



KING HAMAD PRIZE FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

SIXTH EDITION
2025-2027



“Innovation for Sustainable Agricultural Development”



Introduction

With a generous initiative from Her Royal Highness Princess Sabika bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, the wife of the King of Bahrain, President of the Consultative Council of the National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD), the **King Hamad Prize for Agricultural Development** was launched in its sixth edition to create a positive competitive environment among agricultural project owners, farmers, and researchers in the agricultural field, thereby contributing to its sustainability and development in alignment with 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 remained an essential element in diversifying Bahrain's economy, supporting the stability of its population, and providing the basis for achieving sustainable development, food and health security, and ensuring quality of life.

Strategic Objectives of the Prize

The 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 the adoption of modern, smart agricultural techniques.
- Encourage investment in the agricultural sector and in small- and medium-sized agricultural enterprises.
- Increase the number of professional Bahraini farmers and youth, encouraging them to innovate and compete for better agricultural production.
- Encourage scientific research in agriculture to advance the sector's development and sustainability.
- Consider the interrelated economic, social, and environmental dimensions of the agricultural and food systems.
- Implement robust agricultural practices that increase productivity, preserve ecosystems, and enhance resilience and adaptability to changing climatic conditions.



Prize Categories

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



Best Agricultural Project



Best Bahraini Farmer



**Best Agricultural
Research and Studies**

General Conditions

1. The applicant may apply for only one category of the King Hamad Prize for Agricultural Development.
2. The winner may apply again to the same category after 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) that supports the national economy and achieves food security. The Prize honors the projects that use modern and innovative agricultural techniques and methods, contribute to the transfer and localization of modern agricultural technology, employ effective and smart marketing strategies for their products, elevate standards for health and environmental protection, and attract Bahraini talent while enhancing their capabilities and participation in the agricultural production sector.

C. Best Agricultural Entrepreneurship Project

This prize was established to foster agricultural entrepreneurship among youth and home-based agricultural projects, acknowledging their significant role in promoting a culture of innovation and the development of modern or smart technologies. It aims to recognize creative and innovative ideas, as well as sustainable agricultural practices implemented by youth and community members in their homes, private gardens, or academic initiatives carried out by local or international university students. Eligible projects must provide solutions to address challenges faced by the agricultural sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain, promote its growth, and enhance its services, ultimately increasing its contribution to relative self-sufficiency and food security.

It includes the following areas:

- Integrated services for ornamental agriculture and green spaces.
- Training and design programs.
- Services related to seeds, fertilizers, pest control, and others.
- Modern irrigation systems and water conservation.
- Renewable energy applications and supply.
- Engineering and agricultural consultations.
- Food manufacturing using local produce.

B. Best Agricultural Services and Technologies Project

This Prize has been introduced for the Best Agricultural Services and Technologies Project, in recognition of the active role and added value they play in supporting and sustaining agricultural production, thereby enhancing the agricultural sector's contribution to the national economy and achieving higher levels of self-sufficiency and food security.

This Prize is dedicated to projects that employ modern, smart, and applicable technologies to develop services, support sustainability in the agricultural sector, and increase the diversity of specializations among workers in this sector.

Judging Committee

Mrs. Shaikha Abdulla Alfadhel	Ministry of Industry and Commerce	Head
Dr. Wafa Hassan Al Madani	University of Bahrain	Deputy Head
Eng. Eltayeb Abbas Ali	Ministry of Municipalities Affairs & Agriculture	Member
Mr. Amer Bu Hussain	Tamkeen	Member
Mrs. Fatema Alatbi	Economic Development Board	Member
Mr. Hassan Matrook Swar	Bahrain Export	Member
Dr. Asma Mohammed Ali	NIAD	Rapporteur
Ms. Walaa Al Amer	NIAD	Secretary

First: Best Agricultural Production Project & Best Agricultural Services and Technologies Project

The Award Prize

- The first-place winner from the Best Agricultural Production Project category will be granted a cash prize of 10,000 BD (Ten Thousand Bahraini Dinars) and a commemorative plaque.
- The first-place winner from the Best Agricultural Services and Technologies Project category will be granted a cash prize of 7,000 BD (Seven Thousand Bahraini Dinars) and a commemorative plaque.
- The first-place winner from the Best Agricultural Entrepreneurship project category will be granted a cash prize of 3,000 BD (Three Thousand Bahraini Dinars) and a commemorative plaque.
- Certificates of appreciation to each winner of the three categories

