

## AWARD Fellowships

### Frequently Asked Questions

**1. How will this fellowship help me in my career?**

The fellowship offers a challenging but rewarding package aimed at increasing your contributions in the service of fighting hunger and poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. The package includes a series of career development resources designed to:

- strengthen science/research skills;
- augment leadership abilities;
- enhance visibility and networking; and
- increase opportunities to share newly acquired skills, helping inspire the next generation of women scientists in Africa.

**2. Is there an age limit to apply?**

No. However, those close to retirement age are less likely to be selected.

**3. I am not from Africa, can I apply?**

Sorry, no. This program is specifically for women scientists and professionals from sub-Saharan Africa. Only nationals/citizens of the following countries qualify: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

**4. I am African, but not from any of the countries listed. Am I eligible to apply?**

Sorry, no. Only nationals of the listed countries qualify. However, we hope to expand the list of qualifying nationalities over the coming years, especially to francophone countries. The list of countries will be announced annually.

**5. I am a national from an eligible country, but I work in another country. Do I qualify to apply?**

Yes, you qualify if you will be available in Africa throughout the fellowship period, should you be chosen.

**6. I am a BSc student and expect to complete my studies soon. Do I qualify for a fellowship?**

Not yet. Please apply in the future once you have been awarded your bachelor's degree.

**7. I am an MSc student and expect to complete my studies soon. Do I qualify for a fellowship?**

Yes, you qualify for a post-bachelor's fellowship. Alternatively, you may wish to wait until you have your master's degree and then apply for a post-master's fellowship when the next call for applications is announced.

**8. I graduated with an MSc, but I am not yet employed. Can I apply without institutional support?**

Yes, provided you get a letter of support from your MSc supervisor.

**9. I am currently studying for my PhD. Do I qualify?**

Yes, you qualify for the post-master's fellowship. Alternatively you may wish to wait until you have your doctorate and then apply for the post-doctoral fellowship when the next call for applications is announced.

**10. I am an African woman working for the CGIAR. Can I apply for an AWARD Fellowship?**

Yes. Researchers from international agricultural research centers, including CGIAR Centers, who are nationals/citizens of the eligible countries and who will be in Africa throughout the fellowship period, can also apply.

**11. One of my colleagues is already a fellow. Can there be two fellows from the same organization?**

Yes, it is possible to have several fellows from the same institution.

**12. Who decides who the winners will be?**

The AWARD steering committee selects the winners.

**13. When do you announce the winners?**

Successful candidates will be informed in mid-July 2010 and they have about two weeks to indicate their acceptance.

**14. How much do I get paid as a fellow?**

AWARD does not include cash payments except token amounts to cover direct expenses for participation in its events. AWARD does not pay sitting fees. When attending an AWARD workshop, expenses are fully covered on your behalf. Depending on your level, during the two year period AWARD provides training programs, professional memberships, travel expenses, advanced science placements and more on your behalf.

**15. I am working in agricultural R&D, but my specified subject area is not listed. Can I apply?**

We intend to include a wide range of agricultural research disciplines. If in doubt, please apply and your case will be considered. Priority will be given according to the discipline's relevance to AWARD's goal of improving the livelihoods of small holders, especially women farmers.

**16. I am not a scientist. I work for an export company that deals with agricultural products. I think I could learn a lot from your fellowship. Can I apply?**

You may apply if you deal with agricultural research and development, e.g. looking into better market access for farmers' products.

**17. I am employed in the private sector. Are the fellowships only for those in the public institutions?**

You are eligible to apply. You may qualify if you work in the agricultural sector, are a national/citizen of any of the eligible countries, your work benefits farmers and you will be in Africa throughout the fellowship period.

**18. I have a family and I'm worried about attending the training sessions. Is it necessary to attend all?**

The training courses are an integral part of the fellowship, but they are maximally two weeks long, usually only one week. If you are nursing, AWARD will arrange for a resident nanny for your baby when attending AWARD training courses.

**19. I told my boss I wanted to apply, but he says that it will take me away from my job too much. How much time does the fellowship require?**

The fellowship does not require a large amount of time in general. You will attend one or two week-long training courses semi-annually. You will also meet with your mentor for about an hour once a month. However, you may decide to apply for an AWARD-supported research attachment, which is

available to AWARD Fellows with master's and PhD degrees. If you are chosen, you will have to negotiate with your institution to be absent for three to nine months. These research attachments benefit both you and your home institution.

**20. I don't have email or internet access. Could I still participate in AWARD?**

Internet access is essential for many AWARD activities. You must have a valid email address in order to participate effectively.

**21. There are no francophone countries listed. Is AWARD only working with anglophone countries?**

Expansion to francophone countries is a high priority for AWARD. However, due to budget constraints, we cannot do so this year. Qualifying countries will be announced each year.

**22. Does AWARD support academic work?**

No.

**23. I was a fellow in round one of AWARD. Do I qualify to be a mentor in the next round?**

Yes, you are eligible to apply to be an AWARD Mentor.

**24. I was a mentor in an earlier round. Can I apply as a fellow?**

Yes, you can apply as long as you meet the eligibility criteria for consideration of your application.