# AFRICA GRADUATE MENTORSHIP AND COACHING PROGRAMME (AGMCP) 2023





**2023 AGMCP Cohort** 

**MEMORABILIA** 

Mentee: Fèmi E. Hounnou

Montor: Oluwasinaayomi Faith Kasim

5 December 2023

#### **Table of Content**

1.	Int	troduction	3
2.	Ex	rperiences, activities and outputs of the fellowship	3
2	2.1.	Monthly Online Meetings	3
2	2.2.	Conference Engagements	4
2	2.3.	Journal Publication Journey	5
2	2.4.	Physical Meeting in Benin	6
3.	Mo	ost significant contributions of the fellowship to my professional career	6
4.	Co	onclusion and Suggestions	7
Ac	Acknowledgements		
Co	Contact details		

# 1. Introduction

The Africa Graduate Mentorship and Coaching Programme (AGMCP) is meticulously crafted for graduates, postdocs, and early-career professionals, aiming to enhance various facets including professional growth, personal development, and social acumen. It unlocks opportunities that might otherwise remain out of reach and provides invaluable guidance to steer clear of potential pitfalls.

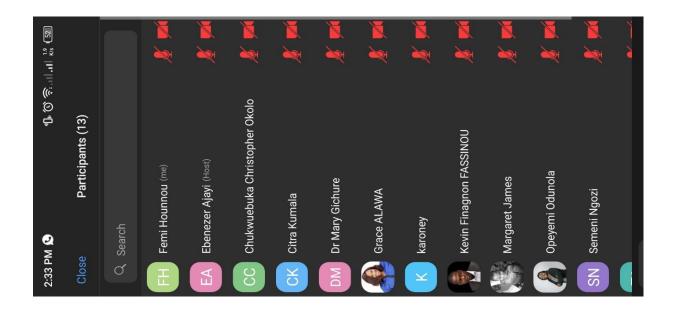
Reflecting on the journey throughout the past year within AGMCP, it's evident that alongside my mentor and the program board, there exists a treasure trove of moments and achievements that have illuminated our collective path. As we take a moment to gather our thoughts, let's delve into the invaluable milestones and experiences that have significantly shaped this transformative journey.

## 2. Experiences, activities and outputs of the fellowship

#### 2.1. Monthly Online Meetings

The steadfast commitment and enthusiasm showcased in our monthly online meetings not only bolstered our unity with fellow mentees but also became the cornerstone of our collective growth. Within these sessions, a rich exchange of knowledge took place, enabling us to surmount challenges together and cultivate enduring connections. This dynamic environment became a vibrant tapestry, weaving together learning experiences and fostering continuous growth.

Moreover, the regularity of these meetings significantly enhanced our scientific research capabilities and honed our communication skills. The consistent engagement provided a fertile ground for refining our capacity to delve into scientific inquiries while strengthening our ability to articulate and share insights effectively.



#### 2.2. Conference Engagements

Participating in conferences has been a testament to my unwavering commitment to academic and professional development. These opportunities have been instrumental, enabling me to engage with diverse perspectives, exchange invaluable ideas, and amplify our collective voice within the scholarly community. Among these significant engagements, in addition to the Circularity Africa Conference 2023, I actively participated in the Cape Town Meeting focused on climate change involving researchers and NGOs, as well as the Colloquium at the University of Abomey-Calavi.

