

2024 AAAE FOUNDATION AWARDS

Following AAAE foundation members were recognized for their unusual qualifications and professional distinction and elected as the AAAE Founding Fellows of 2024.

Dr. Felipe Tancio Butlig, AAAE Foundation Fellow



Felipe Tancio Butlig is a seasoned Agricultural Engineer with four decades of experience in irrigation and fertigation systems in developing nations. He earned his BSc in Agricultural Engineering from Mindanao State University, Marawi City, in 1977. Following this, he served as a Research Assistant at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) Irrigation Water Management Department, focusing on the development and testing of water-measuring devices suitable for low-gradient channels. After obtaining his Master of Engineering degree from AIT, Thailand in 1981, Felipe returned to the Philippines and joined TCGI Engineers, a Manila-based engineering consulting firm. Here, he conducted feasibility studies and detailed engineering designs for various small water impounding and irrigation projects under the Philippine government, marking the beginning of his impressive career progression. From 1987 to 1992, he worked as an Irrigation Engineer in Zimbabwe, Africa, for a smallholder irrigation project supported by UNDP and DANIDA. His primary role involved training local Irrigation Specialists in conducting feasibility studies, detailed engineering designs, and irrigation system implementation. In 1994, Felipe embarked on an international journey, joining an Israeli company where he received training in the design and marketing of modern irrigation and fertigation technologies, particularly drip and micro sprinkler systems. Over the course of more than two decades, he held various positions within the company, progressing from Regional Manager to Senior Vice President. His work took him to diverse Asian countries such as Vietnam, South Korea, Japan, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan, enriching his global perspective.

Dr. Abdul Ghani, AAAE Foundation Fellow

Dr. Ghani earned his Ph.D. in Irrigation Engineering from Utah State University, USA, MS in Engineering from AIT, Bangkok, Thailand, and B.Sc. in Agricultural Engineering from Bangladesh Agricultural University. Dr. Ghani is an



internationally known expert in Irrigation Engineering, Water Management, and Agricultural Development. Dr. Ghani has published 34 journal articles and 94 papers presented at national and international conferences. Apart from his academic accomplishments, he has worked for the World Bank and International Rice Research Institute, Philippines and overseen international projects in India, Vietnam, and Nepal. Dr. Ghani is an active member of professional societies including Life Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, and a member of the International Society for Development and Sustainability in Japan. He has held various leadership roles, such as President of the Engineering and Technology Section and Life Member of the Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science, in addition to serving as Vice-President and President for seven years of the Bangladesh Society of Agricultural Engineers. He is also a Life Member of the Asian Institute of Technology Alumni Association and Bangladesh's Krishibid (Agriculturist) Institution. Dr. Ghani was an Executive Committee Member of the Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) from 2002 to 2009 and a Charter Member of Rotary International, Baridhara, Dhaka, from 2007-2008. He has been honored with the "Distinguished Alumni" award from the Asian Institute of Technology Alumni Association and the "ICON of FMIST of 2017" from Nepal.

Dr. Makoto Hoki, AAAE Foundation Fellow

Professor Makoto Hoki was born in Kyoto, Japan and had an impressive academic and professional career. He obtained his BS and MS degree in 1964 and 1966, respectively from Kyoto University Graduate School. From 1967 to 1969, he worked as a Research Fellow and Visiting Assistant Design Engineer at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines and developed a PTO-driven power tiller for tropical rice fields. Dr. Hoki earned his Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering from Michigan State University in 1973.



