



**2010 AWARD Fellow**  
**Subuola Fasoyiro**

<b>Position:</b>	Research fellow
<b>Institution:</b>	Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T)
<b>Country:</b>	Nigeria
<b>PhD:</b>	Food Technology, University of Ibadan, 2004
<b>Mentored by:</b>	Professor Kehinde A. Taiwo Department of Food Science and Technology Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife Nigeria

*Research area: Developing low-cost, commercially viable, food-processing techniques for underused legumes in Nigeria.*

Subuola Fasoyiro is encouraging Nigerians to consume more legumes, an excellent source of nutrients, in a country where many people cannot afford milk and eggs. In her role as a research fellow at the IAR&T, Fasoyiro and her team have already made an impact with soybeans, producing soymilk and different snack foods. "Pigeon peas grow well in Nigeria, but they are neglected," she says. "We have processed pigeon peas with a local fermented spice called 'dawadawa'. This is ready for dissemination to different focus groups."

Fasoyiro says legumes are an excellent alternative that can improve people's nutritional status, especially that of children. She has published research on processing pigeon peas into dawadawa and other local products. Flour products include cakes, mixed with cassava as biscuits and buns, as well as a crispy snack called "chin-chin".

"I am working with other team members on appropriate technologies to develop at least 10 acceptable new products from pigeon peas, which can serve as income generators for women, boosting their family sustainability," notes Fasoyiro.

At the IAR&T, Fasoyiro is also involved in improving food safety practices within communities in southwestern Nigeria, partnering with school vendors and local food processors. "Our aim is to make sure that the food that is being processed is safe and nutritious," she explains.

As an AWARD Fellow, she looks forward to learning how to write better proposals and the opportunity for collaborative research, especially with other institutions, both nationally and internationally.

Fasoyiro is enthusiastic about working with her mentor, and anticipates a close collaboration. She wants to be a role model for girls in secondary school, to encourage them in agricultural-related subjects. "I am committed to imparting my knowledge to help them grow. That is what mentoring is all about—reproducing myself."

*Fasoyiro 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](http://www.awardfellowships.org)*

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