



2009 AWARD Fellow
Petra Bola Abdulsalam-Saghir

Research area: Gender and rural development.

Position	Lecturer I
Institution	Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB)
Country	Nigeria
PhD	Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, FUNAAB 2011
Mentor	Sanni Lateef Oladimeji, Professor, FUNAAB

Petra Bola Abdulsalam-Saghir has always been interested in understanding the relationship between the rural community, health, poverty, gender, and agricultural productivity. Early in her research, she argued that alleviating rural poverty among women required a deeper scientific understanding of the correlation between natural-resource use and poverty, especially where women play major roles in managing natural resources, such as soil, water, and forests, and are the sole livelihood providers for their families.

Abdulsalam-Saghir says that being an AWARD Fellow resulted in significant changes in her career. The AWARD leadership courses helped her to develop self-confidence and assertiveness, which enabled her to pursue opportunities that she thought were out of reach. She increased her professional visibility by joining various career-related membership bodies and networked with experts inside and outside her field to help launch the Nigeria Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (NIFAAS) under the auspices of African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services. She is currently the NIFAAS national secretary. She believes in the power of networks to serve women in agriculture and says, "Networks are like cars; they must be continually maintained and serviced for best performance."

In 2009, Abdulsalam-Saghir won a one-year grant from the University of Greenwich's Natural Resources Institute to complete her PhD dissertation in agricultural extension and rural development, with a specialization in gender and rural development. She is a gender specialist with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded Cassava: Adding Value for Africa (C: AVA) Project in Nigeria.

In 2010, Abdulsalam-Saghir won a nine-month AWARD-sponsored research attachment with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) where she is helping to facilitate workshops, train trainers/implementers, and mainstream gender issues into projects. With her supervisor's support, she is working on the following projects:

- Integrating Dairy Goat and Root Crop Production for Increasing Food, Nutrition, and Income Security of Smallholder Farmers in Tanzania; International Development Research Centre, Canadian International Development Agency, Sokoine University of Agriculture, and ILRI.
 - Evaluation of the Impacts of Livestock, Aquaculture and Apiculture Microcredit, and Value Chain Programs on Women's Empowerment (5 projects); Ford Foundation.
 - Gender and Climate Risk Considerations for Research Crops and Livestock in Africa; Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.
 - Gender and Agriculture Assets Project; International Food Policy Research Institute/ILRI.
-