



GrowNext Global Ag Exchange Program

# Voazok Agricultural Study & Leadership Tour for Young Canadians

Participating Institution: Lakeland College, Canada

Supporting Partner: Maamani Agridev Ltd, Ghana

Dates: March 16 – 28, 2026 | Host Country: Ghana

Program Code: VOA202603CA



# Program Overview

The GrowNext Ag Tour is a 12-day immersive agricultural study and leadership exchange designed to connect students from Lakeland College with Ghana's leading agricultural institutions, agribusinesses, research centers, and government stakeholders. This experiential program blends agricultural innovation, cross-cultural leadership development, industry engagement, academic collaboration, and public policy exposure.

Participants will explore Ghana's agricultural value chains - from cocoa and rice production to fertilizer manufacturing, food processing, and student-managed farms - while strengthening global leadership skills and building long-term Canada-Africa partnerships. The program's goal is to build a generation of globally informed agricultural professionals who are confident, connected, and ready to lead trade and innovation between Canada and Africa.



**GrowNext  
Exchange  
Program**



# Tour Highlights

The tour will combine institutional engagement, cultural immersion, applied agricultural learning, and strategic dialogue. Participants will visit key research and academic institutions, including the CSIR–Food Research Institute, University of Ghana’s Faculty of Agriculture, Ejura Agricultural College, and Niche Cocoa Industry Ltd, gaining insight into research, agro-processing, and student-managed farm systems.

The tour also will highlight Ghana’s rich history and culture, with stops at the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park, Cape Coast Castle, Assin Manso Slave River Park, and Manhyia Palace Museum, providing participants with a deeper understanding of the country’s heritage.

Hands-on agricultural experiences will include farm model reviews, mechanization exposure, and youth agribusiness dialogues, allowing participants to connect theory with practical enterprise. The tour will conclude with strategic engagements at the High Commission of Canada to Ghana, the GrowNext Closing Forum, and youth leadership roundtables, emphasizing cross-cultural collaboration and leadership development.



## TRAVEL SCHEDULE

Departure: Edmonton International Airport –  
March 16, 2026 | 11:45 AM  
Arrival: Kotoka International Airport, Accra –  
March 17, 2026 | 4:40 PM  
Return Departure: Accra – March 28, 2026 |  
10:20 PM  
Arrival in Edmonton: March 29, 2026 | 10:59 PM



# Tour Itinerary

**17**  
MARCH

Arrival, Orientation & Welcome Reception  
Accra | Greater Accra Region

## 6:00 PM – Hotel Check-In

Arrive in vibrant Accra, Ghana's coastal capital, where tradition meets innovation. Settle into your hotel and prepare to begin an unforgettable global agricultural learning journey.

## 7:00 PM – Welcome Dinner Hosted by the Voazok

Start the program with a warm Ghanaian welcome during a special dinner hosted by the CEO of Voazok. Participants will receive a program overview, learn about Ghana's agricultural landscape, and begin forming connections with fellow participants and local partners.

## Orientation & Cultural Briefing

Gain insights into Ghana's culture, leadership environment, and agricultural sector to prepare for the immersive experiences ahead.

**Overnight Stay – Accra Hotel | Meals – BLD & Unlimited Snacks**

**18**  
MARCH

Governance, Culture & Agribusiness Leadership  
Accra | Greater Accra Region

## 9:00 AM – Visit to Maamani Agridev / Mawums Limited

Engage with one of Ghana's emerging agribusiness companies to learn about private-sector leadership and innovation in agricultural development.

## 11:30 AM – Accra Cultural Exploration

Visit some of Ghana's most iconic landmarks while gaining deeper appreciation of the nation's history and identity.

- W.E.B. Du Bois Centre
- Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park
- Accra Arts Centre

## 3:00 PM – Presidential Agriculture Initiatives Briefing

Meet with the Director of the Office of the President - Presidential Initiatives on Agriculture and Agribusiness (PIAA) to learn about Ghana's national agricultural programs, including the School Farms Initiative.

