



# KING HAMAD PRIZE FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

FIFTH EDITION  
2023-2025

BEST AGRICULTURAL PROJECT | BEST BAHRAINI FARMER | BEST AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND STUDIES









## Introduction

The fifth edition of King Hamad Prize for Agricultural Development has been launched under the auspices of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al- Khalifa, Wife of the King of Bahrain, President of the Consultative Council of the National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD), to create a positive competitive environment among agricultural entrepreneurs, projects, and Bahraini farmers as well as researchers that contribute to maintaining sustainability and development within the Kingdom's vision 2030.

Bahrain is the cradle of Dilmun, Tylos, and Awal, the "land of eternity" and the "island of a million palm trees". Although Bahrain is one of the small island states located within the dry lands, it has productive ecosystems and fresh groundwater on land and in the sea, making it a base for successive civilizations for thousands of years. Throughout the ages, the agricultural sector has continued to be an essential element in diversifying Bahrain's economy, supporting the stability of its population, and the basis for achieving sustainable development, food, and health security, and ensuring quality of life.



## Strategic Objectives of the Prize

King Hamad Prize for Agricultural Development aims to achieve tangible objectives, including the following:

- Preserve agricultural ecosystems, increase agricultural production, and increase its contribution to the green economy.
- Ensure relative food security, taking into consideration food safety and reducing food loss.
- Promote innovation and use of modern and smart agricultural techniques.
- Encourage investment in the agricultural sector and entrepreneurship in small and medium agricultural enterprises.
- Motivate the farmers and create a competitive environment that attracts young and qualified Bahraini workers.
- Encourage scientific research in the agricultural field to contribute to the development and sustainability of the sector.
- Consider the interrelated economic, social, and environmental dimensions of the agricultural and food systems.



# Prize Categories

Technology and innovation, human capital, and scientific research are considered the most vital pillars that will help overcome challenges confronting the agricultural sector. For this reason, the King Hamad Prize for Agricultural Development has been divided into three categories:



## General Conditions

1. The applicant may apply for only one category of King Hamad Prize for Agricultural Development.
2. The winner may apply again to the same category after the elapse of two editions (four years) from the date of winning the Prize, except for the Best Agricultural Project category; the winner may apply again to every edition provided that the Project's activity is different.
3. The applicant fills out the application form accurately and provides all required documents for each category on time.
4. The decision of the Judging Committee is final.



# 1

## Best Agricultural Project

### A. Best Agricultural Production Project

The Prize has been introduced for the Best Productive Agricultural Project (food crops or ornamental plants) that supports the national economy and achieves food security. The Prize honors the projects that use modern and innovative agricultural techniques and methods, follow effective and intelligent means to market their products, and work to raise the standards of health and environmental protection. The Prize also honors the projects that contribute to the transfer and localization of technology, attract, and build the capacity of Bahraini cadres, and enhance their participation in the agricultural sector.

### B. Best Agricultural Support Project

This Prize has been introduced for the Best Agricultural Support Project in recognition of the active role they play in supporting and sustaining productive agricultural projects, thereby enhancing the agricultural sector's contribution to the national economy, increasing the diversity of products and number of workers in this sector, and contributing to the attainment of relative self-sufficiency.

This Prize is dedicated to projects that provide support services for agricultural production, such as engineering and agricultural consultancies, training, design, irrigation and water conservation systems, greenhouses, seed production and preservation,

fertilizers and nutrients, agricultural pest control, and renewable energy applications, in addition to food industries relying primarily on local produce.





## Judging Committee

Prof. Mohammed EL Hilo  
Ms. Ebtisam Essa Bin Butti  
Mrs. Shaikha Alfadhel  
Mr. Amer Bu Hussain  
Mrs. Fatema Alatbi  
Mrs. Asma M. Ali  
Mr. Abdulaziz Arafa

University of Bahrain  
University of Bahrain  
Ministry of Industry and Commerce  
Tamkeen  
Economic Development Board  
NIAD  
NIAD

Head  
Deputy Head  
Member  
Member  
Member  
Rapporteur  
Secretary

## The Award Prize

The first-place winner from both categories will each be granted a cash prize of 10,000 BD (Ten Thousand Bahraini Dinars), a commemorative plaque, and a certificate of appreciation.

## Application Conditions

- The applicant may apply only to one category of this Prize according to the activity of the Project.
- The applicant enterprise must have a valid commercial registration in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- The activity of the enterprise should serve the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- The applicant should allow the judging Committee to visit their Project at any time the Committee deems appropriate.

- The main activity of the enterprise should be in the field of agricultural production and supporting agricultural production projects.
- The winner may apply to each edition, provided that the Project's activity is different.

