



Faye Adama

2021 One Planet Laureate Candidate

Position

Climate change lead consultant

Institution

Executive Secretariat of the
National Food Security Council
(SECNSA)

Country

Senegal

Education

Master II, Environmental
Sciences, Cheikh Anta Diop
University, Dakar (UCAD)

Mentor

Dr. Mbaye Diop, Research
Director, Institut Sénégalais de
Recherches Agricoles (ISRA),
Senegal

Research Area

Analysis of climate change
impacts on household food
security and resilience (Socio
agEcon and gender).

Eager to take on a new challenge, Faye Adama is currently enrolled in a doctoral program in climate change and disaster risk management at the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL).

This edition of the program started on September 20, 2021, and she is currently in Ghana learning English for three to four months of lessons. She was selected for the University of Lomé.

Before this, Faye was Head of Climate Change at the Executive Secretariat of the National Food Security Council (SECNSA) in Senegal, working on food security, resilience, and climate change.

She is also a level-2 facilitator for the Harmonized Framework, Senegal's sub-regional food, and nutrition situational analysis tool. Her research focuses on the impacts of climate change on food security and the resilience of households.

Faye, the youngest of the family, was born in March 1990 in Dakar, the capital of Senegal.

Her father is a former member of the military, and her mother is a retired home economics teacher. She attended a private Catholic school for her primary education.

Faye initially chose a scientific stream ("Seconde S") but changed her mind at the last minute and finally opted for a literary stream because she excelled in languages and French. She obtained a literary baccalaureate in 2008.

Most of the six children took literary studies in her family except for her older brother, a civil engineer.

In 2008, Faye entered the National School of Applied Economics (ENEA) after taking a competitive entrance exam, majoring in regional planning, environment, and urban management. After four years, she achieved an engineering degree in land use planning and urban management.

In November 2012, she passed an entrance exam to the Faculty of Economics and Management of the Gaston Berger University of Saint-Louis (UGB).

Out of the 30 students selected, the 15 who achieved the highest grades had their courses financed. She was admitted to a Spanish-funded Master 2 in rural development and cooperation at the UGB in 2013.

After an engineering degree and a master's degree at ENEA and UGB, respectively, her love of the environment made it clear that she wanted to do another master's degree.

For this reason, she took the entrance exam for the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (UCAD), more precisely for the Institute of Environmental Sciences at the Faculty of Science and Technology of Dakar, at the end of 2013. Among the highest graded students, holder of a Master 2, she still chose to study two further years at the master's level at UCAD (2014-2015).

For Faye, food and climate change are intimately linked. She is studying the impacts of climate change on household food security and resilience in Senegal.

In 2016, she completed a three-month dissertation internship at the Executive Secretariat of the National Food Security Council. The theme was the vulnerability and resilience of family farms to climate risks in the Thiès region.

The internship was renewed for a further three months. She stayed six months in total. She then completed a three-month internship at the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA). At the end of this internship, she was recruited in December 2016 to the state structure called Executive Secretariat of the National Food Security Council (SECNSA) on a two-year fixed-term contract.

In her first role, Faye was a food security and resilience analyst in the Food Security Information Network Office (BRISA), which houses the early warning system.

In 2018 she signed a new fixed-term contract. In March 2019, a new directorate was created within SECNSA, the Resilience, and Climate Change Directorate. She became head of the climate change department because her environmentalist skills were very high demand. At the same time, she was a level 2 facilitator of the Harmonized Framework.

In 2020, she enrolled in a doctoral program at UCAD but found it difficult to combine her studies with her professional career. With a heavy heart, she soon decided to give up her studies.

Since ENEA, she has always had a particular interest in environmental issues as a whole and more specifically in aspects related to climate change. For example, her dissertations have focused on the relationship between climate change, food security, and resilience.

At ENEA, she worked on the construction and analysis of a grid of indicators of vulnerability to coastal erosion in an agricultural area in Louga, Senegal; at UGB, the role of rice in reducing food vulnerability in rural areas in Saint Louis, Senegal; and at ISE, on the vulnerability and resilience of family farms to climate risks in Thiès, Senegal.

In 2017, she was a member of the group of national experts in charge of carrying out the Etude sur la Mesure et l'Analyse de la Résilience au Sénégal (EMARS), using the RIMA approach of the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).

She has also worked on capitalizing on good resilience practices in Senegal, in the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiatives (AGIR-Sahel and West Africa) framework. For Faye, food security and climate change are intrinsically linked.

She is a hands-on woman, constantly working with rural communities. She has participated in several household economic analyses and surveys throughout Senegal, specifically in the 14 regions of the country.

Two acquaintances shared the call for applications for the One Planet Fellowship with her: a researcher at ISRA who she met at a workshop on climate change, and another, a fellow student at the Institute of Environmental Sciences. After researching on the Internet, she was very interested and applied.

Faye wants to diversify her experiences by continuing her career in an NGO or in a research center, but always on the issues of climate change and food security. However, her first goal is to get her doctorate.

She wants to become an international consultant and eventually own her own climate change consulting firm (with a team) in the distant future. For Faye, career and social life are interconnected, and the two go hand in hand.

She would like to thank AWARD for this rewarding program, which is an excellent opportunity and one she is proud to be part of.

With One Planet, through capacity building, she expects to expand her expertise in several areas, including adaptation and mitigation.

Do you have any further questions? Send an email to: oneplanet.award@cgiar.org

www.awardfellowships.org | www.oneplanetsummit.fr

The spin-offs of this training will be both useful and positive for her institution in general and the new management board in particular in terms of capacity building, sharing and dissemination of all the tools, capitalization of knowledge, and transmission. In return, Faye will be able to educate a collaborator or colleague to disseminate the knowledge.

She believes that the One Planet Fellowship initiative will enable her to meet and collaborate with leading experts in her field. Through this collaborative work, she hopes to develop more projects to meet the needs of those who are most vulnerable to climate change.

Faye intends to share the knowledge she has gained and pass on all of the tools she has learned to the new management. It also seems essential to her to pass on by training someone to prolong the project.

For Faye, communication with rural communities is crucial. The role of communication is important, as are the methodology for working and the design of documents. In addressing the concerns of rural communities, the gender aspect is also crucial.

In other words, it is important to gather women's opinions while ensuring that they are better taken into account upstream.

Investment in research is sorely lacking, and a real focus on research is needed (means for field surveys, need for paid software).

Due to lack of funding, she often had to find tricks or use her own resources to finance the work.

Faye has also faced challenges for specific training. In her career, working mainly with scientists, she acknowledges that she often needed specific skills in other areas (statistical aspects or cartography, for example). Fortunately, she has been able to capitalize on her network of experts and/or partners.

For example, one expert gave her free advanced online training on Saturdays.

Faye Adama 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