

# Profile



## Leadership Program for Emerging African Women in Science

### Cultivating Resilience through Innovation in Crop Research



My passion for elevating the girl child while contributing to improved food security drives me to become a better scientist each day

Tanyaradzwa Tenesi is a genebank research technician at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). Her efforts in this role have significantly contributed to improving food security through climate-smart and biofortified crops, particularly by developing hybrid varieties of sorghum that are resistant to Fall Armyworm.

Driven by a passion for improving human life, Tanyaradzwa is committed to participatory plant breeding and crop improvement to enhance the quality of life for communities affected by climate change. She also mentors young women, encouraging them to realise their potential in science.

"My passion for elevating the girl child while contributing to improved food security drives me to become a better scientist each day," she says.

The AWARD Leadership Program for Emerging African Women in Science has equipped Tanyaradzwa to refine her leadership style, enhance group coaching abilities, and integrate gender sensitivity into her research. Looking ahead, she aspires to progress to an associate level, making a global impact on food security and empowering women in science.

**Tanyaradzwa Tenesi**  
2023 | Zimbabwe

**Position:**  
Scientific Officer

**Organization:**  
International Crops  
Research Institute for the  
Semi-Arid Tropics  
(ICRISAT), Zimbabwe

**Field of research:**  
Plant breeding and  
Genetics

The AWARD Leadership Program for Emerging African Women in Agricultural Sciences is funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY) and implemented by AWARD.