

3 ACCA

THIRD AFRICA CONGRESS ON
CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE
5-8 June 2023 | Rabat, Morocco



The Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture

INNOVATIVE EDUCATION FOR A
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Theme:

Building a Resilient Future in Africa
through Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable
Mechanization



The Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture - RICA

- An institution of higher education founded in 2019 as a joint effort of the Government of Rwanda and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation.
- Focus on experiential education, applied research, and extension.
- 1300 ha campus in Bugesera District, southern Rwanda.

RICA Milestones

- **April 2016:** The Howard G. Buffett Foundation approves a business plan for the “*Agricultural Institute of Rwanda*”.
- **September 2019:** Permission to commence operations, Ministry of Education.
- **September 16, 2019:** First day of classes – 80 students.
- **September 12, 2022:** First day of classes with 250 students.
- **August 8, 2023:** Graduation of first class.

Academic Program

- Bachelor of Science in Conservation Agriculture
- Three-year BS program
 - Three 14 -week terms each academic year; roughly congruent with three growing seasons
 - Academic year runs September – August
- Year 1: Focus on smallholder production systems
- Year 2: Focus on enterprise-scale production systems
 - Dairy, vegetable & fruit crops, poultry & swine, mechanization & irrigation, row & forage crops, food processing
- Year 2: Specialization selection
 - Crop production systems, livestock production systems, mechanization & irrigation, food processing
- Year 3:
 - Completion of specialization courses
 - Two terms of internship

RICA Conservation Agriculture Principles

1. Maintain or build soil health/productivity, utilizing practices such as:
 - a. Minimizing tillage and/or soil disturbance
 - b. Maintaining and managing soil cover (crop residues, cover crops)
 - c. Crop diversification through rotation and/or intercropping
2. Implement spatially appropriate cropping and livestock systems.
3. Apply nutrient inputs (organic and inorganic) based on potential for economic crop response.
4. Use pesticides based on economic thresholds, and only as part of an integrated pest management approach.

RICA Conservation Agriculture Principles

5. Irrigation based on crop water use and soil water holding capacity to maximize profit and water use efficiency.
6. Management of crop and livestock systems to minimize environmental impacts.
7. Efficiently integrate livestock and crop production systems, using manure to optimize crop production and minimize environmental impact and effects on human and animal health.
8. Efficient utilization of all by-products from livestock and crop production, including those from food processing.
9. Develop and promote crop and livestock systems that increase biodiversity.





















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3ACCA Secretariat

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