



Position

Associate Researcher

Institution

Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural
Research (EIAR), Ethiopia

Country

Ethiopia

Education

MSc, Water Resources
Engineering and Management,
Hawassa University, Ethiopia

Mentor

Dr. Feyera Merga Liben,
Associate Researcher, Ethiopian
Institute of Agricultural Research
(EIAR), Ethiopia

Research Area

Soil and water resources
management.

Gobena Bayisa

2021 One Planet Laureate Candidate

Gobena Bayisa is in the second year of his PhD in water resource engineering at Adama Science and Technology University in Ethiopia, specializing in irrigation engineering, which he expects to finish in 2023.

On leave from his position as a researcher-1 at the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, he lives in Oromia in eastern Ethiopia.

He previously earned a BSc in soil and water engineering at Haramaya University and then completed his MSc in water resources engineering and management at Hawassa University.

"Eastern Ethiopia is a semi-arid region, and although we have three months of rain, the rest of the time we are short of water," he says.

"We are working on harvesting water from streams." Gobena is eager to see good water-management practices in his country, and hopes to create technologies to increase the efficiency of water usage.

"Demand for water is increasing as the population and need for food increase—we are losing about 60 percent of our water used for irrigation—so we hope to develop applications and management methods to help."

Gobena recalls being aware of the importance of water as he was growing up.

"There are three rivers where I grew up that you couldn't cross to get to high school, but they are crossable now," he says.

"Many farmers are losing their crops now due to a shortage of rain." Deforestation is another problem. "That is the area that I would like to work in," says Gobena.

Gobena is keenly aware of the effects of climate change, and is exploring agricultural water availability and management options. He is conducting experiments at agricultural research centers.

"I am showing farmers how to use the irrigation methods, how to irrigate and how to estimate demand at various growing stages," he continues. "I also provide training to farmers and agricultural extension workers on management practices."

His goal is to be a stronger researcher to solve water-management problems. "I will work hard to solve problems and develop new technologies," he says.

Gobena is confident that the One Planet Fellowship will help him, saying that he has already benefited from the training. "I hope there will be further courses as well, and I'm sure that my experience in the program will help me become an excellent scientist."



Gobena's research focuses on the impact of climate change, water availability, and the efficient management of irrigation water.

Gobena perceives that his institution has already gained from his participation in the program. "I was sharing with my colleagues my experience with the program orientation, and I intend to share further to benefit them."

Challenges he has experienced include the fact that most researchers are young and there are no mentors. "We are looking online for mentors, but especially due to COVID, there are few available."



Gobena Bayisa 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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