



**2011 AWARD Fellow**  
**Folasayo Titilola Fayose**

<b>Position</b>	Lecturer
<b>Institution</b>	Department of Agricultural Engineering Technology Rufus Giwa Polytechnic
<b>Country</b>	Nigeria
<b>PhD</b>	Farm Power and Machinery Federal University of Technology, 2009
<b>Mentor</b>	Professor Malachy O. Akoroda Agronomy Department, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry University of Ibadan

*Research area: Development and evaluation of food extrusion machinery to reduce drudgery, particularly for women and girls in rural areas.*

Growing up in Ondo State, Nigeria as the firstborn of six children, Folasayo Titilola Fayose became painfully aware of the drudgery in farming that women and girls face daily. Fayose sees this as a big problem in agriculture and food production, which deters youth who might otherwise consider a career in the sector. Having a mind for thorough analysis and logical thinking, her goal emerged when she entered university: Combine agriculture and engineering to reduce such mundane labor.

During her PhD studies at the Federal University of Technology, Fayose concentrated on the development and evaluation of starch-extruding machinery. "Food extruders give food or feed mixtures different shapes, such as pellets or elbow macaroni," Fayose explains. "My current research concentrates on producing floating feed pellets for farmed fish." Quality fish feeds are currently imported at great cost, she says, so most farmers opt for low-quality feed that is cheap, but not very nutritious. Fish farmers, many of whom are women, cannot produce floating fish feed, and their home-made solutions pollute ponds and waste valuable feed resources.

Fayose is convinced that the food extruder she develops with her students will help small commercial businesses and farmers' organizations to produce affordable, high-quality fish feed out of fish meal, starch, and concentrates, such as bone meal and fibers (e.g. wheat offal), potentially enriched with vitamins. Her current research focuses on optimizing the machine to mix the right quantities of ingredients to the right size of pellet. "On a small scale, I have already tested the feed pellets with friends and with some fish farmers in the villages," she adds. "The feedback looks promising for adoption of this technology if we can offer the pellets at a much reduced price compared to the imported fish feed."

Considering herself fortunate to be an AWARD Fellow, Fayose is determined to reach her goals and particularly looks forward to participating in AWARD's Women's Leadership and Management Course to gain confidence and assertiveness. She says that her main challenges are to become a good communicator and to get her ideas across and acknowledged in the male-dominated world of engineering.

*Fayose is one of a growing number of 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](http://www.awardfellowships.org)*

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