



Nutritious food for all
**A challenge for agricultural research
and beyond**

Award ceremony and public discussion organized by the
Swiss Forum for International Agricultural Research (SFIAR),
hosted by BFH-HAFL

online
8th December 2020, 16:15 – 17:45

Award

The Swiss Forum for International Agricultural Research (SFIAR) offers an annual Award for graduates and scientists working in agricultural research for development. This year's PhD Award goes to Dr. Michelle Nay of ETH Zürich for her project "Improving smallholder farmers' food security through disease resistant common beans". Michelle has developed a toolbox that supports breeders in finding common bean varieties that are resistant to the devastating angular leaf spot disease. This is a significant achievement as the common bean is the most important grain legume for human consumption and a major protein source.

The Award for the best Master's Thesis goes to Jacqueline Ribeli for her research "Just Too Small? The Heavy Toll of a Low Dietary Diversity in Children: Exploration of Cultural Influencing Factors in Madagascar's Central Highland" submitted at BFH-HAFL. Jacqueline shows that socio-economic conditions and cultural traditions have a considerable impact on the dietary diversity of young children in the central highlands of Madagascar, where stunting is a common problem (more information on the winner projects: www.sfiar.ch/award.htm).

Event

The two prize-winning researchers will present their work at the Award Ceremony. The event will also put the research into a broader context: This year's award-winning projects both contribute their part to the overarching goal of making nutritious food more available and accessible to all. In order to improve nutrition security, a broad range of research disciplines and approaches must be involved. At the event, the following questions will be discussed: What is the current state of nutrition security in developing countries? Which role agricultural research for development can play to support progress towards nutrition as the qualitative dimension of food security? The keynote speaker Lynnette Neufeld will look at the subject from the perspective of a foundation involved in the fight against malnutrition. Our concluding panel discussion provides an opportunity to debate these questions further.

Program

- 16:15 Welcome
(Angela Deppeler, SFIAR President)
- 16:20 Nutritious food for all – Current challenges
and the role of research
*(Dr. Lynnette Neufeld, Director, Knowledge Leadership,
Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition GAIN)*
- 16:35 SFIAR PhD Award Laudatio
(Angela Deppeler)
- 16:40 Improving smallholder farmers' food security
through disease resistant common beans
(Dr. Michelle Nay, ETH Zürich)
- 16:50 Break
- 16:55 SFIAR Master Thesis Award Laudatio
(Angela Deppeler)
- 17:00 Just Too Small? The Heavy Toll of a Low Dietary
Diversity in Children: Exploration of Cultural Influencing
Factors in Madagascar's Central Highland
(Jacqueline Ribeli, former student at BFH-HAFL)
- 17:10 Interview session and questions from the participants
*(Dr. Michelle Nay, Jacqueline Ribeli, Michel Evéquoz
(SDC Global Programme Food Security); Moderation:
Dr. Martijn Sonneveld (ETH World Food System Center)*
- 17:40 Presentation of the Awards

Information

Registration

Please register by 1st December 2020
at www.sfiar.ch/award.htm

Fees

The event is free of charge.

Language

The event will be held in English,
no translation will be provided.

Contact

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Cover photo

Members of the Kyamaleera Woman's Handicraft
Association in Uganda with different bean varieties.

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