

Lami NNAMONU

Home Country	Nigeria
Degree	Postdoctoral in Chemistry
Expertise	Agrochemistry
Research Focus	Eco-Friendly Pesticide Formulations
Host University	Newcastle University, United Kingdom
Fellowship Awarded	2015

Lami Nnamonu was born in Kogi state in North Central Nigeria and was the second of nine children, three of whom sadly died. She moved around several parts of the country while growing up and speaks the three major Nigerian languages and two others. Neither of her parents had any formal education and her father was reluctant to allow his daughters to proceed beyond primary school; however, Lami worked hard to persuade him to enable her to go to the Federal Government College, Kano, where she graduated with grade-1 distinctions in science.

Lami won a Students' National Merit Award after her first year at the University of Jos, Nigeria, and won prizes as the best student in her faculty when she received her First Class BSc in Chemistry Education. Following this she obtained an MSc in Organic Chemistry from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, as best graduating student. Lami performed course work for her PhD at the University of Agriculture Makurdi (UAM), Nigeria, and won a Commonwealth Split-Site Doctoral Scholarship - as one of only two Nigerian awardees in 2008 – to perform research at Durham University, United Kingdom. In 2011 she won Best PhD Thesis in Physical Sciences in the Nigerian University system, and now works as a Senior Lecturer in Chemistry at UAM.

Pesticides are integral to food security in developing countries; however they can have a negative impact on the environment. Lami's postdoctoral research investigates the development of safer and more environmentally-friendly products. These include slow-release formulations of pesticides and combination agrochemicals (fertilizer plus pesticide), and discovery of new materials for pest control using Nigeria's abundant natural resources.

Lami expects to become a Professor of Agrochemistry and then hopes to be first female Dean of the College of Science at UAM. She also plans to run a non-governmental organization that will encourage girls at secondary school to take up science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses and careers.