



## AFSTA Congress - Kigali - March 2025

Dr Joseph Moughan, PhD, FRSB  
Founding Director - RICA Seed Center



# We make it easier for seed companies to succeed at serving more farmers with better seed.



**RICA Seed Center** provides B2B services to Seed Companies to accelerate their growth.



**Seed Companies** increase the supply and improve the quality of their seed products.



**Farmers** like Daphrose and Felicite buy improved seeds and judge results in a bigger harvests.

# Accelerating the Seed Sector...

We offer five B2B services to make it easier for you to get great seed to farmers:

## **Variety Selection Trials & Parent Seed Production**

Access your own branded varieties

## **Processing & Storage**

Use high end processing, warehousing and cold storage on a fee basis to avoid high upfront costs of purchasing infrastructure

## **Seed Quality Testing, Agronomy & Field Inspection Services**

Independent lab & field testing services to ensure the quality of your products

## **Professional trainings**

Build your staffs capacity on residential & short courses:  
Seed Technology & Business Professional Course 1-year  
Seed Business Administration (100 Hr short course)

## **Consulting services - marketing, business development & funding**

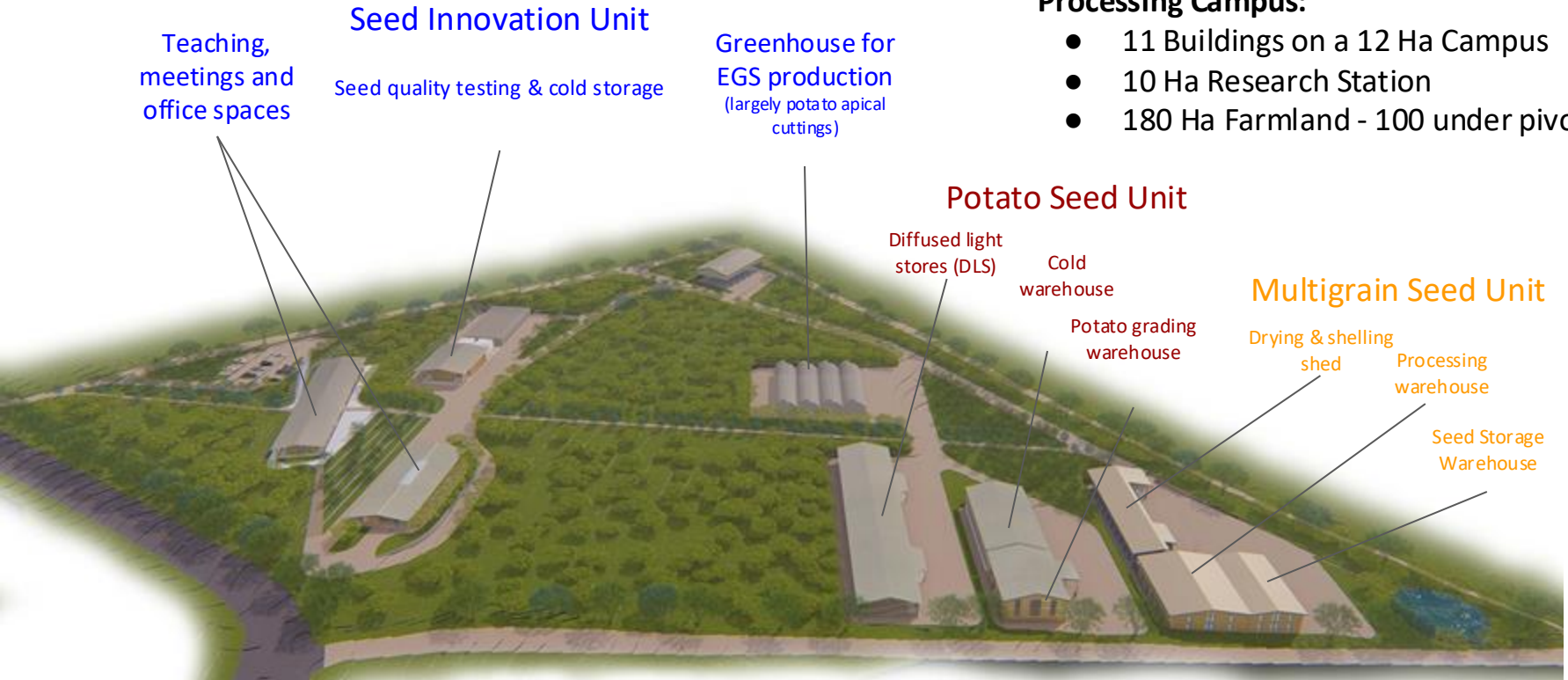
We can provide expert time to support your growth

