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The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

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BHEARD
Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research and Development

Final Scholar Report: Liberia

By

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CIMMYT International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Executive Summary

Michigan State University (MSU) is the implementing entity of the Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD) program. As part of the United States government's Feed the Future initiative, BHEARD is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT).

Honoring the legacy of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Norman Borlaug, the program increases the number of agricultural scientists and strengthens scientific institutions in partner countries. BHEARD supports long-term training of agricultural researchers at the master's and doctoral levels, linking scientific and higher education communities in Feed the Future priority countries and the United States.

A BHEARD scholarship supports coursework at U.S. and regional universities in Africa, Brazil, Bangladesh, and India; providing funding for research and post completion research in the student's home country. In addition, the program provides a variety of allowances to cover training costs and laboratory fees. BHEARD also aims to develop, test and evaluate new models of small-scale institutional capacity development. This report documents BHEARD programmatic activities from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019. It includes a program overview, financial summaries, and student updates for Liberia.

Acknowledgement and thank you to all BHEARD staff who have worked for this program and contributed to this report.

- John Medendorp, Director
- Mathias Ndizihiwe, Student Progress Coordinator
- Cait Goddard, Institutional Capacity Development Lead
- Jen Riebow, Fiscal Officer

Activity Summary

The Borlaug Higher Education for Agriculture and Development (BHEARD) program, supported by US Agency for International Development (USAID) develops agricultural scientists and increases agricultural research capacity in Feed the Future partner countries including Liberia. BHEARD has provided scholarships to students seeking masters and doctorate degrees at US

and regional academic institutions and has provided funding for agricultural research in their home countries. The program also developed, tested, and evaluated new models of small-scale institutional capacity development. During the cohort 3, BHEARD sponsored 13 scholars from Liberia and 7 successfully completed their program and went back to their institutions after completion of their degree program.

Successes

Of particular note was the contribution that the BHEARD program made to the aquaculture and fisheries sector of Liberia. The three students graduating in this area have all been reincorporated into the government institutions supporting this sector and have already made significant contributions to the development of this sector.

Challenges

Nearly half (6) scholars from cohort 3 were withdrawn from the BHEARD program for different reasons:

- One scholar declined the scholarship
- Two scholars were found in violation of the CoS contract
- Two scholars did not complete their studies within the timeline
- One scholar for low academic grades.

Liberia was one of the few BHEARD countries that did not require the completion of the GRE for program qualification. Although the majority of the students were admitted to regional universities at a significant savings to the program and the Mission, nevertheless, the waiving of this requirement proved to be detrimental to the program in that it allowed students to enter graduate training without the requisite skills to succeed.

LIST OF ALL SCHOLARS

NAME (first and last)	SEX	COHORT	STUDENT STATUS	UNIVERSITY	SUBJECT AREA	ACADEMIC LEVEL	GRADUATION YEAR
1. Zolue, G Moses	M	COHORT 3	COMPLETED	Texas Tech University	Plant and Soil Science	PhD	FY2020
2. Dunbar, Alexander	M	COHORT 3	COMPLETED	University of Nairobi	Environmental Governance	MSc	FY2018
3. Hinneh, Mandela	M	COHORT 3	COMPLETED	University of Ghana	Aquaculture	MSc	FY2017
4. Leesolee, Nathaniel	M	COHORT 3	COMPLETED	University of Nairobi	Bioinformatics	MSc	FY2018
5. Mulbah, Samuel	M	COHORT 3	COMPLETED	University of Ghana	Aquaculture	MSc	FY2017
6. Wehye, Austin	M	COHORT 3	COMPLETED	University of Ghana	Fisheries Sciences	MSc	FY2017
7. Williams, Cheryl	F	COHORT 3	COMPLETED	Texas Tech University	Agricultural Education and Communications	PhD	FY2019
8. Dokpa, Meco	M	COHORT 3	WITHDRAWN	Kansas State University	Entomology	PhD	-

9. Johnson, Dans	M	COHORT 3	WITHDRAWN	University of Ghana	Plant Breeding	PhD	-
10. Kargbo, Irene	F	COHORT 3	WITHDRAWN	Ohio State University	Entomology	PhD	-
11. Kezelee, Lorpu	F	COHORT 3	WITHDRAWN	University of Ghana	Seed Science and Technology	MSc	-
12. Matthews, Serina	F	COHORT 3	WITHDRAWN	University of Ghana	Crop Science	MSc	-
13. Moore, Davidetta	F	COHORT 3	WITHDRAWN	University of Ghana	Seed Science and Technology	MSc	-

PAPER PUBLICATIONS BY SCHOLARS

The BHEARD scholars from Liberia were among the least prolific of all the country cohorts (.7 publications per student). There were clearly deficiencies in the academic preparation of the Liberian students and this carried through to their publication record. In the future, it would be good to provide specific publication support for scholars who may have come from less rigorous academic backgrounds.

STUDENT NAME	TITLE	AUTHORS	PUBLISHED IN	PUBLICATION DATE
1. Alexander Dunbar	Factors influencing the sustainable utilization of artisanal fisheries: A case of west point, Liberia	"Alexander Dunbar David Mungai John Kaunga Muthee"	International Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Studies	04/26/21
2. Wehye, Austin	Population Structure of Pseudotolithus Senegalensis and Pseudotolithus Typus and Their Implications for Management and Conservation within the Coastal Waters of Liberia	Austin Saye Wehye, Patrick K Ofori-Danson, and Angela Manekuor Lamptey	Fisheries and Aquaculture Journal	05/18/17
3. Wehye, Austin	Growth, Mortality and Exploitation Rates of Lesser African Threadfin, Galeoides Decadactylus (Bloch,1795) within the Coastal Waters of Liberia	Austin Saye Wehye and Samuel KK Amponsah	International Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Research	03/01/17
4. Wehye, Austin	Aspects of Population Dynamics of Pseudotolithus Typus (Bleeker, 1863) with Management Implications within the Coastal Waters of Liberia	Austin Saye Wehye and Samuel KK Amponsah	International Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Studies	02/16/17
5. Zolue, G Moses	Plant-available zinc fixation kinetics in semi-arid alkaline soils of the Southern High Plains	Theophilus K. Udeigwe, Madeleine Eichmann, Peter N. Eze, Jasper M Teboh, Gondah M. Zolue, & Obiageli P. Umeugochukwu	Archives of Agronomy and Soil Science	09/19/16