

Gender Responsive Agriculture Systems Policy (GRASP) Fellowship

Fellow Profile



Position
Agronomist

Institution
The Permanent Secretariat for the
Coordination of Agricultural Sector
Policies

Country
Burkina Faso

Education
Rural Development Engineer,
Agronomy Option,
Institute of Rural Development of
the Nazi Boni University of
Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso), 2010

Mentor
Dr Thiombiano Lamourdia,
Doctor in Ecology and Soil Sciences,
Independent Consultant

Research Area
The development of agricultural
policies and monitoring of the i
mplementation of these policies

Kadidia Dao Doro 2023 AWARD Policy Fellow

"Working with producers has provided useful experience. It will help to elaborate agricultural policies that take their real needs into consideration."

Kadidia has spent much of her career advising producers on irrigation, cereal production, and market gardening. Since 2013, she has worked as an Agronomist at the Ministry of Agriculture. In 2014, during a training internship in Israel, she was impressed at how the country has managed its water resources and organized its farmers.

"Despite limited water resources, there is enough for agriculture and other uses. I realized that agricultural projects are possible even in the desert if one knows how to manage water resources properly," she declares.

Her experience motivated her to help rural women in Burkina Faso. Kadidia co-founded the Women's Association for Rural Development, which brings together individuals with a wide range of skills and helps beneficiary cooperatives with soil fertilization through composting, management of water resources for market gardening, and more.

One of her career milestones was being named Agricultural Manager of the Centre region with the Ministry of Agriculture in 2018. She was increasingly involved in decisions geared to improving the livelihoods of farmers. She has nonetheless endured her share of challenges. For example, when traveling to certain areas to meet farmers, tradition prohibits women from speaking publicly in front of men. "Occasionally, I was forced to step aside and let my male colleagues do the talking. It did not bother me; my goal was to get my message across," explains Kadidia.

She believes that adapting oneself to the culture and its traditions and learning local languages are important parts of her job. Working in the rural world helps to transmit knowledge effectively and understand the needs of producers.

Kadidia heard about the GRASP Fellowship through her professional and community networks.

Seeing that the program focused equally on gender issues and agricultural policy motivated her to apply. As her career advances, she plans to focus on developing, monitoring, and evaluating agricultural policy. "I have spent ten years in an operational role, particularly supporting and advising producers. I have learned a great deal. I want to use my experience to elaborate agricultural policies that take the real needs of producers into consideration," she says.

With mentoring from Dr. Thiombiano Lamourdia, a Doctor in Ecology and Soil Sciences and Independent Consultant, Kadidia is convinced that the GRASP Fellowship will help her fulfill her ambition.

She is determined to use this opportunity to enhance her agricultural and gender-responsive policy expertise. More specifically, she wants to increase her knowledge of gender issues, hone her team project management skills, and learn how to teach others what she knows. "My mentor is a great help; he pushes me to ask the right questions and think about my next career move and what I am lacking," she enthuses.

Kadidia Dao Doro 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).