



2011 AWARD Fellow  
**Graça Manjate**

<b>Position</b>	Research intern
<b>Institution</b>	Mozambique Agricultural Research Institute (IIAM)
<b>Country</b>	Mozambique
<b>BSc</b>	Agricultural sciences, Catholic University of Mozambique, 2004
<b>Mentor</b>	Benedito Cunguara, Researcher, Michigan State University project

*Research area: Conducting studies, analysis, and producing basic information for development of research and providing technical assistance to the management bodies of IIAM on the socio-economic aspects of development.*

As a researcher, Graça Manjate aspires to improve agricultural productivity and the sustainable use of natural resources, and consequently improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Mozambique. She credits a kindly registrar at the Catholic University of Mozambique as having had a significant impact on her life. This woman noticed Manjate's application, called her, and encouraged her to apply for a scholarship.

"I told her everything, including the fact that my father died when I was 7 years old and I went to live with my sister," she says. Manjate had been unable to find a job with just a secondary school education, so she was delighted to be offered a scholarship thanks to the registrar's advocacy, and to complete a bachelor's degree.

Manjate's current area of research is in agricultural economics, an interest she says began during her BSc studies. "Socio-economic research in agriculture is very important because the objective is to increase public investment in agricultural research oriented toward poverty reduction," she says. "I have always worried about the welfare of rural communities, particularly in the realm of food security analysis."

Her research interests span a wide range of socio-economic topics, such as impact assessments of agricultural programs, evaluation of technology adoption, and priority setting in agricultural research, taking into account the changing political, social, economic and environmental contexts. "In my short career as a socio-economic researcher, I have been involved in raising the economic production standards of potato, onion, tomato, cabbage, and maize in the province of Maputo," she continues. "This helps the farmers to know all the costs of a crop. I have also been analyzing the profitability of rice and cassava at the farm level, as well as Irish potato value-chain analysis."

Manjate enjoys working with groups of farmers. "I'm dealing with the women, collecting all the data on their time management. We ask them when they have time to till and harvest, how they deal with more work, and how they manage their time given their other responsibilities."

Manjate says the most exciting thing about being an AWARD Fellow is that it will help to develop her career, increase her networking, and enhance her visibility. "AWARD has opened my eyes to so many opportunities,"

she says. She is looking forward to interacting with other scientists and academics. “I know that I will continue to grow as a researcher. I hope to do a master’s degree, and find an internship at an international organization—this is a dream I don’t want to give up.”

*Manjate is one of a growing number of African women agricultural 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. AWARD is generously supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development. For more information, visit [www.awardfellowships.org](http://www.awardfellowships.org)*

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