



## Osayomore Endurance Ekhurutomwen

2020 One Planet Laureate Candidate

### Position

Research Officer

### Institution

Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm  
Research (NIFOR)

### Country

Nigeria

### Education

MSc, Plant Pathology, University  
of Benin, Nigeria

### Mentor

Ms. Mary Ekaete Udoh ,  
Principial Research Officer,  
Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm  
Research (NIFOR), Nigeria

### Area of research

Developing practical  
environmentally friendly  
approaches toward improving  
the genetic and production  
capacity of coconut in Nigeria.

Osayomore Endurance Ekhurutomwen, known as Osas by his friends, was born and brought up in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. He believes that his academic achievements emanated from the pressure to succeed amidst the competition around him. He says that competing with everyone has provided him the skills to handle life. Reaching an advanced academic level was always a goal for him. His choice area of study was medicine, but microbiology was the option he had when he joined Ambrose Alli University for his undergraduate degree.

Osayomore's scope of research is crop protection. His interest begun when he worked in the microbiology department at the Igbinedion University. As a researcher at the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research, he is currently developing environment-friendly approaches for managing coconut diseases to improve their yield.

He chose this research topic based on the priorities defined by the agricultural research master plan of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

His motivation to take up crop production was driven by an awareness of the food security issues facing his immediate community and Africa. He wanted to be a scientist who could improve the livelihood of people in his environment.

His Ph.D. research entailed identifying a coconut variety that could withstand some diseases and extreme weather conditions. His research also looks at the role of climate in promoting the spread of a bacteria causing lethal yellowing disease in coconuts and the pathogen *Botryodiplodia theobromae* associated with fruit rot.

Osayomore and his research team are working with a nongovernmental organization to learn about farmers' challenges for better impact of their research outputs. Farmers and breeders are involved in surveys to determine what affects their yields.

These considerations are included in the agricultural master plan developed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Osayomore aspires to be a key player in the agricultural sector with expert understanding in his specialization area. He wants his research outputs to help policy-makers develop decisions and contribute to policies that improve livelihoods.

The One Planet Fellowship will provide Osayomore with networking opportunities that will enable him to improve his scientific competence and advance his research skills by connecting him with the right contacts.

The training in interpersonal and leadership skills will boost his confidence and refine his leadership approach, contributing to his career goals. Through training and mentoring, he will pass on his new skills to colleagues, beginning scientists, and collaborating institutions.

Funding shortfalls and data collection hitches are among the challenges to Osayomore's research. Collecting the correct data sometimes requires that he does the work himself.

Osayomore is developing environment-friendly approaches for managing coconut diseases to improve their yield. He aspires to be a key player in the agricultural sector with expert understanding in his specialization area to influence decision-making at policy levels and contribute to policies that improve livelihoods.

**Osayomore Endurance Ekhurutomwen** 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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