



**Ruth AMUTA AISABOKHAE**

**Home Country**  
**Nigeria**

**Degree**  
**PhD in Agricultural Economics**

**Expertise**  
**Agriculture**

**Research Focus**  
**West African**  
**Agricultural Trade and**  
**Competitiveness**

**Host University**  
**Texas A&M University,**  
**United States**

**Fellowship Awarded**  
**2008**

Ruth Amuta Aisabokhae was born in Kaduna, Nigeria where she lived until the age of five when her family moved to Makurdi. She has two brothers and two sisters. Both of her parents work in an academic environment, and she says that education plays a pivotal role in the values of her family.

Following in the footsteps of her parents, she began teaching in 2002 after obtaining her bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Agriculture in Makurdi, where she earned first-class honors as Best Graduating Student. She met her husband while studying for her Master of Science degree in agricultural development economics at the University of Reading in Reading, United Kingdom in 2004 and 2005, and they now have a daughter.

Currently Ruth is studying for her PhD in agricultural economics at Texas A&M University, United States, where she is mainly interested in international trade and development as well as in climate change. Her research topic is "Implications of Trade Policy Reform and Debt Cancellations on the Competitiveness of West African Agriculture in the International Market using Computable General Equilibrium Analysis." Recommendations based on this analysis will give insight into World Trade Organization structuring and possible directions for future policy reform within the emerging and developing economies of West Africa.

Her research is important in the development of West African trade and Ruth believes that in the long run her research will make a difference for trade opportunities and commerce for West African women. She is also interested in climate change and the implications of greenhouse gas emissions. Ruth points out that only about 10 percent of universities in Nigeria have science and engineering faculties. The University of Agriculture in Makurdi, where she intends to continue teaching, is a science-only institution where approximately eight percent of students are female.