



**Position**

Research Assistant

**Institution**

School of Agronomy- Ecole Supérieure d'Agronomie (ESA)

**Country**

Togo

**Education**

PhD, Plant Pathology,  
Federal University of  
Agriculture, Abeokuta

**Mentor**

Dr. Kossivi Mawuli  
Aziadekey, Plant Genetics)

**Research Area**

Varietal improvement  
technologies

## Oluyemi Titilola Akintayo

2019 One Planet Laureate Candidate

Oluyemi Titilola Akintayo was born in Monrovia, Liberia. She spent her childhood between Liberia, Chad, Mali and her country of origin, Togo.

Her researcher father, holder of a PhD in Entomology, works for International Institutions in research and development.

Akintayo and her four brothers and sisters benefitted from optimal parental supervision which would contribute to good academic results.

In 2008, she enrolled at the Catholic University of West Africa in Cotonou, Benin to do a bachelor's degree in general agronomy, which she obtained in 2011.

2012 marked her debut as a master's degree researcher in seed science and technology at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana.

There, she worked on the characterization and purification of the Jasmine 85 rice variety cultivated in Ghana.

After completing her master's in 2014, she considered a doctoral thesis and the offer of a scholarship from the "Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Development and Sustainable Environment" funded by the World Bank was very timely.

She started her PhD in Nigeria at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta.

Her research was based on increasing the yield of small farmers in the rice sector and detecting QTL (Quantitative Traits Locus) for tolerance to submersion.

Her interest was directed towards improving the genome of existing varieties, producing seeds, as well as introducing the traits sought by smallholders in elite varieties using new crop improvement technologies.

Akintayo's research is dedicated to improving the genome of existing varieties, seed production, as well as introducing traits sought by smallholder farmers into elite varieties using new crop improvement technologies.

During her thesis, which she finished in 2018, Akintayo helped her director to introgress new genes into elite varieties of rice in order to mitigate the constraints of climate change.

The varieties had been improved according to the needs of the farmers and with their participation, which resulted in homologation.

Through her research, Akintayo would like to contribute to food self-sufficiency in Africa and more specifically to provide farmers with varieties adapted to their production environment.

She plans to continue to learn and increase her scientific knowledge while strengthening her leadership skills. She did not hesitate to apply for the "One Planet Fellowship" programme which she learned about on the AWARD website.

The visibility, training and mentorship offered by the "One Planet Fellowship" programme will strengthen her ability to work both as a team and independently while advocating the promotion of equity, gender and equal rights in her community.

A young, married woman, Akintayo underlines the support and encouragement which her husband gives her, just as her parents gave her throughout her educational pathway.

**Oluyemi Titilola Akintayo** 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)

[www.awardfellowships.org](http://www.awardfellowships.org) | [www.oneplanetfellowship.org](http://www.oneplanetfellowship.org) | [www.oneplanetsummit.fr](http://www.oneplanetsummit.fr)