



**2010 AWARD Fellow**  
**Zyangani Chirambo**

<b>Position:</b>	Fish culturist
<b>Institution:</b>	Department of Fisheries
<b>Country:</b>	Zambia
<b>BSc:</b>	Biological Sciences, University of Zambia, 2000
<b>Mentored by:</b>	Hangoma Gordon Mudenda, Lecturer Department of Biological Sciences University of Zambia

*Research Area: Developing technologies in fish farming in line with the priorities of widow-headed households, including natural breeding of African catfish for upscaling of aquaculture in Zambia.*

Zyangani Chirambo, a fish culturist extension officer for Zambia's Department of Fisheries, supervises the development of technologies that will improve fish production and thereby enhance income-generating activities. Her current focus is on aquaculture (fish farming), teaching farmers to use local resources in a sustainable manner. "It's important to get farmers' feedback, so we can adapt technologies to their individual conditions," Chirambo says.

The firstborn in a family of eight children whose parents are in ministry, Chirambo has a heart for the disadvantaged. "There are lots of widows and orphans in Zambia due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic," she explains. "Elderly women are looking after their orphaned grandchildren and they need extra income. I hope that my research will help these vulnerable groups."

In her spare time, Chirambo and three other women set up a small organization to lobby support and improve development for the rural poor. "In my work with a community group, I have seen people begin to make progress. They had no school, but now it's almost finished. People can change their lives and the way they see themselves."

As an AWARD Fellow, Chirambo is excited about the opportunity to attend the AWARD Leadership Skills Course, since she wants to develop her knowledge and techniques, combining experience from different fields. "I have worked as a college teacher, and am keen to enhance my presentation skills. I would also like to carry out more research and write for publication. I feel that I have barely started."

Chirambo feels that she will benefit from connecting with other AWARD participants. "Meeting all of these women in science, tapping into new networks, will bring immense benefits to my career. I'm working with a mentor who is opening doors for me, and this would have been impossible had I not been an AWARD Fellow."

*Chirambo 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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