Omolola BETIKU

Home Country
Nigeria

Degree
PhD in Animal and Range Sciences

Expertise
Animal Sciences

Research Focus
Fish Diet Development

Host University
Montana State University,
United States

Fellowship Awarded
2012

Omolola Betiku grew up in Ipetu-Ijesa, Osun State, located in the western part of Nigeria, where she had the opportunity to see rural communities and developed a passion to help them in her future career. She later moved to Lagos State for high school.

Omolola attended the Obafemi Awolowo University, located in the ancient city of Ile-Ife, Osun State, where she gained a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture and an MSc in Animal Sciences. In 2007, she completed a postgraduate certificate course in animal genetic resources and human capacity building, organized by the Swedish University of Agriculture and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Omolola is an academic staff member in the Department of Animal Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture at Obafemi Awolowo University, and has served as an adviser to the Harambe Africa International Organization, which funds educational projects and provides scholarships. She has won several African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) fellowships for Advanced Research Training and conference travels in the United States, sponsored by USAID and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The PhD research focuses on fish nutrition and diet developments. Fish diet accounts for more than 60% of the cost of aquaculture production in Nigeria, whereas in developed countries this percentage is lower due to less dependence on imported ingredients. The research is investigating locally sourced ingredients to develop lower cost alternative diets for the Nigerian aquaculture industry.

After completing her PhD, Omolola plans to return to lecturing at Obafemi Awolowo University. She expects her studies to help her teach students the science of fish nutrition and its application in fish management; supporting the discovery of new knowledge that will benefit local and global communities.