



Marie Daba Sene

2020 One Planet Laureate Candidate

Position

Researcher (Ph.D. student)

Institution

Gaston Berger University in
Saint-Louis

Country

Senegal

Education

MSc, with Development and
Social Change, Gaston Berger
University, Saint-Louis, Senegal

Mentor

Dr. Sadio Ba Gning, Senior
Lecturer in Sociology, Gaston
Berger University in Saint-Louis,
and Associate Researcher, LPED/
IRD

Research Area

Gender research related to
environmental and sustainable
development issues.

Marie Daba Sene was born in 1991, in Kaolack, southeast of Dakar, in Marieval. She grew up in Kaolack, which is a major trade center for groundnuts. While there, she obtained her high school diploma in human and social sciences in 2010. Marie enrolled in the sociology program at the Gaston Berger University in Saint-Louis, Marieval, in 2010.

After her first year of university, she majored in the sociology of development. Marie enjoys documenting the development issues faced by women, particularly those in rural areas so that she can offer solutions to their problems.

In 2013, she obtained her Bachelor's degree in Sociology, specializing in development from the Gaston Berger University in Saint Louis. She then went on to a Master's degree II in sociology. While writing her Master's thesis and conducting field research, she discovered the green economy and decided to focus on women farmers in agroecology.

The main focus of her research is women's role in the agroecology sector in Marieval. Marie's work concerns opportunities and constraints in the agroecology sector and reducing gender inequalities in agriculture.

She would like to understand better how the innovation of agroecology can combat the effects of climate change, provide opportunities

for repositioning women's place in society, and gain recognition and visibility for their role in developing sustainable agriculture.

In 2016, she enrolled for a Ph.D. specializing in gender issues related to agroecology. Marie's specialist field of research involves working with women's advancement groups and agricultural cooperatives. Her field studies are currently focused on the Fatick region.

In 2017, she was awarded the Hampâté Bâ Scholarship financed by Nantes Métropole. The same year, she participated in a research program to promote agroecology in West Africa, which involved 10 Ph.D. students from Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, and Marieval.

Marie is passionate about agroecology despite initially believing that this discipline was reserved for scientists only.

In early 2020, a colleague informed her about the One Planet Fellowship. Marie decided to apply because it seemed a perfect fit for her research topic. The Fellowship will allow her to broaden her knowledge of agriculture and climate change.

She hopes to acquire different skills and develop proficiency in other fields since agroecology is vast and multidisciplinary.

Marie is working to determine opportunities and constraints in the agroecology sector and reducing gender inequalities in agriculture. She is exploring how the innovation of agroecology can combat the effects of climate change and create opportunities for women small holders to better contribute to the sustainability of agriculture in Senegal.

Another crucial part of Fellowship for Marie is the leadership element. She views the Fellowship as an opportunity to develop future collaborative projects with other laureates.

Given the limited number of associate professors in sociology specializing in gender, agriculture, and climate change, the One Planet Fellowship is an opportunity for her institution to stand out and train other students.

Upon completing her thesis, Marie aims to launch a multi-stakeholder project by establishing a platform uniting women's agroecology associations in Marieval to raise their profiles.

In addition to pursuing a career in teaching and research, she hopes to work with development organizations to provide better support for women's agricultural initiatives and promote a more inclusive development strategy.

Her long-term aim is to work with the Mariegalese government's decision-making bodies.

Marie is facing many challenges. It is often challenging to establish initial contact with people in her profession, especially in rural areas known to be very conservative. She often encounters reluctance to adopt social science research methods. In such circumstances, she has learned to assert herself by defending her ideas. Integration is not always easy, but she always gets her point of view across thanks to her persistence.

Throughout her field studies, Marie has noted a bias in gender perceptions. However, she has also observed that solidarity and complementarity in relationships between men and women can obtain more incredible individual and social freedom.

Marie Daba Sene 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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