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2016 BHEARD Scholar  
**Eric Owusu Danquah**

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# Profile

<b>Country of Study:</b>	United States
<b>University:</b>	Michigan State University
<b>Department:</b>	Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences
<b>Student Position:</b>	Graduate Research Assistant—Ph.D.
<b>Hometown:</b>	Ofoase Kokobin, Ashanti Region, Ghana
<b>Home Institution:</b>	Crops Research Institute
<b>Home Position:</b>	Research Scientist
<b>Mentored By:</b>	Home: Dr. Stella Ama Ennin, Director, CSIR, Ghana USA: Dr. Cholani Weebadde, Professor, Dept. of Plant and Microbial Sciences, MSU

## *Research Area: Agronomy*

**BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE:** August 2016

**UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:** B.Sc., Natural Resources Management, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana

**GRADUATE EDUCATION:** M.Phil., Agroforestry, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Interest field: Sustainable food production in the face of climate change.

Why: Many African countries such as Ghana continue to encounter problems pertaining to land resources degradation and sustainable food production resulting from climate change. There is the need to venture into research that would produce technologies to mitigate the effect of climate change on food production.

Proposed research at University (MSU): Eric will be evaluating the influence of environment and soil amendments on flowering of white yam (*Dioscorea rotundata* Poir.).

Research Interest with home Institute: Root & tuber improvement program (Yam). As a key team member of the Yam improvement team at CSIR – Crops Research Institute they have introduced mechanized ridging with chemical fertilizer and trellis-staking options for sustainable yam production on continuously cropped fields, to address the problem of deforestation and drudgery associated with yam production.

Yam production and improvement is also hampered with inconsistent and low levels of flowering limit the development of new varieties through hybridization. Eric's present study evaluates environment and soil amendments to address this challenge.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:** Having acquired knowledge in the field of natural resources and Agricultural ecosystem management through his undergraduate and graduate education, Eric appreciates the fact that the world's natural resources present an important heritage with huge economic, ecological, and socio-cultural functions. Therefore, the unsustainable management of these natural resources would hamper human development and exacerbate inequalities in wealth and welfare.

It is with great passion towards contributing to the development of technologies towards addressing the problems pertaining to land resources degradation and sustainable food production that Eric has decided to pursue research in crop improvement and food production.

Eric has a career aspiration in sustainable food production in the face of climate change. As a research scientist, he would spearhead research, development and dissemination of improved technologies for root & tuber and other crop production in Ghana and the African sub-region.

**WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY:** Eric enjoys reading, listening to music, having fun with kids and hiking.