



2017 BHEARD Scholar
Francis Appiah

Profile

Country of Study:	Ghana
University:	KNUST
Department:	Crop and Soil Sciences
Student Position:	Graduate Research Assistant
Home Country:	Somanaya, Ghana
Home Institution:	Ghana Education Service
Home Position:	Head of Agricultural Science Department
Mentored By:	Mr. Nicholas Tetteh Atteh, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana

Research Area: *Effects of Plant Extracts on Stored Paper Seed*

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: August 2017

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: B.Sc., Agricultural Technology (Agronomy) University for Development Studies, Ghana

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Most vegetable farmers in Ghana are increasingly dependent on their own saved seeds because of the cost and unreliable access to certified seeds. The habit of saving a percentage of previous seeds (pepper) and using them as a source of seed poses a problem to the farmers, because yields from those seeds are always very low. Therefore, there is the need to improve the quality of seeds to ensure its purity, high variability and good seed health because good vegetable growth and development begins with seed. The use of pesticides may result in the seed being already infested from the field, high cost, poor knowledge of application and its effects on the environment. The research will be helpful because farmers will be able to use locally available plant extracts like the leaves and roots of *Euphorbia tirucalli* to store the pepper seed thereby maintaining seed and grain quality, seed security, germination percentage and vigor. There will be food and seed security and availability, creating employment for the youth, passing the quality test to meet international standards for export, farmers will maximize profit from their farming, the country will be able to meet the needs of the growing population and increase exportation to earn foreign exchange for the country.

PERSONAL STATEMENT: Francis is a self motivated young man, highly principled, friendly, loyal, a good team player, able to work under pressure with little or no supervision and fast at learning and adapting to new ideas. His goal is to become a researcher and seed systems specialist to develop training modules on seed production, and conduct training in seed business management, seed multiplication, seed marketing and growth quality awareness for both public and private sector partners in the seed systems to empower them to produce and distribute quality seeds at the right time for production. He will also encourage the youth to join hands with the seed industry to make quality seeds available to the local farmers.

WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY: Francis enjoys reading, spending time with family and friends, watching movies, praying, given professional counseling to students, and traveling.