



2014 BHEARD Scholar
Gifty Sienso

Profile

Country of Study:	USA
University:	Texas Tech University
Department:	Agriculture and Applied Economics
Student Position:	Graduate Research Assistant — Ph.D.
Home Country:	Ghana
Home Institution:	University of Development Studies
Home Position:	Lecturer
Mentored By:	US: Dr. Lyford Conrad Ghana: Dr. Samuel Donkoh

Research Area: Agricultural Economics

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: January 2015

HOMETOWN: Fielmuo, Ghana

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: Agricultural Technology, University for Development Studies, Ghana

GRADUATE EDUCATION: Agricultural Economics, University of Ghana

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Climate Change Studies

Specifically, Gifty enjoys conducting research on the economic impact of climate change on poverty in Ghana. Climate change has resulted in rising temperature, as well as changing and unpredictable pattern of rainfall, which can directly reduce agricultural output, thereby, exacerbating poverty among farmers. On a larger scale, climate change can increase the average cost of living in the world as prices of agricultural produce and food will generally increase. In effect, climate change has the potential of undermining government efforts directed at reducing poverty through higher food insecurity and reversing lower agricultural output. Agriculture is the largest employer in Ghana and in many other developing countries. Therefore, anything that threatens this industry threatens the very survival of the people— hence Gifty’s interest in carrying out this research.

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Gifty aspires to pursue academics to the highest level, become a seasoned researcher/lecturer in Ghana, and to mentor local students (especially females). She would also like to contribute more knowledge to literature through research in the Agriculture field, from which meaningful policy recommendations could be made for development purposes.

In her spare time, Gifty enjoys cooking, playing with her children, reading, watching television, and travelling to tourist sites.