



**Oliver Otieno Okumu** joined the University of Nairobi in 2008 for his undergraduate studies. I joined the university to study BSc in Agriculture and in the third year I majored in Crop Protection. The course was not easy as we had to do some units that we thought were misplaced. After satisfactorily completing my BSc studies in agriculture I was conferred degree at a congregation at the chancellor's court in 2012 August.

After graduation I left college to look for a job but it did not take long before I got a call from my fourth year supervisor, then a Dr informing me of the scholarship availability. I never hesitated to take the scholarship opportunity and I immediately registered for my MSc in Crop Protection at same university where I completed in a record time of 18 months under the supervision of Prof J.W Muthomi, Dr. J. M Wagacha (School of Biological Sciences, UoN) and Dr. Charity Mutegi (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture) the scholarship. My MSC thesis is entitled 'Occurrence of *Fusarium* head blight, associated mycotoxins and resistance of wheat germplasm". The project involved survey in wheat growing zones of Nakuru County. Farmers chosen for the project were interviewed on the wheat production methods and management of various disease constraints that were responsible for reduction in yield. Wheat head samples were collected and isolations done to determine the *Fusarium* species that were responsible for the occurrence of the current trend of the disease within the County. Field experiments were also conducted in Nakuru Agricultural Training Centre and another in farmer field in Mau Narok.

The entire course proved so difficult that at one point I thought of quitting but my friends encouraged me to soldier on and that's exactly what I did. To my friends am



Wheat head sample collection at farmer fields in Nakuru County

grateful.



Wheat head showing head blight symptom after inoculation with *Fusarium graminearum*

The MSc study was made possible by the scholarship awarded by Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM). For this scholarship I want to say I am very grateful for RUFORUM for considering me for the opportunity to further my studies. To my supervisors I am very grateful for the guidance, support and the encouragement you showed to me during my entire period of studies.



Presenting '**Role of agronomic practices on the occurrence of *Fusarium* head blight Of wheat**' paper at the University of Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique.