



2013 BHEARD Scholar
Herbert Sserunkuma

Profile

Position:	Quality Controller
Institution:	Uganda Seed Trade Association
Country:	Uganda
BSc:	Agriculture, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda
Mentored by:	US: George Graef Soybean Breeding Program University of Nebraska, Lincoln UGANDA: Jenipher Bisikwa Agronomist and Senior Lecturer

Research Area: *Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics*

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: August 2013

HOMETOWN: Kampala, Uganda

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: Agriculture, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Plant breeding presents a unique opportunity to come up with solution to various problems that affect agricultural production currently or those which may arise through science and research. This has always appealed to Herbert and challenged him to apply himself more so he can be in a position to make a scientific contribution to agriculture.

Diseases and pests are a worldwide challenge to agriculture; breeding crop varieties with traits of disease and pest resistance is one of the more ingenious solutions. His proposed research at the University of Nebraska is to screen and evaluate population of soybeans for resistance against *Rhizoctonia* stem rot and characterize the population genetics involved in the resistance phenomenon.

He has always been interested in scientific research to contribute to increased agricultural efficiency and output, to innovate through science and research technologies that contribute to improved agricultural production in Uganda and Africa, as a means of improving livelihoods through increased incomes for the farming communities and Agricultural sector.

PERSONAL STATEMENT: Herbert enjoys playing sports especially soccer, volleyball, basketball, Frisbee and most recently football. He likes listening to music, watching movies, playing board games and hanging out with friends.

Herbert is the 2nd born of a family of 4, he has 2 brothers, one older and one younger and a one sister who is the youngest of the family. Growing up in the city, his parents put great emphasis on education and always encouraged and challenged him to strive greatly at school. He is the first of his family to go to graduate school and hope his siblings will follow suit. Herbert always tries to do his best at everything he does and to set an example to others.