

## **S491 L.R. AHUJA AG SYSTEMS MODELING AWARD COMMITTEE**

A. Status: Special Committee

B. Composition and Tenure:

The Committee consists of the Chair plus a minimum of 2 but not more than 5 members.

The term of office for members is two years.

The Chair serves for one year.

C. Functions:

1. To encourage nominations for both the L.R. Ahuja Ag Systems Modeling Award and the L.R. Ahuja Graduate Student Travel Award.
2. To become familiar with the Guidelines and Procedures for these awards and to be responsible that all nominations fulfill the required criteria of eligibility for the awards.
3. To evaluate nominations and to select the most outstanding applicant for each award.

D. Procedure:

1. The SSSA Headquarters Office distributes the nominations to the Committee members and advises them of the scoring or ranking to be followed. The Chair transmits any special instructions to members.
2. The Chair of the S491 Committee submits an annual report as requested by the Society.

E. Presidential Responsibilities:

The SSSA President:

1. Appoints new members to replace those whose terms expire and appoints the Chair of the Committee.
2. Cooperates with the Committee in its activities, as appropriate or in response to need.
3. Notifies the Committee directly of all deadlines on award selection, annual report, etc.
4. Receives and takes action directly, or by referring to the SSSA Executive Committee and/or Board of Directors, as appropriate, all suggestions and/or recommendations for action from the Committee.

### **L.R. Ahuja Ag Systems Modeling Award**

This award is presented to a soil scientist, agronomist, or crop scientist in recognition of recent (last 5-7 years) distinguished contributions and their demonstrated impact in one or more of the following areas: (1) Integrating agricultural system models with field research to enhance, extend, and transfer the experimental results; (2) trans-disciplinary (boundaries of disciplines) research to fill knowledge gaps critical to improving system models; (3) syntheses and quantification of the trans- and inter-disciplinary knowledge with new concepts and theories for improving the models; and (4) helping field experimental scientists in using the models, and training and advising graduate students to use models in their field research. The award is supported by a gift from Dr. Lajpat (Laj) R. Ahuja to the Agronomic Science Foundation and administered by the Soil Science Society of America/American Society of Agronomy. The award consists of a certificate and a monetary award.

### **Eligibility**

1. Nominators and nominees are expected to be either SSSA, ASA or CSSA members
2. Nominees are to be soil scientists, agronomists or crop scientists
3. Nominees must be living at the time of their nomination
4. The award is intended for a scientist, having outstanding contributions and demonstrated impact in one or more of the areas specified above within the last 5-7 years

### **Evaluation**

1. Contributions in using agricultural system models with field research to enhance, extend, and transfer the experimental results
2. Trans-disciplinary research to fill critical knowledge gaps in models and help improve them, supported by publications.
3. Synthesis and quantification of the trans- and inter-disciplinary knowledge with new concepts and theories for improving the models, supported by publications
4. Helping field scientists use models, and train and advise graduate students who use models in their field research.
5. Recency of novel research, applications, and/or technology transfer.

### **Nominator Contact Information.**

1. Full name, mailing address, telephone, email, current position title and membership number.

### **Nominee Contact Information**

1. Full name, mailing address, telephone and email address.
2. Degrees received
3. Professional positions held.

### **Nominee Qualification Information**

1. Degrees received
2. Professional positions held
3. Membership. List memberships in professional, honorary, and academic societies (character limit: 1500)
4. Honors and awards. List honors and awards received (character limit: 3000)
5. Professional contributions to systems modeling and their outcomes: Identify and describe the nominee's contributions and their outcomes/impacts relevant to this Award, including programs, new or improved products, algorithms, or approaches; new or novel applications; success stories; more effective training, user support, and outreach for field experimental scientists; new knowledge, concepts and theories, etc. Areas of contributions recognized by this award are outlined in the Program section of this document (character limit 4500).
6. Publications, products and support materials for the award: Describe and list the nominee's 12 most significant technical or non-technical publications and products that support the above contributions (character limit 4500).
7. Evaluation. Summarize in this section the primary contributions on which the nomination is based. Please give the nominee's contributions and their impact in one or more of the evaluation criteria given in the Program and Award Criteria sections of this document clearly and explicitly. Overall ranking of a candidate will be determined by sum total of the quality of all contributions and their impact (character limit 3000)

### **Nominee References**

Names and email addresses of three individuals who will separately submit online reference letters. Letters can be up to 6000 characters.

### **L.R. Ahuja Graduate Student Travel Award**

The purpose of this travel award is to encourage the development of bright young soil scientists or agronomists who have recently completed their Ph.D. from a university in India, in the general area of quantifying soil-water-crop-climate process interactions and their applications in management. Selection of the recipient will be based on their quantifiable original research that helps to fill knowledge gaps in quantifying soil-water-crop-climate processes and their management and

demonstrated leadership during their academic studies.

The recipient will receive a travel award consisting of a \$2,000 travel stipend, abstract fee waiver, and registration for attending the upcoming ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting provides a platform for the selected young scientist to showcase their research, network with outstanding scientists worldwide, and advance their career. They will also receive feedback to attain the highest quality of their basic research, as well as its practical applications, such as knowledge-based simulations to manage the soil-water-crop system under a changing climate. The travel award recipient must make an oral presentation of their doctoral research at the Annual Meeting.

#### Eligibility

1. The student will have graduated with a doctorate from a university in India within one year of the upcoming ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meeting.
2. Annual winners (regional and national) of the Indian Society of Soil Science (ISSS) Best Doctorate Presentation Award are encouraged to apply for the travel award.
3. Nominees must have done their dissertation on an agronomic or soil science topic related to quantifying soil-water-crop-climate processes and their management.
4. Nominators and nominees are encouraged but not required to be ASA or SSSA members.
5. Nominees must be a citizen of India.
6. Nominees may self-nominate.
7. Nominees must be able to obtain a United States Visa.
8. The award is intended for a recent graduate who will be pursuing research/work in the agronomic or soil sciences related to the area noted above.

#### Evaluation

1. Title of Thesis Dissertation
2. Selection will be based on quantifiable original research that helps fill knowledge gaps in quantifying soil-water-crop-climate processes and their management. Nominees will need to provide a summary of major new research findings.
3. Demonstrated Leadership – provide information on leadership achievements while a student.
4. Resume/CV that includes cumulative grade point average in post-secondary studies.
5. Evaluation and Selection will be done by the L.R. Ahuja Ag Systems Modeling Award Committee.

#### References

1. Two references from the major professor and a committee member familiar with the research.

Application deadline: The timing for this award will be such as to allow for more time for the selected candidate to obtain the required visa and arrange air travel.

#### Promotion

Promotion of the award to encourage eligible nominees will include emailing award information to a list of Deans of the Indian Agricultural Colleges in universities which award Ph.D. degrees in soil science, agronomy, and ag water management. The award committee will be responsible for ensuring an updated email roster.