## Criteria

- Size of investment in human resources and the percentage of Bahraini employees in the Project.
- Trademark, general appearance, and marketing channels of the product.
- Percentage of sales and net profits.
- Use innovative and sustainable agricultural methods and techniques and introduce new products to the local market.
- Social responsibility towards preserving the environment.
- Knowledge of the targeted customers, marketing requirements, and competitive prices.

## How to apply

Fill up the application form on the website of the National Initiative for Agricultural Development [www.niadbh.com](http://www.niadbh.com) attached with the documents and information below:

- A copy of the valid commercial registration.
- A copy of the smart card for the project owner and employees.
- A copy of the training courses attended by the employees related to the prize fields.
- A copy of the Bahrainization certificate issued by the Labor Market Regulatory Authority.
- A copy of the lease/ownership contract for the project premises.
- A copy of the latest audited financial statements for the project accounts or the internal accounts for the years (2022 – 2023).
- A copy of the future financial plan for the three years (2024-2025-2026) showing the project's growth.
- Evidence of selling and marketing the product, (copy of recent sales contracts for the year 2023).
- Any supporting document that demonstrates the implementation of modern techniques or sustainable, innovative technologies.
- Sample of packaging and trademark.
- Photos and evidence of the social role the Project plays in the field of agricultural and environmental awareness.
- A copy of best agricultural practice certificates for the project product, whether local, regional, or international (if any).

Note: Forms that do not fulfill the above-required documents will be excluded.

# 2 Best Bahraini Farmer

This Prize is awarded to the best Bahraini farmer for their distinction and in appreciation for their efforts and contribution to the development of the agricultural sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain. This Prize aims to increase the number of professional Bahraini farmers of different age groups and encourage them to innovate, apply modern technologies and compete for better agricultural output. It also aims to raise the Bahraini farmer's knowledge and technical skills and use their experience and skills to increase local production and economic return in the agricultural sector to achieve sustainability in agricultural production and food security. It also aims to increase farmers'

awareness of the importance of preserving Bahraini agricultural traditions and environmental issues.







## Judging Committee

Dr. Thuraya A. Almansoori	University of Bahrain	Head
Eng. Fuad Habib Khalifa	Bahrain Agricultural Engineers Society	Deputy Head
Eng. Sadiq Issa	Ministry of Municipalities Affairs & Agriculture	Member
Ms. Thuraya Almansoori	Agricultural Expert	Member
Eng. Issa Ghanem	Ministry of Municipalities Affairs & Agriculture (formerly)	Member
Mrs. Mai Al-Ghatam	NIAD	Rapporteur
Mrs. Fatima Buchiri	NIAD	Secretary

## The Award Prize

Two farmers who achieve the highest scores will each be awarded a cash prize of 5,000 BD, a commemorative plaque, and a certificate of appreciation.

## Application Conditions

- The applicant should be a Bahraini citizen.
- The applicant must hold an "Agricultural Identity Card" from the Undersecretariat of Agriculture & Marine Wealth under the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs & Agriculture.
- The applicant must allow the judging Committee to visit their farm when deemed appropriate more than once, with or without prior notification, if required.
- The applicant must attend the personal interview and

be present in the farm at the time of visit determined by the Committee.

- The farmer who won the Best Bahraini Farmer Prize is not eligible to apply again for this category before two full editions of the award have passed.
- The farmer who won in two editions is not eligible to apply again for this category before three full editions of the award have passed.
- If more than one farmer competing for the Prize has equal evaluation, the Prize amount will be divided equally among those with the same scores.

## Criteria

- Years of experience and accumulated knowledge of the farmer.
- Proficiency of the farmer, sustainability, and the quality of the product.
- Innovative agricultural practices.
- Preserving agricultural ecosystem and human health.
- Post-harvest practices.
- Marketing
- Farmer's skills and experience in growing palm trees and their products.

## How to apply

Fill up the application form on the website of the National Initiative for Agricultural Development [www.niadbh.com](http://www.niadbh.com) attached with the documents and information below:

- Personal photo.
- A copy of the applicant's smart card.
- A copy of the "Agricultural Identity Card" from the Undersecretariat of Agriculture & Marine Wealth under the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs & Agriculture.
- A copy of the educational qualifications and certificates of workshops or training courses (if any)\*.
- Farm address certificate issued by the Central Informatics Organization (if any).
- A valid land lease contract or a land ownership certificate from the Survey and Land Registration Bureau (if any).

\*Documents marked with an asterisk are only for applicants with academic qualifications and have attended courses or workshops.

Note: Forms that do not fulfil all the above required documents will be excluded.

