



# THE TREE

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## TIST Uganda January 2012 News letter

"The Tree" N'orupapura r'wamakuru orurikuhandikwa aba TIST Uganda, etaagira the International Small Group and Tree planting program.

### OKUKORA KWAITU

TIST n'ekigomba ekyehaireyo kwimutsya omutindo gwabahingi aba'hansi kirikubongyeramu amaani gokurwanisa okucwekyerezibwa kw'ebibira, okwejuna obworo nekyanda kitaro kyaburijo.

### EBIGYENDERERWA BYAITU

Omukurwanisa entunguka yentuura nokurundana omwoya orurungi orurukuru ga omumiti, TIST nehweza abahingi abarikurenga 25,000/, ebyokwerinda Sirimu, endiisa enungi yabomumaka nokucendeza enkoresa yenku namakara.

### PREFACE

What happens in our regular Tist small Group meetings?  
Taking care of trees in your grove and keeping trees for the long term.  
Preparing Nurseries  
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### EBIRYOMUNDA

Tukakora tuta omunyeteerana za Tist eza buri bwire?  
Okureebereragye emiti n'okugirinda kumara obwire obureingwa.  
Okukora ebedi  
Ahabwaki nitwekwata ekishaba (Cluster)?  
Ahabwaki okwega kiri ekyomugasho ahabahingi b'emiti aba Tist?  
Noomanyaki ahari Tist Sherutiza.

### EDITORIAL

EIHURIRE RYA JANUARY 2012

EIHURIRE RYO KWEZI KWOKUBANZA 2012

#### EDITORS MESSAGE:

Last month TIST UGANDA hosted a team of verifiers/ validators from Environmental Service Inc. who went to many groves in Kabale, Kanungu and Bushenyi and promised to make another trip before this year ends. Thanks to those who received them at your groves. Plant more indigenous and fruit trees and care for them. Wish you good life in the New Year. **Ara.**

#### OBUTUMWA BWA EDITA:

Okwezi kumwe okuhereire TIST Uganda ekataayaayisa abashwiji bemeiti ya TIST abekigomba "Environmental Service Inc". Bakashwijuma amahamba/ ebibira bingi omuri Kabale, Kanungu na Bushenyi kandi bakaragaanisa kugaruka omwaka ogo gutakaweire. Mwebare ababahikize ahamurimo gwanyu. Mwongyere kubyara emiti mingi yenzarwa neyebijuma kandi mugireebereragye. Omwaka musya gubabeere ihoreere. **Ara.**

Okwezi kwa ikumi neebiri abashwiji bemeiti kuruga omuri "Environmental Service Inc. bakajja kushwijuma kumanya ku TIST ebyekora biraabe biri ebyamazima kandi bihikire, okuhamiza abagura omwoya ngu ebitugamba ahamurimo yebibina ebikye kubiri ebihikire kandi byamazima.

Ebishushani ebyo nibyoreka abo bashwiji ba ESI, orikukurata ahamukuru wa ekibiina CAAC, Charlie Williams, ababazi bemeiti nabebebezi ba TIST Uganda bariyo nibahwera omukushwijuma, nipapima obuhango bwemeiti noburaingwa kuruga ahamurimo kuza ahagundi. Ekindi nibyoreka enyeteerana hamwe nahahingi nabandi babembezi babantu.

Nituliima ababyazi bemeiti, ababazi baayo ababembezi ba TIST nabainire omwete TIST ahabwomujinya/ omuzimbwe ogwabaasiise omurimo ogwo kuhwagye.

Twaaba tutegyerereze rupota eratubaasise kwikirizibwa kutandika kuguza omwoya omurundi gurikubandiza kimwe, tushemereire kugumizamu nokukuratira ebitwegyesibwa nokutatema miti yaitu omubwire bwemyaka 30. Twena tube abeesigwa, abarukuhikiriza, abakukora kyo kyeniyini, tuhwerane nokukurikujunana ebya bagyenzi baitu.

Emikorere ya TIST mirungi niyo ndugiriyo yo kutubaasisa kuguza omwoya tukatunga enshagi kumara emyaka mingi.

In December, validators from Environmental Service Inc. came to audit the TIST to see whether our work has been accurate and honest to assure our carbon credit buyers that what we tell them about Small Group activities is true and correct. These photos show the ESI Team, Vice President of CAAC, Charlie Williams, and TIST Quantifiers and staff taking part in the validation, measuring trees and spacing, and meetings with Small Group members and community leaders. We thank the dedicated Small Group members, Quantifiers, TIST staff, and supporters who worked hard to make this validation trip successful. As we await the results that will permit us to make our first carbon sale, we should all keep our word, follow training guidelines, and be truly committed to keeping our trees alive for at least 30 years. All of us, should be honest, accurate, transparent, serve one another as we hold each other mutually accountable. TIST values are key for successful carbon sales and a sustainable TIST program and benefits for years to come.

