



**Position**

Founder and CEO

**Institution**

Herou Alliance

**Country**

Mali

**Education**

MBA, Business  
Management

**Mentor**

Mr. Felix Tekpon  
Gblotchaou,  
monitoring reforms and  
dematerialization, office of  
the President, Mali

**Research Area**

Optimal methods of  
exploiting Moringa to  
face global warming for a  
sustainable economic and  
social impact

**Balema Rokiatou Traore**

2019 One Planet Laureate Candidate

Balema Rokiatou Traore was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, and did her primary and secondary studies in Bamako.

The eldest daughter of the family, her parents spared no effort to offer her and her four brothers and sisters an ideal family environment, conducive to their academic success.

This parental investment bore fruit because, from the age of 16, she obtained her Baccalaureate with honours in mathematics and economics at the technical high school in Bamako.

After her Baccalaureate in 2008, Rokiatou Traore enrolled at the National School of Applied Economics (Ecole Supérieure d'Economie Appliquée (was ENEA)) in Dakar for four years of theoretical lessons and practical internships in rural Senegalese environments.

She graduated as an engineer in economic planning and management of organizations.

In 2013, she went to Accra for a six month language course in English before continuing her MBA in business management at the University of Istanbul, in Turkey.

She worked for more than four years for Turkish export companies as Manager for the African market, then as Export Manager.

This experience in Turkey enabled her to extend her partnership network in Africa and Europe.

Thanks to her various talents, communicating in several languages including English, French, Italian and Turkish, Traore has been able to establish herself in the business world and collaborate better with economic operators around the world.

She carried out a short trip of six months to Geneva, where she worked at the International Telecommunication Union (United Nations) as Assistant to the Deputy Director of Human Resources.

It was following these cumulative experiences that Traore decided to undertake, in 2018, a project devoted to the transformation of Moringa.

Her research is based on optimal methods of exploiting Moringa to cope with global warming and above all to create a lasting economic and social impact, in favour of rural women and young people.

She intends to assist farmers, women's groups and young people, by training them in the techniques of production, processing and packaging of 100% natural Moringa products.

It was through her own research that she discovered the "One Planet fellowship" programme.

The training on leadership and methods of adaptation to climate change and especially the mentorship from which she will benefit as part of the programme, will help her to establish and develop her project.

Traore, who did not hesitate to come to the introductory meeting of the "One Planet Fellowship" laureates with her one month old baby, stresses the importance for women to find the right balance between family life and work.

Traore's research focuses on how best to explore Moringa to cope with global warming and, above all, to create a sustainable economic and social impact, benefiting rural women and young people. She intends to train farmers in the production, processing and packaging of 100% natural Moringa-based products.

She strongly encourages the emancipation of women, especially young girls in rural areas, and believes that through her project she will be able to contribute to the empowerment of women still living under the patriarchal yoke.

She also salutes the immeasurable support that her husband gives her in carrying out her projects.

However, she notes the difficulties she faces in collecting data on Moringa in Mali, because very few studies have been done on this subject. However, she does not give in to discouragement because, she says, "Anything is possible with an unshakable will!"

**Balema Rokiatou TRAORE** 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)

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