



Florence Barbara AWINO

Home Country: Uganda

Degree: PhD in Applied Science

Expertise: Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology

Research Focus: Toxic Chemicals and food crops in developing countries

Host University: University of Canberra, Australia

Fellowship Awarded: 2015

Florence Barbara Awino was born in Kireka, a township in Wakiso district of Uganda. She later moved and attended primary school in a remote village where she lived with her grandparents. She then moved back-and-forth between her aunt and mother, during which time she changed schools more than four times in six years. Florence avoided mathematics and as such achieved poor grades during her early years in the subject. She however, gives thanks to the teacher who forcefully spent time to help and encourage her to eventually discover her enjoyment of science. Following this she achieved the best grade in a national examination, which earned her a bursary for advanced level studies in sciences at high school. During her last two years at high school, she was among the best students in her class, and the only one from her year awarded a government sponsorship to pursue a university degree.

Florence obtained a BSc in Chemistry and Geology from Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. She then worked as a hydrogeologist at the Ugandan Ministry of Water and Environment. With support from Netherlands fellowship program she gained an MSc in Geo-information Science and Earth Observation from ITC-University of Twente in the Netherlands. She has worked on several research and consultancy projects in Uganda. She has also attended various capacity building programs across the world, including in South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Tanzania and India. She is a lecturer and researcher at the International University of East Africa, Kampala, Uganda.

She is currently pursuing a PhD research at the Institute of Applied Ecology, University of Canberra. Florence is investigating the impact of a mixed municipal waste dump on the food crops in the surrounding areas of the waste dump and along Namatala Catchment Systems, Uganda. She aims to assess the human health risks from chemicals of concern, associated with consumption of food crops grown on and around uncontrolled mixed waste dumpsite soils in developing countries.

After her PhD research, Florence intends to return to teaching, research and consultancy in Uganda. She plans to continue working with public and private organizations to improve environmental management issues and related human health policies in Uganda.