



2017 BHEARD Scholar
Richard Habimana

Profile

Country of Study:	Kenya
University:	Egerton University
Department:	Department of Animal Science
Student Position:	Graduate Research Assistant—Ph.D.
Home Country:	Gicumbi, Rwanda
Home Institution:	University of Rwanda
Home Position:	Assist. Lecturer & Ag. Head of Animal Production
Mentored By:	Dr.T.Muasya and Dr.D.K.ngeno

Research Area: *Animal Science*

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: August 2017

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: DVM., International School of Veterinary Science and Medicine of Dakar (EISMV) - Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Senegal)

GRADUATE EDUCATION: M.Sc., Animal Production and sustainable development, International School of Veterinary Science and Medicine of Dakar (EISMV) - Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Senegal

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Richard's research interest involves A genome wide-assessment of genetic diversity and population structure of Rwanda native chicken breeds. His future pursuit is to conduct additional research on the expression profile of growth and immune related genes in local chickens under natural growth promoters. This will lead him to identify genes crucial for breeding chickens that can tolerate adverse climate and resist infectious disease, especially Newcastle disease - a common and fatal disease to chickens that is rampant in Rwanda. Understanding and using the advantages of local chicken genetic pool through molecular and conventional breeding methods will undoubtedly contribute to the control of Newcastle disease outbreaks; this will be paramount to increase poultry, meat and egg production in Rwanda. It is for this reason that Richard intends to pursue post graduate training in animal breeding and genetics to further develop his knowledge and skill in that area.

PERSONAL STATEMENT: Richard's goal is to develop tools for empowering poultry keepers to respond to emerging opportunities in a rapidly globalizing world. In the context of the production of animal source foods, economically viable intensification depends on exploiting the biological attributes of the animal genetic resources to increase feed efficiency without eroding the indigenous base. Therefore, the overall goal of the genetic improvement in the poultry sector is to reduce dependency on low yielding indigenous livestock, without losing adaptive capacity to harsh environmental conditions.

WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY: Richard plays Basketball, listens to good music and watches movies and soccer.