大学院自然科学研究科で学ぶアフリカ人留学生の声

ナイジェリア

コートジボワール

トーゴ

Mr. AJAYI Ayomikun David

・元ABEイニシアティブ長期研修員
（現在、三菱財団奨学金受給）

・農業環境工学・農業情報工学

Mr. Salisu Sirajo Jibia

・チェンマイ大学とのDDP留学生

・植物栄養学、土壌肥料学

・Mr. Guei Mahe Franck Marcel

・Agri-Net長期研修員

・農業機械学、農業情報工学

Mr. BANAKINAOU WIYAO

・元ABEイニシアティブ長期研修員
（現在、JST次世代研究者挑戦的研究プログラム受給）

・環境土壌物理学

NIIGATA UNIVERSITY

真の強さを学ぶ。
新潟大學
NIIGATA UNIVERSITY

NAME: AJAYI Ayomikun David D3

Research Areas

1. Remote sensing
2. Digital Agriculture
3. GHG mitigation
4. Carbon credit

AFICAT Initiative

Question	Innovation Focus	Key Action/Contribution
1. How do you perceive AFICAT's initiatives?	AFICAT is a Pipeline to Practice, and it's an African-Japanese Innovation Intermediary. Its core value is shifting from academic capacity building (aid) to creating a mutually beneficial, market-driven Venture Sandbox.	Focus must be on graduating "Venture-Catalytic Graduates" ready to deploy solutions, not just conduct research.
2. How are you committed to AFICAT while residing in Niigata?	I am willing to establish Niigata University as a Regional Niche Pilot Hub. I can leverage regional strengths (e.g., advanced agriculture) to prove the AFICAT model works on a small, contained scale.	My PhD is a De-Risked Pilot Study for adapting a specific Niigata-based technology to an African market, providing a ready-to-use commercial case study for Japanese SMEs.
3. What contributions can Japanese universities make to help AFICAT transition towards private enterprise leadership?	Universities must pivot from Knowledge Providers to Venture Catalysts by actively de-risking opportunities for the private sector.	1. Establish a "Venture Clinic" offering small grants for market validation. 2. Implement an "AFICAT-Venture Matching Fund" (AVMF)—a revolving, equity-based model to replace aid. 3. Offer a Joint Certification in African Commercialization for all AFICAT students.

Name: Salisu Sirajo Jibia

Affiliation:
Graduate School of Science and Technology,
Niigata University, Japan

Citizenship: Nigerian

My Perception of AFICAT's Initiatives

- AFICAT's initiatives are not only timely but also indispensable in addressing the technological gap within Nigeria's agricultural landscape.
- Japanese technology has long been well regarded in Nigeria for its exceptional durability and efficiency.
- However, economic constraints have made many of these technologies largely unaffordable, particularly for small-scale farmers.
- AFICAT's efforts to popularize Japanese agricultural technologies and streamline their acquisition and adoption by African farmers are therefore highly commendable and represent a welcome development.

My Commitment to AFICAT While Residing in Niigata

- While residing in Niigata, I have actively engaged with several postharvest processing equipment manufacturers within Niigata and other regions of Japan.
- These engagements have progressed towards establishing formal business relationships between the Government of Katsina State, private firms and selected Japanese companies.
- My commitment that can translate Japanese technologies into practical solutions for Nigerian agricultural development.

Role of Japanese Universities in AFICAT's Sustainability

- Japanese universities can play a pivotal role, particularly through research and innovation.
- By conducting applied and demand-driven research, universities can help bridge the gap between Africa's actual technological needs and the business objectives of Japanese enterprises.
- Such research can inform product adaptation, policy design, and investment decisions, thereby supporting AFICAT's transition into a sustainable, private-sector-driven initiative involving both Japanese and African stakeholders.