Upon returning to Japan, he joined the Mie University's Department of Agricultural Machinery as an Assistant Professor. Over the years, he climbed the academic ladder and became an Associate Professor in 1980 and a Professor in 1990, serving until his retirement in 2002. Throughout his career, he conducted extensive research on various topics, including agricultural products' physical properties, biomass gasification, carbonization, and power generation for small-scale applications. He also actively conducted field studies on farm tools and the evolution of farming systems in Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, Vietnam, and Indonesia. Dr. Hoki served as the President of AAAE from 1997 to 2000, demonstrating his leadership skills and commitment to the agricultural engineering community. After his retirement, he continued to work on projects related to biomass, energy and environment in the Philippines, Thailand, and Palau. From 2014 to 2017, he took on the role of Assistant to the Secretary General of CIGR, where he had the opportunity to visit China, Denmark, Poland, and Iran, further expanding his international network and knowledge

Dr. Rameshwar S. Kanwar, AAAE Foundation Fellow

University, USA. He started his career as an Assistant Professor and rose to the rank of professor, Director of Iowa Water Resources Institute and Chair of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department at

Iowa State University. Also, he served Vice Chancellor of Lovely Professional University, India, and Vice Rector/Provost of ADA University, Azerbaijan. He was



Fulbright Fellow at the American University in Cairo, Egypt in 2023. He was awarded Doctorate Honoris Causa by Tashkent Institute of Irrigation & Agricultural Mechanization Engineers, Uzbekistan 1997, Doctorate Honoris Causa by Georgian Agrarian University, Georgia in 2000, and Doctorate Honoris Causa by Trakia University in 2007. He is a Fellow of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, India, American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers, and International Academy of Agricultural &

Biosystems Engineering. He was elected Member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts in 2021. He received John Deere Gold Medal, Kishida International Engineering Award, and ADS/Hancor Soil and Water Engineering Award from ASABE. He received Distinguished Service Award from ADA University, Azerbaijan, Sakai Science Technology Award from AAAE, Distinguished Alumni Award from PAU Ludhiana. He advised 30 MS and 31 PhD students and has published 220 refereed journal articles. He has worked for the World Bank, USAID, UNDP and NATO projects taking him to 60+ countries.

Mr. Yoshisuke Kishida AAAE Foundation Fellow



Mr. Yoshisuke Kishida, is the President of Shin-norinsha Co., Ltd., Japan. After receiving his BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from Waseda University in Tokyo, he joined the Shimane Research Division of Sato Zoki Co., Ltd. (now known as Mitsubishi Mahindra Agricultural Machinery Co., Ltd.) and played a crucial role in developing Japan's first self-feeding thresher for high-moisture paddy. In 1966, he became a partner of Shin-norinsha Co. and has served as its President since 1973. He has held positions such as the Board of Trustee of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) Foundation, Secretary-General and Board Member of the Japanese Society of Agricultural Machinery and Food Engineers (JSAM), Executive Board Member and the first Asian Fellow of the International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (CIGR), Member of the management committee of the Club of Bologna, Executive Board and Fellow of the Japan Association of International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (JAICABE), President of the Asian Association for Agricultural Engineering (AAAE), and a Board of Trustee member of the Japanese Society of Agricultural Informatics, among others. His influence and leadership in these organizations reflect his deep understanding and dedication to the agricultural machinery industry. For his career long contributions, the Japanese Emperor honored Mr. Kishida with the Order of the Rising Sun in recognition of his remarkable contributions to journalism, particularly in the field of agricultural machinery.

Dr. Budhajirao Mulik, AAAE Foundation Fellow

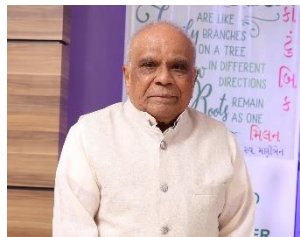
Dr. Mulik received his BSc in Agricultural Sciences with Honors from Pune University, India. He also received BSc and MSc degrees in Agricultural Engineering from Allahabad Agriculture Institute, India and Ph.D. in Agricultural and Irrigation Engineering from Utah State University, Logan, USA. In recognition to his exceptional contributions to agriculture, the Government of Maharashtra honored him with the Krishi Bhushan Award in 1992. In 2004, the Government of Maharashtra, India, bestowed upon him Maharashtra's highest award,



