

# Project Report

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Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Donald Romaric Yehouenou Tessi, PhD
<b>Project Title</b>	International day of Beninese women and girls in science 2023
<b>Donor</b>	Biochemical Society (UK)
<b>Grant Amount</b>	£500
<b>Date of this Report</b>	August 2023

## Report

International Women and Girls in Science Day is an event celebrated worldwide every February 11. It is an opportunity to recognize the important contributions that women and girls make to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and to promote gender equality in these fields.

It's in this context that I initiated my project to organize an event called " International day of Beninese women and girls in science 2023" to show the contribution of women in scientific research in Benin and the impact of the results of their work on development, and to encourage other women to follow in the footsteps of their elders already well established in the field of science.

Our project was implemented through a knowledge-sharing workshop held on Saturday, February 18, 2023 at Sèmè Two Open Innovation Park (Cotonou, Benin). During the knowledge-sharing workshop on the theme of "Beninese women in science: challenges and prospects", several associations were highly mobilized, as were women professors from Benin's leading national university (such as the Vice-Rector in charge of cooperation at the University of Abomey-Calavi).

The event, which was intended to take place in a more restricted setting, was well attended (at least 30 participants), the majority of whom were women. The one-day workshop was structured around several activities. After an opening ceremony to remind the audience of the origins of the project, introduce the donor and thank them, and outline the objectives of the event, a series of presentations of research results by Beninese women scientists (mini-colloquium) took place. Seven (7) women from the life sciences were selected to present the results of their research work. The presentations covered the following topics (table 1).

Table 1: List of communicators and theme

Topics	Presenters
Decline in parasitaemia and anti-MSP1 antibodies specific to plasmodium falciparum, 20 years after a holoendemic phenomenon in Benin.	Florence GNARGO
Identification of aromatic rice accessions grown in northern Benin using microsatellite markers.	Pamela LOUMEDJINON
Effects of bud position and sucrose on the in vitro organogenesis of some local varieties of sweet potato ( <i>Ipomoea batatas</i> (L.) Lam) in Benin.	Nawal BOURAÏMA
Simultaneous detection of pesticide residues in plants using the HPLC-UV method.	Honorine H. BOUGNA TCHOUMI
Toxicological evaluation of <i>Annona muricata</i> extracts on liver and kidney function in Wistar rats	Dr. Natacha AIVODJI
Phytochemical composition, tolerance and anti-anemic efficacy of <i>Terminalia catappa</i> in the treatment of hemorrhagic anemia in Benin.	Arielle DJIGLA
Prevention of prostate cancer possible by assessing primary exons of BRCA1 biomarker in men	Prof. Callinice D. CAPO-CHICHI

At the end of the presentations, a high-quality panel was set up to discuss the theme: "Beninese women in science: challenges and prospects".

The panel was made up of illustrious female teacher-researchers from Benin:

- Callinice CAKPO CHICHI, Professor of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Nutrition
- Dr Pascaline BABADANKPODJI, Doctor of Agroeconomics, specialist in gender and development
- Hortensia ACACHA, Doctor in spatial economics, specialist in gender and development
- Kourouma KOURA, Doctor in forestry sciences and techniques

As the event proceeded, panelists with extensive scientific experience shared their experiences with participants and discussed the challenges facing women and girls in science in Benin. The panelists addressed topics relating to limited access to science education for girls and women, the importance for a girl to have female role models in science, gender-based violence, and the cultural and social barriers that limit the participation of women and girls in the development of science.

In conclusion, this sharing and exchange workshop was a great success. It was an important crucible for encouraging the participation of women and girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in Benin. Various communication channels supported the event (the national radio station "ORTB", the television channel "Canal 3", and the written and visual press, "Le Rural"). The participants came away with the joy of sharing their scientific experience, full of enthusiasm and resolution. They suggested that the event be repeated with a greater number of communicators and participants.

The event was relayed on my twitter and LinkedIn accounts and on the official social media of our organization SOS Biodiversity, with a special mention to **Biochemical Society** for its contribution

Here's the link to my LinkedIn and Twitter post:

- [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/donald-r-y-tessi-39879b48\\_dans-le-cadre-de-la-c%C3%A9laboration-de-la-journ%C3%A9e-activity-7033824470662336512-KNG?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/donald-r-y-tessi-39879b48_dans-le-cadre-de-la-c%C3%A9laboration-de-la-journ%C3%A9e-activity-7033824470662336512-KNG?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)
- <https://twitter.com/tdonald3/status/1628006837080432642>

Our sincere thanks to the Biochemical Society for the grant that enabled us to organize this event, which put the spotlight on women researchers and proved that women have an important place in science in Benin. We hope to organize this event every year to attract more female vocation in science and share the opportunities in this field in other cities of the country.

Some pictures of the events



