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News Release

June 26, 2006

Hank Fitzhugh, member of the IFAR Board of Directors, announced today the 13 grant recipients for the 2006 IFAR awards.

IFAR, a foundation that promotes scientific excellence through awards and partnerships, will grant \$11,000 to each awardee. The grants are designed to enhance the professional development of promising scientists in developing countries. Included in the 13 grants, are the Wilfried Thalwitz Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of Wilfried Thalwitz, CGIAR Chairman, by his family and the Ravi Tadvalkar Memorial Scholarship, to be awarded to the youngest female grantee.

Fitzhugh announced that the Foundation had received 38 nominations through the CGIAR Centers for the 2006 round. 13 scientists from 12 different countries in Africa, the Middle East, Central, East and South Asia were selected, based on the evaluation and scoring of an international panel of reviewers, and endorsement by the IFAR Board of Directors. He underlined the importance of inter-center exposure, linkages and collaboration and thanked the members of the Evaluation Committee for their dedication in the exercise.

The 2006 winners of the IFAR grants are, in alphabetical order:

Amer Ibrahim Basha from Syria

Genetic diversity of the *Pistacia* gene pool in Syria, with IPGRI.

Tala Gueye from Senegal

Development of improved inter- and intraspecific germplasm for irrigated and lowland rice-based systems in Senegal, with the Africa Rice Center.

Samuel Idrissa Kamara from Sierra Leone

Role of natural enemies in regulating African rice gall midge, *Orseolia oryzivora* populations in rainfed lowland rice fields associated with different cropping systems, with the Africa Rice Center.

Kouassi Koffi Il Nazaire from Côte d'Ivoire

Assessment of the distribution and pathogenicity of RYMV isolates in Gagnoa, the main rice producing zone in Côte d'Ivoire, with the Africa Rice Center.

Wael Mohamed Gamal Nouh from Egypt

Detection of larval parasites among fish in Egyptian aquaculture and their relation to human health, in Abassa, Egypt, with WorldFish Center.

Flora Oluwafemi from Nigeria

Contribution to food safety, food security and improvement of health of Nigerians by providing farmers and food processors with lyophilized and encapsulated LAB and yeast cells for use in detoxification of AFB1, with IITA.

Hardi Prasetyo from Indonesia

Supporting smallholder livestock options in post-Tsunami recovery in Aceh, Indonesia as part of iNRM, with World Agroforestry Centre

Madhushree Sekher from India

Multi-level environmental governance and sustainable local management of natural resources in India, with IFPRI

Namita Srivastava from India (Ravi Tadvalkar Memorial Scholarship)

Identification and field testing of salinity tolerant groundnut in saline areas of India, with ICRISAT.

Ndungo Vigheri from the Democratic Republic of Congo

Generating knowledge for management of Banana Zanthomonas Wilt in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with IITA.

Anne M.T. Muigai from Kenya

Characterisation of indigenous Kenyan sheep populations in Northern Kenya using DNA molecular markers, with ILRI.

Steve Yong-Sulem from Cameroon

Developing protocols for the culture of endemic *Clarias pachynema* in rainforest ecosystems in Cameroon, with WorldFish Center

Odil Akbarov from Uzbekistan (Winner of the 2006 Wilfried Thalwitz Scholarship)

Impact of land reform on salinity in Uzbekistan, with IWMI.