

## Ugandan nutritionist receives award

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Written by Diana Nabiruma

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Professor Joyce Kikafunda, an agriculturist, food processing and nutrition scientist from Makerere University's college of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences also newly appointed Uganda's High commissioner to the UK on October 23 received a Nestle Nutrition Institute Africa (NIAA) award for her contribution towards fighting malnutrition in Uganda. The NIAA awards, which fetch cash prizes of up to \$7,500, are given to healthcare professionals who make outstanding contributions in nutrition. They include: an overall award given every five years which fetches \$7,500 and the community, clinical, paediatric and best publication awards given on an annual basis.

These fetch \$3,000 each. Kikafunda won the community award for her community nutrition model, the Gender Integrated Nutrition Agriculture (GINA) which linked agriculture, nutrition and gender in three South Western Ugandan districts to address malnutrition.

Keeping of home gardens (agriculture) in addition to promotion of nutrient-enriched foods like the orange Vitamin A rich potatoes and consumption of animal protein (nutrition) together with women empowerment and interesting men in their children's well-being (gender) were some of the practices that were encouraged by GINA. The model was lauded for addressing malnutrition (underweight levels dropped by 52%) and showing that it was possible to cheaply reduce under-nutrition.

[dnabiruma@observer.ug](mailto:dnabiruma@observer.ug)

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