

- \* Plastic crates for Green leaf transport
  - \* 2 tier leaf transport system
  - \* Firewood sheds with transparent sheets to permit UV rays to dry the firewood
  - \* Close circuit surveillance camera system
  - \* Manufacture of interlocking bricks and paving of Roads.
  - \* Computerised time and attendance system.
- 7. Sorwathe is the 1st tea factory in Rwanda to introduce:**
- \* Organic tea cultivation
  - \* Manufacture of green tea
  - \* Manufacture of orthodox tea
  - \* The Selling of tea using agaseke and banana leaf gift packs
  - \* Root trainers for forest nurseries

### SOME OF OUR CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ACTIVITIES

- \* Created over 3000 job opportunities for the community living in Kinihira (5000 more in the cooperative ASSOPTHE).
- \* Contributed US \$ 60,000 for the construction of the National Library in Kigali (first premier donor).
- \* Facilitated and financed Adult Literacy Programmes (with ROTARY) for adults of KINIHIRA since the year 1999, 15000 adults benefited from this project.
- \* Introduced Rocket Stoves which with the local thermos has reduced the consumption of firewood by 90% and as these are smokeless they have added health and environmental benefits.
- \* Maintains the roads of BASE-KINIHIRA-GICUMBI in order to facilitate transport;
- \* Financed the rehabilitation of the community water supply scheme for KINIHIRA.
- \* Was instrumental in establishing the Health Centre in Kinihira through USAID and provides free medicine for Epidemics.
- \* Assists the administrative entries of the District of RULINDO and GICUMBI at the time of meetings, festivities, political requirements and in other services.

- \* Sponsors the ZEBRA Football Club and the women's team INVEWERA in Gicumbi and the Sorwathe football team.
- \* Supports ASSOPTHE by having awareness programmes and advise in Tea Cultivation Practices.
- \* Provides a building for the National Police in Kinihira and also provides fuel every month to facilitate them the task of assuring security in the region.
- \* Established a nursery school and provided land and Building for it. We also provided training for the teachers.
- \* Provides assistance for associations of women in the region of KINIHIRA to sustain traditional dances and cultural practices.
- \* Trained women of the area in developing there skills in Agaseke and Banana leaf basket making. These have become income generating projects for them.
- \* Provided funds and materials for celebrating the International Day for the Disabled since 1999.
- \* Conducts English classes for the community
- \* Provides loans for income generating projects such as the rearing of Cattle, Goats etc for the community.
- \* Provides training in Tea Cultivation practices and Processing for interested students from the area.
- \* Provides opportunities for "On the Job" training for students from Institutes such as KIST.

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Designed & Printed by CRT Studio cosmos , Phone: (250)788464365

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**WINNER EXPO 2007/8-2008**  
*It's great you and others / How can I do it?*



**ROCKET STOVES**  
 HINBEREZA  
 RWANDA  
 HEALTH DEVELOPMENT  
 SOCIETY  
 (HINBEREZA)  
 (RWANDA)

**AGASEKE BASKET PROJECT**

**ORTHODOX TEA FACTORY**

**Staff visit to Genocide memorial**

**GUEST HOUSE - TEA TOURISM**

**"SORWATHE IS MY CUP OF TEA"**

## History of Sorwathe

In the 1960's, Mr Joe Wertheim, who is the founder of Sorwathe had heard that tea was being grown in Rwanda. He used to travel around Africa for Tea business in a small plane as the roads were poor.

On one of his regular visits to Africa, he had decided to stop over in Kigali. Unlike now at that time, the Kigali Airport consisted of a hangar which is currently used for parking Fire trucks.

With the assistance of Ambassador Cyr (of the USA), he visited the Mulindi tea Factory. This was being run by FED and there was a German Factory Manager. The Factory Manager mentioned that he knew very little about tea and was delighted to meet Mr Wertheim and sought his assistance and advice.

