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Position

Researcher – Monitoring and Evaluation Manager

Institution

Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)

Country

Senegal

Education

PhD, Agricultural Economics, Gaston Berger University, Saint-Louis, Senegal

Mentor

Katim Touré: Associate Professor of Rural Economics at the Katim Touré: Associate Professor of Rural Economics at the University of Thiès, Senegal

Research Area

Agricultural Economics.

Ndeye Seynabou Diouf

2020 One Planet Laureate Candidate

Ndeye Seynabou Diouf grew up in Dakar, the capital of Senegal, with her family and her father, who worked as a researcher for several years.

The eldest of five children, Ndeye's chosen field of study was inspired by her mother, who played a significant role in her education.

She attended the Notre Dame de Dakar school from primary school to the last year of secondary school.

Having already demonstrated a flair for Physics and Chemistry from junior school, she decided to go into this field after obtaining her High School Diploma in 2001.

However, the only national entrance exam was at the National School of Agriculture in Thiès.

She was strongly encouraged by friends and family to apply.

She was the first of the fourteen students selected during the competition and the only girl to everyone's surprise.

In 2006, she acquired a degree in macroeconomics, specializing in rural economics. The following year, as a young graduate, she worked for six months as a consultant for the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development on climate change in general and, in particular, on bio-economic modeling.

She also worked as a consultant at the Vegetable Centre, collaborating with the National Institute of Agricultural Research in Mali.

She studied for an MBA from 2007 to 2008, specializing in Project Management at the African Centre for Management Studies in Dakar.

At the graduation ceremony for agricultural engineers, the Minister of Agriculture put forward a proposal for the ministry's technical department to recruit young graduates.

This provided her an opportunity to work for the Société de Développement Agricole et Industriel du Sénégal (Agricultural and Industrial Development Company of Senegal - SODAGRI) as a technical advisor to the Director-General.

Between 2009 and 2011, while she was as technical advisor to the Director-General of SODAGRI, she was appointed as SODAGRI's key contact for gender and communication, representing the Ministry of Agriculture.

She was required to design a program to promote small-scale irrigation schemes in the Anambé basin.

Between 2011 and 2016, Ndeye was the Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Manager for the Gates Project and Research Centre at Tostan International.

Ndeye is exploring ways to improve access to and promote climate services in rural areas for farmers, breeders and fishermen to enable them to adapt their decision-making to improve their agricultural production.

She was able to work even more closely with rural communities.

Since 2016, Ndeye has been a specialist Researcher in Monitoring and Evaluation for Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security Research Programme at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (CAAFS/ICRISAT) in Dakar.

In 2017, she successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis in rural economics at the Gaston Berger University in Saint-Louis program.

Ndeye decided to pursue a career in her field because there have been many technological innovations in agricultural economics, but not enough evidence of their effectiveness for authorities and policymakers in Africa.

Currently, she focuses on improving access to and promoting climate services in rural areas for farmers, breeders and fishermen. Some have found that using seasonal forecasts enables them to adapt their decision-making to improve their agricultural production. She has written scientific papers which have proved this theory.

She found out about the One Planet Fellowship through social media. The Fellowship will facilitate exchange visits and help broaden her knowledge, and build relationships with a network of experts working in the same field.

She believes that she has already gained greater recognition among her peers due to being a Laureate of the One Planet Fellowship. She thinks it will allow her to help rural communities even more.

One of the significant obstacles for Ndeye is the language barrier because the scientific world is predominantly English-speaking.

As a female researcher, wife, and mother of three children, the weight of responsibility prevents her from being as productive as her male counterparts. As a result, women of equal seniority to men produce fewer publications, "which is frustrating," she notes.

Fortunately, she remains driven by her motivation and passion for succeeding. This is particularly true when she humbly remembers the appreciation shown by her managers at the various companies and institutions she has worked.

Ndeye Seynabou Diouf 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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