



2017 BHEARD Scholar
Robert James

Profile

Country of Study:	Kenya
University:	University of Nairobi
Department:	Agriculture
Student Position:	Graduate Research Assistant—MSc.
Home Country:	South Sudan
Home Institution:	Polish Humanitarian Actions
Home Position:	Food Security and Livelihood Officer
Mentored By:	Prof. Isaac Curi Riak , VC Prof. Sampson Binyason

Research Area: *Increasing Maize Productivity*

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: September 2017

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: BSc. Agricultural Economics, Upper Nile University, South Sudan

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Robert is interested in cutting the cost of fertilizer; improving rural infrastructures; use of communication and information technologies; improving smallholder's access to credit; minimizing post harvest losses; promoting strong farm based institutions (for access to inputs and marketing of produce). Roberts research study is titled "Increasing Maize Productivity in Magwi County, South Sudan."

PERSONAL STATEMENT: Robert will work tirelessly with all stakeholders, together with the farmers, to see that agricultural input and product markets in South Sudan are developed. This will eventually improve the production and increase the access to competitive markets in the region and the world. Most of South Sudan agricultural products are consumed locally yet are insufficient to feed its citizens, who are yearly reported to be food insecure. In addition, he will have the opportunity to address key agricultural challenges with the farmers using the valuable knowledge and skills he acquires through his post graduate program. Together with the farmers, they will find life changing solutions like access to and use of recommended agricultural inputs, post-harvest management, value chain additions and marketing.

WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY: When Robert is not working, he enjoys reading journals and political articles. He enjoys playing and watching football and other sports. He listens to gospel music.