## 6:00 PM – Leadership Conference & Networking Dinner

Connect with agribusiness leaders, student leaders, and entrepreneurs during an evening dialogue focused on youth leadership in agriculture.

**Overnight Stay – Accra Hotel | Meals – BLD & Unlimited Snacks**

**19**  
MARCH

Research, Innovation & Cocoa Value Addition  
Accra | Greater Accra Region

## 9:00 AM – Niche Cocoa Industry Ltd.

Experience the journey from cocoa bean to chocolate while learning about Ghana's position as one of the world's largest cocoa producers.

## 11:30 AM – AgroKings Commercial Rice Farms

Visit a modern rice production operation to examine mechanized farming, irrigation systems, and agribusiness management strategies in West Africa.

**Overnight Stay – Accra Hotel | Meals – BLD & Unlimited Snacks**

**20**  
MARCH

Institutional Exchange Deep Dive  
Accra | Greater Accra Region

## 8:30 AM – CSIR Food Research Institute

Learn about food processing technologies, post-harvest management, and innovations that reduce food waste.

## 10:30 AM – University of Ghana – School of Agriculture

Meet student leaders and faculty while exploring academic programs shaping Ghana's next generation of agricultural professionals.

## 12:00 PM – University of Ghana's MTN Student-Managed Greenhouse Farm

Collaborate with students working on greenhouse vegetable production and discuss the impact of student-managed agricultural enterprises.

## 6:30 PM – Meeting with the Ghana Agricultural Chamber of Commerce

Gain insight into agricultural policy, trade opportunities, and private-sector advocacy.

**Overnight Stay – Accra Hotel | Meals – BLD & Unlimited Snacks**





# Tour Itinerary

**21**  
MARCH

Coastal Heritage & Reflection  
Cape Coast | Central Region

## 10:30 PM – Fishing Community Engagement

Interact with local fishermen and cooperatives to understand traditional fishing methods and fish processing techniques.

## 1:00 PM – Cape Coast Castle Visit

Reflect on Ghana's historic role in global history while visiting one of the most significant heritage sites in West Africa.

## 3:00 PM – Kakum National Park

Walk the famous canopy walkway high above the rainforest and experience Ghana's natural biodiversity.

**Overnight Stay – Cape Coast Hotel | Meals – BLD & Unlimited Snacks**

**22**  
MARCH

Feed Production & Regional Travel  
Kumasi | Ashanti Region

## 1:00 PM – Akwaaba Feed Mill Visit

Early morning return to Accra with a stop at Akwaaba Feeds to learn about poultry feed production and the role of feed mills in supporting poultry and livestock industries.

## 6:00 PM – Flight to Kumasi

Travel to Ghana's cultural capital and prepare for the next stage of the agricultural learning journey.

**Overnight Stay – Kumasi Hotel | Meals – BLD & Unlimited Snacks**

**23**  
MARCH

Student-Managed Farm Exchange – Ejura  
Agricultural College Ejura | Bono Region

Experience Ghana's version of student-managed farms and compare approaches with Lakeland College. Participants will:

- Visit student-run farms
- Participate in leadership seminars
- Exchange ideas with student farm managers

This day highlights the power of student-led agricultural enterprises.

**Overnight Stay – Farmstay in Atebubu, Bono | Meals – BLD & Unlimited Snacks**

**24**  
MARCH

Hands-On Agribusiness – Karifi Farms  
Ejura → Atebubu | Bono Region

Step into real-world farm operations at Karifi Farms in the Bono Region.

Participants will:

- Join daily farm activities
- Explore commercial farm management
- Learn about crop production and agribusiness operations

This hands-on experience provides practical insights into farm entrepreneurship in Ghana.

**Overnight Stay – Farmstay in Atebubu, Bono | Meals – BLD & Unlimited Snacks**

**25**  
MARCH

Crop Research & Seed Innovation  
Atebubu → Kumasi → Aburi | Bono & Ashanti Regions

## 7:00 AM – Early morning departure to Kumasi

## 12:00 PM – CSIR Crop Research Institute – Kumasi

Visit one of Ghana's premier agricultural research centers to learn about crop improvement, climate resilience, and seed development programs.

