

RDI

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INSTITUTE

2024 BCDI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT: STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

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Master of Arts in Rural Development Student

My name is Brempong Prince Akyeaw, born and raised in New Edubiase, a rural community in the Adansi South District of the Ashanti Region, Ghana. Growing up in a farming area deeply shaped my passion for agriculture and the well-being of rural farmers. Witnessing the challenges and low living standards faced by farmers inspired my lifelong vision to drive positive change and promote development in rural communities.

Motivated by this passion, I pursued a degree in Agriculture at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), majoring in Crop and Soil Science. During my undergraduate studies, I conducted research on the characterization of Okra (*Abelmoschus spp.*) accessions aimed at identifying varieties with higher fruit yield, prolonged harvesting duration, and early maturity. This research sought to enhance okra production and improve the income levels of local farmers.

I also gained practical experience through a one-year internship with the Cocoa Extension Division of COCOBOD, where I served as an Extension Agent in the Adansi South District. In this role, I led workshops and training sessions for cocoa farmers on best practices in cocoa cultivation, pest and disease management, and sustainable farming methods. I was also involved in facilitating and monitoring cocoa pollination, and educating farmers on effective techniques to enhance pollination rates and improve pod development.

After completing my undergraduate studies, I worked with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) as an Extension Agent, continuing my commitment to supporting farmers and advancing agricultural productivity.

My desire to make a lasting impact in rural development inspired me to join the BCDI Project and pursue a two-year master's program in Community Development. Upon completing the program, I aspire to contribute to community development initiatives, participate in policy formulation for rural advancement, and collaborate with organizations and stakeholders that play vital roles in empowering rural communities. In the long term, I also aim to further my academic journey and contribute significantly to the field of community development through research and practice.



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