KRISHIRATNA, in recognition of his significant contribution, further cementing his status as a leader in the field. Dr. Mulik's commitment to service extends beyond the agricultural sector. From 2001 to 2005, he served the nation as a Part-Time Nominee Director of EXIM Bank, contributing his expertise and leadership to the financial sector. Dr. Budhajirao Mulik's life's work has been a testament to his dedication to the advancement of agriculture and the welfare of farmers. His multidisciplinary scientific expertise has not only transformed the agricultural landscape but also the lives of countless farmers. Professor Dr. Budhajirao Mulik, a renowned agricultural scientist, environmentalist, and social worker, has left an indelible mark on the lives of thousands of farmers. His pioneering work, including the development of the IRMA model, has ensured income security for farmers. His efforts have not only transformed the agricultural landscape but also inspired a generation of agricultural professionals and policymakers. Dr. Mullik has travelled to over 33 countries, and he has been an expert participant in over 100 international and national conferences.

Dr. Sharad L. Patel, AAAE Foundation Fellow

Dr. Sharad Patel obtained his BSc in mechanical engineering from the Gujarat University in 1956 and MS from the University of Michigan, U.S.A. in 1958. He joined American Spring and Pressing Works Pvt. Ltd, as Production Engineer and reached to Managing Director of Aspee Group of Companies and Director of Aspee ARD Foundation, Mumbai in 1972. He is a Member of Plant Protection Equipment, Sectional Committee of Bureau of Indian Standard, Delhi, invited by MARDI, Malaysia, IRRI,



Manila and other international Institute for workshops/seminars. As Member of ISAE since inception, he was awarded for Outstanding Contribution in Agricultural Engineering (1984-85), ISAE Gold Medal (2004-05) and Mason Vaugh Agricultural Engineering Pioneer Award ISAE (2017). He was conferred with Honorary doctorate degree by Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari (March 2023). He Sponsored Aspee Research Institute and guided more than 100 students of Post Graduate Agricultural Engineering under Prof. A. C. Pandya's guidance. He Participated in number of Training for plant protection and IPM and published 30 research papers. He is a Charter President of Rotary Club of Bombay North-West, Trustee of several Educational Trusts, Public Health & Spiritual Charitable Trusts. Academic Council Member of Gujarat University and Navsari Agricultural University.

Dr. Vilas M. Salokhe, AAAE Foundation Fellow

Professor Vilas M. Salokhe is a founding member of AAAE. He received his B. Tech. (Agri. Engg.) in Maharashtra, India with highest GPA in his class earning him a gold medal. He then received his M.E. with distinction, and a Doctor of Engineering from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. Immediately after his PhD, he began his career at the Asian Institute of Technology and rose in ranks from an Assistant

Professor to full Professor and became the Director of the Unified Program. Dr.



Salokhe's scholarly contributions exceed 350 international journal articles and conference papers, alongside his role in guiding over a hundred graduate students. During his career, he served on numerous editorial boards positions and high-impact international projects and organizations. His profound impact on the AAAE is also reflected in his ability to leverage his extensive network of international academic and professional contacts, fostering collaborations that have significantly benefited the association. He has served AAAE in different capacities such as Secretary General, Chief Editor of the Journal, and its President for ten years and organized several international conferences and workshops, enhancing its status as a pivotal platform for the agricultural engineering profession in Asia and beyond. His numerous accolades and fellowships highlight his enduring commitment and exemplary leadership to the profession and the association, particularly across the Asia Pacific region

Dr. Gajendra Singh, AAE Foundation Fellow

Professor Gajendra Singh received his BSc in Agricultural Engineering & Technology from GBPUA&T, Pantnagar, India, MS from Rutgers University, USA, and PhD from the University of California, Davis, USA. Dr. Singh had a distinguished career where he served as Professor and Department Head, Dean, and Vice-President for Academic Affairs at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand; Deputy Director General (Engineering) at Indian Council of Agricultural Research in New Delhi; and Founding Vice-Chancellor of Doon University in Dehradun, India. Dr. Singh has been honored with several awards including the ASABE Kishida