# 3

## Best Agricultural Research and Studies

The Agricultural Research and Studies prize aims to support and motivate researchers to increase their efforts towards the growth and development of the agricultural sector. The Kingdom of Bahrain is one of the small island states located in the dry tropical region where the agricultural sector faces several challenges, including the scarcity of irrigation water and its marginal quality, the limited fertile land, and the impact of climate change. Despite these challenges, the Kingdom of Bahrain has sought to preserve and promote the agricultural sector by protecting agricultural lands, subsidizing agricultural inputs, building capacity of Bahraini farmers, and considering the interrelated economic, social, and environmental dimensions, and the shift to more efficient, comprehensive, and sustainable agricultural and food systems.

Therefore, the launch of the King Hamad Prize for Agricultural Development in its fifth edition and its global scope represents an incentive to direct the scientific research compass towards sustainable agricultural development and food security issues in dry areas in general and small island countries in particular. In addition to creating a scientific

information base that documents studies and research, allows for the exchange of experiences and transfer of valuable knowledge in the agricultural field for better production, nutrition, environment, and life, without leaving anyone behind.





## Judging Committee

Prof. Asma Ali Abahussain	University of Bahrain/ Arabian Gulf University (formerly)	Head
Prof. Abdelmawgoud Ragab	Ministry of Municipalities Affairs & Agriculture	Deputy Head
Dr. Humood Abdulla Naser	University of Bahrain	Member
Dr. Abdelhadi Abdelwahab	Arabian Gulf University	Member
Dr. Salwa Al Thawadi	University of Bahrain	Member
Dr. Nilofer Jahromi	Ministry of Education	Member
Mrs. Asma M. Ali	NIAD	Rapporteur
Mr. Abdulaziz Arafa	NIAD	Secretary

## The suggested research and study topics are:

- Date Palm and fruit trees researches.
- Safe use of treated wastewater in agricultural production (food safety, quality of treated wastewater).
- Ecological Restoration of Agricultural Land in dry areas.
- Preserving the environment, agricultural biodiversity, and genetic resources.
- Innovation in modern and smart agricultural technologies.
- Agrochemicals and integrated pests and plant diseases management.

- Agriculture and climate change in dry areas and the development and introduction of new species and varieties of crops commensurate with the local conditions that adapt to future challenges.
- Post-harvest practices and agricultural waste management.

## The Award Prize

- Two winners will be awarded a cash prize of 5,000 BD each, a commemorative plaque, and a certificate of appreciation.

## Application Conditions

- The research should be innovative and of high importance to agricultural development in dry areas.
- The research has been published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed international scientific journal during the years (2020 – 2024).
- The research should be in Arabic or English language.
- The applicant should not have received a prize for the submitted research from any other entity.
- If the research is jointly done, a letter holding the signature of all co-authors should be submitted

indicating their approval to submit the research to the competition by the person/ researcher applying for the Prize.

- The team of the research that won the Best Agricultural Research and Studies Prize may not apply again for this category of the prize before the lapse of two complete editions of the Prize.

\*Agricultural researchers from all around the world can apply for this Prize.

## Criteria

- Applicability of the research in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- The research contributes to overcoming the challenges associated with agricultural production in dry areas.
- The research contributes to achieving food security and safety, preserving natural resources, and sustainable development.
- The research contributes to confronting the challenges of climate change and restoring agricultural ecosystems.
- The ranking of the journal or book in which it was published, and the average citations for the research.

## How to apply

Fill up the application form on the website of the National Initiative for Agricultural Development [www.niadbh.com](http://www.niadbh.com) attached with the documents and information below:

- An electronic copy of the research in Arabic or English.
- Summary of the research in both Arabic and English.
- Curriculum vitae of the researcher, a passport copy, and a recent photograph of the researcher size 5x4cm.
- Written approval from the principal researcher co-signed by all other researchers participating in the research on the conditions of the Prize.
- An acknowledgment from the researcher not to submit the research to other prizes.

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Note: The application forms that do not fulfill all the above-required documents and papers will be excluded. After announcing the results, the National Initiative for Agricultural Development will have the right to publish the research summary of all submitted researches on its website or its agricultural data platform.

## Prize Privileges

- The winner of each category is awarded a cash prize and a commemorative plaque at a ceremony to announce the winners.
- The ceremony will coincide with a scientific symposium in which the prize-winning researches will be presented.
- The winners may use the prize logo on promotional and marketing materials and their publications. The winners will be recognized through various mass media, social media, and on the National Initiative for Agricultural Development website.







## Prize Schedule

### 1. Best Agricultural Project

Date of Applying:	January 2024	September 2024
Date of Judging:	October 2024	March 2025
Award Announcement:	May 2025	

### 2. Best Bahraini Farmer

Date of Applying:	January 2024	February 2024
Date of Judging:	September 2024	March 2025
Award Announcement:	May 2025	

### 3. Best Agricultural Research and Studies

Date of Applying:	January 2024	December 2024
Date of Judging:	January 2025	March 2025
Award Announcement:	May 2025	



## For More Information

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