



# RECIPROCATE





جائزة خليفة الدولية لنخيل التمر والابتكار الزراعي  
KHALIFA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR DATE PALM  
AND AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION



H.H. Sheikh

# **Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

**President of the United Arab Emirates  
Founder and Patron of the Award**



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H.H. Sheikh

# Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces



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## **Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

**Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs**



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H.H. Sheikh

**Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan**

Minister of Tolerance

President of the Award's Board of Trustees

## **Message from H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan**

### **President of the Award's Board of Trustees**

The agricultural sector has long been an important part of the lives of the people living in this region. Agriculture and date palm have provided sustenance, building materials, shade and a source of income for people whose lives depend on it.

The drought the world is witnessing and other challenges leading to a decline of agriculture necessitate a need for creating new mechanisms and innovations to ensure constructive development of agriculture as well as to motivate experts, researchers and farmers to contribute their efforts to this area.

Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation has been established by H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of United Arab Emirates (God protects Him), in recognition of the outstanding efforts and contributions made by both individuals and institutions in the field of agricultural innovation and date palm and to encourage and motivate them to exert further efforts towards upgrading the agricultural sector and date palm tree.

The UAE has been at the forefront of those countries that granted special attention to the agricultural sector and date palm. It has constructively contributed to upgrading this sector through the preservation and development of resources in support of world food security through a variety of purposeful initiatives and successful events, which achieved a great success for the Arab and international community.

Today, Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation has been established as a platform to recognize and reward those individuals and institutions around the world that have contributed so significantly to this area and as an annual forum for exchange of experience and knowledge as well as a bridge for communication among all peoples. Thus, the UAE will remain a country of love, peace and harmony, and be at the forefront of the world in all areas as intended by the wise leadership of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE (God protects Him).

## Introduction

The UAE Government, within the framework of its development plans, has placed the establishment of a date production industry as one of its important priorities. Under the leadership of His Highness, The President, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan (God protects Him), there have been continuous efforts to increase agricultural productivity and to make better use of all available resources.

Within this framework, the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation has been established with a view of enhancing and encouraging agricultural innovation and research of date palm and the spread of this knowledge worldwide as well as the recognition and rewarding of those individuals and institutions that have contributed substantially to this field.

The Government has also encouraged establishment of farms and constructive agricultural projects through support by providing arable lands, equipment, water, seeds and fertilizers for improvement of agriculture and to improve utilization of all available resources.

The Award emphasizes the leadership of the UAE in the agricultural and date palm sector and its importance in this area at the global level as well as contributing to the motivation of experts, researchers, scientists and farmers to innovate for development of the agricultural sector and thus contributing to providing the solutions and means to meet the world's need of food.

Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation is independent and neutral. It is presented on an annual basis to outstanding scientists, producers and influential figures and institutions, who have tremendously contributed to the agricultural sector and date palm research and development.

## Establishment Decision

Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation was established under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of United Arab Emirates (God protects Him), with Presidential Decree Number 2015/97, dated 05 October 2015. His Highness the President also issued Decision Number 2015/05, dated 05 October 2015 for formation of the Board of Trustees of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation with His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development as President. The decision also stipulated that the Board should appoint one of its members as a Vice-President to replace the President in case of his absence. The President of the Board should nominate a Secretary General of the Award. The Secretary General may seek assistance of whosoever he deems necessary within the country or abroad.



## Members of the Board of Trustees

<b>H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan</b>	Minister of Tolerance, President of the Board of Trustees of the Award.
<b>H.E. Dr. Thani Bin Ahmad Al Zeyoudi</b>	Minister of Climate Change and Environment
<b>H.E. José Graziano da Silva</b>	Director General of FAO
<b>H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Adam Ahmad Dukhairi</b>	Director General – AOAD
<b>H.E. Dr. Ali Abou Sabei</b>	Director General-ICARDA
<b>H.E. Saeed Al-Bahri Salem Al-Ameri</b>	Director General of Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority
<b>H.E. Dr. Helal Hamid Saed Alkaabi</b>	Secretary General of Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council
<b>H.E. Dr. Abdelouahhab Zaid, Prof</b>	Agricultural Advisor-Ministry of Presidential Affairs, Secretary General

The Board of Trustees is authorized to plan, supervise, and to draw the general policy of the Award in accordance with its program and for the achievement of its objectives, defining its categories, drawing of the bylaws and nomination terms in all fields and development of evaluation criteria of the works and nominations. The Board of Trustees is also authorized to form a scientific committee for granting the Award, by virtue of a decision from the President of the Board of Trustees and is entrusted with implementation of the general policy of the Award as approved by the Board of Trustees.

## The Message

Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation has been founded by H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, The UAE President (God protects Him), as an appreciation to the innovators and workers in the agricultural and date palm sector, both in the UAE and other countries of the world, to recognize outstanding innovations and efforts targeting sustainable development of this sector for present and future generations.



