



Ines Fabienne Rouamba

2019 One Planet Laureate Candidate

Position

Research Engineer

Institution

International Institute of
Water and Environmental
Engineering (2IE),
Ouagadougou, Burkina
Faso

Country

Burkina Faso

Education

MSc II, research in
Sociology, specialising in
social development

Mentor

Dr. Zougouri Sita,
Anthropologist; Gender
and Climate Change,
Joseph Ki-Zerbo University,
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Research Area

Adaptation strategies for
climate change

Born in Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, Inès Fabienne Rouamba was just eight years old when her mother died suddenly. This premature disappearance, though cataclysmic for this young child, was not, however, the reason she dreamt of becoming a sociologist.

In fact, despite the pain and sorrow, Inès Fabienne Rouamba learned to live without this strong mother, who was always concerned about the future of her children, and her mother's memory is a real catalyst for Rouamba's success.

In her final year at the Lycée Wend Puirée in Saaba (Ouagadougou), Ines Fabienne Rouamba discovered the writer Jacques Chevrier, author of "African Anthology". Reading this work was the moment she discovered her passion for Sociology.

Since achieving her Baccalaureate, specialising in literature (Philosophie ès Lettres) in 2007, she enrolled in the Faculty of Sociology at the University of Ouagadougou, which became the Joseph Ki-Zerbo University.

In 2011, with her bachelor's degree, she began her master's I in sociology, specialising in sociology of health and education.

Her research work on adherence to anti-retro viral treatments in adolescents infected with HIV culminated in a master's thesis defence in 2014.

Rouamba's interest in the "Adolescents and HIV" issue, and more specifically, in the question of transfer of adolescents infected with HIV to adult medicine services is ongoing.

Her research work continued as part of her master's II thesis, researching sociology, specialising in social development, which she took at the Catholic University of West Africa (UCAO-UUB - Université Catholique de l'Afrique de l'Ouest) in Bobo-Dioulasso in 2017.

In May 2018, the young graduate was recruited as a Research Engineer in rural sociology at the International Institute of Water and Environmental Engineering (2iE) in Ouagadougou.

She is part of a research team that works on the development and sustainable management of stormwater retention basins for complementary irrigation in Burkina Faso and scaled up in Mali and Niger.

Rouamba works toward strengthening the resilience of Sahelian farmers to climate change through the sustainable management of runoff water collection basins for supplementary irrigation in Burkina Faso.

The objective of this project is to help strengthen the resilience of farmers in the Sahel in the face of climate change through sustainable and optimized management of stormwater retention basins.

Rouamba is responsible for evaluating the social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts of the construction of stormwater retention basins in terms of households and drainage basins. The work consists of assessing the basins built in Burkina Faso within the framework of a previous project relating to the effectiveness of the waterproofing techniques used, their degradation (stability, loss of capacity), the actual use of these basins and any factors constraining and/or facilitating their proper use. It also consists of identifying the gender aspects that may influence the adoption of retention basin technology.

The retention basin project in Burkina Faso takes place in the Sahelian region of the north where women, despite their pivotal role in rural activities and all other income-generating activities, have no right to land.

They are very involved in the construction of retention basins but have limited access to their use once they have been set up. This practice keeps them in a circle of poverty despite their continuous efforts.

With her desire to contribute to improving the living conditions of women in rural areas in the Sahelian areas of Burkina, Rouamba intends to develop a research project on the theme "Improving the resilience of farmers by demonstrating the key influence for women to own and manage retention basins in the northern region

of Burkina Faso to enable real leadership by women farmers in a context of climate change where men are no longer 'sedentary'".

She is convinced that the "One Planet Fellowship" experience, which offers a great opportunity for capacity building, mentoring and multidisciplinary collaboration between researchers, will greatly contribute to her professional development. This project, which will be part of her doctoral thesis, is the open door to her dream of becoming a teacher/researcher in the field of research and development.

She hopes that her participation in the "One Planet Fellowship" programme will shed some light on the importance of taking social sciences into account in climate change issues.

Rouamba regrettably underlines the social difficulties, the stigmatization still suffered by African women who want to pursue higher education and establish themselves as researchers. Gender mainstreaming and acceptance of women social scientists is still weak in the male-dominated climate change areas.

Ines Fabienne Rouamba 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