

## 2024 Best Paper Competition Guidelines

The 2024 Best Paper Competition aims to attract and recognize research that distinctively rises above the criteria for the selected paper presentations. We invite authors to submit their best scientific studies for consideration in the Best Paper Award competition. Best Paper finalists must be registered for the conference and present their research during the Symposium.

### BENEFITS

- Brings high-quality finished work to the Symposium
- Facilitates scholarship by simultaneously giving scholars a presentation, a completed manuscript, a manuscript under review, and the potential for publishing the manuscript in the *International Food and Agribusiness Management Review* (IFAMR)
- Best paper award winners are recognized during the conference
- Best paper award winners receive a certificate and a trophy

### EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The manuscript will undergo a comprehensive (“quick-turnaround”), double-blind peer review managed by the Symposium Chairs and IFAMR Editorial Team. Submitted papers are evaluated and scored on a numerical system based on the following:

#### 1. Introduction

- The research question and hypothesis are clearly stated.
- The goals and specific objectives of the research are clearly presented.
- The author(s) have conducted an extensive literature review on the topic, identified a significant gap in the literature, and attempted to fill the gap.

#### 2. Method and Results

- The research is grounded in a recognized theory with sound theoretical development
- The results are clearly explained
- The authors acknowledge the limitations of the study

#### 3. Conclusion

- The paper draws reasonable conclusions which are clearly explained
- The significance and applicability of the results are discussed.
- The paper expands the readers’ knowledge of the topic
- The paper is well-written

Authors with the highest-scoring papers will be invited to continue as finalists in the Best Paper Competition and present their research before a group of peers, which include judges, during the 2024 Symposium.

### SUBMISSION

To enter the Best Paper Competition, submit a full manuscript to the Symposium using the [Submittable Portal](#) before **December 30, 2023**. You will be instructed to self-select to be considered for the Best Paper Competition during submission.

Finalists will be notified in April 2024 and given time to revise their manuscripts before presenting the papers during the Symposium in Almeria, Spain, between June 17-18, 2023.

During the Symposium, judges will attend the in-person presentations of finalists and evaluate both the research and presenter in the following areas:

- the overall quality of the research paper
- how the author(s) addressed the concerns of the blind peer reviewers
- the quality of the oral presentation.

## SCORING CRITERIA

The overall quality of the final submitted manuscript will be evaluated using a 75-point scale (i.e., introduction 20 points, methods and results 40 points, and conclusion 15 points), and the quality of the oral presentation will be evaluated using a 25-point scale.

Awards will be given in one or more of the following categories:

- 1. Innovation** The manuscript proposes an innovative idea and solution, making a new contribution to the ag sector.
- 2. Relevance to Managers** The manuscript presents relevant and valuable solutions to agribusiness managers or management.
- 3. Communication/Marketing** The research proposes a novel marketing or communications idea for a product.
- 4. Conference Theme** The manuscript focuses on a topic addressed within the 2023 conference theme: *Worldwide Innovation for a resilient, nature-positive, and food-secure future.*

The Best Paper Competition winners will be announced during the Presidential Banquet in Almeria, Spain, on the last day of the conference (June 20, 2024).

## PUBLICATION

All Best Paper finalists are invited to publish their manuscripts for inclusion in the *IFAMR Special Conference Edition* or a regular issue of the *IFAMR*. Manuscript acceptance and the exact timing of publication are contingent on the authors sufficiently addressing the feedback (including any revisions and

edits) given by the IFAMR reviewers and the IFAMR editorial team. However, this will be a fast-track process.

Please use the [IFAMR Submission Guidelines](#) when submitting full papers. Once the Best Paper Competition is completed, authors should submit the full paper through the [IFAMR Submission Portal](#) immediately following the conference (early July 2024) to begin the fast-track review process by the IFAMR Editorial Team.

All published articles in the *IFAMR Special Issue* will be assessed the standard article publication charge of 1300 Euros. However, IFAMA will award partial waivers of the publication fee to Best Paper winners. The publication is expected in Q4 or early 2025.

## BEST PAPER SUBMISSION, REVIEW, AND PUBLICATION TIMELINE

<b>29 January</b>	Full papers due. Upload papers through Submittable (Select: Best Paper Option)
<b>Feb–March</b>	Submitted manuscripts begin a “fast track” double-blind peer review process
<b>20 March</b>	Early Bird Registration ends
<b>15–20 April</b>	Authors receive reviewer comments, and the Best Paper finalists are announced
<b>May 2024</b>	Authors complete revisions to manuscripts based on feedback from reviewers and resubmit revised manuscript
<b>17–18 June</b>	Best Paper candidates present their research. Judges attend the oral presentations
<b>20 June</b>	Best Paper Winners are announced in Almeria, Spain, during Presidential Banquet
<b>July 2024</b>	Papers are submitted for the IFAMR double-blind peer review process
<b>Sept–Jan</b>	Publication of articles in the IFAMR Special Issue or IFAMR regular issue

## BEST PAPER REVIEW COMMITTEE

**Ram Acharya**, Professor and Managing Editor of IFAMR, New Mexico State University, USA

**QUESTIONS?** Please get in touch with the Best Paper Competition Chair, Ram Acharya, at [acharyar@nmsu.edu](mailto:acharyar@nmsu.edu).