

## INSECT PESTS OF EUCALYPTUS IN RWANDA

FABI researcher Dr Brett Hurley visited Rwanda as part of a project funded by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. The project aims to obtain information on the presence, distribution and prevalence of eucalypt insect pests in Rwanda. *Eucalyptus* is the most planted tree species in Rwanda and provides an important socio-economic role, providing fuel and fibre and supporting a diverse range of stakeholders.



However, non-native insect pests cause considerable damage to these trees. Strategies are available to manage these pests but a lack of knowledge of the pests involved, including what insect pest species are present as well as the distribution and prevalence of those species hinder the implementation and success of these strategies.



Dr Hurley's visit was to assist with initiating a survey of eucalypt insect pests throughout the country and to train local staff who will continue with the survey over a three-week period.

When finished, this survey will provide data to inform strategies for the management of eucalypt insect pests in Rwanda.