

Technical Guidelines

Sustainable Livestock Transformation Research and Innovation Competition for Young Scientists

28 February – 28 March 2026

I. Background

The **Sustainable Livestock Transformation Research and Innovation Competition for Young Scientists** is a key event during the International Strategic Meeting on Sustainable Livestock Industry Transformation (27-28 March 2026, Jakarta, Indonesia), organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN).

The competition aims to engage emerging researchers in developing practical innovations that support sustainable livestock development in Indonesia, across Asia, and globally by **showcasing scientific short communication research papers based on existing or ongoing research in livestock and agrifood innovation and sustainability**. By connecting youth innovators with policymakers, academia, private sector actors, and civil society, the initiative seeks to promote knowledge exchange and strengthen collaborative efforts toward environmentally sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems in Indonesia and globally.

II. Theme

- **“Youth-Driven Innovations for Sustainable Livestock Systems”**

Participants should focus on one or a combination of the following **sub-themes**:

1. Climate-Smart Livestock Production Systems
(Life cycle assessment, greenhouse gas mitigation, energy and material efficiency, low-carbon technologies)
2. Sustainable Animal Health Management and Resource-Efficient Production Systems
(Biosecurity, productivity optimisation, reduction of losses, resilient production systems)
3. Digitalisation and Smart Manufacturing Technologies for Livestock Sustainability
(Digital monitoring, IoT, artificial intelligence, data analytics, digital MRV and decision-support tools)
4. Integrated Livestock-Agroindustrial Systems and Circular Bioeconomy Approaches
(Waste valorisation, nutrient recycling, industrial symbiosis, bio-based production systems)

5. Inclusive and Human-Centred Innovation in Livestock Production Systems
(*Gender equality, youth participation, capacity building, institutional and social innovation*)
6. Sustainable Industrial Innovation for Climate Resilience and Inclusive Growth
7. Agroecosystem Services and Nature-Based Innovation for Sustainable Development

III. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Indonesian nationals aged between **18 and 35 years** old at the time of submission.
- The submission can be developed by individuals or in teams that consist of a **maximum of three (3) members**.
- Each participant is allowed to submit only **one paper**, either individually or as part of a team.

IV. Submission Guidelines

Submit a **two-page scientific short communication (brief, precise, and concise version) based research paper** on existing or ongoing research relevant to sustainable livestock systems.

- Papers must be written in English.
- Ensure that submitted work is **original**.
- Papers must be exactly **two (2) pages in length (no more, no less)** and formatted using Calibri, 11-point font, 1.15 line spacing, and normal margins. A complete reference list must be included.
- Papers should include:
 - Title
 - Authors' name(s) and their affiliations
 - Introduction
 - Methodology
 - Results and discussion
 - Conclusion
 - Reference (*Font can be 9 or 10 pt*)
- Copyrights and plagiarism:
 - Authors must submit an original work that has not been previously published nor awarded, cite sources of their ideas and data, and not use contents that involve copyrights or intellectual property infringement of

external parties, or any other legal infringement (e.g. defamation and distribution of illegal information).

- Shortlisted finalists must be willing to consent to the collective publication of their papers by host organizations.

V. Evaluation Criteria

Relevance and Policy Problem Framing

- Clear identification of a pressing livestock systems challenge.
- Strong alignment with the competition theme and a well-defined policy gap or governance issue.

Strength and Clarity of Policy or Innovation Proposal

- Clear, actionable policy recommendation or innovative idea.
- Well-articulated objectives, target stakeholders, and proposed implementation pathways.
- Feasibility within existing institutional, regulatory, or market contexts.

Evidence Base and Analytical Foundation

- Use of relevant data, prior research, case examples, or pilot experiences to support the proposed recommendation or innovation.
- Logical and coherent argumentation linking the problem to the proposed solution.

Innovation and Added Value

- Degree of originality in addressing livestock system challenges.
- Introduction of new approaches, cross-sectoral collaboration, governance mechanisms, or incentive structures.

Implementation Potential and Impact

- Practicality and scalability of the proposed idea or policy.
- Consideration of economic, social, and environmental dimensions within agrifood systems.
- Potential to generate measurable and sustainable impact.

Contribution to Livestock Systems Transformation

- Ability of the proposal to strengthen resilience, sustainability, and inclusiveness in livestock systems.
- Clear articulation of how the recommendation or innovation can influence decision-making and real-world practice.

VI. Benefits and Awards

- Ten (10) shortlisted candidates will be selected, and their work will be showcased during the conference.
- The ten (10) finalists will be invited to pitch and present their work before a panel of judges during the conference in Jakarta.
 - 10 finalists will present their work in ONLY three minutes and two minutes Q&A to an international panel of 6 renown scientific leaders
- Top three (3) winners and seven (7) excellent presenters will be selected from the finalists.

Participation Requirements

- On-site participation in the final pitching session and awarding ceremony is mandatory for at least one author (for team submissions).
- Only one representative per team will be funded to attend the final pitching & awarding session in Jakarta on 28 March 2026.

Awards

- A panel of experts will evaluate the finalists and select **top 10 submissions**:
 1. First Prize: Award Certificate
 2. Second Prize: Award Certificate
 3. Third Prize: Award Certificate
 4. 4th-10th finalists: Certificate of excellence
- The first winner will be invited to the First Global Conference for Action on One Health in Agrifood Systems, FAO HQ, Rome Italy (21–23 September 2026) with travel sponsored by FAO LEAP Partnership.
- The work of the top three winners will be featured on FAO social media channels and the FAO website.
- Winners will be facilitated to connect with the international leading expert network.
- For team submissions, award certificates will be issued individually to each listed author.

VII. Key Dates

Activity	Date
Registration & paper submission	28 Feb – 14 Mar 2026
Submission deadline	14 Mar 2026
Candidate shortlisting	15 – 19 Mar 2026
Announcement of 10 shortlisted finalists	20 Mar 2026
Online technical meeting for 10 finalists	23 Mar 2026
Final competition & winner announcement (<i>in-person event in Jakarta at BRIN office</i>)	28 Mar 2026