



**Position**

Teacher-researcher

**Institution**

Food Technology Unit, Rural Polytechnic Institute (IPR - Institut Polytechnique Rural), Katibougou Koulikoro, Mali

**Country**

Mali

**Education**

Food sciences, University Ibn Khaldoun, Tiaret (Algeria), 2012

**Mentor**

Mr. Moussa Diarra,  
Environmental Information,  
Environment and  
Sustainable Development  
Agency (AEDD )

**Research Area**

Applied sciences  
(Agronomy, Agriculture,  
Food Sciences, Forestry,  
Environmental Sciences,  
Engineering and  
Technology, Nutrition &  
Health)

## Abderahim Ahmadou

2019 One Planet Laureate Candidate

Born in Niamey (Niger) where he spent part of his childhood, Abderahim Ahmadou returned to Mali, his native land, at the age of 12. After his BEPC secondary school diplomas, he secretly chose to specialise in science, as his parents wanted him to choose a literary pathway. In his final school year, when his parents found out and tried to force him to change course, he threatened to stop his schooling. His parents relented and finally, he was right, going on to sail through his Bacculaureate in Biological Sciences in Bamako.

Benefitting from a scholarship from the Algerian government, he took an agronomy engineering course at University Ibn Khaldoun in Tiaret, near Oran, Algeria. In his two final years of the agronomy engineering course, he specialised in food sciences. He then discovered the field of food technology and nutrition and began to develop an interest in food.

With his agronomy engineering degree (2012), he returned to Mali and carried out an internship at the Bamako Institute of Rural Economy. He was then recruited by Bramali, an agri-food factory.

He worked there for 17 months in services dedicated to hygiene and the environment. This practical professional experience further increased his curiosity for the agri-food sector.

In a context characterized both by the lack of teachers and the increasingly aging body of teachers, Mr. Ahmadou was recruited in the National Competition to the Rural Polytechnic Institute (IPR) in Katibougou Koulikoro in Mali to give seminars in food technology (2015). In 2016, Mr. Ahmadou started writing a thesis thanks to a French bursary (SCAC).

A Teacher-researcher at the Food Technology Unit of the Rural Polytechnic Institute (IPR) in Katibougou Koulikoro, he is writing a thesis in food science and nutrition with block release study between the University of Montpellier in France and IPR in Mali.

His thesis work is carried out in a research team at the Centre for International Co-operation in Agronomic Research for Development (CIRAD - Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement) in Montpellier (Qualisud).

The phenomenon of the significant presence of mycotoxins in southern countries has aroused a keen interest in him. One of Ahmadou's major concerns is to reduce or eliminate these toxins with locally applicable knowledge.

His main line of research revolves around sustainable agriculture, food science and nutrition, more specifically food safety.

The main objective of his research is to develop a natural product (biochar), that is inexpensive and capable of absorbing mycotoxins which are natural and carcinogenic contaminants of certain basic products consumed in Mali (cereals, peanuts) to reduce the level of contamination. Yet scientific publications provide figures on the level of contamination in Mali without providing solutions. The fruit of his research is intended for rural communities.

Being in the final year of his doctorate, his first short-term objective is his thesis defence. In the medium term, Mr. Ahmadou is considering the application of his field research work to meet the needs of Malian farmers in a context of climate change. At the same time, he plans to teach at the University, to become a teacher-researcher.

Ahmadou learned about the One Planet Fellowship initiative through a network of agriculture-environment research professionals. The One Planet Fellowship programme will help him achieve his career goals through training (project writing, leadership).

Ahmadou was intrigued by the phenomenon of the significant presence of mycotoxins in the southern countries. He is therefore developing a natural product that is cheap and capable of absorbing mycotoxins, which are natural and carcinogenic contaminants of certain basic products consumed in Mali, in order to reduce the level of contamination.

In addition, the idea is also to seize opportunities through the AWARD network and to increase its visibility.

The One Planet programme will certainly have a positive impact on his community.

For Ahmadou, one of the challenges to be faced as a researcher is definitely the lack of training to properly develop a research project. In applying for this programme, where the emphasis is on capacity building, he has tried to overcome this obstacle.

**Abderahim Ahmadou** is one of the growing number of candidates selected to participate in the One Planet Fellowship. The One Planet Fellowship is a career development initiative that is building a robust pipeline of highly connected, inter-generational scientists equipped to use a gender lens to help Africa's smallholder farmers cope with climate change. The One Planet Fellowship is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the BNP Paribas Foundation, the European Union and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) and Agropolis Fondation are jointly implementing the Fellowship.

Do you have any further questions? Send an email to: [oneplanet.award@cgiar.org](mailto:oneplanet.award@cgiar.org)