

Dear IFS Grantees

Welcome to the International Foundation for Science, or IFS. We are gathered virtually today to celebrate the accomplishments of the 65 grantees who successfully obtained the highly competitive IFS Basic Grant in 2021. Congratulations to each of you from Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia.

With this grant, you are joining the larger IFS family, namely the more than 8000 present and previous IFS grantees, several active alumni associations, an experienced and highly professional multicultural secretariat, a Board of Trustees that has representatives from all regions where IFS operates, and above all a global network of 1400 scientific peers, many of whom are senior in their fields, and many eminent former grantees, volunteering skills and time to evaluate proposals.

IFS positions itself within an almost unique niche: carefully supporting the capacity, output and influence of early-career men and women scientists from Low- and Lower-Middle-Income Countries, or LLMICs. The strength of IFS is in adding value to local, regional and global initiatives that address problems of poverty, hunger and climate change, by enhancing the research capacity of LLMIC scientists, building science literacy and supporting sustainable development.

I hope that the grant you have now received will mean much to your research career and give you the opportunity to enhance your current knowledge and skills while also making an immediate impact in your country, region and even globally. Hopefully, your research will also open up further opportunities to expand the reach of your particular project to provide effective, evidence-based knowledge to address the challenges faced by our world.

We also trust that this event will be an opportunity for you not only to meet the IFS Secretariat members but also to create a possibility for you to network and support each other in your future work.

I know that getting a research grant is not for those who only enjoy their dreams while sleeping, but for those who cannot rest until they fulfil their dreams. Never limit yourself and instead break boundaries and move ahead in your lives and careers.

Today I am happy for you as you succeed in your work, and I wish you many more awards in your lives. Once again, congratulations to all of you.