Meet The Next Generation

The Soybean Innovation Lab, working with the University of Ghana has created the first high quality Masters Program in Plant Breeding and Genetics at the University of Ghana. This Program was designed to educate the teachers who will train the next generation of plant breeders in Africa. This is filling the growing need for well-trained plant breeders to manage the research posts at African research stations.

“I believe that the main limitation to treat these difficulties is the lack of skilled manpower that has an ability to identify the existing problems and develop strategic solutions for these challenges on this sector. For these and other reasons, I enrolled into the MPhil Plant Breeding and Genetics programme at the University of Ghana.”

Kassaye Hussen Belay was born at Akesta in Amhara a regional state in Ethiopia. He attended the University of Ethiopia and graduated with a Bachelors in Science Agriculture (Plant Sciences) in 2010. After graduation, he joined the Ministry of Science and Technology as a Junior Agricultural Technology Transfer and Development Expert. He then transferred to the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research in the National Wheat Breeding Program as a Junior Researcher in 2012. He actively participated in different Wheat and Barley Improvement research experiments and identified many problems which contributed to the reduction of wheat production in the country. His concentration is resistance sources and variation among Ethiopian cultivated wheats to stem rust infection. Upon graduation he aspires to be a researcher, community servant and lecturer to improve wheat productivity for food security and better nutrition in Africa.

“Cutting grass to feed animals was a routine task for me and I enjoyed taking care of these animals and watching them grow. These events made me have an uncompromising love for nature.”

Prince Buertey Kpentey grew up on a coastal savannah zone of Ghana, where fishing, rearing of livestock animals, and planting coconuts was common place. He enrolled into an Agricultural College to pursue a career in agriculture. After completion he was employed as a research laboratory technician in the plant tissue culture laboratory of Biotechnology and Nuclear Agriculture Research Institute of Ghana Atomic Energy Commis-

sion. Realising he needed to increase his knowledge, he enrolled in the University of Ghana where he studied for a Diploma in Agriculture and then to pursue his Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture. He is currently back at the same university where he is pursuing the MPhil degree programme in Plant Breeding and Genetics. His concentration is undertaking mutation breeding of Bambara Groundnut to improve its quality, hardiness, and acceptability. After graduation he wishes to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Genetics and Plant Breeding.
“I fell in love with agriculture at the laboratory as I combined both field and laboratory activities. My love for agriculture and the desire to broaden my scope made me enroll for the MPhil Plant Breeding and Genetics programme at the University of Ghana.”

Frederick Justice Awuku was born at Nsawam in the Eastern region of Ghana. He attended the University of Ghana and graduated with a BS in Chemistry. He did his national service with the Department of Food Process Engineering at the University of Ghana. He then took a job with CSIR-Savannah Agricultural Research Institute in 2013, as a technical officer in-charge of the Biotechnology Laboratory, which he helped to establish. His area of concentration is the diversity of a parasitic weed on cowpea in Ghana. Upon graduation he aspires to be a researcher and lecturer to help improve African crops for better nutrition.

“As a young scientist I aspire to lead research in crop improvement especially in the area of climate change, food security, and the role of indigenous crops in mitigating climate change and its effect on food security.”

Collins Gameli Gborvi was born in Asamankese in the Eastern Region of Ghana. He attended Koforidua Secondary Technical School where he studied Agricultural Science. After graduation, he attended the University of Cape Coast where he received his Bachelor Science in Agriculture. He taught as the General Agricultural Science master in a Senior High School where he was impacting knowledge, developing the potentials of students and sustaining their interest in agriculture. His work is focused on developing hybrid maize that is resistant to streak virus. After completing his masters, he aims to become a lecturer and researcher.

“My love and passion for agriculture and the ambition to broaden my knowledge base in the field of agriculture led me to enroll for the MPhil Plant Breeding and Genetics programme.”

Godson Nyawudzo received his Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Science (Crop Science) from the University of Ghana. He is currently enrolled in the MPhil Genetics and Plant Breeding programme at the University of Ghana, where he is working with other scholars on the improvement of indigenous crops with the main objective of increasing the tuber size to stimulate consumer interest and preference.

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