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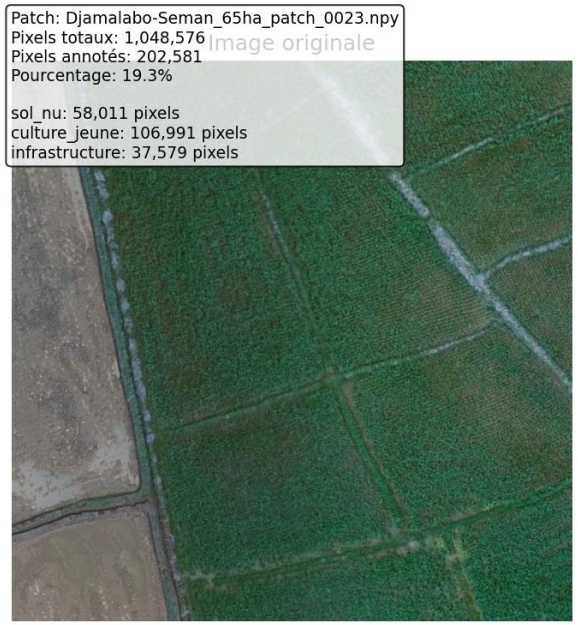
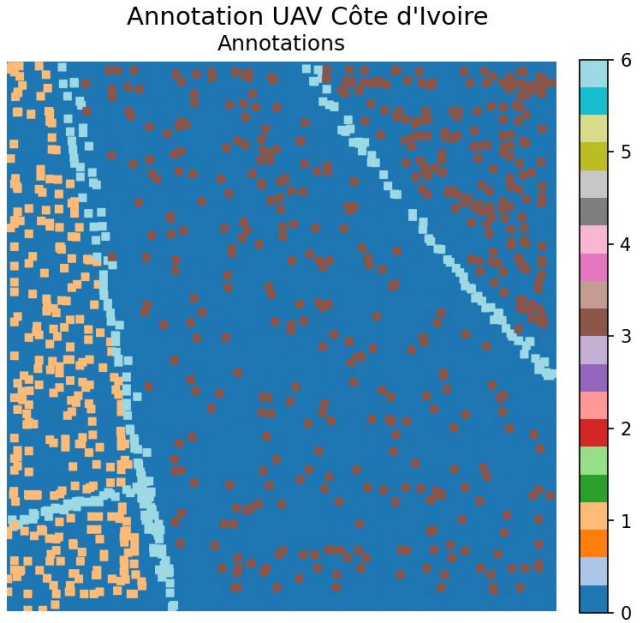
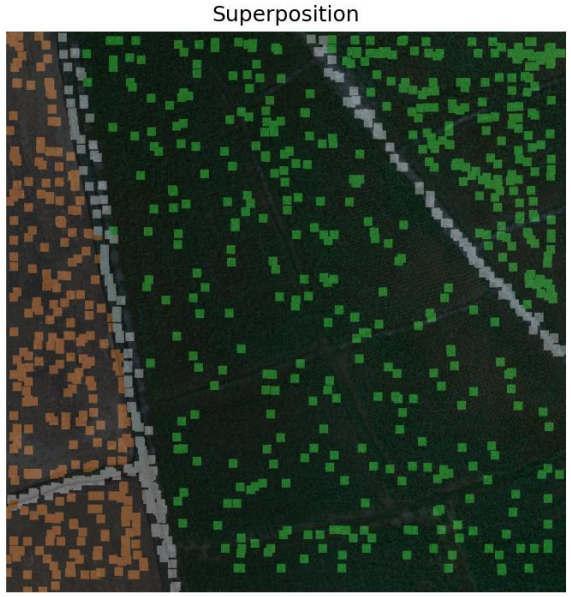
流域環境学
Environmental Science for Agriculture and Forestry

An Integrated Framework for Sustainable Rice Production in Cote d'Ivoire

Guei Mahe Franck Marcel, Cote d’Ivoire







1. As an African international student at Niigata University Graduate School, I perceive AFICAT as an initiative that is decisively talking about **innovation for Agriculture Technology**. It correctly identifies that **mechanization using very new technologies** is a necessity nowadays. The initiative's focus aligns with global technological trends, such as **smart technology**, **AI**, and **remote sensing**, which are spreading worldwide. This shows AFICAT is forward-looking.

