

This month's graduate student profile is of Ms. Leila Kamino.

Leila grew up in Kilifi, a small town in the coastal region of eastern Kenya. Growing up she always wanted to pursue a career in the medical field like her parents. Following those dreams, she attended Egerton University (Nakuru, Kenya) where she completed a B.Sc. in Biochemistry in 2008. Following graduation, she began her research career at the cereal breeding and chemistry departments at the Kenyan Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization in Njoro supporting the completion of various projects. During this time, she was fascinated by the different aspects of research that was being done to improve crop productivity which developed a passion in her for agriculture. Leila was fortunate to obtain



a scholarship to study for a masters in Agriculture at the University of Sydney, Australia in 2011, and her research topic focused on the genetics of resistance to stripe rust in barley. She later joined Dr. Rob Gulden's research group at the University of Manitoba in the spring of 2014 for a PhD program and her research is geared towards understanding the effect of crop species on the dynamics of soil bacteria that influence extracellular DNA (eDNA) cycling in the environment and how agronomic practices shape soil bacterial community dynamics. Upon graduation, Leila wants to find employment in Canada and continue contributing to agriculture through research and employing new technological advances in crop protection.