

The African Phytopathology Group calls for abstracts by graduate students based in Africa or the African diaspora carrying out research on plant disease systems to present their research at the annual virtual meeting of the African Phytopathology Group to be held on August 18, 2022. The theme of the meeting is **Ensuring Food Security through Innovating Thinking in Plant Pathology**. The goal of this award is to provide a platform for students to share their research and increase visibility of young and early career plant pathologists based in Africa or the diaspora.

Eligibility

All current postgraduate students in Africa and the African diaspora at M.Sc. or Ph.D levels and those who recently completed their M.Sc. or Ph.D. studies within six months of the abstract submission deadline are eligible to apply.

Application Process

Applications for the inaugural 2022 award will run from 30th March to 30th April 2022. All applicants must submit an abstract of their original research (not more than 250 words; 1.5 line spacing, 1-inch margins, 12 Times New Romans font). Additionally, an essay (500 words), in the same format as the abstract detailing how the award will improve/impact your research must be included with the application. Applicants must also submit a **support letter** from their research supervisor on an official headed paper confirming that they are current students or have finished their programs in the last 6 months. Send all application documents as a single PDF to africanphytopathology.awards@gmail.com with the subject “African Phytopathology 2022 Graduate Student Award”. There is no abstract submission fee for this application.

Evaluation Criteria and Process

Abstracts must report results of original research that has not been presented elsewhere. Abstracts should contain research that relates to phytopathology and must include the following elements: brief background, problem statement, objectives, materials and methods, results, and significance of the research to the science of phytopathology. Abstracts must not be simply a review or progress report but contain useful and new information; they must not include references or footnotes. Abstracts must be in final form as a single paragraph with no grammatical, typographical or factual errors. Applications will be reviewed and recommended for acceptance for oral or poster presentation by a panel of scientists drawn from members of the African Phytopathology Group and volunteers from the American Phytopathological Society. The panel’s evaluation will be guided by the goal of this award.

Three minute pitch innovation in plant pathology

In addition to the call for abstracts and in line with the theme of the meeting, we invite young scientists in Africa and the diaspora to present a 3-minute pitch of a **NEW** innovation or idea in plant pathology. Interested students can send a 3-minute video of their idea to africanphytopathology.awards@gmail.com with the subject ‘Three minute pitch innovation in plant pathology’. A cash prize will be awarded to the winning pitch.