



I am **Castro Amponsah-Yeboah**, a Ghanaian born on 10th April, 1986 in Accra, Ghana. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture (Majoring in Post Harvest-Technology) from University of Ghana. I was the first person to identify fungal specie (*mycogene sp.*) in dry cocoa beans. This was achieved in my research project on the 'Fungi associated with dry cocoa beans in Ghana' in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement of BSc. (Hons) Degree in Agriculture (Post-Harvest Technology). I recently completed my course work in Global MBA in Corporate Finance from University of Bologna and awaiting to graduate in July, 2017.

My academic interest is to help improve the socio-economic conditions of the incredibly resilient yet highly disadvantaged people in rural Ghana /Africa especially women, children, the physically challenged and the voiceless who happen to be the majority in Ghana/Africa. This stemmed from my constant exposure to issues in the area of poverty alleviation, development programs and interventions as part of my work as Budget Analyst.

In 2007, I worked with German Development Cooperation (GIZ) in partnership with G12 as a field auditor for collection and analyzing agronomic data on selected crops (maize, rice) in Brong Ahafo and Ashanti (Ghana) from Extension officers to scale up innovative insurance product for adaptation to climate towards the development of agricultural insurance product for maize and rice. Between 2008 and 2009, I interned with Electoral Commission of Ghana and Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ). At Electoral, I assisted the Director of Election of Sunyani Municipal Assembly on his administrative duties and also voluntarily helped in 2012 Biometric Voter Registration exercise they undertook, where I contributed to enabling potential voters to be registered. At CHRAJ, I helped in conducting investigations and submitting reports. This exposed me to practical cases of corruption, social and administrative injustices and practical ways of solving problems. This has raised my interest in public accountability, good governance, social justice and development.

2010, I joined the Ghana Local Government Service under Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development as National Service Personnel. Demonstrating an incredible initiative and strong dedication gained me a permanent employment in the Local Government Service as Assistant Budget Analyst which I rose through the rank to become a District Budget Analyst. My involvement and contribution to key management issues made it possible for me to subject issues to critical analysis and also offer solutions to emerging challenges.

At SAIS, I will be concentrating on International Relations to broaden and enhance my skills strategically, analytically and professionally with respect to a wide range of gender and development policy issues in order to bring Ghana/Africa in line with one of UN's goals of "Poverty Alleviation Program" which seeks transformational changes and bring about real improvements to citizens' lives rather than bureaucracy. Also promotes respect for human rights, especially that of women, children, physically challenge and the voiceless.

I speak fluently in English and elementary in French. I will make progress in my French at SAIS since it is the other principal international language of my target location: Africa.

