



Janvier Egah

2020 One Planet Laureate Candidate

Position

Associate Professor

Institution

Faculty of Agronomy at the
University of Parakou (UP)

Country

Benin

Education

PhD, Socio-Economics of Rural
Development, University of
Abomey-Calavi

Mentor

Dr. Florent Okry, National
University of Agriculture, Porto
Novo, Benin

Research Area

Qualitative and quantitative
approaches to agro-biodiversity
management, gender equality,
food security, and climate
change.

An agricultural engineer, socio-economist, and a Ph.D. holder in the Socio-Economics of Rural Development from the University of Abomey-Calavi, Janvier is an Associate Professor at the Department of Rural Economics and Sociology and at the Centre for Advanced Training in Agricultural Sciences at the University of Parakou.

He teaches food sociology, the development of sectors and value chains, and the sociology of natural resources. He has been working on qualitative and quantitative approaches to agrobiodiversity management, rural migration, adopting and disseminating agricultural innovations, food security, gender equality, agricultural financing, and climate change for over ten years.

Janvier has spent his Ph.D. studying time at several universities, including the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium. He gained skills in applying structural equation models, social network analysis, and multivariate analysis to gender and food security issues.

Janvier was born in 1984 and grew up in Tohouéhoué, his native village, located in the commune of Djakotomey, southwest of Cotonou, Benin. As a young boy, science was his passion. To the surprise of many, he obtained his high school diploma in maths and natural sciences with an average pass rate because

he was not ranked among the best students for the first time in his studies. Despite having farming parents, Janvier did not immediately consider moving into this field. The only way to compensate for what he thought to be a failure in his high school diploma was to pass an entrance exam for higher education.

Ambitious and bold, Janvier enjoys a challenge. With this mindset, he registered for the entrance exam to the Faculty of Agronomy in Parakou, the largest city in northern Benin. After ranking second in the exam nationwide, Janvier was awarded a state scholarship from the Beninese government covering the entire cost of his engineering program. At 20 years old, he left his native region for the first time to go to Parakou.

In 2004, he enrolled at the Faculty of Agronomy and was awarded the Diploma in General Agronomy (DAG) in his fourth year of study. In 2010, after five years of study, Janvier obtained his Agricultural Engineering Diploma in Rural Economics and Sociology.

Since Janvier lacked the financial resources to continue his postgraduate studies, he worked as an assistant to a professor (his supervisor) for the Society-Environment Research and Action Group, now known as LaSEn (Society-Environment Laboratory) the University of Parakou.

Janvier's research centers on the socio-economics of rural development, specifically the cross-disciplinary themes: gender equality, food security, biodiversity, climate change, innovation, and agricultural financing. He is particularly interested in reconciling climate change and gender with food and nutrition security

In 2012, encouraged by his supervisor to continue his academic studies, Janvier applied for a call for applications for an International Development Research Centre project implemented at the University of Parakou, as part of a Diploma of Advanced Studies in the Sociology of Natural Resources, which he completed in 2013.

Between 2012 and 2013, the Beninese government launched a call for applications from Ph.D. students through the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Thanks to his determination, he was selected for this scholarship.

At around the same time, the World Bank launched a call for applications from Ph.D. students as part of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme.

Janvier was awarded this scholarship as well in 2014, which covered some of his project costs. He then left Parakou for Cotonou to attend the University of Abomey-Calavi.

In 2016, Janvier successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis in the socio-economics of rural development at the University of Abomey-Calavi.

His thesis was based on rural credit systems and food security for rural households in Benin. His large family, and people in the hamlet where he is the sole doctor, were incredibly proud of him.

Janvier prefers cross-disciplinary themes: gender equality, food security, biodiversity, climate change, innovation, and agricultural financing.

He is particularly interested in reconciling climate change and gender with food and nutrition security.

He found out about the One Planet Fellowship through social media. Janvier believes that every aspect of the One Planet program offers an excellent opportunity to build his interpersonal (leadership, mentoring) and scientific capacities. It will open doors to collaborations with large networks and research institutions.

Janvier plans to ensure that all laboratory professionals, non-professional members, and development stakeholders benefit from the program. He would also like to put the knowledge acquired to good use by offering consultancy services.

Janvier highlights the importance of influencing political decision-makers and elected local and community officials. He recognizes that his biggest challenge is improving his English. He is skilled in quantitative and qualitative research methods but believes he still has some work to learn new analysis methods.

Janvier Egah 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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