#### WHAT HAPPENS IN OUR REGULAR TIST SMALL GROUP MEETINGS?

Having a plan and schedule for our meetings helps us accomplish a lot in a short time. By following rotational leadership and practicing (kujengana - building up) we build everyone's strengths and benefit from the much strength of all the people in the Small Group.

**Greetings and introduction for any new members (5-15 minutes)** this is done to make sure everyone feels welcomed. With a new person in the group, we use pair share method for introductions.

**Opening prayer (2 minutes).** We do this only if the group agrees. We find this a helpful way to be together and focus.

**Songs (5 minutes):** These are songs written by our Small Group member or songs that encourage people (religious songs, traditional songs).

**Agreement on task and time (5 minutes)** here the leader explains what will be done in the meeting (usually planned at the end of the previous meeting) and the group members agree on the task or make any changes that need to be made. The time spent is also agreed upon to enable the Co-Leader keep the meeting in time.

**Group work on tasks (1 hour):** Here the Small Group accomplishes the agreed upon tasks. Tasks include: sharing what each person has done to help TIST activities, planning how to work together on a group nursery, reviewing how many trees we have planted and how we are caring for them, sharing best practices and finding solutions to shared challenges, training information, etc.

**(Kujengana) (5 minutes):** Here each group member makes one positive, specific statement to that week's leader about one observable thing she did as a leader in the meeting that helped it be successful. In addition, any one can identify a gift seen in the leader.

**Closing prayer (2 minutes):** If agreed.

**By Hakim**

#### TAKING CARE OF TREES IN YOUR GROVE, AND KEEPING TREES FOR THE LONG TERM.

Taking care of our groves is very important for the life of our trees we have transplanted. Remember that, if trees are not well taken care of, they will become weak, lack energy and even die. Like for our own children, or for our crops, making sure that the young have what they need to grow is most important for long-term success. We need to make sure that we clear brush that can keep the young trees from growing well. We should thin trees to preserve those that will grow best with good spacing. We should remove dead wood and other materials that can make dangerous fires.

It is also very important that we remember our commitment to keep these trees is for the long-term. We commit to keep the trees in our groves for at least 30 years. If we do not keep this promise, we can lose the ability to sell carbon offsets. If we lose this, it hurts all farmers in TIST. Let us keep our word and be accountable to each other and not harvest trees before 30 years. If you do not think you can keep this commitment, you should talk with your Quantifier and TIST Uganda leaders today.

Trees have many important uses for people and animals.

Here are some of the important benefits of trees planted by TIST Small Groups:

-Trees give fresh air that is good for people and animals.

-Trees absorb carbon and put it back into the soil.

-Trees encourage rain, prevent soil erosion, and give shelter to wild animals.

-Trees provide firewood for cooking, and provide timber for building, making furniture, etc.

-Trees give shade and shelter our houses from wind.

-Trees provide fruit and nuts.

Those are some of benefits from tree planting.

Trees benefit us in so many ways in our daily lives. Therefore, let us all take care of our trees for our benefits.

In order for our trees to grow well, groves require frequent weeding. Clean groves will make your trees grow healthy and faster. Also when weeds are crowded around trees, it may attract dangerous snakes. Meanwhile, weeds take nutrients and water from the soil and block sunlight so trees cannot use them. Hence trees become thinner and unhealthy. In quantification and audits, TIST staff has seen much better tree growth for Small Groups that keep their groves clean.

These groups gave weeding a high priority in their weekly activities, and this is keeping their trees healthy.

In addition to benefits above, here are other advantages of weeding your groves:

- Trees are more protected from a fire spreading.

- Clean groves are an example to others and they become eager to learn more about TIST trees.

-Clean groves indicate that small groups are maintaining them and are good examples of the TIST program that will attract many people to come and see your work.

-Clean groves enable the Quantifiers to count the trees quickly and accurately.

Please, let us all carry on weeding our groves. Please, let us all keep our promises to keep the trees in our groves alive and healthy for 30 years or more as we promise. It is worth the effort of each member of our Small Groups. You will be able to see the difference as your trees grow healthy and strong.

