



2015 BHEARD Scholar
Cheryl Williams

Profile

Country of Study:	United States
University:	Texas Tech University
Department:	Agricultural Education and Communications
Student Position:	Graduate Research Assistant—Ph.D.
Hometown:	Monrovia, Liberia
Home Institution:	Ministry of Agriculture, Liberia
Home Position:	Gender and Social Development Officer
Mentored By:	Dr. Amy Boren, Texas Tech University

Research Area: *Agricultural Education and Communications*

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: August 2015

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: B.A., Sociology, University of Liberia

GRADUATE EDUCATION: M.A., Development Studies, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research, University of Ghana

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Cheryl is an advocate of gender equality in the agriculture sector with past research on gender disparities in land tenure security for smallholder farmers. She has worked with women and youth groups in the Liberian agriculture sector, training and ensuring that project beneficiaries in the Ministry of Agriculture obtain the needed assistance.

Her current research will focus on “Gender roles in reducing post-harvest losses of cassava for a food secure Liberia”.

Cassava, Liberia’s second staple food, is produced by nearly 60 percent of the farming households and mainly consumed when processed to fofoo, dumboy, garri, flour, etc. It is a very important crop that is improving the economic status of farmers and rural development, and contributing to food security in Liberia.

Liberian farmers lose a majority of their produce after harvest due to a combination of factors, thereby boosting food insecurity. Cheryl’s research will explore the traditional and modern post-harvest strategies employed by male and female producers. She hopes to educate the farming population on strategies to prevent loss of the crop after harvest, and increase food security.

PERSONAL STATEMENT: I will continue working with gender groups in the agriculture sector, research on inequalities for the benefit of the vulnerable groups in the sector and transfer knowledge to younger scientists.

WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY: Cheryl is a curious person who reads extensively. During her quiet times, she also likes watching documentaries, listening to music, sight-seeing and exploring new venues.