



2014 AWARD Fellow
Nellie Titani Amosi

Position	Technical Officer
Institution	World Agroforestry Centre
Country	Malawi
BSc	Forestry, Mzuzu University, 2010
Mentor	Austin Ngwira, Director of Agriculture Clinton Development Initiative
Research Area	Scaling up of agroforestry innovations to increase food security and contribute toward climate-smart agriculture.

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Nellie Titani Amosi admits that she is somewhat of a reluctant forester: she chose this area because it was the only science course open to her at the university to which she applied. Now she is happy that she did.

Today, Amosi is a technical officer at the World Agroforestry Centre in Malawi. She is involved in several projects, including the Gender-specific Appreciation of Landscape Multi-functionality, an assessment of carbon and nutrient dynamics after a three-year tephrosia-fallow agroforestry system. This study looks at the effect of conservation agriculture with trees on crop production and soil quality.

Amosi is also involved in the Agricultural Food Security Program II (AFSP II), part of her institution’s green fertilizer subsidy program. AFSP II aims to use an effective partnership to increase food and nutrition security, as well as the incomes and livelihoods of resource-constrained smallholder farmers, while increasing the resilience of the farm environment. Amosi’s work involves facilitating the planning and implementation of data collection and processing about agriculture and environmental activities, as well as strengthening collaboration among program partners. This work has inspired her to broaden her research from generic agroforestry and soil science to gender mainstreaming in the agriculture sector.

“Men and women make different decisions regarding land use, and their preferences on environmental services differ in ways that affect both groups,” she says. “We consider this so we can design and implement projects that reduce gender inequality in terms of access, control, and the benefits of resources.”

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AWARD is a career-development program that equips top women agricultural scientists across sub-Saharan Africa to accelerate agricultural gains by strengthening their research and leadership skills through tailored fellowships. AWARD is a catalyst for innovations with high potential to contribute to the prosperity and well-being of African smallholder farmers, most of whom are women.

AWARD is generously supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the United States Agency for International Development and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa. For more information, visit www.awardfellowships.org

AFSP II encourages farmers to use nitrogen-fixing fertilizer trees, providing them with seedlings to incorporate in their maize fields. The aim is to move away from the current practice where the government provides fertilizers free of charge. “This is not sustainable since there is a limit to how long the government can supply the fertilizer, and not all farmers are included in the initiative,” explains Amosi.

Working with communities gives Amosi great satisfaction. “My biggest challenge is that community members tend to doubt my ability when I stand before them as a trainer because of my young age, but with time they have come to accept me,” she says. “Working in a research institution really excites me because I can apply what I studied at university, and also learn new things.”

Amosi wants to become a gender specialist, working with international development agencies. She has set her sights on being the chief gender advisor on agriculture at the World Bank, responsible for Africa. “I realize that I have to study more to achieve this goal,” she acknowledges. “I will network in different forums to access the means to further my education.” She expects that AWARD will equip her with science skills and networking opportunities, along with stronger interpersonal skills and increased confidence, to help her achieve her goals.

As an AWARD Fellow, Amosi hopes to become a role model for her workmates and to encourage female colleagues to apply for the fellowship, and male colleagues to become mentors.