



Horticulture Innovation Lab Demonstration Center at UC Davis

Introduction

The Horticulture Innovation Lab hosts regional centers around the world — including an outdoor “Demonstration Center” for visitors to the University of California, Davis, campus.

This is an active site for students, faculty and staff to test new horticultural tools and demonstrate best practices for growing fruits and vegetables — particularly those helpful to small-scale farmers in emerging economies in Africa, Asia and Central America.

Major features include:

- **Solar-powered cold storage:** The CoolBot is a device designed by an American farmer to trick an air-conditioner into creating low-cost cool storage, to keep produce fresh. The cold room at the demonstration center is well insulated and powered by solar panels. Farmers who can store their produce longer can take advantage of better prices, as market prices can fluctuate dramatically over time.
- **Efficient solar drying:** The chimney solar dryer is a cost-effective, small-scale processing option for smallholder farmers that uses inexpensive and readily available materials to dehydrate fruits and vegetables. It is easily modified to suit specific requirements of different products and climates, and can provide the benefits of solar drying even in hazy or partially cloudy conditions.
- **African and Asian vegetable garden beds:** The plants growing in the center’s raised garden beds rotate as seasons change, but two large raised beds are consistently dedicated to vegetable varieties commonly grown in African and Asian gardens. Explore varieties of indigenous vegetables, leafy greens, eggplant, squash, beans, peppers and other specialties such as moringa and bittermelon.

Visit us



You are welcome to explore this outdoor demonstration center, located on the UC Davis campus, on your own. Or contact us to arrange a tour or other educational events:

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Website

<http://horticulture.ucdavis.edu>



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