″Nine Iwate University Researchers Named to Stanford University and Elsevier's World's Top 2% Scientists List″

Nine researchers from Iwate University have been named to the latest World's Top 2% Scientists List, released in October, 2026.

The World's Top 2% Scientists List is based on updated author databases of standardized citation indicators, and is constructed by a Stanford University-led research team using Elsevier's Scopus database. The list identifies the top 2% of researchers worldwide who have demonstrated high scientific impact within their respective academic disciplines.

In the 2026 edition of the list, nine researchers from Iwate University were included in the Career-long category, which evaluates researchers based on their career-long research achievements.

Professor Abidur Rahman of the Department of Life Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, was named in both the Career-long category and the Single-year category, which evaluates research achievements during the recent years. Professor Rahman has been included in the Single-year category for four consecutive years, from 2023-2026, reflecting both his sustained research contributions and the continued international visibility of his work.

"Message from the President of Iwate University, Yoshio Yamamoto"

I am extremely proud that nine researchers from Iwate University have been named to the World's Top 2% Scientists List. This selection serves as a testament to the high international recognition for the research achievements of our faculty members that have accumulated over many years, and it is a truly gratifying outcome that highlights the research strength and excellence of our university. As a university deeply rooted in its region, Iwate University is committed to addressing local challenges, while at the same time contributing to the advancement of academic research with international impact. The inclusion of our researchers in this list demonstrates that the research activities and achievements of Iwate University are highly valued by the global research community, making this recognition particularly meaningful.

We remain committed to supporting the individual endeavors of our researchers and to generating research outcomes that contribute to both our local community and the international society at large.

"Comment from Professor Abidur Rahman, Department of Plant Biosciences, Faculty of

Agriculture”

I am deeply honored to have been included in both the Career-long and Single-year categories of the World’s Top 2% Scientists List.

This recognition reflects the support and contributions of my collaborators in Japan and abroad, my students, and the many individuals who have supported my research activities over the years.

My research is focused on understanding how environmental changes affect plant growth and development, as well as developing technologies to produce plants that are more tolerant to abiotic stresses, such as temperature fluctuations, drought, and soil-related factors, in order to support sustainable agricultural production.

I will continue to contribute to stable food production and the realization of sustainable agriculture through my research, while also dedicating myself to the education and development of the next generation of researchers and students.

■ Researchers from Iwate University Included in the Career-long Category (Lifetime Research Achievements)

・Professor Abidur Rahman, Department of Life Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture

・ Professor Hiroyuki Shimono, Department of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture

・Professor Masayuki Shirai, Department of Science and Engineering, Faculty of Science and Engineering

・Professor Tatsuya Takeguchi, Department of Science and Engineering, Faculty of Science and Engineering

・Professor Koichi Takaki, Department of Science and Engineering, Faculty of Science and Engineering

・Professor Takeshi Nagai, The United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences (based in Yamagata University)

・Professor Emeritus Kenichi Kimura (Faculty of Agriculture)

・Professor Emeritus Noriaki Kubota (Faculty of Engineering)

・Professor Emeritus Naoaki Kumagai (Faculty of Engineering)

■ Single-year (Annual Research Achievements)

・Professor Abidur Rahman, Department of Life Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture

Reference: Ioannidis, John P.A. (2026), “August 2026 data-update for ″Updated science-wide author databases of standardized citation indicators″”, Elsevier Data Repository, V9, doi: 10.17632/btchxktzyw.9, accessed via https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/btchxktzyw/9

The World’s Top 2% Scientists List is a researcher list compiled by a research team at Stanford University using Scopus, Elsevier’s abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature.

The list comprises two rankings: (1) Career-long, which evaluates a researcher’s lifetime research achievements and scientific impact throughout their career, and (2) Single-year, which evaluates research achievements and scientific impact in a given year. These rankings are widely used as objective indicators of research impact and scientific influence among researchers worldwide.

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