



Fabrice Blanchard Allechy

2020 One Planet Laureate Candidate

Position

PhD student

Institution

Université Felix Houphouët-Boigny

Country

Côte d'Ivoire

Education

MSc, Earth Sciences with Hydrogeology, Université Felix Houphouët-Boigny, Côte d'Ivoire

Mentor

Dr. Vami Hermann N'Guessan Bi, Associate Professor, Université Felix Houphouët Boigny, Abidjan

Research Area

Water resources, climate change, and agriculture focusing on climate change prediction in agriculture, remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS), mapping, and aquifer vulnerability studies.

Fabrice Blanchard Allechy is a PhD student at the Université Felix Houphouët-Boigny in Abidjan. His current research is focused on climate prediction for agriculture. His other areas of expertise include geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, hydrogeology, and mapping. He has written three scientific papers and seven articles on climate change and climate prediction in the west-central region of Côte d'Ivoire.

Fabrice regularly works with vulnerable rural communities. In addition, during his last field mission, he held many discussions with farmers and developed a keen interest in their views on climate change and its effects on production.

Fabrice was born in 1988 in Bingerville Côte d'Ivoire on the banks of the Ebrié lagoon and lived in various cities across the country during his childhood. Upon reaching secondary school-going age, he settled with his family in Abidjan. In secondary school, he developed a strong interest in exploration.

"I wanted to be in the field, in nature, and, more importantly, I enjoyed the practical side," says Fabrice. These nature classes were an opportunity for the teenager to escape the monotony of learning theory in a classroom.

"It was tangible and visible," he recalls with emotion.

After obtaining his high school diploma (Maths and Natural Sciences stream) from the Lycée Classique d'Abidjan in 2007, he specialized in chemistry, biology, and geology (C.B.G) at the Université Felix Houphouët-Boigny in Abidjan, confident that it was the right decision.

When he began his university program, his fascination with practical laboratory work was evident. In the second year, he obtained his General Studies Diploma (DEUG) in Chemistry, Biology, and Geology and developed a true passion for geology.

After obtaining a Bachelor's degree in geology in 2010, it was logical to enroll in a Master's degree in hydrogeology. He was awarded a national scholarship from the University. Additionally, he graduated top of his Master's degree class and developed an interest in climate change, a global issue and the subject of many conferences and symposiums.

Fabrice is highly motivated and hopes to become an associate professor to share his knowledge with students and eventually produce publications to "help the African scientific community move forward." He also wants to help the farming community.

The One Planet Fellowship will help Fabrice develop extensive expertise, mainly through training.

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He believes that becoming an associate professor requires strong leadership and communication skills. He also plans to draw on his mentors' experience to advance his professional career.

The One Planet Fellowship will also benefit Fabrice's institution in numerous ways: training and career development programs, as well as international internships, will broaden his knowledge, build his reputation and add credibility to his research work.

He believes that these assets will facilitate his integration as an associate professor at the Université Felix Houphouët-Boigny, his home institution.

As a researcher, Fabrice has surmounted many challenges, including the lack of data in his field. Another challenge with research in general, and particularly in Africa, is the lack of financial resources. Unfortunately, state scholarships are insufficient. Fabrice has often invested his savings in his research work, using his income from mentoring and tutoring services to young people.

However, in 2019, his efforts were rewarded when he received a travel grant from WARC (West African Research Centre). At the pandemic's start, he spent over four months at the Interfaculty Centre of Training and Research in Environment for Sustainable Development (CIFRED) at the University of Abomey Calavi in Benin.

Passionate, dynamic, and determined, Sow strives to meet the technical and logistical challenges he faces daily, especially in his fieldwork, where research time is limited and the work is highly demanding. He quickly recognized that there are disparities between theory and practice. He has rapidly learned to adapt, anticipate, organize himself differently, and demonstrate creativity in the field based on observations made over time.

Fabrice Blanchard Allechy 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

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