

Profile



Andrialalao Sophie
2023 | Madagascar

Position:

Research Assistant in
Agronomy

Organization:

Africa Rice Centre,
Madagascar

Field of research:

Agronomy

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Leadership Program for Emerging African Women in Science

Advancing Agronomy in Rice Systems in Madagascar



Microdose placement of phosphorus-based fertilizer enhances the development of deep root systems in upland rice, helping plants cope with drought

Andrialalao Sophie Raharimalala is a research assistant in agronomy at the AfricaRice Center in Madagascar, where she has been integral in promoting Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for rice and diversifying rice-based systems with off-season crops.

Sophie has successfully established 18 GAP demonstration plots and trained around 1,800 rice farmers across six districts in Madagascar. Additionally, she has conducted five field experiments on phosphorus microdosing in upland rice. "Microdose placement of phosphorus-based fertilizer enhances the development of deep root systems in upland rice, helping plants cope with drought," she says.

Inspired by fellow scientists and her mentor's passion during the AWARD Leadership Program for Emerging African Women in Science, Sophie is driven by a desire to solve challenges faced by smallholder farmers and improve their quality of life. "With better communication, leadership, and management skills, I can make the most of the opportunity to progress towards my career goals," she adds.