# Establishing RICA Seed Center - Bugesera Campus:

## Three units of technical expertise

### Dedicated Seed Innovation, Training and Processing Campus:

- 11 Buildings on a 12 Ha Campus
- 10 Ha Research Station
- 180 Ha Farmland - 100 under pivot



# Achievements & performance



# Seed Innovation

- 16 - Seed Technology & Business Professional Course Graduates
- 7 - Seed Business Administration Short Course Graduates
- External curriculum review and validation
- National designated trial provider for National Variety Release Committee (NVRC) under Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority - DUS, VCU & Post-Control
- 7 Crop species being trialed
- Supporting entrance of Rwanda to OECD schemes



# Multigrain Seed

- 3,000 MT - Hybrid maize seed processed (at Ruhuha Plant)
- We're able to process: bean, wheat, rice, soybean and most grain crops
- 10 species of cover crop seeds parent seed production launched
- World's first Seed Center grounded in Conservation Agriculture Principles
- 16 partner seed companies (and growing... we are open for business!)



# Potato Seed

- 187 MT high quality certified distributed
- 354 farmers reached in 24B and 25A seasons & demand is very high
- 20+ MT / Ha yields have been observed in farmers adopting quality seed from our program
- 8 seed companies partnered on potato seed production - 4 producing potato seed for first time



# Class of '26 Course Open For International Applications

## Seed Technology & Business Professional Course

- Applications: 1-30 June
- Selection interviews: July
- Course starts: 1 September
- 1 year hands-on residential course
- Seed Company Operatives  
OR Ag Graduates should apply



**Want to find out more?**

**Field visit on Thursday - short  
journey 1hr15min from Kigali**

**Visit our booth**

# Founding Partners - a partnership founded in 2022



Government Partner - endorsed the RICA Seed Center and provides policy, technical & government support - including land provision at RICA



Funder - full financial support for 5 years & technical guidance and oversight



Business partner - supporting with faculty time, space on campus, knowledge sharing - pre-established accreditation



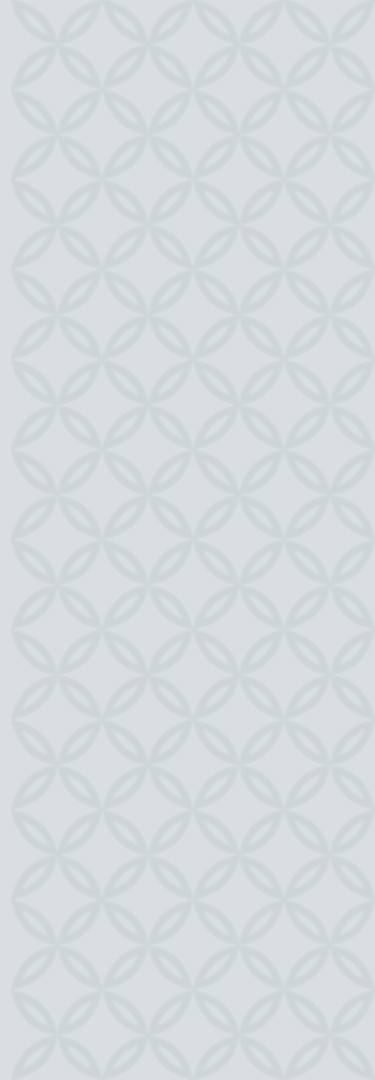
Business partner - with extensive experience in seed sector development and supporting 2 Million Rwandan farmers with agricultural services