2. My primary commitment is through **studying here in Japan to master these new technologies (Coding, remote sensing, AI or machine learning)**. The goal is to become a future key person for AFICAT, capable of **support the initiative back home**. I am preparing to be one of the **local skills who knows the needs of their countries**, which is essential for the effective extension and application of any developed technology.

3. The contribution to help AFICAT must start at the university level. Any development of technologies begins with **research and teaching** before extension. Japanese universities can lead this foundational phase. We can **learn from Japanese companies and support them to spread their technologies and develop their business in our countries**. Universities can facilitate this by cultivating skilled graduates who understand both the technology and the local African context, thereby creating a reliable talent pipeline for private enterprises. The final "extension" phase will require the **local skills** being developed through study in Japan. Universities are crucial in building this human capacity, which de-risks and enables private sector-led projects.

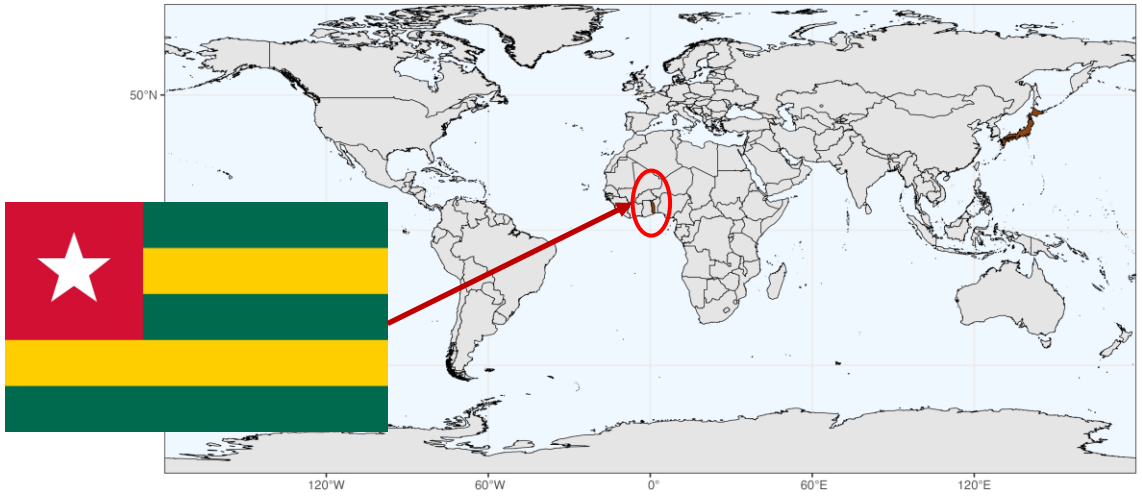
BANAKINAOU WIYAO

PhD Candidate

Environmental Science and Technology, Niigata University

Home country: Togo (West Africa)
Languages: French, English
Background: Agricultural science

Research Topic: Development of predictive models for soil carbon and nutrient cycling in Conservation Agriculture Systems



Upland rice cultivation

Perspectives on the Role of AFICAT in Japan-Africa Agricultural Partnership

AFICAT's initiatives

- Integrated approach linking government, research institutions, and private-sector innovation across five key markets
- Addresses critical gap: smallholder farmers lack access to mechanization and knowledge transfer

My commitment to AFICAT

- Contribute through doctoral research on conservation agriculture and rice systems
- Serve as cultural and intellectual bridge between Japanese researchers and African agricultural priorities

Japanese universities contribution to AFICAT

- Create alumni networks spanning Japan-Africa that facilitate business partnerships
- Reduce private-sector investment risks