



**2013 AWARD Fellow**  
**Annie Mwayi Mapulanga**

<b>Position</b>	Economist
<b>Institution</b>	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Management
<b>Country</b>	Malawi
<b>BSc</b>	Agricultural Economics, University of Malawi Bunda College of Agriculture, 2010
<b>Mentor</b>	Dr. Tasokwa Vida Musa Kakota, Head, Basic Sciences Department Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources

*Research area: Investigation of climate change impact on agriculture and farming gender roles.*

Annie Mwayi Mapulanga was raised in Blantyre, Malawi where she was influenced by her mother, an agricultural extension worker. She decided to follow in her footsteps, studying agricultural economics.

Mapulanga has worked with rural communities since she began her research career. Initially, she served with the Malawi Population and Housing Census, where she administered questionnaires on demographics, agricultural practices, and livelihood streams. She then worked as a research assistant with various university lecturers to survey farmers about the impacts of fertilizer subsidies on their maize production, and later on a ICRISAT study of the early adoption of legumes, where she carried out baseline surveys with farmers trying to diversify their farming practices.

For her BSc research project, Mapulanga analyzed the determinants and gross margins of banana production by smallholder farmers. "I found that banana growing generates income because it doesn't require fertilizer or too much land," she says. "They grow the bananas largely for personal consumption and sell their extra produce for profit."

Currently, Mapulanga is working on two national climate-change programs: the Malawi Climate Change Programme (CCP) and the Africa Adaptation Programme (AAP), Building Capacity for Integrated and Comprehensive Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation in Malawi. The CCP project aims at developing a strategic response to the challenges that climate change poses for sustainable economic development and national food security in Malawi.

"My role in the CCP project has concentrated mainly on performing climate action intelligence, that is, determining who are the main actors (organizations and stakeholders) in climate change, what projects and programs are they implementing to address it, and where they are implementing them," she explains. "My research has also gone further in identifying the roles of women in dealing with climate-change issues, since women are the ones who are most heavily burdened by the impacts."

Mapulanga found that climate change has, in fact, affected rural women's income; their production has gone down and they are no longer food secure. The objective of the AAP project is to enhance Malawi's existing climate initiatives by strengthening capacity for long-term investment in and management of climate-resilient sustainable development.

Concurrent to the CCP and AAP projects, Mapulanga is undertaking analysis to validate an aquacrop model, which incorporates environmental data on climate in real conditions (parameters such as temperature, humidity, and soil water) to estimate crop yields. With support from the Food and Agriculture Organization, the government is working with farmers to provide inputs such as soil fertilizers, improved seeds, and advice/training on agricultural best practices, to see if this model can estimate and increase crop yields.

The most exciting part of this research is the opportunity to interact with rural women," says Mapulanga. "I like to learn about what they suggest to help address their problems, and I enjoy conveying their solutions to stakeholders," she says.

Mapulanga is determined to obtain her PhD and become a leading development expert on Malawi's problems of food insecurity, poverty, and natural-resource management. She believes that the AWARD Fellowship will help her enhance her leadership, science, and presentation skills. "In the long run, I want to be a manager and director, and if I learn these skills now, it will help me be a good leader and make good decisions to benefit rural communities," she states. "The fellowship will improve my ability to share skills with poor women and underprivileged girls."

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*Mapulanga 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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