



**Position**

Associate Researcher

**Institution**

Laboratory of Ecology, Health and Agricultural Production, Laboratoire d'Ecologie, de Santé et de Production Agricole(LEPSA ), Faculty of Agronomy, University of Parakou

**Country**

Benin

**Education**

PhD, Agronomic and Water Sciences, University of Parakou, 2017

**Mentor**

Professor Mohamed Nasser Baco, Teacher-Researcher, University of Parakou, Faculty of Agronomy, Society-Environment Laboratory

**Research Area**

The improvement of animal production systems for enteric methane reduction and increased soil carbon sequestration

**Alassan Assani Seidou**

2019 One Planet Laureate Candidate

At the age of 12, Dr. Alassan Assani Seidou answered "I want to become a Doctor" when his 6th grade teacher asked him what job he would like to do later on in life. Surprised by his answer, his teacher replied. "Do you realise that means 25 years of study? " Far from being discouraged, on the contrary, Seidou acquiesced. "I would like to take up this challenge by the grace of the Lord," he said with a broad smile, full of confidence.

Born in Founougo in the commune of Banikoara in the north of Benin, a commune renowned for cotton production, cereal production and animal husbandry, Seidou did brilliantly in his primary studies, remaining there for college (BEPC secondary school exams).

Each year, he stood out among the best students in the school and was always awarded. Curious, awakened, he loved experiments, with the complicity of his twin brother.

As a child, he regularly accompanied his farmer/pastoralist parents to the fields. In addition, the tradition was that every child in the village had a goat.

So, being very young and from a large family, Seidou devoted himself to agriculture (local rice, corn and black-eyed peas) and livestock (poultry, sheep and goats). However, from childhood he developed a preference for rearing livestock, which quickly became his passion. "My goats were very prolific," he remembers, with pride.

For sixth form, he left for the town of Kandi, 94.7 km from his village, living with his grandfather. There he was awarded his Baccalaureate D with honours in 2007, the only student in the school to receive honours.

"In the village, everyone said I had a gift for rearing livestock," he says. "This was certainly true, as it was clearly revealed to me in class at University." Aware of the lack of local skills in the field of rearing livestock, Seidou naturally opted for this pathway. So, after his Baccalaureate, following the selection process to choose the best pupils for the "grandes écoles",

Seidou started his agronomy engineering degree specialising in livestock production at the University of Parakou. To do this, he benefitted from a scholarship from the Benin state.

Seidou's research focuses on improving animal production systems to reduce enteric methane and increase soil carbon sequestration.

Awarded a Master's degree in Animal Resource Management (2015) from the University of Abomey-Calavi, he returned to the University of Parakou for a thesis in Agronomic and Water Sciences which he defended in 2017.

Associate researcher at the Laboratory of Ecology, Health and Agricultural Production (LEPSA), Faculty of Agronomy (FA) at the University of Parakou, his research work revolves around three themes: (i) the improvement of livestock production systems for the reduction of enteric methane and the increase of carbon sequestration in the soil, (ii) the sustainable management of transhumance in protected areas in the context of climate change, (iii) the development of food resources which cannot be used by humans in the feeding of domestic animals.

He uses companion modelling and modelling of socio-ecological systems (SES) to better study each phenomenon. As part of sector studies or capacity building, Seidou works with rural communities. He is also an agri-preneur.

He found out about the One Planet scholarship by chance, on the internet.

He believes that the range of training received in terms of capacity building and leadership coupled with scientific research skills will both help achieve his career goals and improve his research work.

He is also aware that networking is essential for the development of his career.

One of the major difficulties that African researchers face, he says, is resources. To overcome them, the solution lies in developing research projects to submit to seek funding.

**Alassan Assani Seidou** 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)