



Deogratias Kayumba

2019 One Planet Laureate Candidate

Position

Co-Founder and Program
Director

Institution

Human Care and Care
Community Development
in the World

Country

Zambia

Education

MSc, Science Education

Mentor

Mr. Lewis Chiwele, District
Agriculture Co-ordinator,
Ministry of Agriculture
(Zambia)

Research Area

Climate change adaptation
of food systems

Deogratias Kayumba was born in Konkola Mines Township in Kitwe, Zambia's third-largest city located in the Copperbelt Province. Although the communities rely on mining for income, they also practice subsistence farming. Therefore, as a child, Kayumba would accompany his mother to the farm. He enjoyed farming. He fondly remembers a time as a young boy when he grew vegetables and potatoes in a small garden in the backyard. He harvested a full basket of vegetables and few bags of potatoes.

At primary and secondary school, he excelled in science subjects and wanted to become a medical doctor. But his mother discouraged him because she had observed that he couldn't stand the sight of blood. She encouraged him to do agriculture because he loved it. No surprise that after high school, he chose to pursue agriculture, crossing the border into Congo, at the University of Lubumbashi, which was only a 60-minute drive from Konkola.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in 2003, he faced the hard reality of unemployment in his country. In his search to find work, he found employment as a teacher in a private school in Zambia.

His research work started at the the university of Cape Town in various research centres and programs under the African Climate Development Initiative in the school of environmental and geographical sciences under the Smart Agriculture for Climate Resilience (SmartAgri) program. The program was supporting farmers in South Africa to manage the effects of climate change through the management of water resources and crop diversification.

He enjoyed the experience of working with farmers under the SmartAgri program. He was also involved in the evaluation of the Black Economic Empowerment Program. The work was implemented under the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform in South Africa and involved evaluating the progress of the farms that had been bought from the white farmers by the government and distributed to black farmers in the Western Cape region. The evaluation assessed the status of the farm implements, crop management, and the overall sustainability of the project.

He later found his way back home to Zambia where he purchased land near Lusaka and started growing soya beans

and tomatoes. His interaction with the farmworkers led him to start teaching the surrounding community on how to practice sustainable farming. This is how he founded the Human Care and Community Development in the World (HCCDW) non-governmental organization (NGO).

Kayumba was drawn to apply for the One Planet Fellowship because its themes related to the work he was already doing - agricultural research, climate change, and smallholder farmers. "These were the magical words," he said. From the Mentoring Workshop, he was able to identify the gaps in his organization and discovered he has greater potential than he thought.

He realized he can transform his organization into an international organization, become an international leader, a trainer and mentor of other organizations to help solve the effects of climate change in Africa, and the world.

Earlier, Deogratias also benefited from the Community Solutions Fellowship Programme supported by the US government. This is a professional leadership development program targeting leaders executing projects in communities. Successful applicants are placed under a four-month fellowship curriculum with a non-profit or local government agency in the U.S.

Kayumba has never mentored anyone before, but he is planning to use the experience and knowledge from the One Planet Fellowship and the Community Solutions

Kayumba is the founder Human Care and Community Development in the World (HCCDW), an non-governmental organization (NGO) that supports smallholder farmers in smart agriculture while building their capacity to manage effects of climate change through sustainable water and soil management.

program to mentor and support youth and community members to come up with innovative solutions to their problems.

His self-motivation and commitment will keep him focused on his goal. "What I say I want to do, I do it," he said.

He also looks forward to having his novel 'The Remembrances of the Wild Goose' published someday.

Deogratias Kayumba 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