



Temesgen Gashaw

2021 One Planet Laureate Candidate

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.

Temesgen Gashaw did his undergraduate degree in geography in 2009 and then completed a master's in sustainable natural resource management in 2012.

Temesgen received his PhD from Addis Ababa University in Environmental Science in 2018.

Now working as a researcher and teacher at Bahir Dar University in northwestern Ethiopia, Temesgen says he is committed to being a good climate scientist "because climate has multiple effects, especially in developing countries mainly due to the low adaptation capacities."

He recalls being interested in climate because he has seen many people in the different corners of the country that are affected by climate-related disasters such as drought and flooding.

Although he is not currently working with rural communities, plans are in place. "I am planning—my intention is to propose different measures with regard to climate change adaptation for water provisioning and food security," he continues.

Generally in Africa, food insecurity is a key problem, which is affected by ongoing climate change.

"In Ethiopia more than 85 percent of the population is involved in agriculture," he says, and climate change is having a severe impact on agricultural productivity.

"The change in the onset and offset of rainfall due to climate change seriously affects agriculture in Ethiopia."

Temesgen has good experience in hydrological modeling.

"Currently, I am highly focused on climate change impacts and adaptation options with reference to water provisioning and food security. Climate and water have a very close relationship," he explains, "which of course creates food insecurity if they are not managed."

Temesgen is very happy to have been selected as a One Planet Fellow, saying that he is committed to being a top climate expert.

"I enjoy being a researcher and I also want to teach others—to me this is a good combination to be involved in both."

He hopes the program will help him with scientific and leadership training and also to further define his objectives.

"I haven't had any training yet, but I am looking forward to it."

As a family man and the father of two young children, as well as his involvement in advising both MSc and PhD students, he has struggled to find time to be involved in more research. "Of course, another common problem is a lack of funding," he concludes.

Temesgen's research evaluates climate change impacts and adaptation strategies for water resources and crop yield using different scenarios and crop models in the Lake Tana Sub-basin, Ethiopia.

Temesgen Gashaw 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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