AWARD
African Women in Agricultural Research and Development

Profile

2008 AWARD Fellow

Sarah Mubiru

Position:	Program assistant
Institution:	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)
Country:	Uganda
PhD:	Natural Resource Management in Crop-Dairy Systems Makerere University, Uganda – 2008
Mentored by:	Dr. Fina Opio Head, Staple Crops Programme ASARECA, Uganda

When Sarah Mubiru was awarded her PhD in 2008, she received much attention from the local press because she was the only woman in the group of 10 graduates. Today, as a leading African scientist in Uganda, Mubiru is committed not only to improving the livelihoods of farmers through her innovative research, but to being a role model for young women considering a career in agricultural research and development—a goal she is achieving. In July, 2010, she was awarded first prize in the Young Professionals and Women in Science competition for her presentation on the development of 'ENDIISA', a decision-support tool for improved feeding of dairy cattle in Uganda. The award recognizes and rewards the hard work and excellence of young professionals and women scientists who are engaged in innovative and pioneering research and communicating the outputs (knowledge, technologies, and approaches) to improve agricultural productivity and the livelihoods of rural communities.

In her career, Mubiru's research has focused on ruminant feeding, managing natural resources in crop-livestock systems, and on climate change in association with natural resource management and forage improvement. As a research officer with the National Livestock Resources Research Institute (1994-2008) Mubiru was a lead scientist for research projects on:

- development of a computer based decision support tool for dairy feeding
- evaluation of Brachiaria mulato for dairy feeding in Uganda
- nutritional evaluation of alternative energy and protein sources for pigs and poultry
- improvement of production in goat-crop systems in eastern Uganda
- strategic utilization of feed resources for improved productivity on smallholder dairy farms in Uganda

Mubiru has developed technologies that directly benefit smallholders, including maize, bananas, and elephant grass curves for yield response to manure application in Ugandan crop-dairy systems.

She has published widely in national and international journals, including the Uganda Journal of Agricultural Sciences and Livestock Research for Rural Development. Her poster presentation at the 2007 Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) Science Week won the first prize of US$2,000.

Mubiru's academic achievements have earned her international scholarships and bursaries from the Danish International Development Agency (PhD funding), the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Centre for Development-oriented Research in Agriculture, and the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (MSc studies). She has also studied forage production, food security, and agricultural development at research institutions in Africa, Asia and Europe.

Mubiru 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