



2015 BHEARD Scholar
Grant White Twaya

Profile

Country of Study:	Kenya
University:	Egerton University
Department:	Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management
Student Position:	Graduate Research Assistant - M.Sc.
Hometown:	Blantyre, Malawi
Home Institution:	Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development
Home Position:	Agribusiness Officer
Mentored By:	Home: Joseph Dzanja, Professor, LUANAR University: Patience Mshenga, Professor, Egerton University

Research Area: Agribusiness Management

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: September 2015

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: B.Sc., Agribusiness Management, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi

RESEARCH INTERESTS: In Malawi's scenario, a large percentage of farmers are small scale farmers in farmer's organizations and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Administrative bodies and industry groups, which are in the position to support farmer's organizations and SMEs, focus mainly on cash crops such as tobacco, tea, and maize more than the cash crop pigeon peas.

Pigeon peas, however, have turned out to be an important cash crop for both local and international markets. As a result, these farmers' organizations and SMEs, which are engaged in pulses (pigeon pea) value chain, have remained uncompetitive and remain in low profit condition. Based on this, areas of research tend to focus on the main value chain actors, chain supporters, and challenges mainly affecting pigeon pea marketing in Malawi. This will lead to development of better strategies for improving the value chains with an aim of distributing profitability equally. Most smallholder farmers benefit through improved control and management of the value chain.

PERSONAL STATEMENT: Grant's experience working as an agribusiness officer in the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development, and also with other national and international organizations, has given him a broader view of the agribusiness sector in Malawi. He has a belief that obtaining an M.Sc. in Agribusiness Management will improve his abilities in linkage to all courses to be undergone aiming at assisting smallholder farmers in Malawi to become market-oriented.

After obtaining his M.Sc., Grant is possibly planning to pursue a Ph.D. in Agribusiness Promotion and Rural Development as Malawi is agro-based and all efforts are being directed towards commercialization of agriculture. Therefore, Grant personally would like to become a well-known researcher in the field of agribusiness and rural development.

WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY: Grant personally believes the most important thing in life is his family and friends. They are the people who have shaped and inspired him to become the person he is today. With this in mind, Grant enjoys spending time with his family, watching movies and football and also listening to inspirational music.