



2010 AWARD Fellow
Charlotte Oduro-Yeboah

Position:	Head, Roots and Tuber Product Development Unit
Institution:	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Food Research Institute
Country:	Ghana
MSc:	Food Science and Technology, University of Ghana, 2006
Mentored by:	Dr. Emmanuel Ohene Afoakwa Senior Lecturer, Department of Nutrition and Food Science University of Ghana

Research Area: *Applying postharvest technologies in the processing of roots, tubers, fruits, and vegetables for the development of health-enhancing convenient shelf-stable foods.*

In her position with the CSIR Food Research Institute, Charlotte Oduro-Yeboah is working with plantain, yams, cassava and other products to turn them into shelf-stable convenience products. "In Ghana, different kinds of roots and tubers are grown and sold in local markets," she explains. "Their rapid postharvest deterioration is one of the constraints to their use. Once harvested, they are highly perishable, and when stored, rapid deterioration occurs." Oduro-Yeboah says her goal is to teach smallholder farmers how to process cassava and plantain into dry flour forms to extend their shelf life.

Oduro-Yeboah is also involved in a community development project in the northern part of Ghana to train farmers in crop productivity. She was trained by the Millennium Challenge Accounts to help these farmers develop business plans to get funding. "The farmers are being taught to change their mindset and see farming as a business rather than a way of life," she says.

Oduro-Yeboah says the access to knowledge sharing and networking stemming from the AWARD Fellowship will improve her career development as a research scientist, and she is already putting this into action. She recently contacted the lead scientist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and was invited to the Institute of Food Technologists annual meeting in Chicago. "He didn't know me at all, but gave me that opportunity to attend, telling me my letter came at the right time."

The mother of three now plans to pursue a PhD in Food Science and Technology.

Oduro-Yeboah 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