Application Conditions

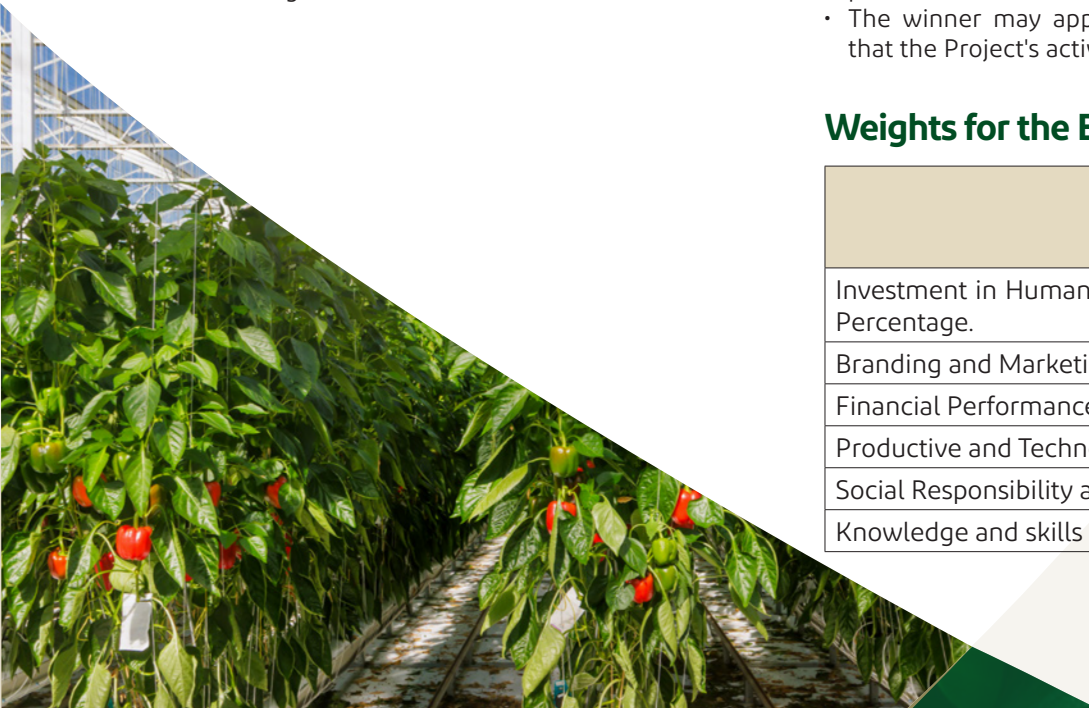
- The applicant commits to filling out the application form and attaching all required documents electronically within the specified period.
- The applicant may apply only to one category of this Prize, depending on the Project's activity.
- The applicant enterprise must have a valid commercial registration 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 enterprise's main activity should be agricultural production.
- The winner may apply to each edition, provided that the Project's activity is different.

Judging Criteria

- Investment in Human Resources and the Bahrization Percentage.
- Branding and Marketing.
- Financial Performance and Economic Feasibility.
- Productive and Technological Efficiency.
- Social Responsibility and the Environment.
- Knowledge and skills of the project owner.

Weights for the Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Weight (%) Best Agricultural Production Project	Weight (%) Best Agricultural Services and Technologies Project
Investment in Human Resources and the Bahrization Percentage.	15	17
Branding and Marketing	15	15
Financial Performance and Economic Feasibility	22	18
Productive and Technological Efficiency	22	20
Social Responsibility and the Environment	13	13
Knowledge and skills of the project owner	13	17





How to apply

Fill out the application form on the website of the National Initiative for Agricultural Development www.niadbh.com attached with the documents and information below:

