



2015 BHEARD Scholar
**Geoffrey Kampupu Alex
Ziba**

Profile

Country of Study:	South Africa
University:	University of Pretoria
Department:	Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development
Student Position:	Graduate Research Assistant – M.Sc.
Hometown:	Rumphi, Northern Malawi, Malawi
Home Institution:	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development
Home Position:	Economist

Research Area: Agricultural Economics

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: January 2016

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: Bachelor of Social Sciences, Economics, University of Malawi

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Geoffrey is interested in this field because the agriculture sector offers a big push for economic development as its successful development brings forth development of various other vital sectors and institutions such as business and markets. In this regard, Geoffrey's proposed research will study the impact that various microeconomic phenomena, such as volatilities in staple food prices, have on macroeconomic aggregates such as inflation and interest rates and their accompanying impact on the agricultural sector.

Such developments impact famers' access to facilities such as credit, as well as inputs such as seeds and fertilizers which in turn influences government policy decisions to meliorate the situation. This may include introduction of such instruments as Farm Input Subsidy Programmes (FISP) which are aimed at enabling famers to have access to and affordability to buy such essential inputs of production.

This augurs well with Geoffrey's employer's research interests back home as the Government of Malawi (GoM) is exploring alternatives to various policies to better provide access to inputs for all farmers in the country. This is in view of the stretching of the resource envelope due to various other pressing needs such as efficient and effective public education and health care provision by the government. Geoffrey's proposed area of research will, therefore, explore on some of the policy options available that may provide a reasonable balance among competing needs.

PERSONAL STATEMENT: Geoffrey plans to work toward the doctoral level in his field of specialization, after having acquired post-Master's degree-level work experience. Geoffrey intends to acquire in-depth expertise in policy formulation, analysis, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and knowledge sharing to achieve efficiency and effectiveness in achieving set targets and goals. Furthermore, he intends to venture into providing Independent consultancy services in various areas, after acquiring a considerable amount of work expertise.

WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY: Geoffrey enjoys studying a wide range of research papers and other literary material, following global current affairs (agriculture, business, politics, climate change, soccer, etc.), and traveling to tourist sites/destinations.