



2015 BHEARD Scholar  
**Bandiougou Dembele**

## Profile

<b>Country of Study:</b>	Kenya
<b>University:</b>	Egerton University
<b>Department:</b>	Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management
<b>Student Position:</b>	Graduate Research Assistant - Ph.D.
<b>Hometown:</b>	Kayes, Mali
<b>Home Institution:</b>	Institute of Rural Economics
<b>Home Position:</b>	Research Assistant
<b>Mentored By:</b>	University: Dr. Hillary K. Bett and Dr. Mary Mutai, Egerton University

### *Research Area: Agricultural Economics*

**BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE:** August 2015

**UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:** Design Engineering, IPR/IFRA, Mali

**GRADUATE EDUCATION:** M.Sc., Animal Husbandry and Agribusiness, SupAgro Montpellier, France

#### **RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

- Economics of agricultural farming families in cotton growing zone of Mali (Southern Mali), combining crops and livestock production systems — “Income Diversification Strategies in an Integrated Crop and Livestock Production Systems in Southern Mali.”

In cotton-growing zones of Mali, the economy of agricultural farming families has in a longtime been sustained by cotton farming. Southern Mali is the attic of agricultural product of the country, which leads to 90 percent of cotton production and apart from cotton, it is a great zone of production in terms of cereals (maize, sorghum and millet). It has also become the zone of livestock by excellence, through the income from cotton. That cotton zone has however, has created food insecurity, low income, and rising poverty levels.

This study will contribute to understanding the diversity and variability of revenues and establish the dynamics of smallholder farmers. It will identify the innovative technologies applied in crop and livestock systems intended to improve the living conditions of the smallholder farmers in cotton areas of southern Mali. Further, the options adapted for simulation model on the production system in an integrated system to understand their interaction and prediction.

Bandiougou also coordinates the projects of Research-Development in cotton area “Improving crop –livestock system at agricultural farming families scale” and improving the dairy production at householders farmers scale of pre-urban in Mopti.

Upon returning home, Bandiougou hopes to continue conducting research that helps to improve the living conditions of the smallholder farmers in Mali.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:** Since his adolescence, Bandiougou has been wishing to bring his modest contribution in rural development because he was raised in a rural area where those challenges were daily occurrences.

Bandiougou's parents are also farmers. He is motivated to help smallholder farmers to improve their living conditions, food security, and reduce malnutrition and extreme poverty through crop-livestock system. His goal is to become a researcher/lecturer, so as to share the knowledge acquired with the students and farmers.

**WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY:** Bandiougou enjoys watching soccer, playing soccer and listening to his cultural music.