1. A copy of the valid commercial registration.
2. A copy of the smart card for the project owner and employees.
3. A copy of the qualification for the project owner
4. Curriculum Vitae of the Project Owner
5. A copy of the Bahrainization certificate issued by the Labor Market Regulatory Authority.
6. A copy of the lease/ownership contract for the project premises.
7. A copy of the latest audited financial statements for the project accounts or the internal accounts for the years (2023-2024-2025).
8. A copy of the qualifications for the employees
9. A copy of the training courses attended by the employees.
10. Evidence of product sales and marketing. (invoices, photos, website, etc.)
11. Any supporting document that demonstrates the implementation of modern techniques or sustainable, innovative technologies.
12. Supporting materials to explain the project's uniqueness
13. Sample of packaging and trademark.
14. Photos and evidence of the social role in the Kingdom.
15. A copy of best agricultural practice certificates for the project product, whether local, regional, or international

Note:

- Forms that do not include all the required documents (Nos. 1-7) will be excluded.
- In cases of missing documents (from No. 8 to No. 15), points will be deducted from the score.
- If any additional documents are requested, applicants must submit them within the timeframe to be specified later, which will be provided later.

Second: Best Agricultural Entrepreneurship Project

Application Conditions

1. The applicant must be of Bahraini nationality.
2. The project must fall under one of the following four options:
 - Scientific Innovations and Agricultural Technologies
 - Agricultural Household Projects
 - University Agricultural Projects
 - Creative Projects that Contribute to the Development of the Agricultural Sector
3. Applications for the award can be submitted individually or as a team, with a designated project leader.
4. The project must showcase innovation and creativity through a new concept or by enhancing an existing agricultural product or service, adding value, or addressing agricultural challenges in Bahrain.
5. The project should have started operations or undergone preliminary testing (such as practical trials, prototypes, or actual production).
6. Applicants are required to provide a vision or future plan for the project's development and sustainability.
7. It is essential to complete the application form and attach all required documents electronically within the designated timeframe.
8. Applications should be submitted under one of the four tracks for the Best Agricultural Entrepreneurship Project category, reflecting the nature of the project's activities.
9. The project idea or activity must benefit the Kingdom of Bahrain and advance the agricultural sector at both regional and international levels.
10. Applicants must cooperate with the judging committee during field visits and provide any necessary evidence and documentation.
11. The judging committee reserves the right to visit the project at any time they see fit.

Judging Criteria

- Innovation and Creativity
- Resource Efficiency
- Environmental and Social Impact
- Economic Feasibility and Sustainability
- Knowledge and Skills of the Project Owner

Weights for the Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Weight (%) Best Agricultural Entrepreneurship Project
Innovation and Creativity	25
Resource Efficiency	15
Environmental and Social Impact	20
Economic Feasibility and Sustainability	25
Knowledge and Skills of the Project Owner	15

How to apply

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

1. Copy of the smart card for the project owner.
2. Curriculum Vitae of the applicant and the team members in case of team participation.
3. Copy of a valid virtual commercial registration or Khotwa Program (mandatory for home-based projects).
4. A copy of the future financial plan for the next three years (2026, 2027, 2028), indicating the project's development.
5. A PowerPoint or similar presentation to illustrate the idea, technology, or product.
6. Any supporting document that demonstrates the implementation of modern techniques or sustainable, innovative technologies.
7. Photos, evidence, or a study about the project's social role in the agricultural and environmental awareness.
8. Evidence of product sales and marketing. (invoices, photos, website, etc.)
9. Sample of packaging and trademark.
10. A copy of the quality certificates for the project's products, whether local, regional, or international.

Note:

- Forms that do not include all the required documents (Nos. 1-5) will be excluded.
- In the case of missing documents (from No.6 to No.10), points will be deducted when counting scores.
- If any additional documents are requested, applicants must submit them within the timeframe to be specified later.
- The applicant alone is responsible for maintaining the project's industrial and intellectual property rights, and the organizing committee assumes no legal responsibility in this regard.

2

Best Bahraini Farmer

This Prize is awarded to the best Bahraini farmer for their distinction and in appreciation of 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 across different age groups and to encourage them to innovate, apply modern technologies, and compete to improve agricultural output. It also aims to raise Bahraini farmers'

knowledge and technical skills, and to use their experience and skills to increase local production and economic returns in the agricultural sector, thereby achieving 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 Mansoor	Ministry of Municipalities Affairs & Agriculture	Member
Eng. Khalifa Ebrahim Alamin	Ministry of Municipalities Affairs & Agriculture	Member
Ms. Thuraya Almansoori	Agricultural Expert	Member
Mrs. Mai Mohammed Al-Ghatam	NIAD	Rapporteur
Mrs. Fatima Khalid 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.

