

Research Achievement Summaries of the Awardees

2026 (20th) Japan International Award for Young Agricultural Researchers

Name (Age, Gender, Nationality)	Dr.Sourou Angelot Paterne AGRE (38, Male, Beninese)
Institute	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, IITA
Research Achievement	Transforming Yam Production in Africa through Integrated Breeding, Genomics, and Innovation
[Achievement Summary] Dr. Agre has contributed to the identification of genomic regions associated with disease resistance, yield, and quality traits in yam, an important food crop in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as to the development of molecular markers for these traits and improved varieties utilizing genomic information. He has also contributed to improving access to high-quality planting materials through the development of rapid yam seed multiplication systems. These achievements are expected to contribute to food security, improved farmers' incomes, and the development of sustainable agriculture adapted to climate change in Africa.	

Name (Age, Gender, Nationality)	Dr. Bappa DAS (36, Male, Indian)
Institute	ICAR-National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning
Research Achievement	Development and Deployment of Remote Sensing and Artificial Intelligence-based Digital Technologies for Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Climate-Smart Agriculture
[Achievement Summary] Dr. Das has developed a range of tools utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) and remote sensing to efficiently assess soil properties, abiotic and biotic stresses affecting crops, the distribution of pests and diseases, and crop yield potential. These achievements are expected to contribute to improved agricultural productivity, more efficient use of natural resources, and the wider application of precision agriculture technologies to support adaptation to climate change.	

Name (Age, Gender, Nationality)	Dr. Valentina Rocio CORDOVA-ALARCON (34, Female, Chilean)
Institute	Universidad de Chile
Research Achievement	Traceability and Authenticity in Fishmeal: development and evaluation of integrated CRISPR-Cas and DETECTR systems for species identification in complex samples traded from Chilean fisheries to the world
[Achievement Summary] Conventional methods have struggled to identify fish species in highly processed aquatic products such as fishmeal due to DNA fragmentation. Dr. Córdova developed a rapid and highly accurate method for identifying the fish species used as raw materials in fishmeal derived from multiple species by applying advanced genetic analysis technology. These achievements are expected to contribute to the prevention of food fraud and support measures against illegal fishing.	