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## AgGRAD Students



**Jenipher Bisikwa**, Makerere, Uganda, is the current student in a Weed Science Ph.D. program. She began in 1998 and will return to Uganda as principal weed scientist at the University of Makerere .

#### Tsitsi Ndwora,

Harare, Zimbabwe, completed her Ph.D. in Plant Pathology in 1998. She is a plant virologist with Kutsaga Institute, Harare, and works with large and small area farmers.



**Kingsley Ayisi**, Sovenga, South Africa, completed his Ph.D. in Agronomy in 1994. He conducts research, teaches, meets with farmer groups and has supervised 26 honor students and five master degree graduates at the University of the North in Sovenga.

#### Gbadebo Olaoye,

Iloren, Nigeria, completed his Ph.D. in Plant Breeding in 1990. He conducts research teaches and has supervised 20 advanced degree graduate students at the University of Ilorin in Nigeria.



## Project AgGrad

### Contact Persons

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### In Minnesota, send contributions to

Project AgGRAD Conference Advance  
c/o Remittance Coordinator  
Minnesota Annual Conference UMC  
122 W. Franklin Avenue, Suite 400  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

(Make check payable to The Minnesota Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church)

### Outside of Minnesota, designate contributions to

UMCOR Advance #982057-8

The Minnesota Annual Conference  
of The United Methodist Church

# Project AgGRAD

## Responding to World Hunger



*'Your gifts train scholars who return to their countries to improve food production and train others.'*

*Your support is vital!'*

-Bishop John L. Hopkins  
Minnesota Annual Conference

## The Facts

**226 million children globally are stunted due to hunger and malnutrition. Stunting blunts a child's ability to resist diseases or learn.**

**14.6 million children die every year from hunger-related diseases**

**Two out of every three people who die of hunger are children under the age of five years old.**

Source: UNICEF

## The Solution

AgGRAD supports promising young people from developing nations as they advance to the Masters and/or Doctoral level in production agriculture.

## The Result

AgGRAD students return to their home countries to improve and change their agricultural system by producing more and better food.

They also assume leadership positions in teaching, research and agriculture education.

## What is Project AgGRAD?

Project AgGRAD is a professional education program that sponsors selected students from developing countries for graduate study in production agriculture.

The Minnesota Annual Conference initiated Project AgGRAD in 1983 in response to a Council of Bishops' letter asking for responsible, targeted programs to meet the increasing demands of World Hunger. AgGRAD is now a major recipient of Minnesota Annual Conference Advance Special funding.

## How Project AgGRAD Works

### Student Selection

The Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church Project AgGRAD Committee identifies potential students in developing countries who are dedicated to facilitating agricultural development, who desire advanced study and who can contribute the leadership needed upon returning to their home country. Recommendations come through overseas mission groups, international organizations, overseas research stations and universities in developing countries.

### Country of Origin

The Project AgGRAD Committee recommends that students come from the nations with the greatest needs. African nations have been the focus because agricultural production is falling further behind in food needs as compared with other developing nations.

### Commitment of the Country

The program is designed to ensure that the students will return home upon completion of their advanced degree. Project AgGRAD communicates with the home country to identify agricultural professional opportunities commensurate with each student's training.

### The University of Minnesota

The students attend the University of Minnesota, recognized for excellence in agricultural training for international students. Agricultural leaders in numerous countries have received advanced degrees from the University. The University also provides in-kind support to AgGRAD in the form of advisors, lab and office space and equipment.

### Cost of the Program

Graduate students at the University of Minnesota require funds for books, transportation, and basic living expenses. The total cost is \$25,000 per year per student. Support for three to four years is needed for a Ph.D. degree.

### Funding Sources

United Methodists are the major contributors to the Project AgGRAD program, and friends of the project also support AgGRAD students with their contributions. No contributions are used for board or committee expenses.



### AgGRAD Donor Card



I would like to support the work of Project AgGRAD with the enclosed gift (please circle the amount):

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Mail this form and contribution to:  
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Make checks payable to Minnesota Annual Conference UMC.  
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122 W. Franklin Ave., Room 400  
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