International Award, ASABE Massey Ferguson Education Gold Medal Award, University of California Davis Emil Mrak International Award, Mason Vaugh Pioneer, and Gold Medal Awards of the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE), Eminent Engineer Award of the Institution of Engineers (India), and Lifetime Achievement Award of GBPUAT Pantnagar. He has also held key positions in various organizations such as the Trustee ASABE, ISAE President and Patron, Management Committee member of the Club of Bologna, and Board Member of the International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (CIGR). Additionally, he is a Fellow of ASABE, ISAE, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (India), International Academy of Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering (iAABE), and the Soil Conservation Society of India. In 1981, Professor Singh organized an International Conference on Agricultural Engineering and Agro-Industries at AIT, which led to the formation of the Asian Association for Agricultural Engineering during an International Conference in 1990, where he served its Founding President for two terms.

Dr. Bassam Snobar, AAAE Foundation Fellow

Bassam Snobar's academic journey is marked by significant achievements. He holds a Ph.D. and M.Sc. in Agricultural Engineering from Michigan State University, earned in 1973 and 1970 respectively. His foundational knowledge was built upon a B.Sc. in Agricultural Engineering from Alexandria University, Egypt, which he completed in 1967. For a span of 41 years, from 1973 to 2014, Snobar worked at the University of Jordan. During his tenure, he served as the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Vice President at Jordan University of Science and Technology.



He also took on the roles of Director and Team Leader for various research projects funded by international agencies. Some notable projects include the "Application of Biotechnology to the Development of Agriculture in Jordan," funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and the "Improvement of Agricultural Productivity in Arid and Semi-Arid Zones in Jordan," funded by the European Union, CIDA, UNDP, and the ICARDA funded other projects. Snobar has served as Chairman and member of several national and international Committees, Panels, Professional Societies, and Organizations. He is a life member of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers and a founding member of the Arab Association for Agricultural Engineering. He was Chairman of the Badia Research and Development Committee of the Jordanian Higher Council of Science and Technology, FAO Oversight Panel of the Special Program for Food Security, and FAO Panel of Experts of Agricultural Engineering.

Dr. Vijaya Raghavan, AAAE Foundation Fellow

Vijaya Raghavan is a Distinguished James McGill Professor and Graduate Program Director, Department



of Bioresource Engineering, McGill University, Montreal, Canada. He was Departmental Chair, 1993-2004. In 2012, he was inducted into the Royal Society of Canada (RSC), and into NAAS, India as a Foreign Fellow. Raghavan was President of Canadian Society for Bioengineering and past President of the Academy of Science of the RSC (2017-2019). He served as the Director of the RSC, 2021-2023. Raghavan was awarded Lifetime Achievement Award, McGill University, 2023, the ASABE International Food Engineering Award, 2018, Kishida International Award, 2017, Fellow of the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers, 2015, David Thomson Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision & Teaching, 2007, and Maple Leaf Award of the Canadian Society of Agricultural Engineering, 1997, among others. He has directed four Canadian International Developmental Agency funded projects: Three dealt with the capacity building in post-harvest technologies in Southern India for food security, and one was on the applications of electro-technologies in food processing in China. Raghavan's international collaborations outside of North America include India, China, Cuba, Brazil, Argentina, Thailand, Malaysia, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, and Chile. Raghavan has supervised over 185 Master and Doctoral students. Additionally, Raghavan has mentored around 150 PDFs, visiting scientists, and research associates. He has contributed to the publication of over 800 articles in academic journals and books. He has contributed various conference papers including 882 presentations, 110 keynote/invited papers, 288 invited lectures, and 65 conferences as an organizing member and chair.

Following AAAE member was recognized for professional distinction and elected as the AAAE Fellow.

