

Horticulture Collaborative Research Support Program

Horticulture CRSP Projects - RWANDA

Extension of Appropriate Postharvest Technology in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Postharvest Training and Services Center - *Ending Fall 2013*

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Physical losses of horticultural crops postharvest continue to range from 30-80% in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), and problems with food quality, safety and nutritional value are well documented. While past projects have identified appropriate postharvest technologies and recommended a variety of training, capacity building and small-scale infrastructure development, no single project has integrated all of this information and offered a locally based solution.

This unique pilot project will combine a wide variety of training programs, adaptive research and demonstrations of postharvest services. It will also provide access to needed tools and supplies in order to reduce postharvest losses and improve market access and incomes for small women farmers in Rwanda affiliated with established cooperatives near Kigali.

The project site in Rwanda will serve as a model for postharvest development in five additional SSA countries, whose representatives will participate via collaboration with African partners. By the close of project, 30 postharvest specialists from the 6 SSA countries involved will be well-qualified to implement enhanced postharvest handling techniques. They will be charged to teach these techniques to approximately 1,000 women farmers in their home countries. This will result in increased consumption of higher quality produce and better returns on investment to women farmers.



Collaborators Hilda Vasanthakaalam (second from left), Dan MacLean (center standing), Lisa Kitinoja (third from right), and Diane Barrett (second from right) visit farms throughout Rwanda to assess postharvest handling.

http://hortcrsp.ucdavis.edu/main/26pharvest_train.html