



2016 BHEARD Scholar
Thandiwe Chinula

Profile

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| Country of Study: | South Africa |
| University: | University of Pretoria |
| Department: | Natural and Agricultural Sciences |
| Student Position: | Graduate Research Assistant—M.Sc. |
| Hometown: | Mzuzu, Malawi |
| Home Institution: | Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Water Development |
| Home Position: | Senior Irrigation Engineer |
| Mentored By: | Home: Mr. T. Msimuko Mpezeni University: J. Annandale, Professor |

Research Area: *Water Resources Management*

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: January 2016

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: B.Sc., Irrigation Engineering, University of Malawi, Malawi

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Thandiwe's research interest is to look at the impact of irrigation scheduling using the chameleon sensor and wetting front detector on water management and productivity. The main objectives of the study is to save water without compromising on potential yield of the crop and to demonstrate that continuous soil moisture monitoring in the determinants of irrigation schedule would help to improve water use efficiency.

Thandiwe is interested in this field because currently, Malawi is experiencing continuous drought, dwindling of water levels, unpredicted rainfall patterns that has left little or no water availability for irrigation activities. This problem is aggravated by the fact that the country has limited experts in monitoring of soil moisture movements and uptake by the plants. Hence this research once implemented would not only bridge this capacity gap that is there but also help the country in water use efficiency in this era of climate change.

PERSONAL STATEMENT: Thandiwe's future academic goal is to study more on water use efficiency and to ensure that the solutions are being implemented not only in Malawi but also in other countries. Thandiwe's future work plans are to manage water resources issues and share the knowledge with her colleagues as well as farmers.

WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY: When Thandiwe is not working she enjoys watching movies, cooking, visiting friends etc.