## Aims of the Award

Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation aims to achieve the following:

- To acquaint the world with the attention given by UAE's government and H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, The UAE President (God protects Him), to date palm cultivation and agricultural innovation and his kind initiatives in support of research and efforts concerning date palm and innovation in the agricultural sector.
- To highlight the leading role of UAE in boosting creativity, progress and innovation in the field of date palm and the agricultural sector.
- To encourage people involved in the agricultural sector and date palm cultivation, whether researchers, growers, exporters, institutions or world companies and agencies, to adopt innovations.
- To support scientific research in the development of the agricultural sector and date palm using global expertise for finding the best means for improvement of the real condition of agricultural innovation and date palm.
- To honor influential figures in the agricultural and date palm sector and to motivate innovators around the world to find creative solutions of benefit at the local, regional and international levels.
- To develop cooperation among the various parties involved in innovative research, propagation, cultivation and the industry in agriculture with date palm as a basic constituent.
- To disseminate awareness of the necessity to innovate in the agricultural sector and to lend attention to date palm at the national, regional and international levels.
- To enhance the significant role of UAE in hosting world awards and events with attention to environmental protection, the fight against poverty and increasing the green area to serve food security and sustainable agricultural development issues.

## Mission

- To encourage innovators such as researchers, growers or exporters, whether individuals or institutions, engaged in the agricultural and date palm sector.
- To honor influential figures in agricultural and date palm innovation at the local, regional and international levels.

## Vision

- To enhance the prestige of the United Arab Emirates in the field of agricultural innovation and date palm research by virtue of its pioneering role in this field at the world level.
- To support research and innovation related to the development of the agricultural and date palm sector.
- To develop and maintain regional, national and international cooperation among the various parties involved in innovation in the agricultural and date palm industry.
- To promote the culture of innovation in date palm and agriculture in general, at the national, regional and international levels.

## Scientific Jury

The Scientific Committee consists of eminent scientists and experts in the fields of innovation in the agricultural sector and cultivation of date palm. They will unanimously select the winner in each category of the Award.

Each application will be given to an appropriate team for assessment. The Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation assessors will review each submission, individually and collectively. The assessment process is to be done according to pre-established selection criteria for the Award.

The Scientific Jury consists of Messrs:

Prof. Franz J.Hoffmann / USA	President
Prof. Harrison Hughes / USA	Member
Prof. Jose Ignacio Cubero / Spain	Member
Prof. Yvon Martel / Canada	Member
Dr. Fatima M. Al-Ansari / UAE	Member
Dr. Abdulla Bin Abdulla / Tunis	Member
Dr. Samir Al Shakir / DPGN	Member

## Confidentiality

All information and materials associated with an application for the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation will be treated as strictly confidential and will not be disclosed to any individual or entity not directly involved in the award process. Furthermore, all jury members and personnel associated with the award process will sign a non-disclosure agreement ensuring their confidential handling of all related information and materials.

## Award's Categories

The Award is presented every calendar year and consists of an appreciation certificate, a trophy and a financial reward. The Award focuses on recognizing those researchers and innovations, which provide appropriate solutions to the world's future food needs with a focus of one of the award categories exclusively on date palm, given the importance of date palm in the UAE and its significant heritage among the people of the region. The Award is divided into five categories in the field of date palm and general agricultural innovations with priority given to dryland agriculture:

### First category: Distinguished Innovative Studies and Modern Technology



The winner will receive AED 1 Million (about USD. 300,000.00 + a trophy & Certificate).

### Second Category: Pioneering Development & Productive Projects



The winner will receive AED 1 Million (about USD. 300,000.00 + a trophy & Certificate).

### Third Category: Distinguished Producers in Date Palm Sector



The winner will receive AED 750,000.00 (about USD. 200,000.00 + a trophy & Certificate).

### Fourth Category: Pioneering and Sophisticated Innovations Serving the Agricultural Sector



The winner will receive AED 750,000.00 (about USD. 200,000.00 + a trophy & Certificate).

### Fifth Category: Influential Figure in the Field of Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation



The winner will receive AED 750,000.00 (about USD. 200,000.00 + a trophy & Certificate).

## **The Award will be granted to**

The award will be granted to individuals or parties engaged in date palm and agricultural innovation, namely governmental, non-governmental and international organizations, universities, companies with distinguished projects in these fields, distinguished researchers, scientists, students, engineers and growers.

The applicants may self-nominate without the recommendation of any other party or person. The Award may be granted to the same applicant only once under the same category.

The applicant who is working for an institution is requested to provide an official letter from the institution, clearly authorizing him or her to do so.

## **Advantages of the Award**

Winners of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation will be granted a certificate of appreciation, a trophy and a financial reward in a luxurious ceremony held in Abu Dhabi. Winners are entitled to use the logo of the award on their advertisement and marketing materials for 3 years after receiving the award. Winners of one of the award's categories may apply again in the following year, but only for a category other than the one they have won. Winners may apply again under the same category but with a different project 3 years after winning that category. Winners will be publicized and promoted through local and international media in addition to the Award's magazine and website and social media channels.

