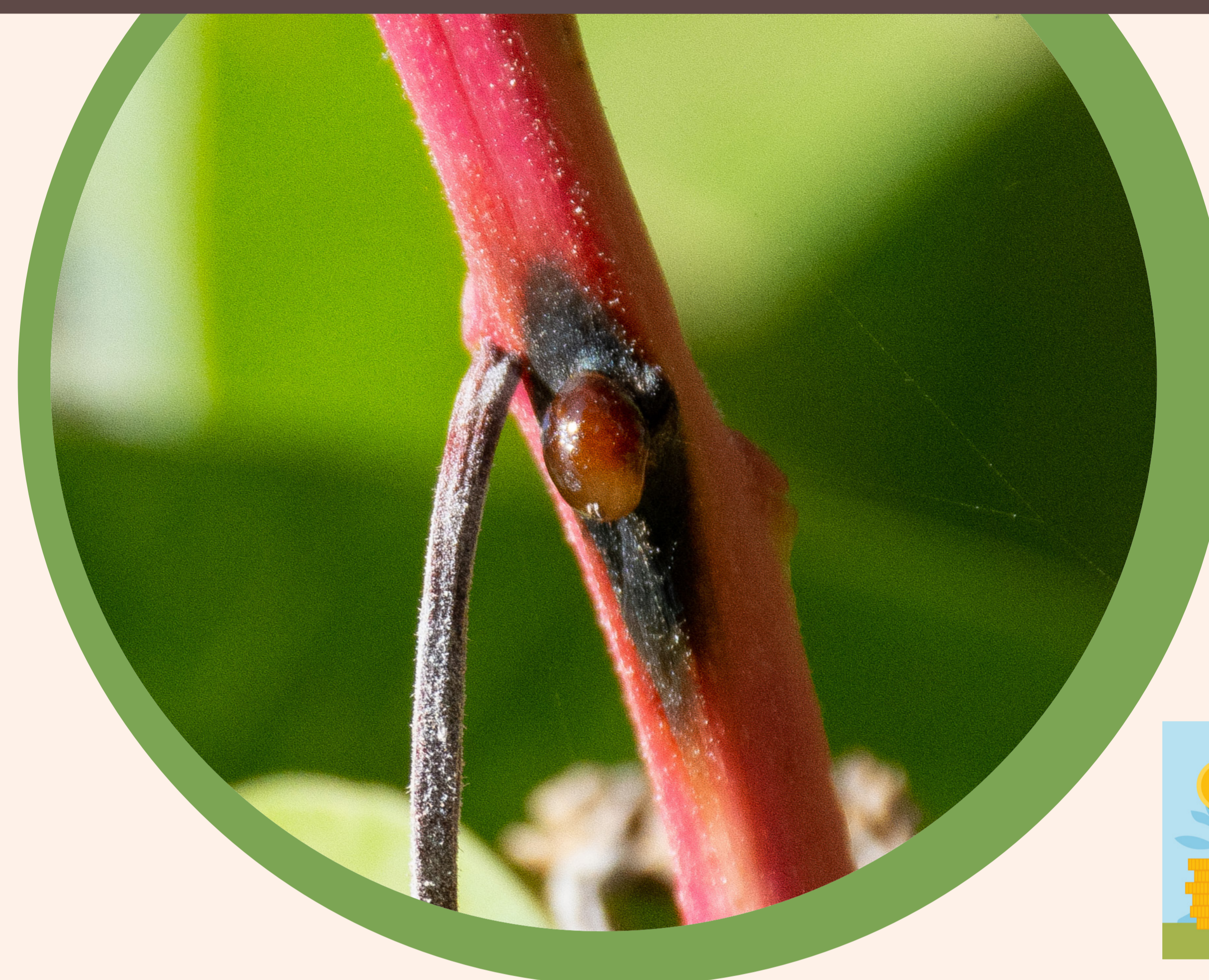


TREE PESTS AND DISEASES: A CRISIS FOR AGROFORESTRY-BASED RESTORATION IN RWANDA

Background information

- In 2011, Rwanda committed to restoring 2 million hectares of degraded and deforested land in a global effort by 2030— it seemed like a daunting task.
- By 2018, Rwanda, along with South Korea, Costa Rica, Pakistan, and China, was regarded one of the leading countries in the world with its successful restoration program.
- In line with national targets, the RA project has similar ambitious goals of restoring & transforming degraded ecosystems.
- The realization of this goal is through tree planting and FMNR. Tree planting is the main approach, and a large amount of high-quality germplasm is required!
- Multiple tree species are being promoted, but farmers have a strong preference for exotic species including food tree species e.g mango, avocado, citrus spp, and tree tomato- for financial and food reasons.



Design Technical Implementation (DTI) intervention

Capacity building of:

- ToTs (WVR technical team and cooperative leads) in partnership with RAB- Rwanda Agriculture Board, ICRAF GHU- ICRAF Germplasm Health Unit, RFA-NTSC-Rwanda water and Forest Authority (RFA) National Tree Seed Centre (NTSC), with aim to understand the impact, identify factors and mitigation on tree pest and diseases.
- ToTs (WVR technical team and cooperative leads) in partnership with RFA-NTSC on quality seed sourcing and procurement, with aim of quality sourcing of germplasm and linkages to local seed center
- Field Visit to fruits orchards for pest and disease assessment and discussion with farmers.
- From 2 trainings, 19 ToTs have been trained, such trainings will be replicated to increase knowledge through multiplier effect

Despite strong background in restoration program, major challenges

- Availability of diverse tree species seeds is limited, posing the risk of restoration based only on a handful of species.
- Recent outbreaks of native and non-native pests and diseases affecting trees, more on fruit trees, jeopardize restoration efforts and pose a threat to livelihoods and food security.

This is expected to worsen due to climate change, increased trade, porous borders, poor quality germplasm, human movement & intensified agriculture to meet food and cash demands of a growing population

Joint efforts are needed, regionally and nationally to build capacity to combat this menace

