



Contact
Blythe McKay
Development Communication Coordinator
Farm Radio International
+1 613-761-3652
bmckay@farmradio.org

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Scriptwriting competition for African radio broadcasters

Spreading farmers' innovations

Ottawa, Canada, July 27, 2009 – Farm Radio International, in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC), Inter Press Service (IPS) Africa, the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), and other partners, is launching a scriptwriting competition on smallholder farmer innovation in sub-Saharan Africa. The competition is open to organizations and individuals that work with radio in Africa, including radio stations, broadcasters, production organizations, NGOs with a radio project, farmers' associations with a radio show, etc.

Competitors are invited to submit a radio script that tells the true story of a knowledgeable and inspiring smallholder farmer (or farmers) from their region who has developed an innovation. The competition is committed to promoting gender equality. To assist participants with writing the radio scripts, a free, two-month on-line scriptwriting training course will be offered. Entries must be received no later than November 1, 2009.

The scripts will be reviewed by an international panel of judges and the winners will be announced in January 2010. Top entries will be eligible for a variety of prizes. Winning scripts will be published and distributed in English and French to radio stations across sub-Saharan Africa and made available on Farm Radio International's website.

For more information, please see the attached info sheet or contact Blythe McKay. You can also visit the competition website at <http://scriptcompetition.farmradio.org/>.



This competition is undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

#

Founded in 1979, Farm Radio International (www.farmradio.org) is a Canadian charity with the mission of supporting broadcasters to strengthen small-scale farming and rural communities in Africa.

Attachment to press release: Further information



The Radio Scriptwriting Competition on Smallholder Farmer Innovation is open to organizations and individuals that work with radio in Africa, including radio stations, broadcasters, production organizations, NGOs with a radio project, farmers' associations with a radio show, etc.

Competitors are invited to submit a radio script that tells the true story of a knowledgeable and inspiring smallholder farmer (or farmers) from their region who has developed an innovation in one of the following categories:

- Agricultural production, harvesting or storage (including livestock and fisheries)
- Agricultural processing or food preparation
- Marketing
- Cooperation (collectives, cooperatives, community groups, partnerships, social networks)
- Other innovations related to smallholder farmers and not listed above, for example, agricultural tools, agroforestry, plant varieties, on-farm production or use of renewable energy.

The competition is committed to promoting gender equality and encourages scripts that feature innovations by women and men who are involved in farming and food production.

To assist participants with writing the radio scripts, a free, two-month on-line scriptwriting training course will be offered, starting on August 24, 2009. For those with limited internet access, the course will be available on a CD-ROM.

The script is to be prepared by talking with local farmers. Scripts can take a variety of formats – for example, dramas, interviews or two-host conversations. The script must be an original piece of work written specifically for this competition. It must be in English or French, be between 500-2000 words, and include references to information sources used to prepare the script (e.g., farmers, agricultural institutions, NGOs, documents). Entries must be received no later than **November 1, 2009**. Although this is not required, we would appreciate receiving an audio version of the script. It is fine if the audio version is recorded in a local language, provided the language is indicated.

The scripts will be reviewed by an international panel of judges. Top entries will be eligible for a variety of prizes, ranging from **digital audio recorders to training opportunities**. The winners will be announced in January 2010. Winning scripts will be published and distributed to radio stations across sub-Saharan Africa and made available on Farm Radio International's website. All entrants will receive feedback on their script.

To learn more about the competition and to register, go to <http://scriptcompetition.farmradio.org>.