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## Media Release

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### CGIAR Centers Partner Young Scientists on IFAR Awards

IFAR, the foundation that fosters scientific excellence in agriculture through awards, collaboration, and partnerships, has selected 13 promising scientists from Africa, Central Asia, and South Asia for awards under its 2005 Professional Development Program. IFAR works in association with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

Announcing the awards, IFAR's Secretary/Treasurer Shey Tata said that 12 of the winners would receive IFAR grants. Beginning this year, he added, the annual award to the youngest woman grantee would be designated the Ravi Tadvalkar Memorial Scholarship, to honor his contributions to IFAR and the CGIAR. Mr. Tadvalkar was a Board Member and Secretary/Treasurer of IFAR. Namita Srivasta, from India, is the first recipient of the Ravi Tadvalkar Memorial Scholarship.

The thirteenth grantee would receive the Wilfried Thalwitz Scholarship established in his memory by family and friends, and managed by IFAR, Mr. Tata said. Mr. Thalwitz was a former CGIAR Chair. The winner of the 2005 Wilfried Thalwitz Scholarship is Dilrabo Hamdova of Uzbekistan.

The grants are meant to enhance the professional development of young, promising professionals from developing countries. Award winners will spend up to three months working with top class scientists at CGIAR Centers, carrying out research based on results-oriented proposals submitted by them and evaluated by an international Evaluation Committee of experts, as well as by IFAR's Board of Directors.

IFAR President Francisco Reifschneider thanked members of the Evaluation Committee for their assistance in the selection process. He was gratified, he said, that IFAR is able to support professional development and encourage collaboration between the new generation of agricultural scientists and their senior colleagues. "These are fruitful partnerships whose impact will be extensive, and will endure."

Winners (in alphabetical order) of the 2005 IFAR Small Grants are:

#### **Makfhurat Amanova from Uzbekistan**

Development/introduction of new groundnut varieties suitable for Uzbekistan and their seed multiplication, with ICRISAT.

#### **Lelia Dongo from Nigeria**

Evaluation of the different methods of Cocoa bean fermentation in Nigeria with respect to mycotoxin contamination, with IITA.

**Mehari Endale from Ethiopia**

Improving food security through community-based selection and development of Trypanotolerant cattle in the high disease challenge Ghibe Valley, with ILRI.

**Erlene Manohar from the Philippines**

Socio-Economic Assessment of the Poverty Reduction in Coconut Growing, with IPGRI Communities (PRCGC) Project in the Philippines: An IPGRI-PCA-Community Based Organization (CBO) collaboration, with IPGRI.

**Alice Muchugi from Kenya**

*Warburgia*: Taxonomy and Reproductive biology of a valuable Tropical Medicinal Tree, with ICRAF.

**Ambayeba Muimba-Kankolongo from Zambia**

Understanding mechanisms underlying insect and pathogen interactions in the development of maize and sorghum stalk and ear rots, and their effects on yield as a result of spoilage due to mycotoxin, with IITA.

**Claid Mujaju from Zimbabwe**

Initiation of Community Conservation of Indigenous Forest Species, with IPGRI.

**Athanase Mukuralinda from Rwanda**

Spectral Reflectance Classification of Soil Fertility Gradients in Rubona, Rwanda, with ICRAF.

**Geoffrey M. Muluvi from Kenya**

Analysis of Genetic Diversity in *Brachyleana huillensis* Using ISSR Molecular Markers: Implications to the Genetic Management of the Species, with IPGRI.

**David Nguenga from Cameroun**

Development of techniques for small-scale ornamental fish farming using endemic Rainforest fish species of Cameroun, with the WorldFish Center.

**BA Niango Malick from Burkina Faso**

Combination of host plant resistance and neem seed extract spraying for the control of the cowpea key insect pests in central Burkina Faso, with IITA.

**Namita Srivastava from India**

Screening for salinity tolerance in the mini-core collection of pigeonpea and groundnut, with ICRISAT.

The winner of the 2005 Wilfried Thalwitz Scholarship is:

**Dilrabo Hamdamova from Uzbekistan**

Analysis of women's involvement in water resources management in Zeravshan River Basin, Uzbekistan, with IWMI.

**For interviews please contact Sarwat Hussain, CGIAR, Tel: +1 (202) 473 5690.**

**For more information about the scientists, the Professional Development Program, and IFAR, visit <http://www.ifar4dev.org/>.**