



AWARD empowers African women scientists

African women scientists have not been forthcoming in publishing their research findings. They have been generating information from their research but only a limited amount reaches the intended audiences. As a result stakeholders such as policy makers, civil society, governments, development partners, farmers, consumers and other scientists have not benefited from their research findings. Consequently, the contribution of the African women scientists to the society has also not been adequately recognized and in the process a lot of resources have been wasted.



Workshop facilitator Linley Chiwona-Kartun (far left), the mayor of Livingstone, Joram Mwindi (second from right) and two AWARD scientists, Livness Banda & Emma Kambewa

The African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) program realizes that there will never be development without putting research into use. Research can never be put into use without communicating research results to intended beneficiaries. The AWARD program is under the Gender and Diversity program with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the USAID. The program noted that scientist's lack skills in scientific writing and communication while some lack incentives or do not appreciate the importance of publishing.

Publishing of research findings is long overdue. The African continent has not been able to use the scientific knowledge that has been generated over a long time. The need to fast track the development of the scientific writing and policy development skills cannot be postponed further. Hence AWARD has taken this affirmative action to train the African women scientists.

AWARD in partnership with the International Foundation for Science (IFS) co-organized with the University of Zambia (UNZA) a 10-day training (22 June – 1st July 2009) workshop in Livingstone, Zambia to impart skills in scientific writing and policy development in agricultural research. This is a continuation of the capacity building process which includes mentoring, leadership, networking, role modeling and science placement for 60 fellows from 9 countries namely Ethiopia Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.



The mayor of Livingstone (far left) and AWARD scientist Imna Malele

The training will go a long way in contributing to the development of Africa. The scientists are now motivated and will act as role models to upcoming scientists.

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