



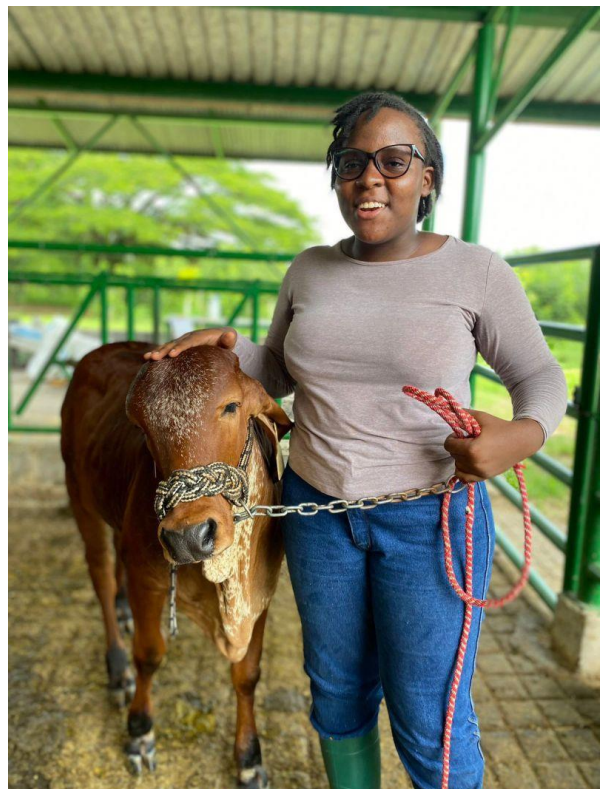
## Update on Fidinam International Charity Foundation Scholars

October 2024

Fogwe Prosper and Ellen Mensah have been at EARTH University for a year now, and continue to seize every opportunity to learn and to contribute! They (and all of us at EARTH) are beyond grateful for the support from Fidinam International Charity Foundation that makes this life-changing opportunity possible.

As you know, they both successfully completed EARTH's Spanish language and cultural immersion program in the fall of 2023, including living with local host families with whom they have kept close relationships. During the first and second trimesters of 2024, they continued their studies in weekly Spanish classes with special focus on the agricultural context of their classes. In November 2024, these students will receive a diploma from EARTH's Spanish as a Second Language Program, certifying their completion of the program and documenting the number of hours completed.

Using these language skills, they have been taking EARTH's first-year curriculum alongside their native Spanish speaking classmates since January. Important courses for first-year students include six modules of



work experience, written and oral communication, Mathematics, Tropical Crops, Ecology and Natural Resource Management, Natural Science, Animal Production, and Operation of Agricultural Equipment. They also participated in a short course that takes place during the first trimester of each year for new students, led by the educational psychologist. The class has four areas of focus: learning styles, study techniques and methods, effective time management, and developing a life plan. This is a crucial opportunity for the psychologist to identify any students who may need extra support to be successful at EARTH.



Also as part of the first-year curriculum, they are completing introductory business and entrepreneurship coursework and forming business teams to develop and pitch a plan for a venture they will operate during their second year of studies. Prosper's team will produce liquid detergent and will sell it to the

University laundry unit, and are now working on sustainability tests with their prototype to finalize the contract. Ellen's team will produce corn silage for livestock feed; she is excited to pursue this project after really enjoying her animal production class earlier this year.

Ellen and Prosper are also making time for campus involvement and extracurricular activities. Ellen joined an African traditional dance group, and reports feeling privileged to dance at the legislative Hall of Costa Rica during the opening ceremony of the month of Afro-descendants. Prosper serves as Vice President of the African Student Union, a group made up of about 80 EARTH students from 15 countries that provides support in African students' adaptation and integration process, their professional growth, and their commitment to being dignified Africa representatives.

***On behalf of Ellen, Prosper, and the whole EARTH University team and family, thank you for believing in and supporting our future food systems leaders!***