



2017 BHEARD Scholar
Erneste Murindwa

Profile

Country of Study:	Kenya
University:	University of Nairobi
Department:	Agriculture
Student Position:	Graduate Research Assistant– Ph.D.
Home Country:	Kigali, Rwanda
Home Institution:	University of Rwanda
Home Position:	Lecturer
Mentored By:	

Research Area: Postharvest Management

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: September 2017

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: B.Sc., Food Science and Technology, Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST)

GRADUATE EDUCATION: M.Sc., Food Technology, University of Gent and Catholic University of Leuven

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Erneste is interested in postharvest management of horticulture produce. When handled well, produce can be exported and is a source of income to the country. Since produce is perishable, it faces many problems including high level of postharvest losses. In Rwanda, the government is putting much effort in the export of the avocado. Erneste's research will look at the challenges faced by the avocado farmers especially regarding harvesting, transport, and packaging in order to increase its shelf life.

The same research will help Erneste to work on the other horticulture produce at his home university, University of Rwanda, after completion of his PhD.

Back home, Erneste's research interest was on postharvest management of horticulture products. He worked with undergraduate students on postharvest losses management of different crops including banana, pineapple and avocado. He also worked with the other groups in food product processing - juice processing from orange fresh sweet potatoes (OFSP) to reduce their losses through value addition.

PERSONAL STATEMENT: Erneste's long term objective after completing the PhD program is to teach undergraduates and postgraduates students in the field of postharvest technology. He will be much more involved in writing research proposals and competing for research sponsors. He will share his experience with the other researchers through partnerships.

He will work hard with his colleagues in postharvest management of horticulture produce and will motivate them to make sure the findings of different research in this area is published in high impact journals.

WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY: When he is not working Erneste enjoys social activities including sharing food and drink with friends, and playing different games with kids (including his). He also like to praise God with other Christians.