

Gender Responsive Agriculture Systems Policy (GRASP) Fellowship

Fellow Profile



Position

Director of Studies

Institution

Center for Incubation and
Business Development (Inno-
vdev) of Cheikh Anta Diop
University of Dakar, Senegal

Country

Senegal

Education

PhD on Price Competitiveness
Versus Product Quality, Cheikh
Anta Diop University, 2015

Mentor

Kimsey Savadogo, Professor
of Economics and Management,
University of Ouagadougou

Research Area

Agricultural and food policies
taking into account gender
disparities and the
implementation of effective
reforms in this area

Adama Gueye

2023 AWARD Policy Fellow

"Women lack access to resources, and there is not much they can do with the little revenue they earn. And yet, women are the backbone of farming households."

Adama Guèye studied Economics before focusing on agriculture. In 2004, she obtained a master's degree in Economic Policy and Project Management. A year later, she joined the Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research as an Intern and Research Assistant at the Analysis and Macroeconomics Bureau. She was "eager to promote female entrepreneurship in agriculture."

In 2010, Adama joined the Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD) in Dakar as a Research Assistant and worked concurrently on her thesis on agricultural products. She studied the horticulture industry and pesticide use to assess the impact of pesticide residues on product quality and price competitiveness.

Adama remains active in academic circles. She helps train future professionals and teaches Agricultural Policy as part of a master's program at UCAD. As Liaison Officer between the World Trade Organiza-

tion and the university, she is prominent in identifying resilience mechanisms in the agri-food sector after the COVID-19 pandemic. "Land ownership and access to resources serve as guarantees for women to obtain financial aid and be more resilient," she says.

Adama's involvement in agriculture is also motivated by the gender gap and equal opportunity issues. Aware of the discrepancy between women and men regarding access to senior management positions at UCAD, she and other colleagues have successfully implemented an inclusive recruitment process that considers women applicants. "Resources and partnerships are geared more towards men. And yet, women struggle to overcome challenges," she declares. "I am not alone."

Throughout her career, her keen interest in gender equality in agriculture has grown, spurred on by the fact that, despite their significant presence, women

often occupy unstable jobs and have limited access to resources. Adama explains: "Women lack access to resources, occupy low-paid jobs, do not participate in decision-making, and cannot do much with the little revenue they earn. And yet, women are the backbone of farming households."

Adama has long been interested in the work done by AWARD. "I signed up to their mailing list and newsletter; I get information and read all about their activities," she explains. It is how she heard about the GRASP Fellowship, an opportunity that she hopes will give her suitable tools to effectively draft, defend, and evaluate economic and gender-responsive policy. It is more essential given that "female students look up to us regarding gender equality."

She believes one of the most important issues to address is Africa's inability to meet goals due to poor policy. "How can this change?" she wonders. She also ponders the inequality in funding distribution. Funds often do not directly impact production due to dysfunctional systems. "Agricultural policy in Africa, especially in Senegal, does not lead to concrete measures to improve productivity, such as seed reproduction, soil quality improvement, better water access, etc. To be effective, investments must be linked to concrete action," she declares.

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Adama Gueye is among a growing number of women selected for the Gender Responsive Agriculture Systems Policy (GRASP) Fellowship. GRASP Fellowship is a career development program growing a pool of confident, capable African women to lead the design and implementation of gender-responsive policies in Africa. The Fellowship is an initiative of African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).