



2010 AWARD Fellow
Anabela da Piedade Manhiça

Position:	Senior researcher and head of technology transfer department
Institution:	Mozambique Agriculture Research Institute (IIAM)
Country:	Mozambique
MSc:	Veterinary Medicine, University of Pretoria, 2008
Mentored by:	Dr. Maria Isabel Andrade, Sweet potato specialist International Potato Center, Mozambique

Research area: Technology transfer related to using sweet potato as an alternative feed for pigs in Mozambique.

For her MSc, Anabela da Piedade Manhiça explored the introduction and standardization of biotechnological diagnostic techniques for *brucellosis*, a disease that causes spontaneous abortions in cows, sheep, and goats.

With a young family, Manhiça says it was a challenge to do her MSc part-time while taking on a new position in technology transfer in 2006. “Although I am a veterinarian, I can’t focus only on my field. I am also transferring technology for crops, such as sweet potatoes,” she explains. She finds the interaction between crop production and animal nutrition interesting, and enjoys pursuing integrated research on animal feed.

She is currently involved in training farmers to process livestock feed. “During harvest, farmers have a lot of food for their animals, but there is a problem with postharvest conservation,” she says. “For feed, farmers tend to use only fresh maize, sweet potatoes, and other crops which are often attacked by insects, causing tremendous losses. If the farmers can learn how to process these crops properly, they would last longer and help them through dry seasons.”

Manhiça is working on new ways to transfer technology to farmers. “Often, they don’t accept what we propose because they don’t know where to sell their produce. We are all actors in the value chain together—sweet potato producers, processors, marketers, the fertilizer salesperson, the tractor supplier,” she continues. “I am trying to connect people, with the ultimate goal of improving food security and increasing farmers’ incomes.”

Manhiça is constantly reading and learning by experience. “I need to know the best way to convince farmers that the technology we are introducing will help them achieve higher yields,” she says. She particularly enjoys collaborating with women farmers. “They are the most involved in agriculture, food security and nutrition at household in Mozambique, and I love working with them.”

Manhiça's heart is in research, and she would eventually like to become a well-known researcher in the area of technology transfer. As for her time as an AWARD Fellow, Manhiça is eager to work with her mentor and meet other women scientists. She plans to apply for an AWARD-supported research attachment at a leading institution in animal nutrition. "I also hope to get a scholarship to begin my PhD."

Manhiça is one of 180 African woman scientists who have won an AWARD Fellowship. AWARD is a professional development program that strengthens the research and leadership skills of African women in agricultural science, empowering them to contribute more effectively to poverty alleviation and food security in sub-Saharan Africa. For more information, please visit www.awardfellowships.org
