



2013 AWARD Fellow  
**Iyabo Bosede Adeoye**

<b>Position</b>	Principal Research Officer
<b>Institution</b>	National Horticultural Research Institute
<b>Country</b>	Nigeria
<b>MSc</b>	Agricultural Economics University of Ibadan (UI), Nigeria, 1997
<b>Mentor</b>	Dr. Oluwafunmiso Adeola Olajide, Lecturer, UI

*Research area: Analysis of competitiveness, value chains, effects of trade policies, and gender dimensions of horticultural crops among smallholder farmers, particularly women, in Nigeria.*

Iyabo Bosede Adeoye is convinced that agricultural economists should create employment for other people, and she is helping to do just that. “I believe that it is very important to know what consumers, including farmers, want,” she says.

Adeoye’s research is focused on value-chain analysis, cropping systems, postharvest losses, value addition, and creating market access for smallholder farmers. “Food and nutrition security, and poverty reduction are major issues in my country, so this is why I have pursued this line of research. I am especially concerned about developing a multi-stakeholder process to reduce postharvest losses,” she explains. “My goal is to foster a better understanding of market-access issues in rural communities, particularly among women and resource-poor youth who are engaged in horticultural production.”

Adeoye says inadequate market access is the bane of rural and horticultural development. “To foster efficient use of resources, it is essential to empower women to participate in activities other than simply production along the value chain,” she says.

Currently a PhD student in UI’s Department of Agricultural Economics, Adeoye conducts value-chain analysis and examines trade policies regarding horticultural crops—fruits, vegetables, and flowers—while taking the gender dimension into account.

“Nigeria’s major exports have historically been oil and other commodities, but now we are looking at horticultural products. It’s very exciting to study the potential of crops such as tomatoes, plantain, banana, mango, and okra, along the value chain, and the changing role of men and women,” says Adeoye, who is working in a number of communities across the country, advising farmers on better production techniques and on developing links to markets. “I encourage them to form groups to go to markets rather than going individually. I’ve seen a 30 percent increase in women’s involvement over the last few years, so needless to say, they have a major role to play.”

As a woman in a predominantly male environment, Adeoye says she has experienced some challenges conducting research in rural communities, but she appreciates it when farmers adapt new technologies. “When my efforts are having a positive impact, and when farmers see tangible results in their production, it is very rewarding.”

Adeoye expects the AWARD Fellowship to facilitate sharing ideas with other agricultural scientists on issues that affect smallholder farmers, with a special focus on women. “I also want to sharpen my skills in science, research, and writing,” she says. She anticipates receiving valuable guidance from her AWARD Mentor in her research work and career development, and plans to attend workshops and conferences to learn more and to share views on the need to mainstream gender into horticultural development issues.

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*Adeoye is one of a growing number of African women agricultural scientists who have won an AWARD Fellowship. 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.*

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