



## 2010 AWARD Fellow Benedicta Nsiah Frimpong

*Research area: Economic analysis and impact assessment of research-generated farm-production technologies and market opportunities for food crops in Ghana.*

<b>Position:</b>	Principal technical officer
<b>Institution:</b>	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Crops Research Institute
<b>Country:</b>	Ghana
<b>BSc:</b>	Agriculture, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), 2006
<b>Mentored by:</b>	Dr. Beatrice Obiri Darko, Senior research scientist Forest Products and Marketing Division Forestry Research Institute of Ghana

Benedicta Nsiah Frimpong says agriculture was not among her first choices for a career—she would have preferred to become a civil engineer. But once she was admitted to KNUST as one of only three women among 40 students, she was inspired by agricultural economics. “It has always been my passion to help women, and rural women in particular. I want them to see farming as a business, and to organize themselves to negotiate for better marketing positions; to obtain better prices for their produce.”

As part of a team of social scientists, she is focusing on the impact of the new agronomic technologies that colleagues have generated and shared with the farming community. When her institute releases new varieties, she says, this is always combined with recommendations on best crop husbandry practices. “Within rural communities, I am collecting data via baseline or impact assessment surveys, which cover different aspects of adoption,” she explains.

Still a young scientist, Nsiah Frimpong enjoys the support of her supervisor, who asks her to participate in data analysis, report writing, and in-house presentation of results. “Recently, I made a short presentation on empowering women via improved seed management at a leadership course for 21 African and Asian women researchers,” she recalls. “Following that course, my confidence increased, especially after I was commended for my presentation. But I need to learn more leadership and mentoring skills during my time as an AWARD Fellow so I can mentor younger women scientists,” she adds. She also wants to build up her self-confidence and learn to present in front of a large group of peers, which she has never done.

Nsiah Frimpong is currently enrolled in an MPhil program at KNUST, where she wants to pursue Agricultural Economics and complete a thesis looking at the yam value chain in Ghana and related gender issues.

Interacting with women farmers motivates her. "Sometimes I see old women working hard in their fields, and all I want is to make their lives easier," she says. "My mother is one of my role models. Even though she became a single parent when I was very young, she was determined to provide an education to her four children. I want to stay focused on being the change I want to see."

*Nsiah Frimpong 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](http://www.awardfellowships.org)*

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