



2017 BHEARD Scholar
Olive Umunerzero

Profile

Country of Study:	Kenya
University:	University of Nairobi
Department:	Agriculture
Student Position:	Graduate Research Assistant –Ph.D.
Home Country:	Kigali, Rwanda
Home Institution:	Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resource Development Board
Home Position:	Assistant Research Fellow
Mentored By:	Dr. Mupenzi Mutimura

Research Area: Forage Production

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: September 2017

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: B.Sc. Animal Production, University of Rwanda

GRADUATE EDUCATION: M.Sc. Animal Production, Egerton University

RESEARCH INTERESTS: The area reserved to fodder production is always low due to land shortage in smallholder dairy farmers in Rwanda. This causes scarcity of forage feeds resources for cattle, especially during the dry season. Available niches for forage production are yet to be fully exploited. This study will highlight the biophysical characteristics of prominent forage fitted in different agro-ecological niches. The findings of this study will contribute to develop a decision support tool that farmers can use to select the forage variety, to be intercropped to available crops within specific agro ecology in a given farm. This study will map the available crop residues as livestock feed resources in different dairy farm typology in Rwanda. A basic forage economic analysis will be realized and farm model will be used to optimize milk yield, growth performance and reduced greenhouse gas emissions in dairy farm typologies in Rwanda.

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

- ◆ The results of this study would inform policy in CIP/LIP by introduction of new fodder species intercropped to crops for food/feed security.
- ◆ Findings of this study will contribute to National Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) for Rwanda.
- ◆ This study will provide strategies for sustainable intensification of crop-livestock integration. These include strategies for land use; and improved nutrition for increased productivity and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- ◆ Identification of niches for different species in the agro ecological zones of Rwanda will serve as important information to policy for green livestock nutrition as well as farmers for improved livestock productivity and their better livelihood.
- ◆ Rational utilization of different niches (terraces, under storey vegetation, farm boundaries, marshland cover areas, intercropping with banana; etc) for fodder production.

WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY: Olive enjoys being together with her husband and children, chatting, playing, telling stories. In addition, Olive and her husband are born again Christians and enjoy worshipping God, listening to gospel music and to the word of God. Her favorite game is table tennis; her preferred sport is walking.