Mr Wertheim was not at all happy with the Tea fields he saw. Potash deficiencies were evident and almost all the maintenance foliage had fallen off. Therefore, the end product too was not good at all. This situation continued and it was after FED employed Mark Elias from Sri Lanka as the MD for Mulindi Tea Factory that there was an Improvement, **which began to show the potential quality level of Rwandan Tea.**

Mr Joe Wertheim is also the founder of Tea Importers which is an American Company involved in Tea Business. Tea Importers involvement in Rwanda at that time was only to assist OCIRTHE in marketing their tea. In 1972, the Minister of Commerce requested Tea Importers to establish a factory in the Cyohoha/ Rukeri area. There was tea planted in this area by FED in drained out swamps but there weren't sufficient funds to build and operate a factory. Prior to this an experimental section of tea had been planted on a 16 hectare block in the Kiruri swamp in Cyohoha with USAID funding.

Hence America's involvement in Tea in this area dates back to the initial planting in Kiruri in the swamp of Cyohoha. This block exists even now. This was planted in 1965 and the first plucking was on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 1968. This leaf was taken to the Mulindi Factory which was about 50 miles away.

After protracted negotiations, The Government of Rwanda and Tea importers entered into a Joint Venture Agreement on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1975. Tea Importers undertook to build a Factory at Kinihira and was given a lease of 450 hectares of land for planting more Tea and for the construction of a Tea Factory.

The construction of the factory commenced in 1975 and it took around 2 years to complete it. Production commenced in 1978. Mr Mike Boyd Moss and Mr Cally Alles were involved from the inception to plan out, build and install all the machinery of this factory. They were also involved in the establishment of the rest of the infrastructure such as bungalows and other buildings. SORWATHE, the 1<sup>st</sup> Private Tea Factory in Rwanda, was thus born.

Over the years the tea production of Sorwathe has increased and is currently around 3.5 million kgs made tea per annum. This is around 12% of the total Rwanda production and continues to be the largest (single factory) producer in the country.

Consistency in quality has always been the main focus of Sorwathe and by achieving this its teas have always found a ready market in almost all tea consuming countries. Our selling mark, Rukeri has a very good reputation of being consistent in quality and is exported to US, UK, Canada, Ireland, South Africa, Japan and Pakistan.

SORWATHE is currently ISO 9001:2000, ISO 22000:2005 and FAIRTRADE certified. SORWATHE is also an ETHICAL TEA PARTNERSHIP participant.

SORWATHE is the first to manufacture Orthodox and Green Tea in Rwanda. It is also the first to start Organic Tea Cultivation in Rwanda.

Compared to what Kinihira was in 1975, now, in 2009, the beneficial impact Sorwathe has made on the population is quite significant. To ensure the continuity of the good work started by Mr Joe Wertheim, his son, Mr Andrew Wertheim joined Tea Importers Inc and the board of Directors of Sorwathe a few years ago.

## SOME OF OUR FIRST TIME ACHIEVEMENTS **(SORWATHE THE PIONEER)**

1. We were the 1<sup>st</sup> Private Tea Factory in Rwanda.
2. The SORWATHE tea fields yield over 4000 kgs Made Tea per hectare per annum which is the highest in Rwanda.
3. We have some of the best managed eucalyptus forests and are self sufficient in our requirements of firewood.
4. Sorwathe is the 1<sup>st</sup> Tea Factory in Rwanda to obtain ISO 9001:2000, ISO 22000:2005 and FAIRTRADE certification.
5. We are an "ETHICAL TEA PARTNERSHIP" participant, again a first in Rwanda.
6. Sorwathe was the 1<sup>st</sup> to introduce the following to the Tea industry in Rwanda.
  - \* Fluid Bed Driers (FBD).
  - \* Lawries' Tea Processing Machines (LTP).
  - \* Continuous Fermenting Units (CFU).
  - \* Regulated Feeding Units (RFU)
  - \* 3T Electrostatic Stalk Extractors
  - \* Inverters for Power Saving
  - \* Enclosed Troughs for withering
  - \* Computerized Drier Temperature monitoring system
  - \* Computerized Withering Temperature monitoring system
  - \* Waterwise Calorifier for recycling of waste for generation of heat.