



AWARD Mentor, Associate Professor Florence Olubayo, a senior lecturer at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, is an agricultural scientist with emphasis in Integrated Crop Pest management, Postharvest pest management, and Agricultural Technology transfer.

AWARD Fellowship Call for Applications: Seeking top women scientists from francophone Africa



“If science is a pathway out of African poverty, we must have a new generation of scientists who offer different perspectives, interests, and, above all, commitment. AWARD is the first network of its kind in Africa to empower the talent pool of women in agricultural research.”

Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina, President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the 2017 World Food Prize Laureate

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) is working 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.

The AWARD Fellowship is a career-development program that since 2008 has, through tailored fellowships, equipped top women agricultural scientists across sub-Saharan Africa to accelerate agricultural gains by strengthening their science and leadership skills. The fellowship is a catalyst for innovations with high potential to contribute to the prosperity and well-being of African smallholder farmers.

AWARD Fellows benefit from a two-year fellowship focused on fostering mentoring partnerships, building science skills, and developing leadership capacity. Following a highly competitive process, the fellowships are awarded on the basis of intellectual merit and leadership capacity.

Eligibility

Women agricultural scientists who are citizens of the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, and Togo.

“Agriculture-driven prosperity for the continent will remain unrealized in the absence of a pan-African vision. This is the first time that AWARD will reserve 50 percent of the opportunities for participants (fellows, mentors, and fellow’s mentees) from francophone Africa and structure fellowship activities to maximize interactions between female scientists from francophone and anglophone Africa.”

Dr. Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg,
Director, AWARD



AWARD Fellow Elizabeth Bandason benefited from a six-month research attachment at Dow AgroSciences in Indianapolis, U.S.A., where she joined an insect pest-management research team, examining the mode of action of unknown insecticidal compounds.

“I gained a wide range of technical skills beyond my expectations that are directly applicable to my research in Africa,” notes Bandason, a lecturer in the entomology department at the University of Malawi’s Bunda College of Agriculture.

Back in Malawi, Bandason is working on developing eco-friendly pest-management strategies and natural products that are readily accessible and affordable for farmers.

2011 AWARD Fellow/2014 AWARD Mentor,
Elizabeth Bandason, Lecturer,
Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR)

Education: completed bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree.

Discipline: all domains in agriculture and food are eligible.

Priority will be given to scientists working on research to benefit the sorghum and millet value chains, seed systems, and agroecological transitions.

The AWARD Difference

During the two-year fellowship, AWARD Fellows remain in their institutions, continue their research, and travel to AWARD training courses held in various locations across Africa. The AWARD Fellowship package includes:

Fostering Mentoring Partnerships

- One-to-one monthly mentoring by a senior scientist or professional for each AWARD Fellow

Developing Leadership Capacity

- Participation in the internationally recognized AWARD Women’s Leadership and Management Course or the AWARD Leadership Skills Course

- Support to host a community role-modeling event

Building Science Skills

- Participation in AWARD Science Skills Courses, with an option of science or proposal writing
- Opportunities to compete for advanced science training at leading international universities and institutions

How to apply: For application forms and answers to frequently asked questions, visit: <http://awardfellowships.org/fellowship/faq/>

Application deadline: October 7, 2017.

Applications received after the deadline and incomplete applications will NOT be accepted.

Winners will be notified in November 2017.

Successful candidates must be available to attend a five-day AWARD Mentoring Orientation Workshop to be held on February 18-23, 2018, in Kenya.

Select Partners

For a complete list of partners, visit www.awardfellowships.org

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African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD)

Hosted by the World Agroforestry Centre

P.O. Box 30677-00100

United Nations Avenue, Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya

+254 (0) 20 722 4242

awardqueries@cgiar.org

www.awardfellowships.org