



Howélé Michaëlle Andrée Célestine Touré

2019 One Planet Laureate Candidate

A native of Ivory Coast and a brilliant student, Howélé Michaëlle Touré won a sixth form scholarship from the Ivory Coast state. She obtained her Baccalaureate D in Abidjan, where she was born. Her father, a primary school educational advisor, instilled in her a love of work and a respect for commitment.

This city girl has been passionate about agriculture since her final year at school. Having always had excellent results in Natural Sciences, she opted for the Chemistry-Biology-Geology pathway at the Félix Houphouët-Boigny University in Abidjan when she did not get a place at the School of Agronomy.

With her secondary school exams completed (DEUG - Diplôme d'études générales) in Chemistry-Biology-Geology, she specialized in genetics and achieved a degree in genetics and improvement of species (2010).

With a grant from the Ivory Coast state, she obtained a master's in genetics and improvement of plant species from the Félix Houphouët-Boigny University (2014).

She also obtained a partial scholarship from the Interprofessional Fund for Agricultural Research and Advisory Services (FIRCA - Fonds Interprofessionnel pour la Recherche et le Conseil Agricole)

Her passion for research was born during her studies and shows itself through her desire to contribute to the well-being of others, and have an impact thanks to science.

Since 2016, in favour of the West African Center for Scientific Service on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use programme, (WASCAL) funded by the German Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, and funded by the Africa Center of Excellence for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture (CEA-CCBAD - Centre d'Excellence Africain sur le changement climatique, la Biodiversité et l'Agriculture Durable) from Abidjan, Touré has been a doctoral student in the field of Climate Change and Agriculture at the University of Sciences, Techniques and Technologies of Bamako (Mali).

Her research focuses on the reduction/elimination of bacterial blight of cassava in Ivory Coast in the context of Climate Change.

Position

Doctoral student

Institution

University of Sciences,
Techniques and
Technologies of Bamako,
Mali

Country

Ivory Coast

Education

MSc, Genetics and
improvement of plant
species, Félix Houphouët-
Boigny University, Cocody,
2014

Mentor

Dr. Kangah Agoh Pauline
Dibi, Teacher-Researcher,
Félix Houphouët-Boigny
University

Research Area

Reduction/elimination of
cassava phytopathology
in the context of climate
change

Touré's research focuses on the reduction of vascular bacterial disease in cassava in Côte d'Ivoire in the context of Climate Change.

"I'm greedy," she admits with a mischievous smile.

"Even though I love 'attiéké', the real reason for my interest is this: it's the country's national dish and you should know that growing cassava covers three quarters of the territory of Ivory Coast."

She particularly enjoys carrying out interviews with farmers to collect their perceptions of climate changes and cassava diseases. This human dimension of her research motivates her, just like the traditional knowledge and know-how of local communities.

Touré aspires to become a Teacher-Researcher at the University. Her main objective is to continue to contribute to the reduction or even the elimination of plant diseases in the context of climate change.

A researcher friend sent her the call for applications for the One Planet Fellowship initiative. She also received an email about it from the head of the Genomics and Transcriptomics team for Plant-Prokaryotic Interactions at the "interaction of pathogenic plants and the environment" research unit where she was doing a six month internship in France, carrying out molecular analyses for the diversity of strains.

She knows, without a doubt, that the One Planet Fellowship programme will contribute to her career, through the training provided, the networks of researchers, the sharing of information relating to calls for applications, among other things.

In addition, the One Planet scholarship will give credibility to her work, bring visibility, and open doors to various collaborations for her institution. Also, this scholarship will participate in the popularization of her research results for the benefit of farmers and rural communities. Indeed, the tools acquired during the training will certainly facilitate dialogue with farmers.

According to Touré, the obstacles to be overcome are of several kinds for African women researchers. First, obtaining results from research work. Second, seeking funding. Patience, perseverance and determination are the answers to overcome both.

Howélé Michaëlle Andrée Célestine Touré 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