



2010 AWARD Fellow
Bolanle Ogunlolu

Position:	MSc student
Institution:	University of Agriculture, Abeokuta
Country:	Nigeria
BSc:	Agriculture (Forage Science), University of Agriculture, 2007
Mentored by:	Professor Daisy Eruvbetine, Dean College of Animal Science and Livestock Production University of Agriculture, Abeokuta

Research area: Evaluation of selected pearl millet genotypes for forage production in southwestern Nigeria.

Bolanle Ogunlolu believes that the success of Nigeria’s farms depends on women farmers being aware of agricultural innovations. Her current research involves collecting genotypes of pearl millet from all over Nigeria, establishing them, and capturing data. Lab work involves taking fresh forage samples, then analyzing them to determine their chemical components and microbial profile, in order to select the most suitable genotypes of different grains and forages for southwestern Nigeria. “I love to see what I’m doing—I’m a practical person who doesn’t like theories,” she explains. “You can learn a lot in the field.”

Pearl millet is a promising forage crop with high potential for integration into Nigerian livestock production systems. It is unknown to southern Nigeria, but has good potential, as it can be turned into flour and solid pap for household use, and forage for animals, Ogunlolu says. “There is enough rain to support this crop, and I hope farmers will adopt it.”

Although there are few Nigerian women specializing in forage science, Ogunlolu says she has found her niche. She already has a teaching certificate from Nigeria’s Federal College of Education, and plans to eventually embark on a PhD, and work with small groups of rural women to help them learn about and adopt new technologies, in cooperation with extension workers.

Ogunlolu sees the AWARD Fellowship as a good way to keep women scientists in agriculture. “It is really encouraging to have people you can look up to as you progress and to be connected to a network of people both inside and outside your field of work.”

Ogunlolu 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