



2009 AWARD Fellow
Omolola Comfort Betiku

Position:	Lecturer II
Institution:	Obafemi Awolowo University
Country:	Nigeria
MSc:	Animal Sciences Obafemi Awolowo University
Mentor:	Professor S. M. Odeyinka Department of Animal Sciences Obafemi Awolowo University

Research area: Fish nutrition, focused on production of cost-effective, quality fish feed.

Omolola Comfort Betiku is a lecturer in the Department of Animal Sciences of the Faculty of Agriculture at Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Nigeria, where she teaches Fisheries and Animal Sciences courses. Her main research area is fish nutrition, and she has published many articles in conference proceedings and reputable journals in this field.

Betiku's passion is sustainable aquaculture production through qualitative research and development projects. Her goal is to help produce cost-effective, quality fish feed that supports quick growth, without presenting any risk to human health or the environment. Betiku believes that aquaculture is sustainable when citizens can afford locally grown fish; when income generation from fisheries is substantial enough to support other economic sectors, and when most of the fish ingredients are produced locally, without pressure on the environment.

Betiku holds a Bachelor of Agriculture (Animal Sciences) and an MSc in Animal Sciences from OAU. After her first degree, she served with the National Institute for Freshwater Fisheries Research (NIFFR) during her time with the National Youth Service Corps, and received a state award for carrying out a community development project to enhance the incomes of rural fishermen's families. Subsequently, she worked as a research officer at NIFFR from 2002 to 2006, where she learned about the many fish species in Nigerian rivers and lakes that can create job opportunities and improve living standards for fishermen and women.

Betiku joined OAU in 2006 as a junior research fellow in Animal Biotechnology. Her team carried out the genotyping of wild and domesticated African catfish species. As a result of her interest in teaching and research, and her contribution to the university, she was promoted to the position of full lecturer in Fish Nutrition. Betiku enjoys mentoring and interacting with her students. From 2007 to 2011, she has been serving as an adviser to the OAU chapter of Harambee, an international students' organization.

In 2009, Betiku won a fellowship from African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD), competing with 784 women scientists from 10 African countries for 60 fellowships. She also competed and won an AWARD-sponsored research attachment placement with the Bozeman Fish Technology Center in Bozeman, Montana, where she is currently conducting fish nutrition experiments. Betiku says that AWARD's training courses have helped her become a competent leader who mentors many women.

Betiku is a member of the Fisheries Society of Nigeria, the Animal Science Association of Nigeria, and the World Aquaculture Society.

Betiku 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
