



**2010 AWARD Fellow**  
**Margaret Lukuyu**

<b>Position:</b>	Research scientist
<b>Institution:</b>	Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI)
<b>Country:</b>	Kenya
<b>MSc:</b>	Animal Nutrition, University of Nairobi, 2001
<b>Mentored by:</b>	Dr. Amos Omore, Veterinary epidemiologist International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

*Research area: Improving the delivery, quality, and utilization of concentrate feeds in smallholder dairy farms in Kenya.*

Margaret Lukuyu is dedicated to addressing the problem of milk production in Kenya by improving livestock feed. She says that while most dairy enterprises are managed by women, they have limited access to monetary benefits, credit facilities, decision-making processes, and technical information.

Lukuyu's work at KARI enables her to pursue her long-standing interest in animal nutrition, which was birthed as a child growing up near the slopes of Mount Kenya. She recalls her mother selling one of the family's cows so that Lukuyu's older sister could go to school. This recognition of the value and importance of cattle prompted her to pursue a career focusing on livestock.

Lukuyu's parents were smallholder farmers, becoming among the first in the region with a large dairy herd. She says the cows and milk kept the family of eight children going—she herself learned to milk and take the product to market as a young girl. When she finished secondary school, rather than looking for a teaching job as was the norm for girls her age, Lukuyu opted to look after cows. After receiving a diploma in animal husbandry and working with Kenya's Ministry of Livestock Development for a few years, she went back to college for a BSc in Animal Production, subsequently earning an MSc in Animal Nutrition at the University of Nairobi.

Lukuyu is passionate about helping smallholder farmers. "One of the reasons I applied for an AWARD Fellowship was to gain the skills and knowledge to write funding proposals for crops, livestock, and environmental technologies that will ultimately improve the lives of Kenyan farmers, in particular a milk-trader's group I am working with," she says. "I am also interested in understanding milk-marketing systems that enhance women's ability to generate income from milk."

For Lukuyu, the biggest professional reward is giving effective advice. During an ILRI project targeted at feeding cows during their first lactation period, one woman farmer—a single mother of four—recorded

a milk increase of 10 kilograms per day in one cow. This woman ran up to Lukuyu at a market and said, "Teacher, my cow is producing so much milk I can't believe it's the same cow." That farmer is her friend to this day. "I know that livestock provides a pathway out of poverty for the rural poor," Lukuyu says.

As an AWARD Fellow, Lukuyu looks forward to building and extending her professional networks. And as a woman in a male-dominated profession, she welcomes the connections she will make with other AWARD Fellows. She intends to use the leadership skills she will gain through AWARD's training to influence policy in Kenya regarding the production, delivery, and quality control of concentrate feeds.

*Lukuyu 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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