



**Kidest Firde Bante**

2019 AWARD-EIAR  
Fellow

<b>Position</b>	Researcher
<b>Institution</b>	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
<b>Country</b>	Ethiopia
<b>MPhil</b>	Radiation Processing, University of Ghana, 2011
<b>Mentor</b>	Atsede Solomon Reta, Researcher, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
<b>Research Area</b>	Temperate fruit varieties and germplasms.



Bante's research centres on working to increase fruit production which could have multiple uses for the farmers: crop diversification; ensuring food and nutrition security; and promoting income generation.

Kidest Firde Bante is a researcher at EIAR's Holetta Agricultural Research Centre on Horticultural Crops. She works with the Temperate Fruit Research Program, and is mainly involved in the generation, introduction and adoption of temperate fruit technologies. She also participates in scaling up of new research findings and technologies, training of farmers, experts and agricultural development agents, evaluating the best orchard and nursery management practices, and promoting temperate fruit propagation techniques.

Bante noted that in the Ethiopian highlands, much emphasis has been put on cereal-based agriculture resulting in unintended exposure to vitamin deficiencies. For this reason, she is working to increase fruit production which could have multiple uses for the farmers: crop diversification; ensuring food and nutrition security; and promoting income generation.

Working closely with rural communities, Bante notes that, "I have always been interested in contributing to the agricultural sector in my country, considering that 85% of the population live in the rural areas, and agriculture is the backbone of Ethiopia's economy. My work in this area will contribute to improving the livelihoods of the local communities."

Through the AWARD Fellowship, she hopes to widen her networks, and gain information, experience and knowledge in her research area. It will also give her an opportunity to participate in various workshops and short-term training opportunities which will in turn increase her visibility.



"I also hope to gain skills on how to integrate gender into my day-to-day activities and of course look out for opportunities to pursue PhD studies."

Bante is one of a growing number of women agricultural scientists who have won a customized institutional Fellowship for the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR). The customized institutional Fellowship is an intervention of AWARD's Gender Responsive Agricultural Research and Development (GRARD) initiative that supports institutional capacity for gender-responsive agricultural research.

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) works toward inclusive, agriculture-driven prosperity for the African continent by strengthening the production and dissemination of more gender responsive agricultural research and innovation. We invest in African scientists, research institutions, and agribusinesses so that they can deliver agricultural innovations that better respond to the needs and priorities of a diversity of women and men across Africa's agricultural value chains.

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