



2017 BHEARD Scholar
Assinapol Ndereyimana

Profile

Country of Study:	Kenya
University:	Egerton University
Department:	Horticulture and Soil Science
Student Position:	Graduate Research Assistant-Ph.D.
Home Country:	Kigali, Rwanda
Home Institution:	Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resource Development Board (RAB)
Home Position:	Research Fellow
Mentored By:	Dr. S.P. Nyalala

Research Area: *Tomato Leaf Miner*

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: August 2017

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: B.Sc. Crop Production, Higher Institute of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry (ISAE), Rwanda

GRADUATE EDUCATION: M.Sc. Horticulture, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Horticulture College and Research Institute, India

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Rwanda identified horticulture as a priority development sector that should be a job-intensive and investment-attracting industry due to its natural soils and climatic conditions, as well as an abundant and hard working labor force. Tomato is the most important horticultural crop in Rwanda, produced by small and medium growers for home consumption and as a source of income. It is the principal crop sold among other horticulture crops.

However, tomato production in Rwanda is now threatened by a leaf miner, *Tuta absoluta*, which can cause the loss up to 100% of total tomato production. *Tuta absoluta* outbreak in Rwanda was reported by FAO in the year 2015. Because tomatoes play a key role in diversifying the economic and agricultural sectors of Rwanda, this threat to their production cannot be ignored. Thus, Assinapol's research interest is "Development of a sustainable IPM and surveillance program for the invasive tomato leaf miner, *Tuta absoluta* (Meyrick), in Rwanda".

PERSONAL STATEMENT: Upon completion PhD studies in horticulture, Assinapol will contribute efficiently to horticulture sector development in Rwanda through development of technologies that ensure production of high quality and environmentally friendly horticulture products which are competitive for sale in regional and international markets.

WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY: Assinapol enjoys jogging, swimming, worshipping the almighty God, listening to gospel songs and reading books/e-books and scholar articles.