

THE AWARDS 2021

Research Project of the Year: STEM

Institution name	University of Reading
Submission title or project name	Drought monitoring to mitigate climate-related risks in African countries
Nominee/key personnel	Professor Emily Black; Dr Ross Maidment; Dr Vicky Boulton
URL	http://www.tamsat.org.uk/
Submission	<p>Over 200 million people in sub-Saharan Africa depend on rain-fed subsistence agriculture for their livelihoods and wellbeing, however the ground rainfall monitoring network is so sparse that less than 2% of the population live in the vicinity of a rain gauge. Providing accurate information on where, and how severe, adverse conditions are likely to be, facilitates action to mitigate the agricultural and humanitarian impacts of drought.</p> <p>A satellite-based rainfall estimation system and novel drought forecasting system, both developed at the University of Reading, are generating data being widely used to support drought insurance provision, support agricultural decision-making (such as enabling early planting and lengthening growing seasons), anticipate drought and low crop yields and target aid efforts by organisations such as the Red Cross and World Food Programme.</p> <p>These new approaches to drought risk management now mean that millions of the world's most vulnerable people are more resilient to drought.</p>