



2016 BHEARD Scholar
**Matilda Chingwalu
Mdyesteni**

Profile

Country of Study:	Kenya
University:	University of Nairobi
Department:	Plant Science and Crop Protection
Student Position:	Graduate Research Assistant—M.Sc.
Hometown:	Lilongwe, Malawi
Home Institution:	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development
Home Position:	Research Scientist and Senior Plant Health Inspector
Mentored By:	Home: Dr. Donald Kachigamba University: James W. Muthomi, Professor

Research Area: Crop Protection

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: September 2016

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: B.Sc., Water Resources Management and Development, Mzuzu University, Malawi

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Matilda's research interest is crop science, and that it ensures that there is food safety in Malawi by reducing the introduction of most important quarantine pests and diseases that destroy important agricultural crops. The research will assess the effectiveness of Phytosanitary Management Systems in Malawi. Thus both pests and diseases of quarantine importance will be scrutinized by taking samples of important crops imported and exported in Malawi, grain and seed in entry and exit points. They will be analyzed in the laboratory to assess if they really meet the conditions/standards of international sanitary and phytosanitary measures. This is also her proposed research at the University of Nairobi.

In Malawi, most scientists are developing new technologies of increasing yield of many crops, early maturing crops and developing many new varieties that are resistant to pests and diseases. However, technologies that can help avoid the introduction of quarantine pests and diseases are not considered much. Matilda's research with issues of quarantine and biosecurity measures which will definitely help her with this research.

PERSONAL STATEMENT: Matilda's future goal at work is to help her country with policies that will ensure that there are proper measures for crop protection from quarantine pests and diseases that will then ensure self-food sufficiency amongst the farmers in Malawi and Africa in general.

WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY: Matilda enjoys reading a lot of books, listening to music, and watching movies.