Awards

Agricultural Innovation: A Student-Focused Prize for the Future of Agriculture

The University of Wisconsin–Madison and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation are excited to announce the 2014 Agriculture Innovation Prize: Powered by 40 Chances, open to undergraduate and graduate students across the nation. The prize will address 21st century agriculture challenges by inspiring, educating, and nurturing the next generation of agriculture innovators and entrepreneurs. With more than $200,000 in cash awards, the prize will encourage student teams to develop plans that describe how they will commercialize and disseminate their innovations. By participating in this prize, students will learn valuable entrepreneurial skills and form the nexus of the “innovation ecosystem” that will harness the power of rural communities to address our agricultural and food system challenges. The contest launches 2 October and runs through the spring of 2014 when teams will have the chance to win the grand prize of $100,000. Entries are due 28 Feb. 2014, and more information will be available at http://agprize.com.

The primary goal of the Agricultural Innovation Prize is to develop the next generation of agricultural innovators and entrepreneurs. This will happen by providing students with the opportunity to be successful agriculture entrepreneurs from a prestigious corps of mentors and to compete at a national scale to become part of a national network of agriculture innovators and entrepreneurs. This student prize focuses on sustainability and will have student participation across the spectrum of academic disciplines and regions.

Students will be encouraged to leverage technologies and ideas developed on and off campus and to work closely with mentors and other professional resources. No matter where they go to school, students will have access to the information and direction provided by the national student organizing body to help them learn how to create successful ventures to improve our agriculture system.

Hamamoto Wins Soil Physics Early Career Award

Dr. Shoichiro Hamamoto, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Infrastructure Engineering at Saitama University, Japan, was recently awarded the SSSA Soil Physics Division Early Career Award. This award recognizes scientists who have made outstanding contributions in soil physics within six years of completing their Ph.D. degree. Applicants must be active members of SSSA, provide evidence of quality teaching (if in a teaching position) and effectiveness in extension and/or outreach activities, contribute original basic and/or applied research in soil physics, and participate in public, professional, and institutional domains.

Hamamoto’s research covers both basic and applied soil physics, from fundamental studies on the effect of particle size and shape on soil gaseous-phase, liquid-phase, and thermal transport properties via X-ray CT scanning and image analyses for visualization of soil-pore networks and their functions to the design of soil-based landfill cover layers. He has carried out and published highly recognized work on the measurements of soil-airphase physical properties (gas-diffusion and dispersion coefficients and air

Shoichiro Hamamoto