



Bologna, Italy, 25–29 May 2026

Call for Applications Nazareno Strampelli Award 2026

On the occasion of the IV International Wheat Congress (IWC4), to be held in Bologna, Italy, from 25 to 29 May 2026, the International Organizing Committee (IOC) is pleased to announce the first edition of the Nazareno Strampelli Award 2026, established in memory of Nazareno Strampelli, pioneer of modern wheat breeding.

The Award is promoted with the patronage of **SIGA – Società Italiana di Genetica Agraria**, the **University of Tuscia**, and **CREA – Council for Agricultural Research and Economics Analysis** (Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria).

The Award aims to recognize and promote outstanding scientific contributions by early- and mid-career researchers whose work has demonstrated a significant practical impact on wheat research and breeding, in line with Strampelli's legacy of applied innovation.

Eligibility

The competition is open to researchers of any nationality working in wheat-related disciplines who, at the relevant reference date (see below), fall into one of the following age categories:

- Category A: under 35 years of age
- Category B: 35–40 years of age
- Category C: 40–45 years of age

Applicants must demonstrate an active and leading role in the research submitted.

Scope and Eligible Contributions

Applications must be based on scientific articles published between 1 January 2025 and 31 March 2026 that demonstrate clear practical relevance for wheat improvement, including but not limited to:

- Wheat breeding and genetics
- Crop improvement strategies
- Translational research with demonstrable impact on breeding programs

Evaluation will focus primarily on the scientific quality, originality, and applied impact of the manuscript and related work.

Awards

The Strampelli Award 2026 will include at least three prizes, one for each age category. Indicatively, the awards will be:

- €1,000 for Category A (under 35)
- €2,000 for Category B (35–40)
- €3,000 for Category C (40–45)



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Age reference

Age eligibility will be assessed at the time of publication of the submitted article. For Categories B and C, this includes applicants who have reached their 35th/40th birthday and have not yet reached their 36th/46th birthday at the time of publication.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by an international Selection Committee appointed by the Organizing Committee, based on the following criteria:

- Scientific excellence and originality
- Demonstrated or potential practical impact on wheat breeding
- Relevance to the legacy and vision of Nazareno Strampelli

Application Procedure

Applicants are required to submit:

- A complete application form
- A curriculum vitae
- A copy of the publication submitted for evaluation
- A short statement highlighting the practical impact of the research

The required material has to be sent at: masci@unitus.it

Timeline

- Eligible publication period: 1 January 2025 – 31 March 2026
- Application deadline: 15 April 2026
- Award ceremony: on 28 May 2026 at the IWC4, during the Panel discussion (17:00-18:30) titled '*From Strampelli to informed breeding in a public-private-partnership scenario*'

The Nazareno Strampelli Award seeks to enhance the visibility of young and mid-career scientists and to strengthen the international wheat research community through excellence, innovation, and applied impact.