



2010 AWARD Fellow
Denyse Uwibambe

Position:	Assistant post-harvest specialist
Institution:	Rwanda Horticultural Development Authority
Country:	Rwanda
BSc:	Food Science and Technology Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST), 2010
Mentored by:	Dr. Hilda Vasanthakalaam, Head Food Science and Technology Department, KIST

Research area: *Improvement in nutritional level of rural women of reproductive age and alleviation of malnutrition using horticulture technology.*

Denyse Uwibambe's work involves researching ways to increase the nutritional status and development of rural Rwandan women of reproductive age through the use of local, fortified fruits and vegetables, maize, wheat, and other staple foods. She is doing this by providing training on small and medium-sized projects concerning horticulture technologies and value addition. Uwibambe is passionate about fighting malnutrition, which is a significant problem in rural Rwanda.

"I'm trying to organize radio programs to explain the importance of a balanced diet for adolescent girls and women of reproductive age," says Uwibambe. "I'm also planning to train women about postharvest loss prevention, processing and value addition. I want to start some small and medium-sized projects, which can help them to combat malnutrition and poverty. I would like see a basic food science and nutrition course introduced in rural primary and secondary schools, and to have education for parents on good nutrition."

Uwibambe says she is gaining skills and knowledge in the areas of mentorship and leadership, thanks to AWARD. "My ultimate goal is to contribute to the future development of my institution, women, and the whole of Rwandan society," she says.

Uwibambe plans to pursue a master's program in Food Science and nutrition-related sciences. She is enthusiastic about organizing seminars, outreach programs, and training sessions within her organization, and feels she has gained confidence thanks to the AWARD training courses that she has already attended.

Uwibambe 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