



One Planet Fellowship Programme

Study tour on science-policy linkages

Brussels and Rome

9-13 May 2022

With the financial support of



1. Background

In the medium- and long-term, African food and nutritional security is going to be especially vulnerable to climate change and especially in need of research on climate change adaptation. It is imperative that African scientists, particularly young ones, and European researchers can acquire the scientific skills to develop the crucial future adaptation and mitigation measures to fight climate change, for the African continent. It is against this background that in December 2017 during the Paris **One Planet Summit**, three Foundations - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, BNP Paribas Foundation and [Agropolis Fondation](#) - together with [AWARD](#) (African Women in Agricultural Research and Development) decided to join efforts to launch the [One Planet Fellowship Programme \(OPFP\)](#).

2. Overview of the OPFP

This initiative aims to establish, enable and strengthen a network of up to 600 African and European researchers working on the broad challenges of African agriculture and climate change. Inspired by the AWARD¹ programme, a career fellowship programme designed for African women scientists, the OPFP supports both the work of African researchers on climate change adaptation, particularly those linked to problems encountered by smallholder farmers, and efforts to link the African and European scientific communities through science-career development fellowship courses combining mentoring, exposure trips and scientific training as well as networking opportunities for young researchers.

The OPFP Laureates are selected following a competitive Call for Candidates issued annually by AWARD for three consecutive years. For the Advanced Science Training (AST), a crucial element of the Fellowship that is funded through the European Commission grant and directly managed by Agropolis Fondation, Laureates are invited to respond to a specific call every year and, if selected, are given the opportunity to improve their science skills in top-notch laboratories and institutions in Europe and to be mentored by Senior scientists in their field of specialization. Selected Laureates are matched with European institutions and senior scientists having the scientific expertise required to carry out their research work. OPFP Laureates are matched with African mentors who are well positioned to help them achieve their career goals. Finally, OPFP Laureates are mentoring African and European mentees following a specific matching process.

3. Objective of the study tour in Europe

The learning visits in Europe aim at developing a broad understanding of interactions between agriculture and climate change issues, on both scientific and policy-making ground, through a diversity of meetings and the building of a community spirit. Organised during the stay in Europe of the OPFP Laureates as part of their Advanced Science Training (AST), the learning visits will provide them with insights from policy makers, diplomats, scientists and high-level experts working at the interface between climate change science, agriculture and policies.

It is expected that through these exchanges the OPFP Laureates get a better understanding of how European and international institutions are addressing the issue of climate change and agriculture and how this is translated into specific policies, regulations and new practices.

¹ Supported by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Agropolis Fondation.

4. List of institutions to be visited

During their stay in Brussels and Rome, the OPFP Laureates will meet with representatives from the following institutions:

- European Commission:
 - o DG INTPA (Directorate-General for International Partnerships)
 - o DG AGRI (Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development)
 - o DG RTD (Directorate-General for Research and Innovation)
- Secretariat of the OACPS (Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States)
- COLEACP (Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee)
- EC Delegation in Rome
- FAO
- Secretariat of the TIRPAA
- IFAD

5. Annexes

- Annex 1: Overview of the OPFP
- Annex 2: Tentative agenda
- Annex 3: Profiles of the OPFP Laureates (Cohort 1) participating in the study tour