



**Truiyanet Mekuriaw
Gobeze**

2019 AWARD-EIAR
Fellow

Position	Researcher and Head of Extension and Communication
Institution	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
Country	Ethiopia
MSc	Rural Development
Mentor	Dr. Bediru Beshir Abdi, Director, Melkassa Agricultural Research Centre
Research Area	Demonstration and popularization of new agricultural technologies.

Truiyanet Mekuriaw Gobeze is a researcher and head of extension and communication at Debrezeit Agricultural Research Centre. A graduate in Rural Development, her dream is to improve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers in Ethiopia through gender-responsive research and functional research farmer linkage that promote effective technologies.

She is currently involved in demonstration and popularization of new agricultural technologies. "Our aim is to evaluate the performance of new, improved varieties and agricultural practices at the farm level, based on the attributes of both male and female farmers. Prioritizing technologies with farmers eases the process of scaling up new technologies."

On her choice of career, Gobeze noted that she grew up in a rural community where agriculture was the main source of livelihood, and therefore had a clear understanding of the day-to-day challenges. She resolved that she wanted to pursue a career that would make a difference to the lives of her people.

"I love my profession and helping smallholder farmers. Every little effort counts. For example, I witnessed lime treatment, which is used to reduce soil acidity, increase yields from 3 quintal per hectare to 35 quintal per hectare."

In the course of her research, Truiyanet works directly with smallholder farmers, some of whom are women and youth. She has conducted training sessions for farmers on new technologies, with the aim of promoting agriculture as a business rather than for subsistence.



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Gobeze 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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Through the AWARD Fellowship, she expects to develop her knowledge and skills. "I am confident that my role as an AWARD Fellow will also help me to develop skills in writing scientific papers and proposals, and in clearly communicating my findings," she says. "I look forward to expanding my networks and enhancing my leadership skills."

As a female scientist at EIAR, Truayinet is motivated to "pay it forward" through experience sharing and organizing training workshops for female colleagues. On challenges she mentioned gender bias and discrimination in the workplace.

"I'm sure my institute is going to benefit from the new knowledge and skills, and I am committed to working toward improving the livelihoods of rural communities in my country," she concludes.