AFEPA Alumni: Carine Tuyishime, Rwanda

1. What is your current profession?
Intern at the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rwanda.

2. What is your academic background and where did you spend your first and second year of AFEPA?
I have an academic background in Agricultural economics. I spent my first year at the University of Bonn, Germany and the second at Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium.

3. What would you say is the most important thing you learned during AFEPA?
The most important thing I learned during the two years of AFEPA program can be summed up in one word: resilience. The AFEPA program has a bunch of interesting and captivating courses. As a first year student, important to know is your preference in career development which helps you to make informed choices on courses to take. Then, comes a period that requires commitment to the chosen courses that are intensive and more demanding. During this period, the remarkable and amazing thing I learned is that anyone can be able to adapt to any situation, however challenging it might be, if fueled with hard work and determination. The outcome is a boost in confidence that any assigned task can be delivered successfully, of course, with the two ingredients (hard work and determination) plus acquired academic knowledge.

4. What was the best part of your AFEPA experience?
For me, the best part was the opportunity the program offers of studying in two different countries. It allowed me experience cultural, social and educational differences as well as expand my network. More importantly, it allowed me to practice and improve my knowledge of English and French. I now have very good command of both languages (plus basic German) which proves to be beneficial while working in a multilingual team/environment.

5. What would you say to anyone interested in applying for the AFEPA program?
The AFEPA program provides academic knowledge desired on the labor market. I can confidently say this because each time I step into a meeting room, discussion group or even follow on media any discussion on food, agriculture or environment, I can easily relate to them through different topics discussed in depth during lectures and group assignments. I highly encourage interested candidates to apply for the AFEPA program. You will never regret the slice of your precious time allocated to it.