## 5:30 PM – Flight to Accra & Travel to Aburi

Return to Accra and stay in the scenic Aburi Mountains.

**Overnight Stay – Aburi Hotel | Meals – BLD & Unlimited Snacks**

**26**  
MARCH

Cocoa Heritage & Sustainable Agriculture  
Aburi | Eastern Region

## 9:00 AM – Tetteh Quarshie Cocoa Farm

Visit the historic farm where cocoa cultivation began in Ghana and learn how cocoa transformed the nation's economy.

## 11:30 AM – Legacy Crop Improvement Centre

Discover innovations in seed genetics and crop improvement.

## 2:00 PM – Asenema Waterfalls & Safari Valley

Experience Ghana's natural beauty while discussing sustainability and eco-tourism.

**Overnight Stay – Aburi Hotel | Meals – BLD & Unlimited Snacks**

# Tour Itinerary

**27**  
MARCH

Trade, Diplomacy & Agricultural Partnerships  
Accra | Greater Accra Region

### **Agromonti Limited**

Learn about fertilizer manufacturing and the role of inputs in agricultural productivity.

### **Canadian High Commission Meeting**

Discuss Canada–Ghana partnerships and international cooperation in agriculture.

### **Canada–Ghana Chamber of Commerce Dialogue**

Engage with Chamber to learn more about support for Canadian companies in exporting to Ghana or importing from Ghana and investment opportunities between Canada and Ghana.

### **Dinner with Maamani Agridev Ltd to share experiences gained and feedback on the ag tour**

**Overnight Stay – Aburi Hotel | Meals – BLD & Unlimited Snacks**

**28**  
MARCH

Reflection & Departure  
Accra | Greater Accra Region

### **7:00 AM – Aburi Mountain Walk**

Enjoy a peaceful morning walk through the scenic Aburi highlands while reflecting on the experiences of the tour. Breakfast at 9:00 am.

### **10:30 AM – A visit to Aburi Botanical Gardens**

### **2:00 PM – Special Lunch: Leadership Reflection Session**

Participants share insights, lessons learned, and ideas for future collaboration between Canada and Ghana.

### **4:30 PM – Departure from Aburi to Airport**

Return home with new knowledge, global friendships, and a deeper understanding of international agriculture.



### **NOTE:**

Please note that traffic conditions are unpredictable and may be worse than expected. In the event of unforeseen circumstances such as heavy traffic or adverse weather, we reserve the right to adjust the itinerary, including the order of visits, to ensure a smooth experience

# Program Outcomes



The GrowNext Global Exchange is designed to deliver measurable academic, professional, and leadership impact. Participants gain firsthand exposure to Ghana's agricultural value chains from production and research to processing and trade providing practical insight into how agribusiness systems operate within a dynamic and growing African economy.

Through direct engagement with institutions and student-managed farms, participants compare Canadian and African farm management models, fostering deeper understanding of innovation, adaptability, and enterprise leadership across diverse agricultural systems.

The program also strengthens cross-continental professional networks, connecting emerging leaders with industry stakeholders, researchers, policymakers, and agribusiness entrepreneurs. Beyond technical knowledge, participants enhance their leadership capacity and cultural competence, developing the global perspective necessary for meaningful international agricultural collaboration.

# Partners

## FUNDING PARTNERS



**MAAMANI AGRIDEV LIMITED GHANA**



**VOAZOK LIMITED**

## SUPPORTING PARTNERS



**AFRICAN AGRIBUSINESS INCUBATORS  
NEXTWORK (AAIN) - UGANDA**



**CANADA GHANA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**CANADA-GHANA CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE - GHANA**



**KARIFI FARMS - GHANA**



**AGROKINGS LIMITED - GHANA**



**CSIR - FOOD RESEARCH INSTITUTE -  
GHANA**



**STEWARDSHIP AGRIBUSINESS  
INCUBATION CENTER (SAIC) - RWANDA**



**GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
NEXTWORK (GEN) - GHANA**



# Thank You

Thank you for your time, attention, and participation.  
We look forward to staying connected and collaborating on future initiatives.

**For More Information**  
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