

## Gender Responsive Agriculture Systems Policy (GRASP) Fellowship

### Fellow Profile



#### Position

Research Engineer, Specialist in  
Agroeconomics

#### Institution

Institute of the Environment and  
Agricultural Research (INERA)

#### Country

Burkina Faso

#### Education

MSc in Agricultural Economics  
and Natural Resources,  
Aube Nouvelle University,  
Burkina Faso, 2021

#### Mentor

Dr Martin Bikienga, Independent  
Consultant and Former Minister of  
Agriculture,  
Burkina Faso

#### Research Area

The value chain and issues related  
to the marketing of agricultural  
products

### Alexandra Marlyne Sédogo 2023 AWARD Policy Fellow

*"Commercialization and transformation in Burkina Faso are often women's jobs. Unfortunately, women have limited access to credit and often lack knowledge and techniques for their activities."*

In 2017, one year after obtaining her BSc in Engineering and Agroeconomics, she began her career at INERA as a Research Engineer. She had planned on writing a thesis, but agro-economics was not sufficiently developed in Burkina Faso. She was able to begin a few years later after obtaining a master's degree in her home country.

Along with fellow researchers, Carine studies the use and profitability of technologies that INERA develops for producers. Her duties include training producers in the economic and financial management of farms. For example, she helps them monitor production costs and drive profitability of operations by negotiating strong contracts with input and equipment suppliers.

Carine enjoys working in the field with producers, even though access to farms, particularly during the rainy season, is difficult.

As a young woman in research, she considers herself lucky.

"It is no longer as challenging, given the growing number of women in research," she states. She learned about the GRASP Fellowship from another female researcher who often shares information about training opportunities.

She is interested in transforming and commercializing agricultural products such as rice. "We hear a lot about production; current public policy mainly focuses on production. But post-production issues are not given as much attention," she comments. She defended her thesis on this topic and hopes the GRASP Fellowship will further enhance her expertise while taking gender into consideration.

Case in point, gender issues are a crucial aspect of the current cultural context in which certain activities are performed by women and others by men. “Commercialization and transformation in Burkina Faso are often women’s jobs. Unfortunately, women have limited access to credit to set up transformation activities and often lack the knowledge and skills necessary for product valorization and conservation,” she says.

As an AWARD Policy Fellow, Carine hopes to hone her skills and develop product transformation ideas to make agriculture more profitable. The experience of her mentor, Martin Bikienga, former Minister of Agriculture in Burkina Faso, should be a plus.

*Alexandra Marlyne Sédogo 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).*