# Sustainable land management for Improved Cotton Production in Benin (West Africa)





Presenter: Fèmi E. Hounnou,
Postdoctoral Fellow
University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin)

Faith O. Kasim

Senior Lecturer , Coordinator of the Diploma in Land Administration & Management Program



Africa Circular Economy Research and Policy Network (ACERPIN) in collaboration with IITA

4th Circularity Ofrica Week 2023

Ibadan, Nigeria 12/05/2023



DAAD · Postfach 200404 · 53134 Bonn Emmanuel Fèmi Hounnou 01 BP 2907 Porto-Novo, Benin Porto-Novo



Gudrun Chazotte – Head of Section Scholarship Programmes Africa Contact person: Stefan Rößlein Phone: +49 228 882-8142 E-Mail: roesslein@daad.de Our reference:

15 December 2022

Invitation for the climapAfrica Expert meeting, 25-26 April 2023 in Cape Town Bringing research into action: collaboration of NGOs and researchers on climate change

Dear Emmanuel Fèmi Hounnou,

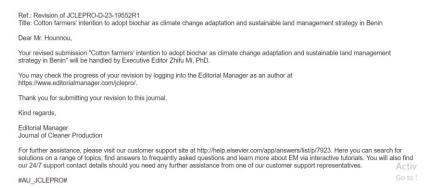
During this fellowship period, I fortified my skill set by completing courses in "Learn to Write for the Media-Online" through Conversion Africa, and delved into the Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA).



Also, I have become member of The African Growth and Development Policy (AGRODEP)

#### 2.3. Journal Publication Journey

The submission and ongoing review of a paper in the esteemed Journal of Cleaner Production signify the culmination of rigorous research and unwavering dedication to advancing scholarly discourse. This milestone speaks volumes about our collective pursuit of academic excellence and underscores the depth of our commitment to fostering impactful contributions within our field.



#### 2.4. Physical Meeting in Benin

The highlight of our year was the remarkable chance to gather in person in Benin, culminating in a meeting with the esteemed president. This intersection provided an exceptional opportunity to discuss the program's vision and aspirations, delve into various subjects, and connect with an esteemed alumnus, Professor ADEKAMI. Following that encounter, my collaboration with Professor ADEKAMI intensified, leading me to visit him at the University of Parakou.





# 3. Most significant contributions of the fellowship to my professional career

Among the most impactful aspects have been the networking opportunities, personal development, and the substantial enhancement of my skills.

Through a series of monthly webinars organized, the program covered a wide array of subjects crucial to professional growth, including data management, proposal writing, fundraising strategies, and the sharing of research outcomes. These sessions featured diverse moderators and speakers from a multitude of backgrounds and sectors, enriching the learning experience with varied perspectives and expertise.

Networking Opportunities: The program facilitated connections with professionals from diverse fields, broadening my network significantly. These connections have opened doors to collaborations, potential career advancements, and a broader understanding of various jobs.

Personal Development: Beyond the technical knowledge gained, the mentorship program focused on personal growth. Insights into work-life balance, resilience, and other soft skills have been invaluable in shaping my future career.

Capacity Building: The webinars and interactions have immensely enhanced my capacities in crucial areas essential for career development. From data management to honing proposal writing skills, each session contributed significantly to my skill set.

# 4. Conclusion and Suggestions

To our esteemed mentors and program leaders, your wisdom, guidance, and unwavering support have been the cornerstone of our collective success. Your dedication has not only shaped our academic endeavors but also enriched our lives immeasurably. As we move forward, let us carry forward the lessons learned, the connections made, and the unwavering spirit that defines our program. May the coming years bring forth new milestones and triumphs, guided by the indelible lessons learned during this transformative journey. The compulsory meetings between mentors and mentees should be held at least once in two months.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Oluwasinaayomi F. Kasim for being an incredible mentor. Dr. Kasim is a growth-oriented and compassionate individual dedicated to supporting youth. His guidance has been invaluable to my development.

I extend my deepest appreciation to Dr. Olawale Olayide and their team members for their exceptional leadership and unwavering support extended to all mentees. Their guidance has been instrumental in shaping our journeys.

#### Contact details

Name: Fèmi E. Hounnou

Email: hounnou.femi@gmail.com; femi.hounnou@uac.bj

Phone: +229 96149481; +229 95692681

https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0004-2879

Google Scholar: Fèmi HOUNNOU

Researchgate: Fèmi HOUNNOU