

ARS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AWARDS PROGRAM

PURPOSE

To annually recognize individuals or groups who have done outstanding work in transferring technology to the marketplace.

ELIGIBILITY

Any individual ARS employee or group who has played a significant role in transferring ARS technology to the public may be nominated. Group nominations may include persons from other Federal agencies and non-Federal agencies, but must include an ARS scientist. Members of nominated groups must include only persons who have significantly contributed to the technology being recognized.

To be eligible for consideration, the technology or product developed by an individual or group, must be commercially available, or must have been adopted and widely used by farmers, consumers, or other ARS customers.

Demonstrated impact of the transferred technology is the most important aspect of the nomination, and must be clearly stated in the justification. Examples include number of users or producers using the technology, actual dollars saved or earned, problem or solution resulting from adoption or use of this technology (should already have occurred), impact on a particular industry, etc. Public and environmental benefits must be clearly identified.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations must demonstrate all of the following criteria:

- The individual or group has demonstrated uncommon creativity and initiative in transferring the technology, i.e., the nominee's involvement in the technology transfer process was active rather than passive. Demonstrate how active the nominee was in gaining adoption and transfer of the technology.
- The method or process used was particularly effective for the specific technology and clientele involved, e.g., Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs), other types of cooperative agreements, patents and licensing, novel information dissemination techniques, releasing public varieties (must show how the researcher gained industry/commercial adoption of the variety) demonstration sites, field days, etc.
- Significant positive impact (commercial, environmental, food safety, etc.) of the technology transferred must have occurred within the past three years.
- The technology must have been adopted by customers or users outside of ARS. Plant varieties may also be nominated (and is strongly encouraged), but significant public impact of the variety should have occurred within the past three years.

The Selection Committee will recommend winners based on the above criteria. The Committee

evaluates nominations based on technology transfer efforts, not the merits of the research per say. Research results alone, no matter how innovative, are not sufficient justification for this award. Nominations for outstanding scientific accomplishments should be directed to the ARS Scientist of the Year Awards Program.

Statements that technology transfer will occur, or that a technology may, could, should, or will potentially have an impact in the future, are insufficient documentation of successful technology transfer. Certain formal technology transfer tools such as CRADAs, other research agreements, patents, and licenses are often important to the technology transfer process; however, they do not in and of themselves demonstrate successful technology transfer, unless they result in a new product being sold or the public use of a new technology.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES

Any ARS employee may submit a nomination, using the attached award nomination form, to the appropriate Area Director for consideration. The justification for each nomination must address the selection criteria and must indicate the year when public use of the technology first occurred. All nominations should be forwarded through supervisory channels so that they reach the appropriate Area Director by the deadline established by the Human Resources Division staff. Technology Transfer Coordinators can assist with writing and reviewing the nominations. In addition, persons submitting nominations may request assistance from the Information Staff in reviewing the nominations.

Each Area Director may submit up to three nominations, which should be sent to the Human Resources Division by June 2, 2008.

The Assistant Administrator, Office of Technology Transfer, will appoint a diverse committee to evaluate the nominations and make a recommendation to the ARS Administrator. All selections are approved by the Administrator.

NATURE OF RECOGNITION

Two nominations (individuals or groups) will be selected for outstanding efforts in technology transfer, and up to six nominations may be selected for superior efforts in technology transfer.

Outstanding award winners will receive cash awards of \$4,000. Superior winners will receive cash awards of \$3,000. If a group is selected, the award amounts will be determined by the Assistant Administrator, Office of Technology Transfer. Non-Federal persons are not eligible for cash awards, but may participate in the recognition event and receive an award plaque. Award plaques will be presented to all winners at the ARS Annual Recognition Program.

The Technology Transfer Coordinators will submit agency technology transfer award winners to the Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) to be considered for their annual technology transfer awards program.

ARS Technology Transfer Nomination Form

ARS Technology Transfer Nomination Form		
NAME OF GROUP: <i>(as wanted on the plaque, if applicable)</i>		
NAME OF NOMINEE: <i>(as wanted on the plaque)</i>	POSITION & GRADE:	
ADDRESS: <i>(Area/Branch/Location if applicable)</i>		
TELEPHONE: <i>(include area code)</i>	FAX:	E-MAIL:
PREVIOUS AWARDS: <i>(last five years)</i>		
CITATION: <i>(25 words or less, beginning with "FOR")</i>		
JUSTIFICATION: <i>(The justification must specifically address each of the selection criteria. Justifications should clearly document the scientist's role and fully support the impact and outcome of the technology transfer. Please indicate the year the technology was first used commercially or when public use first occurred. Limit of no more than TWO pages.)</i>		
NOMINATOR'S NAME:		NOMINATOR'S TITLE:
NOMINATOR'S ADDRESS: <i>(include Area/Branch/Location)</i>		
SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR:		DATE:
NOMINATOR'S TELEPHONE: <i>(include area code)</i>	FAX:	E-MAIL:
NAME OF AREA DIRECTOR :		SIGNATURE OF AREA DIRECTOR: <i>(if applicable)</i>