Murakoze

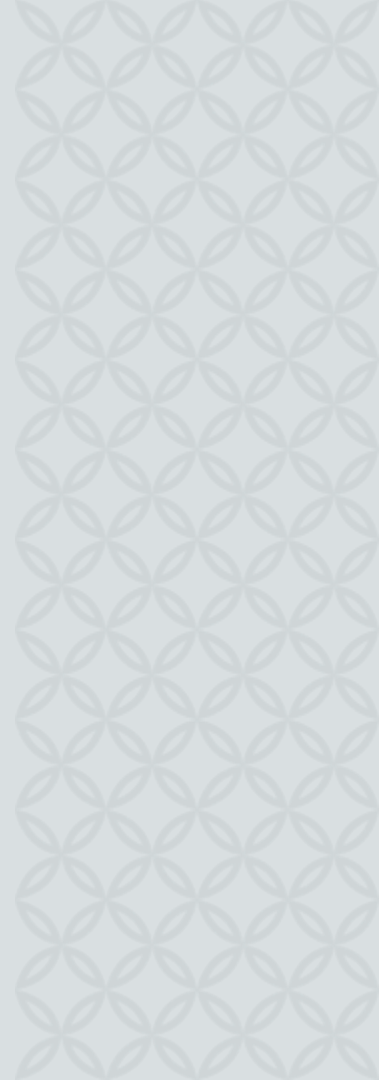
Asante

Merci

Thank You



# Appendix



# RICA Seed Center

*Powered by One Acre Fund & Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture*

## Vision

A world where Rwanda's food security is powered by Rwandan farmers.

## Mission

To provide world-class expertise, training, and seed innovation to support the growth of the seed sector.

# Our Values

## Bold

We are ambitious for our impact and confident in our ability to make it.

## Empowering

We are here to support the growth of the seed sector and its future leaders.

## Integrity

We uphold the highest standards, foster trust, and deliver on our promise of quality.

## Catalytic

Our goal is to be transformational in our approach and our results.

## Care

Safeguarding and protecting for future generations sits at the heart of everything we do.

# RICA Seed Center has 3 units of technical excellence:

1



## Potato Venture

Dedicated potato project because we see the largest opportunity in seed sector in disease-free potato.

2



## Multigrain Processing

Shared processing facility supporting startup seed companies focused on range of seed products like cover crops, beans, wheat.

3



## Seed Innovation

Finds the best seed varieties for Rwandan farmers. Partners with global breeding programs. Runs ISTA-certified Lab.

# How do our five RICA Seed Center services support seed company growth?



# Farmer story

Mukanyarwaya Daphrose

*Coffee & Mucuna Cover Crop Farmer*

“Initially, I planted Mucuna on a small section of my farm. In the second year, I expanded it across my entire farm of coffee trees. My coffee harvest increased dramatically.

**I reached 1.8T this season - three times what I could previously harvest.**

The quality of my coffee harvest has never been this high. This increase is impacting my life. I am able to buy new clothes (Kitenge), I am renovating my house, and most importantly, I reinvest in my farm labor. I am old and have no energy to do all the work, I pay people to help me”



*Mukanyarwaya Daphrose, 62-year-old, Gasura village, Huye District. She focuses on growing coffee because she gave up on other crops due to her sloping/rocky land and her age, making it difficult to manage additional work. She owns 8,840 coffee trees.*

*Daphrose began planting Mucuna two years ago after OAF field officers introduced it to her cooperative, explaining its benefits - especially soil enrichment - for coffee plants.*

*In season 2025A we initiated a climate resilience pilot aimed at scaling up Mucuna adoption, and sold 1,820 Kg of seed grown at RICA campus in Bugesera to 184 OAF farmers*

# Without our wonderful industry partners we don't exist - thanks for another great year!

## Seed Company Partners



## International Partners



## Seed Center Advisory Council

