



## 2024 BCDI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT: STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

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### Akua Afrakoma Osei

#### Master of Arts in Rural Development Student



Akua Afrakoma Osei is a student from Ghana. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana. In recent times, Akua worked as a production and marketing officer for the Soabapa Green Project. The project was an integrated agribusiness that focused on farming, food processing and marketing in rural communities within the Ashanti Region of Ghana. Akua has a keen interest in the development within rural-urban fringes, a passion that was ignited in 2021 when she was opportune to work as an assistant extension officer in predominantly rural areas. With this experience, Akua envisions a future where rural communities would thrive rather than survive.

Akua's decision to pursue the Master of Arts in Rural Development (MARD) program was fueled by her quest for continuous personal growth and development. She believes the MARD program will help her acquire in-depth knowledge of the structure and functioning of rural society, the formulation and role of policy in rural development and current development theories to participate in rural governance.

As part of her undergraduate program requirement, she took courses in research methods which helped her build enthusiasm for scholarly inquiry. Akua led a team of six researchers to research producers' and consumers' awareness, perception and knowledge of food labels on locally packaged foods (Sobolo) for her final year dissertation. She is eager to further refine her research skills and actively participate in research initiatives aimed at rural economic development. She aims to pursue a PhD after the MARD program, specifically targeting career paths in research. She possesses a strong passion for innovation and entrepreneurship in rural communities.



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