Country of Study: Kenya  
University: Egerton University  
Department: Crops, Horticulture and Soils  
Student Position: Graduate Research Assistant — MSc  
Home Country: South Sudan  
Home Institution: Intermon Oxfam, Department of Food Security and Livelihood  
Home Position: Food Security and Livelihood Assistant  
Mentored By: Dr. Deng Manasseh  

**Research Area:** Agronomy

**BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE:** August 2014  
**HOMETOWN:** Bor Town, South Sudan  
**UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:** Dr. John Garang Memorial University of Science and Technology  
**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Cowpea Harvest Techniques  
Elizabeth’s research topic is “The Effect of Defoliation on Yield and Yield Component of Two Varieties of Cowpeas (vigna unguiculata).” Describing cowpeas as “the poor man’s meat,” Elizabeth says, “the cowpea is mainly grown for home consumption and grains are sold at local market because cowpea leaves can be consumed and it provide protein.” Elizabeth says farmers once intermittently harvested the whole plant while others are defoliating the leaves for sale. This influences plant growth and could ultimately affect grain yield. “Coupled with other biotic factors, the production of cowpeas may be affected by traditional methods of farming and poor knowledge of agriculture in the area.”

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**  
Since South Sudan is a relatively new nation, Elizabeth says factors limiting food production are not yet known “due to limited knowledge in the country.” “I observed in South Sudan that, if such factors are not addressed, it will lead to poverty and food insecurity.” Elizabeth says these factors “seriously need to be addressed through research to improve food Security [to] alleviate poverty in South Sudan.”

In her spare time, Elizabeth enjoys reading books, watching movies and visiting friends.