



Fidèle Bawomon Neya

2020 One Planet Laureate Candidate

Position

Associate Professor

Institution

Nazi Boni University

Country

Burkina Faso

Education

PhD, Applied Biological Sciences, Joseph Ki-Zerbo University, Burkina Faso

Mentor

Dr. Gilles Ibié Thio, Researcher at the Environmental Institute for Agricultural Research (INERA) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Research Area

(Plant) crop protection: sustainable management of crop pests.

Fidèle Bawomon Neya was born in 1980 in Sandié, Burkina Faso, where he spent his childhood. When he was 12 years old, his father was transferred to another area in the province, in Réo. He received several awards in primary school and was awarded a scholarship from the Burkinabe government for primary and secondary school.

From an early age, Fidèle was fascinated by his father's books, a teacher trainer of young farmers. From that point on, he endeavored to find a job related to agriculture.

Fidèle obtained his high school diploma in 2002 and enrolled in a science and technology course at the Joseph Ki-Zerbo University in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso.

He acquired a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences in 2005 and a Master's degree in Plant Biology and Plant Physiology in 2006. The following year, he enrolled for a Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Studies in Plant Pathology and graduated in 2008.

Keen to continue his research, he remained at the same laboratory thanks to the CRSP groundnut project, the PMIL groundnut project, the Burkinabè government's National Education and Research Fund, and a grant from AUF. His determination to proceed with his research led him to enroll for a thesis.

He subsequently obtained a Ph.D. in Applied Biological Sciences/Phytopathology and Plant Improvement in 2017 from Joseph Ki-Zerbo University.

His thesis focused on the heritability of resistance to cercosporiosis in peanuts (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) and specific yield-related characteristics. Fidèle successfully defended his thesis in 2017.

Fidèle is currently an Associate Professor at the Gaoua University Centre. His research focuses on managing crop pests on groundnuts in different regions in the east and near the Sahel.

The majority of groundnut producers are women in Burkina Faso, and it is an essential source of income for these farmers.

Fidèle hopes to be a full professor, but he wants to write scientific papers on his research findings before that. He would also like to draft projects and mentor students.

He learned about the One Planet Fellowship through a friend and colleague who is also an associate professor.

For Fidèle, this Fellowship provides an ideal framework for professional development. He believes that the mentors' role will steer him towards opportunities and provide guidance in the right direction.

Fidèle plans to further develop his skills in research projects on climate-dependent crop diseases to support rural communities for his career development. He also believes it will make him more competitive in his research field.

His institution will benefit from his improved leadership skills and the links forged with experienced scientists, both in Africa and internationally.

Thanks to One Planet, he will be a better mentor to his students and collaborate more effectively with his colleagues. "If I can be productive, it will benefit the institution," he explains. Fidèle highlights the importance of learning to share knowledge and skills from the start of your career, which is why the One Planet initiative deserves to be commended.

Fidèle recognizes that groundnuts is an essential source of income to farmers in Burkina Faso, especially women, who are the major producers. He is therefore exploring the management of crop pests on groundnuts in different regions in the east and near the Sahel.

Fidèle Bawomon Ney 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

www.awardfellowships.org | www.oneplanetsummit.fr