



Ribka Mekuria

2019 AWARD-EAIR
Fellow

Position	Junior Researcher
Institution	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
Country	Ethiopia
BSc	Natural Resource Management
Mentor	Ashenafi Nigussie, Associate Research, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
Research Area	Improving soil fertility management technology to enhance agricultural productivity and improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.



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Ribka Mekuria is a graduate of Natural Resource Management from Haremaya University. She is currently working at Wondo Genet Agricultural Research Centre as a junior researcher.

“I work on the response of crops to both organic and inorganic fertilizers. Examples include the response of pineapple varieties to different levels of potassium fertilizer and the response of coffee to organic and inorganic fertilizers.”

She notes that this research area is important as it will contribute to understanding the amount of fertilizer that is best for yield growth, yield quality as well as the best for soil. Mekuria is also interested in working on the impact of climate change on the vulnerability of women in Africa, especially in Ethiopia.

“Climate change is an important issue which everyone is currently talking about. It has had a significant impact on the lives of women and children, so I would like to carry out research on how to mitigate these effects, especially among families of smallholder farmers. I am keen to come up with new and innovative technologies that could contribute to increasing agricultural productivity and improving the livelihoods of small-scale farmers. I also hope to increase the visibility of women farmers in the agricultural sector,” she revealed.

Mekuria hopes that the AWARD Fellowship will help her manage conflict at the workplace more effectively and improve her research skills. She plans to pass on her newly acquired knowledge to other researchers in her institution, especially women whose numbers she was pleased to point out had increased from 12% to 21%.



Mekuria 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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