INSTRUCTIONS FOR EMPLOYER’S LETTER OF RELEASE FOR STUDIES: RWANDA

An employee of your organization is applying for a scholarship sponsored by the Borlaug Higher Education Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD) project. You are requested to write a letter indicating whether your organization will release the applicant for study if he/she is selected as a finalist for this program.

Project Description: BHEARD is an agricultural research capacity-building project supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under its Feed the Future program. The main purpose is to strengthen research capacities of agricultural research units and universities in participating countries.

Degree Training Program Description: The scholarship opportunity provided by BHEARD is for graduate study in the United States or other selected countries. Studies will begin in August 2015 or January 2016.

Eligibility is limited to current staff or faculty members from the following institutions who wish to study in the following subject areas:

- **University of Rwanda, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine**
  - Veterinary medicine and animal science (MSc and PhD level)
  - Agricultural engineering
  - Horticulture (including coffee and tea)
  - Plant breeding or plant pathology

- **Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI), including the Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB)**
  - MSc in aquaculture or fisheries
  - MSc in agricultural economics, data analysis, etc.
  - MSc in animal/dairy product processing
  - MSc in horticulture
  - MSc in irrigation
  - MSc in logistics and cold chain management
  - MSc in mechanization
  - MSc in post-harvest technology
  - PhD in horticulture or floriculture (specialization in tea or coffee potato taste disease)
  - PhD in wheat or soya breeding; plant physiology

Coursework will be undertaken at a U.S. or other university (up to three years for PhD study), and the student’s research project will be conducted in Rwanda.
Format and Content of Letter: In the letter, please state clearly that your organization will release the applicant for study if the applicant is selected as a finalist.

Please also provide the following information in your letter:

- Will your institution grant study leave to this candidate if he/she is awarded a scholarship?
- If yes, will their salary be maintained? If yes, how much per month?
- Will the candidate be given paid leave to attend an English language course, if needed?
- Are there other financial benefits besides salary? If yes, which in particular?
- What is the duration of study leave provided by your institution?
- Does your institution ensure the candidate their job on returning from their training?
- Does your institution facilitate access to your laboratories and infrastructure for the candidate during his/her research in Rwanda?

Please print your letter on the letterhead of your organization and sign the letter with your hand-written signature. Your name and position should appear clearly below the signature.

Do not give the letter to the applicant; instead, please email (from your own email account) a scanned copy of the signed letter directly to BHEARD (BHEARD@isp.msu.edu) by 20 February 2015.

Contact Information: Queries may be made via email (BHEARD@isp.msu.edu).