Dr. Madan Kumar Jha, AAAE Fellow Award

Dr. Jha is a Professor and Head of the Agricultural and Food Engineering Department, and Head of the Center for Rural Development and Innovative Sustainable Technology at IIT Kharagpur, West Bengal, India, specializing in groundwater hydrology. He is a vibrant researcher and dedicated teacher with over 25 years of experience. He has been active in delivering invited lectures in India and abroad and creating awareness of water scarcity, sustainable water management, and the long-term sustainability of natural resources. Dr. Madan Kumar Jha's contributions have been recognized globally with prestigious awards and honors, including the Humboldt and JSPS Fellowships. He has been awarded the "Institute Chair Professor Award-2022" by IIT Kharagpur, the "Eminent Water Resources Scientist Award" by IWRS, IIT Roorkee, and the "Smt Savitri Chadha Memorial INC-IAH Award for Excellence in Groundwater Science". His research has also been acknowledged by the Stanford University-Elsevier Analyst Group, which featured him as one of the Global Top 2% Scientists consecutively in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. Currently, he serves as the Editor of the "Water Resources Research" journal and EBM/Associate Editor of "Scientific Reports". He has published 149 papers in peer-reviewed international and national journals, five books, 23 book chapters, ten technical reports/bulletins, and 112 papers in international/national conferences. He has developed seven indigenous, cost-effective, and user-friendly professional software. He is a NAAS, IEI, IAH, ISH, IWRS, and ISAE Fellow. He is also a life member of CIGR, AAAE, and several national associations/societies and a regular member of salient international associations.



2024 AAAE AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH, INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP AND LIFELONG ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr. Vilas M. Salokhe, AAAE Lifelong Achievement Award

Professor Vilas M. Salokhe is a founding member of AAAE. He received his B. Tech. (Agri. Engg.) in Maharashtra, India with highest GPA in his class earning him a gold medal. He then received his M.E. with distinction, and a



Doctor of Engineering from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. Immediately after his PhD, he began his career at the Asian Institute of Technology and rose in ranks from an Assistant Professor to full Professor and became the Director of the Unified Program. Dr. Salokhe's scholarly contributions exceed 350 international journal articles and conference papers, alongside his role in guiding over a hundred graduate students. During his career, he served on numerous editorial boards positions and high-impact international projects and organizations. His profound impact on the AAAE is also reflected in his ability to leverage his extensive network of international academic and professional contacts, fostering collaborations that have significantly benefited the association. He has served AAAE in different capacities such as Secretary General, Chief Editor of the Journal, and its President for ten years and organized several international conferences and workshops, enhancing its status as a pivotal platform for the agricultural engineering profession in Asia and beyond. His numerous accolades and fellowships highlight his enduring commitment and exemplary leadership to the profession and the association, particularly across the Asia Pacific region

Mr. Vishnu Duvvuru, Young Industry Leadership Award

Mr. Vishnu Duvvuru, hailing from Chennai, India, holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India, and a master's degree in industrial engineering from Texas A&M University, Texas, USA. His pursuit of excellence led him to further his studies in Automobile Quality Management at Loyola Institute of Business Administration, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. Additionally, he is a Certified Remote Drone Pilot from the esteemed Centre for Aerospace Research, Anna University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. Mr. Vishnu Duvvuru, a fourth-generation entrepreneur, currently holds the position of Vice President in his family-owned company, Farm Implements India Pvt Ltd Group, based in Chennai, India. The Group, with its origins in the Agriculture sector and a history spanning over a century, has expanded into Infrastructure and Real Estate development, Medical sector, Precision Manufacturing, Energy, Media, and Education.



