



**2011 AWARD Fellow**  
**Nusirat Aderinsola Sadiku**

<b>Position</b>	Graduate assistant
<b>Institution</b>	University of Ilorin
<b>Country</b>	Nigeria
<b>BSc</b>	Forestry and Wood Technology Federal University of Technology (FUT), Akure, 2006
<b>Mentor</b>	Babatolu Olafemi, Lecturer, FUT

*Research area: Briquetting of waste as an alternative source of energy, domestication of valuable timber/non-timber forest products, and pharmacological evaluation of medicinal plants.*

Nusirat Aderinsola Sadiku recalls a childhood love of planting and visiting farms, which germinated as she got older. The second child among five born to parents who valued education, she chose to study agriculture at university, but soon changed her focus to forestry—although she was one of only three girls in the program.

Sadiku is currently in a master’s program in wood science at FUT, where she is involved in the production of wood plastic composites. This involves using agricultural and forest wastes bound with plastic material to make more useful products, such as building materials and household utensils.

Her research into wood plastic is temporarily stalled due to a problem with the production machine, but Sadiku is not discouraged. To date, she has made two types of wood plastic for construction purposes, and has also completed research into using sawdust to make building blocks.

Another area of research for Sadiku is reducing and recycling of a vast quantity of organic waste into biofertilizer, as well as formulation of briquettes from forest, agricultural, and household waste as an alternative source of clean energy for homes and industries. “This involves processing the waste into uniform-sized particles that can be compressed into fuel wood products,” she explains.

Sadiku finds great satisfaction in the work she is doing, and is grateful for a caring and supportive husband, who encourages her to move forward with her education. Her ultimate goal is to become a professor, and she anticipates being promoted to assistant lecturer once she completes her master’s degree.

Sadiku is happy to have a mentor to guide her, and looks forward to enhancing her research skills through the program. “AWARD will definitely expose me to many things to help me build my career,” she says. “I hope to advance my writing skills so that I can get a research grant, and I am eager to improve my communication skills as well. AWARD will no doubt enable me to increase my visibility, equip me with a high level of confidence, and develop my leadership capacity, which will prepare me to carry out research and community service more effectively,” she concludes.

*Sadiku 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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