



**2010 AWARD Fellow**  
**Patricia Pinamang**  
**Acheampong**

<b>Position:</b>	Assistant research scientist/Agricultural economist
<b>Institution:</b>	Crops Research Institute, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
<b>Country:</b>	Ghana
<b>MSc:</b>	Economics (Public policy), University of Hull, U.K., 2003
<b>Mentored by:</b>	Dr. Victor Owusu, Lecturer Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Department of Agricultural Economics Agribusiness and Extension

*Research Area: Improving Ghanaian smallholders' socio-economic status and consumer safety through the introduction of non-staking yam varieties using participatory strategies.*

Patricia Pinamang Acheampong has worked as an agricultural economist at the Crops Research Institute in Kumasi for the past five years. Her role brings her into close contact with Ghanaian smallholder farmers, more than 60 percent of whom are women. She is troubled by the fact that these hard-working women tend to avoid new technologies that are developed to make their jobs easier and improve their crop yields. Such advances as crop-management techniques and improved seeds often go untried by the farmers. "Is it tradition, does it clash with their culture, or are they not being consulted?" These questions have prompted Pinamang to pursue a PhD at KNUST.

Pinamang grew up in Kumasi, Ghana's second-largest city, where her father was a successful farmer with a 70-acre cocoa plantation. Although she didn't live on the farm, she was constantly there and always felt drawn to agriculture as a career, enabling her to work with rural women.

"Through AWARD's training, I will increase my scientific writing and management skills, and I hope, become more authoritative in my area of expertise," she says. She also wants to pursue her interest in politics, since her ultimate goal is to be chief director of Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Pinamang says emphasis in her workplace is more on agronomy, breeding, and biotechnology, but she hopes to gain more visibility for agricultural economics.

Her greatest joy is seeing farmers' lives improved. "Anytime we introduce a new seed and the farmers accept it and are excited—this gives me great satisfaction," she says.

*Pinamang Acheampong 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)*