



2009 AWARD Fellow
Dácia Alzira de Augusto Correia

Position:	Researcher and senior lecturer
Institution:	Veterinary Faculty, Eduardo Mondlane University
Country:	Mozambique
MSc:	Veterinary Science, Glasgow University, 1994
Mentored by:	Dra Célia Diniz, Change agent Associação PROGRESSO

Research area: *Evaluation of biomarkers for environmental toxicity assessment in Mozambique, particularly related to pollution by metals, persistent organic pollutants, and endocrine disruptors.*

Correia joined the Veterinary Faculty of Eduardo Mondlane University in 1989 as a lecturer in veterinary pharmacology and toxicology. Currently, she conducts research on environmental pollution and is a member of a North–South toxicology network.

“In Mozambique, intensified agriculture and livestock production that uses increasing quantities of pesticides, fertilizers, and other agricultural chemicals, brings a high risk of pollution and consequent environmental degradation,” says Correia. “It is crucial to establish efficient systems of environmental monitoring if we are to have the sustainable development of agriculture and livestock as a guarantee of food security.”

Correia’s research goal is to investigate the response of suitable cellular and sub-cellular biomarkers in tropical species exposed to specific types of agricultural chemicals and metal contaminants. She says that an enhanced ability to assess the effects on the health and survival of contaminant-exposed populations will result in better management systems and contribute to the mitigation of the pollutants’ impact on agriculture and livestock production expansion.

In addition to her environmental work, Correia is involved in other research, such as genetically modified organisms and the production of anti-snake venom serum.

As a lecturer, Correia is concerned with the improvement of veterinary curricula. She has been involved in national and regional-level committees, discussing veterinary education and its relevance to African needs. She has contributed to curricula development and training programs for livestock farmers. Correia is a member of the Scientific Agriculture Council in Mozambique and the National Biosafety Committee.

Correia says her experience as an AWARD Fellow has had a significant influence on her career. “It changed my attitude towards about visibility, and scientific and social leadership. Through the mentoring and training I received, my self-confidence improved as well as my assertiveness, scientific leadership, knowledge sharing, and social management skills,” says Correia. “I expect to make a positive difference and to serve

as a mentor to young colleagues. I also want to use laboratory research results to teach women farmers about sustainable development practices in agriculture and livestock production, as means of improving rural livelihoods.”

Correia 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, visit www.awardfellowships.org
