



Lena Dzifa MENSAH

Home Country
Ghana

Degree
PhD in Engineering and Management of Manufacturing Systems

Expertise
Mechanical Engineering

Research Focus
Moving up the Value Chain in Ghana

Host University
Cranfield University, United Kingdom

Fellowship Awarded
2006

Lena Dzifa Mensah was born in Ghana to a family of six; of her three siblings, she is the second born. She has a degree in mechanical engineering and a master's in manufacturing engineering and management. She served as a teaching assistant for a year in Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana and also worked briefly for a construction company as a maintenance engineer.

In her first research project, Lena used Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA) methodology to investigate risks during new product introduction. Lena has worked with Hallmark Cards Inc in the UK to analyze and improve greeting card production processes, and with Marshall Amplification to develop a strategy to maintain production in the UK and reduce costs by improving the efficiency of their supply chain.

She is currently working on the topic "Moving Up the Value Chain in Ghana." The practice of moving up the value chain involves the physical transformation of raw materials into manufactured goods as well as improvements in the quality and safety of raw and manufactured goods, and the management of the afterlife of the product. Preliminary investigation in Ghana shows that the requisite knowledge and skills, institutional structures, resources and technology to move up the value chain, while incorporating the basic requirements for accessing global value chains (GVCs) is not evident. Hence, Lena aims to develop a roadmap for enhancing compliance of the Ghanaian food manufacturing sector with the basic requirements for accessing GVCs.

Lena believes that in the longer term a synergy between academia and industry will ensure that education, training and technology are tailored to the needs of the Ghanaian manufacturing industry.

Lena plans to teach in the Mechanical Engineering Department at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology.