

Essay Competition

Topic: Tapping the Potential of Science, Technology and Innovation in Agri-food Chains - Creating Employment and Wealth for Youths in the Pacific

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) are happy to announce an essay competition based on the above topic.

The essay should explore the following areas:

- identify the critical obstacles facing the youth in the quest for employment and wealth creation in the Pacific;
- explore how agriculture, science, technology and innovation can be employed to overcome these obstacles; and
- give practical proposals/suggestions on how to tap the potential of agriculture, science, technology and innovation in agri-food chains in the Pacific.

Note: this section should include concrete recommendations and steps to be taken to address the issues of unemployment

Guidelines

- The essay should be approximately 1,500 words in length, written in English and submitted in MS-Word (Font: Times New Roman, 12 points).
- The essay together with full curriculum vitae (CV) must be submitted as MS-Word attachments.
- Personal experiences/reflections: the use of personal experiences in creating employment opportunities using science, technology and innovation in agriculture is preferred giving details of the science/technology employed, description of the problem solved, and the results/impact (number of people employed or situations improved).
- The essays could also focus on the activities of an organisation that is engaged in creating wealth and employment opportunities by harnessing the powers of science, technology and innovation (ST&I) in the agri-food chains.

Eligibility: Youth in the Pacific aged between 18-30 years.

Judging Criteria: Essays will be evaluated on the basis of demonstrated understanding on the issues, quality of argument or analysis and writing style.

Prizes:

- Sponsorship to the CTA/USP youth congress on "Youth and Employment/Wealth Creation: Opportunities in Agriculture, Science and Technology" from 5 -7 September 2006 at USP, Suva, Fiji (travel, accommodation, and sustenance paid).
- Cash prize and certificates for the top five entrants
- Essays to be published on the CTA/USP websites and other publications

Deadline: All essays and application materials must be sent through the following email: essayfst@usp.ac.fj **no later than 15 July, 2006.**