



Birtucan Tizazu

2019 AWARD-EIAR
Fellow



Tizazu is passionate about developing highly nutritious, disease-resistant crops to tackle the challenges of breeding of cereal crops in Ethiopia.

Tizazu is one of a growing number of women agricultural scientists who have won a customized institutional Fellowship for the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR). The customized institutional Fellowship is an intervention of AWARD's Gender Responsive Agricultural Research and Development (GRARD) initiative that supports institutional capacity for gender-responsive agricultural research.



Position	Junior Researcher
Institution	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
Country	Ethiopia
BSc	
Mentor	Mulugeta Atnaf Tiruneh, Senior Researcher, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
Research Area	Breeding of cereal crops

Birtucan Tizazu earned her Bachelors degree from Assosa University in 2018. She is currently working in one of the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research Centres, Pawe Agricultural Research Centre, as a junior researcher in the cereal crop breeding department.

Prior to joining the university, she had not dreamt of becoming an agricultural scientist. "But today I can confidently say that agriculture is in my blood. When I was a child I used to grow vegetables and flowers in our small backyard. Today, I understand why."

When she joined university, she made a decision to be faithful and work hard. She was confident that she would one day become a successful agricultural scientist and would make a significant contribution to her country.

"I am particularly interested in tackling the breeding aspects of cereal crops because I would like to develop highly nutritious, disease-resistant crops for my country," she added. Noting that a researcher not only works in the laboratory, but also in the community, Tizazu reiterated her desire to improve the lives of rural communities in Ethiopia.

She is also working to set up demonstration projects on farms and conduct training at community level. "Through the AWARD Fellowship I hope to build my skills in the areas of proposal development, networking, leadership and time management. I will also work closely with the community and share the knowledge gained with my colleagues," she concluded.

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) works toward inclusive, agriculture-driven prosperity for the African continent by strengthening the production and dissemination of more gender responsive agricultural research and innovation. We invest in African scientists, research institutions, and agribusinesses so that they can deliver agricultural innovations that better respond to the needs and priorities of a diversity of women and men across Africa's agricultural value chains.

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