Mr. Yoshisuke Kishida, AAAE Industry Leadership Award of the Year

Mr. Yoshisuke Kishida, is the President of Shin-norinsha Co., Ltd., Japan. After receiving his BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from Waseda University in Tokyo, he joined the Shimane Research Division of Sato Zoki Co., Ltd. (now known as Mitsubishi Mahindra Agricultural Machinery Co., Ltd.) and played a crucial role in developing Japan's first self-feeding thresher for high-moisture paddy. In 1966, he became a partner of Shin-norinsha Co. and has served as its President since 1973. He has held positions such as the Board of Trustee of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) Foundation, Secretary-General and Board Member of the Japanese Society of Agricultural Machinery and Food Engineers (JSAM), Executive Board Member and the first Asian Fellow of the International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (CIGR), Member of the management committee of the Club of Bologna, Executive Board and Fellow of the Japan Association of International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (JAICABE), President of the Asian Association for Agricultural Engineering (AAAE), and a Board of Trustee member of the Japanese Society of Agricultural Informatics, among others. His influence and leadership in these organizations reflect his deep understanding and dedication to the agricultural machinery industry. For his career long contributions, the Japanese Emperor honored Mr. Kishida with the Order of the Rising Sun in recognition of his remarkable contributions to journalism, particularly in the field of agricultural machinery.



Mr. Sushil Kumar Himanshu, AAAE Young Researcher/Innovator of the Year Award

Dr. Himanshu is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Food, Agriculture and Bioresources at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand. He



completed his PhD in Water Resources Development and Management from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee, India, where his research was focused on evaluating satellite-based precipitation for hydrological modeling in agricultural-intensive watersheds. Before joining AIT, he worked as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Texas AgriLife Research Center, Texas, USA, and as a research scientist at the National Remote Sensing Center of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). Dr. Himanshu has more

than eight years of international experience in research, consultancy, and capacity building in precision farming, climate-resilient agricultural systems, cropping system modeling, and remote sensing, GIS, and machine learning applications in agriculture. As an assistant professor at the AIT, Dr. Himanshu's research group is focused on developing cutting-edge technologies to address the challenges of modern agriculture, with a particular emphasis on providing agro-advisories to farmers to make data-driven decisions for efficient crop management. 2 Ph.D. and 9 M.S. students were graduated under his direct supervision. In addition, he is currently serving as the Chair/Co-Chair on graduate committees of 19 students. Dr. Himanshu has published over 55 research papers in top-tier international journals, three edited books, 11 book chapters, 45+ conference proceedings/abstracts, and eight magazine/popular articles. He has secured over 1 million USD (~ 35 million THB) through grants from reputed donor agencies, such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

Dr. Alissara Reungsang, AAAE Researcher/Innovator of the Year Award

Professor Dr. Alissara Reungsang is a Professor of Biotechnology in the Faculty of Technology at Khon Kaen University, Thailand. She obtained her B.Sc. in Biotechnology from Khon Kaen University, M.Sc. in Pharmacy from Mahidol



University, and Ph.D. in Water Resources from Department of Agricultural Engineering, Iowa State University, USA. Prof. Dr. Reungsang has held various academic and administrative positions at Khon Kaen University since 1991, including Head of the Department of Biotechnology and Associate Dean for Research and Academic Service. Her research focuses on energy and environmental biotechnology, with emphasis on

biohydrogen, methane, and biohythane production from biomass and bioremediation of contaminated soil and water. With over 215 papers in Scopus-indexed journals, 5,000+ citations, an h-index of 41, and 120 led research projects, Prof. Dr. Reungsang has made significant contributions to her field. She has also obtained 21 petty patents and supervised 46 graduate students. Her accomplishments have been recognized with numerous awards, such as the Thailand Toray Science and Technology Award, National Outstanding Researcher Award, KKU Outstanding Researcher Awards, and various awards for outstanding alumni and advisership. She serves on editorial boards of several scientific journals and provides academic service as a reviewer, keynote speaker, external examiner, and scientific committee member. In summary, Prof. Dr. Alissara Reungsang is a highly accomplished researcher and academic who has made substantial contributions to bioenergy and bioremediation during her career at

Khon Kaen University. Her extensive publication record, research funding, patents, and awards demonstrate the impact and recognition of her work.