- 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.

Application Conditions

- The applicant should be a Bahraini citizen.
- The applicant must hold an "Agricultural Identity Card" from the Undersecretariat of Agriculture & Animal 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 on the farm at the time of the 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.

Judging Criteria

- Years of experience and accumulated knowledge on the part of the farmer.
- Proficiency of the farmer, sustainability, and the quality of the product.
- Innovation and development in agricultural practices
- Preserving the agricultural ecosystem and human health.
- Post-harvest practices.
- Marketing
- The 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 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 & Animal 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.
- A valid land lease contract or a land ownership certificate from the Survey and Land Registration Bureau (if any).

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

3 Best Agricultural Research and Studies

The sixth edition of the King Hamad Prize for Agricultural Development emphasizes the importance of supporting and encouraging research and innovation in agricultural technologies and smart farming to improve production efficiency, enhance food and water security, preserve agricultural land and ecosystems, and strengthen resilience and adaptation to climate change. Additionally, the prize emphasizes research that addresses the preservation of agricultural genetic resources, the development of traditional knowledge related to agricultural systems in dry regions, the safe use of agricultural chemicals, the use of treated water, and the management of agricultural waste.

The launch of this sixth edition, with its global outreach, serves as a catalyst for directing scientific research toward innovation in agricultural development, particularly in dry regions and island nations. In addition to creating a scientific information base that documents studies and research, it 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. Abdulaziz Abdulkarim	Agricultural Consultant / Assistant Undersecretary for Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture (Formerly)	Member
Dr. Humood Abdulla Naser	University of Bahrain	Member
Dr. Nilofer Jahromi	Ministry of Education	Member
Dr. Asma Mohammed	NIAD	Rapporteur
Ms. Walaa Al Amer	NIAD	Secretary

The suggested research and study topics are:

1. Innovation in modern and smart agricultural technologies.
2. Date Palm and fruit trees research.
3. Agriculture and climate change in arid areas
4. Water security and the safe use of treated wastewater in the agricultural sector.
5. Preserving Agricultural Land, the Environment, and Agricultural Genetic Resources.
6. Preserving agricultural lands, environment, and genetic resources.
7. Agrochemicals and integrated pests and plant diseases management.
8. 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

1. The research should be innovative and highly important to agricultural development in dry areas.
2. The research should be in Arabic or English.
3. The research has been published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed international scientific journal during the years (2021 – 2025).
4. The journal must be indexed in an accredited global database.
5. The applicant should not have received a prize for the submitted research from any other entity.
6. If the research is jointly conducted, a letter bearing the signatures 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.

7. The team of researchers 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.
8. Agricultural researchers from all around the world can apply for this Prize.
9. Fill out the application form and provide all required documents and paperwork within the specified time.
10. The decision of the judging committee is final.

Judging Criteria

1. Applicability of the research in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
2. Originality and innovation in the research and methodology.
3. The research contributes to overcoming the challenges associated with agricultural production in dry areas.
4. The research contributes to achieving food and water security and preserving natural resources.
5. The research contributes to confronting the challenges of climate change and restoring agricultural ecosystems.
6. The ranking of the journal or book in which it was published.



How to apply

- Submit an electronic copy of the research in Arabic or English.
- Curriculum vitae of the researcher, a passport copy, and a recent photograph of the researcher, size 4x5cm.
- Fill out the application form available on the National Initiative for Agricultural Development website at www.niadbh.com.

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 research 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 research 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 media, including mass and social media, and on the National Initiative for Agricultural Development website.



Prize Schedule

1. Best Agricultural Project

Date of Applying:	January 2026	May 2026
Date of Judging:	October 2026	March 2027
Award Announcement:	May 2027	

2. Best Bahraini Farmer

Date of Applying:	January 2026	
Date of Judging:	February 2026	March 2026
Award Announcement:	May 2027	

3. Best Agricultural Research and Studies

Date of Applying:	January 2026	December 2026
Date of Judging:	January 2027	March 2027
Award Announcement:	May 2027	

For More Information

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