



AWARD Fellow Prof Isabel Wagara, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Science, Department of Biological Sciences at the Egerton University in Njoro, Kenya.

A game-changer: Empowering African women scientists to accelerate agricultural gains

The majority of those who produce, process, and market Africa's food are women, but only one in four agricultural researchers is female. Even fewer—one in seven—hold leadership positions in African agricultural research institutions.

(AWARD/ASTI 2009)

AWARD is a career-development program that since 2008 has, through tailored fellowships, equipped top women agricultural scientists across sub-Saharan Africa to accelerate agricultural gains by strengthening their science and leadership skills. AWARD is a catalyst for innovations with high potential to contribute to the prosperity and well-being of African smallholder farmers.

AWARD Fellows benefit from two-year fellowships focused on fostering mentoring partnerships, building science skills, and developing leadership capacity. Following a highly competitive process, the fellowships are awarded on the basis of intellectual merit and leadership capacity.

AWARD Partnerships

African women scientists from 16 countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, and Senegal) have benefited directly as AWARD Fellows.

AWARD partners with more than 200 organizations and universities, including many national agricultural research institutions, and several private companies. Thousands of people (primarily female high school students) have also been reached through role-modeling events led by AWARD Fellows.

Nearly 50 percent of AWARD's mentors are African men in senior positions. They play a key role in influencing organizational culture about the important role of African women scientists. Many mentors report that they are better leaders as a result of experience gained through AWARD.

"If science is a pathway out of African poverty, we must have a new generation of scientists who offer different perspectives, interests, and, above all, commitment. AWARD is the first network of its kind in Africa to empower the talent pool of women in agricultural research."

Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina, former Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Nigeria



Examining bean plants in a seed evaluation trial to identify lines with resistance to *Sclerotium rolfsii*. (Credit: Amos Acur)

"I was empowered through AWARD to become a skilled and competent scientist conducting cutting-edge research that is relevant to global agriculture. With the help of skills and networks developed during the AWARD Fellowship, I now participate in several research projects, with collaborations in the United Kingdom and USA"

2008 AWARD Fellow/2011 AWARD Mentor,
Pamela Paparu, Plant Pathologist,
 National Crops Resources
 Research Institute (NaCRRI)

The AWARD Difference

During the two-year fellowship, AWARD Fellows remain in their institutions, continue their research, and travel to AWARD training courses held in various locations across Africa. The AWARD Fellowship package includes:

Fostering Mentoring Partnerships

- One-to-one monthly mentoring by a senior scientist or professional for each AWARD Fellow

Developing Leadership Capacity

- Participation in the internationally recognized AWARD Women's Leadership and Management Course or the AWARD Leadership Skills Course
- Support to host a community role-modeling event

Building Science Skills

- Participation in AWARD Science Skills Courses, with an option of science or proposal writing
- Registration and presentation at a regional or international professional conference
- Opportunities to compete for advanced science training at leading international universities and institutions
- Membership in a professional association

Donors

BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



agropolis foundation



Select Partners

For a complete list of our partners, visit www.awardfellowships.org



Dow AgroSciences



African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD)

Hosted by the World Agroforestry Centre
 P.O. Box 30677-00100
 United Nations Avenue, Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya
 +254 (0) 20 722 4141
awardqueries@cgiar.org
www.awardfellowships.org