



2016 BHEARD Scholar
Owen Banda

Profile

Country of Study:	Kenya
University:	Egerton University
Department:	Agricultural Education and Extension
Student Position:	Graduate Research Assistant—M.Sc.
Hometown:	Neno, Malawi
Home Institution:	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development
Home Position:	Agricultural Gender Roles Extension Support Services Officer
Mentored By:	Home: Charles Masangano, Ph.D., LUANAR University: Maurice Udoto, Ph.D., Egerton University

Research Area: Agricultural Extension

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: September 2016

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: B.Sc., Agriculture, University of Malawi, Malawi

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Owen has keen interest to conduct a research on major factors which affect adoption of sustainable agriculture technologies among smallholder farmers within the Mzimba district in Malawi. Particularly, the study will identify both socio-economic and agro-ecological challenges which perpetuate non-adoption of the technologies among both female and male headed farming households.

Essentially, Owen's research will focus on technologies which are predominantly promoted by a wide range of services providers operating in the district. The parameters of adoption will be measured in terms of intensity (hectarage) and number of technologies implemented by the target households.

More importantly, the recommendations of the study will form a basis for formulation and scaling-up of effective strategies to promote agricultural technologies with an aim of mitigating adverse effects of climate change which are negatively affecting the productivity of agro-based enterprises in Mzimba district. Both Owen's employer and university have expressed their commitment to help in his selected area of study.

PERSONAL STATEMENT: Owen's professional goal is to acquire knowledge and skills to attain the highest competency level of contributing towards achievement of sustainable and equitable agricultural development through socio-economic empowerment of farming communities and

On the other hand, Owen's academic goal is to pursue relevant programs up to the doctorate level so as to fully realize the fulfilment of his professional goal.

WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY: Besides his professional duties and responsibilities, Owen enjoys playing and watching soccer, reading development-oriented articles and books, traveling, and spending some time with his friends and relatives.