



## Kouadio Kouakou Christelle Marina

2020 One Planet Laureate Candidate

### Position

Postdoctoral Researcher

### Institution

Nangui Abrogoua University  
(UNA)

### Country

Côte d'Ivoire

### Education

PhD, Food Science and  
Technology, Nangui Abrogoua  
University

### Mentor

N'Nan Sylvie Diby, Associate  
Professor at Peleforo Gon  
Coulibaly University (UPGC) in  
Korhogo

### Research Area

Nutrition and Food Systems in  
Sub-Saharan Africa.

30-year-old Kouadio Kouakou Christelle Marina, a postdoctoral researcher at the Nangui Abrogoua University in Abidjan, has had a brilliant scientific career thus far. She developed a keen interest in scientific disciplines from early childhood, and particularly in natural sciences. At secondary school, she already knew that she wanted to become a scientist.

A brilliant student, this daughter of a teacher and an accountant, born in Ouellé, in the center-east of Côte d'Ivoire, received a state scholarship from the Ivorian government from Year 7 to Year 13.

After obtaining her high school diploma (Maths and Science stream) in 2007, Kouadio enrolled in a Natural Sciences (NS) program at the Nangui Abrogoua University in Abidjan. After completing the first two years of the core curriculum, she specialized in Biochemistry.

In 2013, after receiving her Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Food Technology, Kouadio continued onto a postgraduate program.

Eager to get started and broaden her knowledge of agro-food, she successfully passed a Master's I in Biochemistry and Food Technology in 2014 and a Master's II in Nutrition and Food Safety the following year.

She obtained her Ph.D. in 2020. Kouadio specialized in nutrition and food security

because, in her view, people are facing major nutritional issues in Côte d'Ivoire. All of her research topics focus on widely consumed foods with low nutritional value.

The key focus of her research is nutrition and food systems in sub-Saharan Africa, specifically on the enrichment of cereal flours and fermented cassava (attiéké). The beneficial effects of eating enriched attiéké have been proven, and the results are promising.

Furthermore, the processes and techniques for manufacturing enriched attiéké are now better understood and produced on an industrial scale.

While browsing through scientific articles, she realized that legumes could have a vital role in the fight against climate change.

She believes that scaling up the production of legumes rich in vegetable proteins and cheaper than animal proteins would encourage the population to consume more.

While conducting her thesis research, Kouadio worked on a project led by the National Centre for Agronomic Research (CNRA) in Côte d'Ivoire on the various uses of cassava and to identify new cassava varieties.

She was required to conduct research work with rural communities for this project.

Kouadio was informed about the One Planet Fellowship by a manager at the National Centre for Agronomic Research (CNRA), an AWARD Laureate, in 2014.

She is confident that she can collaborate with other researchers and improve her writing skills through the One Planet Fellowship.

Participating in the Fellowship will also enhance her leadership skill, which is vital for an Associate Professor. Finally, the mentoring training will make her an excellent professional mentor and better coach her students.

Kouadio's career goal is to work for an international humanitarian organization. She plans to improve her skills in identifying and developing solutions that will effectively address the needs, challenges, and priorities of different population groups in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in Côte d'Ivoire.

Kouadio is looking forward to working with other researchers from various countries and is proud to be part of an internationally renowned program.

Kouadio's is working on nutrition and food systems in sub-Saharan Africa, specifically on the enrichment of cereal flours and fermented cassava (attiéké). She aspires to improve her skills to identify and develop solutions that will effectively address the needs, challenges, and priorities of different population groups in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly Côte d'Ivoire.

**Kouadio Kouakou Christelle Marina** 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](mailto:oneplanet.award@cgiar.org)

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