blight and blast in Bangladesh rice cultivars, using marker-assisted selection, with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

Madina Khalmirzaeva, Uzbekistan (Wilfried Thalwitz Memorial Scholarship)

Study of the formation and evaluation of collector-drainage water for re-use in irrigation, with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI).

Huihui Li, China

Genetic study of quantitative traits in breeding, with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT).

James Kinyua Mutegi, Kenya

Evaluation of the effects of land use/land-use change on greenhouse gas emissions and soil nutrient transformation in Western Kenya, with the World Agroforestry Centre.

Moses Wabomba Nyongesa, Kenya

Integrated strategies for management of potato late blight in farmers' fields in Kenya, with the International Potato Center (CIP).

Saidakhon Shadmanova, Uzbekistan (Ravi Tadvalkar Memorial Scholarship)

Identifying barriers to ground-water use for irrigation in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI).