



2010 AWARD Fellow  
**Kehinde Moyib**

<b>Position:</b>	Lecturer
<b>Institution:</b>	Department of Petroleum and Chemical Sciences Tai-Solarin University of Education, Ijebu-Ode
<b>Country:</b>	Nigeria
<b>MSc:</b>	Biochemistry, University of Ibadan, 2000
<b>Mentored by:</b>	Professor Malachy O. Akoroda Department of Agronomy University of Ibadan

*Research area: Development of new genomic resources for marker-assisted selection of agronomically important traits in plants.*

As a research scientist, Kehinde Moyib is committed to using bioinformatics tools to improve molecular breeding in plants. She published the first paper on the genetic diversity of African yam beans (*Sphenostylis stenocarpa Hochst ex A. Rich*), discovering the commonality between this legume and the more common cowpea, and is now fielding questions about her research from scientists around the world.

As the lastborn in a family composed of three sets of twins, Moyib pursued studies in biochemistry after toying with the idea of medical school. "I worked hard, watching other women, and learning from my colleagues," she says. After finishing her BSc in 1997, she got a job with a development agency, which took her to other parts of Nigeria and sparked her interest in learning about other cultures. She worked in a clinic in a remote village where people's only mode of transport is by boat—there are no roads. "I had seen this sort of thing on television, but I never realized that people lived so simply."

After completing her MSc, Moyib began working at the Tai-Solarin University of Education. She enjoys teaching, but she aspires to help rural women and wants to contribute toward ensuring food security in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020. "Like Oliver Twist, I am not content and I want to achieve more," she says. "When you find problems in society, you need to look for solutions. I want to leave a mark, and help people out of poverty. I've been in the lab my whole life. I am anxious to extend to the farm."

Moyib has completed her PhD research and is waiting to defend it. Her goal is to combine the tools of biotechnology and bioinformatics to help improve food security in sub-Saharan Africa. Her first specific objective is to improve molecular breeding in cassava. "Cassava begins to deteriorate within 24 to 48 hours after harvesting," she explains. "If I can help to develop or improve cassava genotypes to eliminate this rapid deterioration, it will mean cassava can be stored longer before processing. This will help farmers immensely, enabling them to generate more income."

Moyib hopes to be a role model for young African scientists, especially women. "The AWARD Fellowship is the greatest thing that has happened to me," she says. "It will expose me to mentoring and networking that will help me to be more focused. I am planning to do post-doctoral work eventually, and feel that the training and contacts I will make here will help to motivate me."

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

---