



2013 BHEARD Scholar
Isaac Onziga Dramadri

Profile

Position:	Teaching Assistant
Institution:	Makerere University
Country:	Uganda
MSc:	Makerere University
Mentored by:	Dr. James Kelly Department of Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences Michigan State University Dr. Richard Edema & Prof. Paul Gibson, Department of Agricultural Production Makerere University

Research Area: *Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biotechnology*

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: August 2013

HOMETOWN: Arua, Uganda

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: Makerere University

GRADUATE EDUCATION: Makerere University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Isaac's research focus is to improve drought tolerance in the Common bean using next generation genomic and physiological tools. Climate change is a major constraint affecting agricultural productivity and food security globally. In Uganda, there are growing concerns about the likely impacts of climate change on sustainable agriculture, production systems, and food availability. The recurrent waves of El Niño events have brought in drought stress and floods with catastrophic environmental, humanitarian and economic effects on the livelihoods of many small scale subsistence farmers. Sustaining crop productivity under these conditions require crop varieties with improved tolerance to drought stress, diseases, and pests and other stresses. It is therefore, essential to understand the physiology of drought stress tolerance and identify genomic regions associated with drought tolerance responses in major food security crops such as common bean. Isaac is very optimistic that this research will lead to development of common bean varieties with improved tolerance to drought stress. The research will be conducted at National Crops Resources research Institute (NaCRRI)- Namulonge and Makerere University in Uganda, collaborating with MSU dry bean program.

PERSONAL STATEMENT: Isaac is committed to his studies and hopes that the exposure and research project will create the training opportunity he desires to acquire supporting educational training and research in Uganda. He intends to be involved in teaching and research after his studies at Michigan State University and plans on applying the skills he has learned to appropriately serve, support, and improve quality of Agricultural research in Uganda and Africa at a large. His hope is to foster and work closely with international collaborative partners who through their generosity strive to improve the quality of lives and livelihoods of the poor and needy through research and education.

In his spare time, Isaac enjoys reading, cooking, visiting with friends, going for walks, watching soccer and movies as well as listening to Gospel music and the news.