

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

DISTINGUISHED AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE, 2013 **CITATION**

ERIC YIRENKYI DANQUAH, Professor of Plant Genetics: you were appointed as Lecturer in the Department of Crop Science, University of Ghana, in 1994, following your PhD degree in Genetics at Cambridge University, England. You were promoted to the position of Senior Lecturer in 2001, Associate Professor in 2004 and Professor in 2007. You were Senior Tutor of Legon Hall from 2002 to 2005, Head of the Department of Crop Science from 2005 to 2006 and Dean of International Programmes from 2006 to 2009.

Your professional focus is on genetic diversity in crop plants and their associated pests, with an emphasis on molecular genetics and biotechnology. You have taught a large number of courses in the College of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences and co-supervised over 30 post-graduate students, including eight PhDs. You have served as a visiting Scientist at various prestigious institutions, the most recent of which are the Long Ashton Research Institute of the Biological and Biotechnology Science Research Council (BBSRC) in the United Kingdom, and Cornell University and Michigan State University in the United States of America.

You are a member of the Independent Advisory Committee of the CGIAR Research Programme on Dryland Cereals, ICRISAT, India, the Technical Advisory Committee of the National Biosafety Committee of Ghana and the Board of the African Centre for Crop Improvement. You are also a Fellow of the Cambridge Philosophical and Cambridge Commonwealth Societies. Your shared vision and leadership led to the establishment of the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI) in the University of Ghana, of which you are the founding Director. Under your leadership WACCI has attracted over 12 million dollars in funding for the training of plant breeders, with a total of 18 students graduated so far at the PhD level.

As Principal Investigator, you recently led a team to develop one of the winning proposals from the University of Ghana, for WACCI to become one of 19 African Centres of Excellence (ACE) to equip young Africans with new scientific and technical skills. Through your efforts, WACCI will receive 8 million dollars in funding from the World Bank for the training of plant breeders, seed scientists and technologists.

You have numerous research publications to your credit, and in your recent inaugural lecture titled “Impacting food security in sub-Saharan Africa: Developing new crop varieties for a hungry and changing West Africa” you were able to effectively engage the audience in a summary of your research work.

Eric Yirenkyi Danquah, your exceptional grantsmanship, research, and international profile have contributed substantially to the visibility and recognition of the University of Ghana within the African continent and indeed, internationally. You have effectively promoted your field, and you serve as a mentor to many colleagues and students.

In recognition of your immense contribution to your field and to the University over the past 20 years, the University of Ghana is proud to confer on you the **DISTINGUISHED AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE, 2013**.

We congratulate and salute you.

AYEKOO!

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Mr. Kofi Annan
Chancellor

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Professor Ernest Aryeetey
Vice-Chancellor

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Mrs. Mercy Haizel-Ashia
Registrar

July 26, 2014