



Rahel Bacha

2019 AWARD-EAIR
Fellow



“Growing up, I always dreamed of becoming an educator, I am interested in investigating how female-headed households can be assisted to be more efficient and effective in their production activities”

Bacha 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.

Position	Junior Researcher
Institution	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
Country	Ethiopia
BSc	Agricultural Economics
Mentor	Dereje Alemu
Research Area	Production cost of sorghum, value chain analysis of high-value agricultural commodities, and the dynamics of farming systems.

Rahel Bacha holds a BSc in Agricultural Economics from Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine in Ethiopia. She is currently working as a Junior Researcher and is primarily engaged in three research projects: production cost of sorghum; value chain analysis of high-value agricultural commodities; and the dynamics of farming systems.

“Growing up, I always dreamed of becoming an educator. I wanted to build the capacity of women from rural communities and give them the opportunity to improve their livelihoods. I am also interested in investigating how female-headed households can be assisted to be more efficient and effective in their production activities,” she noted.

Therefore during her second year, she took a course which focused on capacity building at community-level. Even as she continued to pursue her studies at the university, she always knew that one day she would return to work with the communities in rural Ethiopia.

On the challenges that she has faced as a female researcher, Bacha mentioned that women in science remain a minority and have had to deal with negative societal perceptions that they cannot make good scientists.

She hopes that apart from helping her achieve her career goals, the AWARD Fellowship will also help her network effectively and build her skills in communicating science and proposal writing.

“In the course of my fellowship I will share the knowledge acquired with my peers in the institution, especially the female researchers, as I believe this will help them to advance their careers,” she concludes.

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.

For more information visit, www.awardfellowships.org