



HORTICULTURE INNOVATION LAB Site Visits Agenda Northern Rwanda



Background: The purpose of these two days in Northern Rwanda is to better understand how smallholder farmers can best be served through applied research. We will visit a Postharvest Training and Services Center at the University of Rwanda's Busogo campus (established by the Horticulture Innovation Lab's "Reducing postharvest losses in Rwanda" team) farmer cooperatives, agro-processors and others. Through these site visits we hope the Horticulture Innovation Lab management entity team and International Advisory Board are able to:

- Assess research needs for small-scale farmers and their communities
- Gain understanding of Rwanda's horticultural sector
- Understand successful project management techniques
- Gain insight about Horticulture Innovation Lab projects in Rwanda and globally

Monday, May 7

7:45	Guests meet at hotel lobby and board buses
8:00	Leave Serena Hotel
9:00	<p>Tour Entreprise Urwibutso Sina Gerard This local processor is currently working with more than 3,000 smallholders farmers and processes several products including fruit syrups, wine, honey, water, flour, donuts, biscuits and their famous Akabanga chili oil.</p>
11:15	Travel to Musanze

12:15	Lunch in Musanze Highway restaurant - La Palm Hotel
14:00	Drive to Busogo
14:30	Arrive at University of Rwanda, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Presentation of Postharvest Training and Services Center activities and progress, followed by poster presentations about adaptive research with students and the Department of Horticulture.
15:30	Tour of Postharvest Training and Services Center This PTSC at the University of Rwanda was established as part of the Horticulture Innovation Lab's "Reducing Postharvest Losses in Rwanda" project at the University of Rwanda. See a range of postharvest technologies including CoolBot and zero energy cool chamber (ZECC).
17:00	Drive to Mountain Gorilla View Lodge

Tuesday, May 8

7:00	Breakfast
8:00	Gather in lobby and board busses
8:30	Depart for Musanze caves
9:00	Musanze Cave visit Formed by centuries of geologic activity centered around the Virunga volcanoes next door, the 1.25-mile long Musanze caves are located just outside of the town they share a name with. With an enormous opening (and an equally huge number of bats resident inside), the greenery outside spilling over into the twilight within makes for a fantastic photo op. Though today they're a tourist attraction, the caves were used as a shelter during wartime for many centuries leading right up into the modern era, and as such, this is an important site to local people.
12:00	Lunch
13:30	Visit Farmer Cooperative We will visit a cooperative on our way back to Kigali that grows Irish potatoes and maize. This coop has 55 percent female membership
14:00	Tour Kigali Farms Kigali Farms works to help fight chronic malnutrition by providing the foundation of a sound mushroom industry, allowing mushrooms to become a meaningful part of the Rwandan diet. The business follows an integrated approach and sources inputs, produces substrates, trains outgrowers on mushroom production and gives them a guaranteed market.
15:30	Arrival to Kigali (Serena Hotel)
19:00	Registration in the lobby and Poster/Expo set-up in conference area until 21:00.