



Annie Stephanie NANA

Home Country: Cameroon

Degree: PhD in Ecological Botany

Expertise: Waste and Wastewater Management, Health

Research Focus: Sustainable Development in Urban Agriculture

Host University: University of Bonn, Germany

Fellowship Awarded: 2016

Annie Stephanie Nana was born and grew up in Nkongsamba, a town in the Littoral region of Cameroon. After the death of both of her parents she moved to Yaounde, the country's capital city, to complete secondary school, where she specialized in Life and Earth Sciences, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. Her subsequent work has been driven by her lifelong concern for sustainable development and a healthy environment.

Annie joined the University of Yaounde 1 (UY1), where she gained a BSc followed in 2013 by an MSc, both in Plant Biology specializing in Ecology. Her MSc thesis focused on the impact of sanitation and waste management on the quality of groundwater. She also studied the capabilities of plants to remove pollutants from the environment. Between 2012 and 2015 she also worked at UY1 as a laboratory assistant in the Wastewater Research Unit.

In 2014, Annie began studying towards a PhD at UY1 with her thesis focusing on the environmental and sanitary risks related to lowland agriculture in tropical regions. Her research aims to find solutions to issues around food security and sustainable development. She has a particular interest in urban agriculture, where underprivileged people from cities develop nearby lowland areas with the potential to negatively impact the environment and human health – often related to poor sanitation. Annie expects that her results will support scientific and policy solutions for the sustainable management of urban lowland agriculture and improved living conditions for people living in slums.

After completing her studies in Germany, Annie plans to return to UY1 or another institution in Cameroon to teach and perform research in environmental sciences. She also intends to resume her work with a non-profit organization that promotes the important role of women in supporting sustainable development and preserving the ecosystem.