

Regal Presence on Royal Lane



Queen Sylvia meets MannaRelief children from the Dallas area.



While touring Mannatech's Research and Development Department, Queen Sylvia meets Dr. Alexis Eberendu, Executive Director of Research and Development, Basic Research; and Michele Stovall, Senior Chemist.



CEO Sam Caster presents Queen Sylvia with a gift bag containing Mannatech products.

On August 30, Mannatech was honored to host its first royal visitor, Her Royal Highness Queen Sylvia of Buganda—the largest cultural region in Uganda and home for about 20 percent of the nation's total population. The Queen visited Mannatech to recognize company Research and Development (R&D) efforts underway and planned in Uganda, as well as to tell Mannatech about the Nnbagereka Development Trust (NDT). NDT is a charitable organization founded in 2000 by the Queen to help reduce poverty and raise the standard of living among the children, young people and women of Uganda.

Mannatech, appropriately located on Royal Lane in the Dallas suburb of Coppell, hosted the Queen and her retinue during a four-hour visit that included a company tour. Chairman and CEO Sam Caster, Board members, executives and researchers warmly welcomed the Queen to Mannatech. Sam praised Queen Sylvia for her "heart's passion to help orphaned children." He also thanked Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni, Ambassador Edith Ssempala, the Ministry of Health, and other Ugandan government leaders and healthcare professionals. Among the Queen's tour highlights were Mannatech's state-of-the-art R&D laboratories, Information Technology and Customer Service areas. Queen Sylvia said that Mannatech was "the warmest and most inviting" of all

the places she visited in the U.S. and that she is looking forward to working with the people of Mannatech.

The Queen has reigned since August 1999, when she was married to Mutebi II, Kabaka (King) of the Kingdom of Buganda. Born in the U.S. and raised in Uganda, the Queen earned a bachelor's degree from New York University and a master's degree from New York Institute of Technology. She has been a seemingly tireless leader in Uganda, addressing such issues as HIV/AIDS, water and sanitation, childhood mortality rates and the environment, primarily through the NDT.

Uganda is an equatorial African nation approximately the size of Pennsylvania, with 27 million people. Due to its location and tropical climate, Uganda is a veritable "horn of plenty" for botanical variety and edible plants. About ten times as many native fruits and vegetables are commonly consumed in the Ugandan diet than are eaten in Western nations such as the U.S. This variety offers a cornucopia of product development possibilities for Mannatech, which bases its nutritional products on naturally derived ingredients!

What's next for Mannatech and Uganda? We'll keep you informed. As Humphrey Bogart said at the end of *Casablanca*, "This may be the start of a beautiful friendship!" ■