# The Five Award Categories

## Scope of the Award

The Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation is given to individuals or organizations in recognition of outstanding agricultural innovations, which benefit the Gulf and surrounding subtropical-arid regions. Issues such as water, heat, salinity, climate change etc. are major concerns of this region's agriculture. However, innovations benefiting all agriculture worldwide are explicitly included in the scope of the award. In consideration of the exceptional importance of the date palm to the region, special attention is given to achievements benefiting the date palm sector. Thus, the third award category is limited to date palm projects. There are no species limitations for the other four categories.

## First Category: Distinguished Innovative Studies and Modern Technology



- Eligible for application is published original research work that is authored/co-authored by the applicant.
- The publication must be accepted for publication by a major international, peer-reviewed journal at the time of submission or published in the previous five years.
- The Category is not limited to the natural sciences.
- Innovative studies in other science disciplines, engineering or the humanities, if benefiting the date palm and/or agricultural sector of the region, will also be considered.

## Second Category: Pioneering Development and Productive Projects



- The proposed project may be administered by the private or the government sector or an international organization.

- The project may be planned, ongoing or successfully completed in the last five years.
- Typically, development and productive projects are of considerable size and affect communities, geographical areas and/or social structures.
- Also considered in this category are all educational projects that are aimed at maintaining and developing the understanding and appreciation of the date palm and/or agricultural sector of the region.

The narrative of the application should include, but not be limited to, some or all of the following points as applicable:

- Innovative quality of the project
- Size of the project
- Social impact of the project
- Environmental impact of the project
- Educational impact of the project
- Economic impact of the project

### **Third Category: Distinguished Producers in Date Palm Sector**



- Eligible for application are all producers of the date fruit being locally and/or internationally marketed.
- The applicant may be an individual producer or a date-producing organization/company (commercial or not-for-profit) or an individual representing this producer.
- The application should demonstrate distinguished achievements for an individual or be a current project of distinction for an individual or an organization/company.
- Applications by innovative operators of small farms are particularly encouraged.
- The narrative of the application should include, but not be limited to, some or all of the following points as applicable:

1. Size of the date palm orchard(s) and production quantities
2. Fruit diversity (varieties/cultivars produced)
3. Fruit quality
4. Innovative cultivation techniques used from planting to post-harvest treatments and their effects on production costs and fruit quality
5. Environmental impact and environment-friendly organic products
6. Marketing

### **Fourth Category: Pioneering and Sophisticated Innovations Serving the Agricultural Sector**



- Eligible are new and innovative techniques that have a direct and proven positive effect on the date palm and/or agricultural sector of the region.
- The novelty of the approach should be demonstrated and the positive effect quantitatively documented.
- The term “innovative technique” will be applied in its broadest sense.
- The key is that a positive impact is proven, not just promised.
- The narrative of the application should include, but not be limited to, some or all of the following points as applicable:
  1. A description of the innovative technique
  2. A demonstration of the novelty of the technique
  3. A quantitative description of the positive impact of the new technique
  4. An evaluation of the applicability of the new technique

### **Fifth Category: Influential Figure in the Field of Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation**



- Candidates for this award will be suggested by invited nominators.
- Self-nominations (applications) will also be considered.

The award is given to individuals in science, industry, administration or NGOs that have significantly impacted the date palm and/or agricultural sector of the region through major innovation or lifetime achievement.

## General conditions

1. Applications are accepted from all countries. The application form should be completed through the award website [www.kiaai.ae](http://www.kiaai.ae) and should be filled in Arabic or English.
2. No files of the nomination are to be returned to the applicant, whether a winner or not. They will be kept in the head office of the Award.
3. The Jury has the right to withhold the award for any category if conditions are not fulfilled.
4. The award is not given to any person, or institution for two times in a row for the same category.
5. For more information, please visit the FAQs through our website [www.kiaai.ae](http://www.kiaai.ae)

## The Schedule

### **Application period runs:**

From 01 May - 31 October, of each year (six months)

### **Announcement of the winner's names:**

Within the second week of February of each year

### **The honouring ceremony will be held:**

Within the second week of March of each year

## Information

**General Secretariat  
Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation**

### **Main office in Abu Dhabi:**

P.O. Box: 3624 Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
Tel. : +971 2 304 9999  
Fax : +971 2 304 9990  
Email : [sg@kiaai.ae](mailto:sg@kiaai.ae)  
Website: [www.kiaai.ae](http://www.kiaai.ae)

**Applications are to be send to:**

### **Coordination office in Al Ain**

P.O. Box 82872, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates.  
Tel. : +971 3 783 2434  
Fax : +971 3 783 2550  
Email : [info@kiaai.ae](mailto:info@kiaai.ae)  
Website: [www.kiaai.ae](http://www.kiaai.ae)



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Khalifa International Award