**By Sarah Nankunda.**

#### **PREPARING NURSERIES**

It is now time to start nurseries.

When we start our own nurseries, we can keep costs low and results big. We can grow diverse species that provide varied benefits for years to come.

First, choose a suitable place for the tree nursery. The place should have a slight slope so water runs off. The place should be out of floods but near a water source like a river or water tap so it is easy to water the seedlings as they grow. It is useful if the nursery is close to where the trees will be planted. This way, it is easy to carry the saplings to the groves, so that they are healthy and not stressed during transplanting. Once you have chosen a site, prepare the seedbed. First, the nursery bed should be surrounded with dried maize stalks or branches as a fence to prevent animals from getting in. After that, prepare the

fertile seedbed soil. There are many ways to make good seed soil. One way is to use 3 parts of topsoil from forest areas, 2 parts of sand and 1 part of manure or plant compost. Make sure the compost is well matured. This will ensure that the soil is rich with nutrients to help the seeds grow.

TIST members have shared these best practices for raising seedlings:

- 1) Make sure you have gathered good quality seed from healthy parent trees with good traits (good strong trunk for a tree you are growing for timber; no diseases; good fruits for a fruit tree). Check to make sure the seeds are free of pests and mold. Planting diverse species makes healthy groves that provide long-term benefits.
- 2) You should time when you plant the seed according to how long it will take it to be strong and the right size to transplant into the prepared hole in the field. You want to have the seedlings ready to transplant at a time when rains and weather will be good for their survival.
- 3) Put the seed in some sort of bag or tube filled with the fertile soil mixture so the bag constrains the plant vertically. Some Groups use polytubes. Others make tubes from clean, used plastic sacks from shopping, or from pieces of sacks from charcoal cut in strips and sealed with an ember. Others use banana leaves.
- 4) Seedlings should be checked at least every week and probably more

often than that. They need to be watered and weeded.

5) When you check the seedlings, look at the roots. You can either clip off the small roots that are coming out or you can just move the seedling in the nursery *once per week*.

Start your nurseries now so we can grow more trees, grow our profits and benefits, and grow TIST!

**By Ndyabawe Carl Peters  
Trainer Kabale.**

### **WHY JOIN A CLUSTER?**

Most TIST Small Groups are in Clusters. The cluster is the center of the Small Group's

TIST experience. The clusters are important for Small Group success, so that groups get good training, good quantification, and can receive tree incentives regularly. It's where they go for Cluster meetings, training, and getting paid. Sometimes the clusters are very big — as many as 200 small groups.

Sometimes the clusters are too small — only 10 or 20 groups. We want to work so that all the clusters become strong and "right sized".

A "right sized" cluster is about 400 farmers — 30 to 50 small groups with at least 100 ha of land to plant trees. All those farmers, and all of the groves in the cluster, need to be in walking distance of a place where they can have monthly cluster meetings and which has good mobile phone coverage.

### **Advantages of being a cluster.**

When a Small Group is in a Cluster, they have many benefits:

- It is easy to come for regular Cluster Meetings
- It is safe and convenient to get paid
- It is easy to learn Best Practices like Conservation Farming
- It is easy to participate in new TIST opportunities like improved energy saving stoves

Starting soon there can be even more benefits. In TIST Kenya, based on discussions at TIST Seminars over the last three years, it has been determined that each Cluster should have the ability to become self-governing. The Cluster will elect Cluster Representatives who will serve for a few months as the administrative team for that cluster. This will mean that many more Small Group participants have the opportunity to attend TIST Seminars for leadership training, for developing new Best Practices, and for continuing to help quantify all your trees, Conservation Farming, organize to make sure you get safe and regular tree payments. If we organize ourselves and meet regularly in our clusters in Uganda, we may be able to enjoy these benefits, too.

**By Sam Ndaaba**

### **Buranga United Tree Planting.**

### **Why is training important for TIST members?**

Trainings and Seminars are important:

- To get good quality information out to Small Group members
- To improve the TIST program
- To understand the program well
- To reduce poverty in society
- To remind members of their duties

- To help other Small Groups to improve
- To improve our own activities
- To know the importance of environmental conservation
- To help us take control of our lives.

### **How much do YOU know about TIST? Find out!**

Try to answer these questions in your Small Groups this month. It is important to know about TIST because then you can tell new groups about TIST. It will also help you to receive vouchers on time if you know the requirements properly!

1. What method of leadership does TIST use?
2. Is one person alone allowed to join the TIST program?
3. How many trees does a group need to join TIST?
4. How many trees should be planted each year to be an active TIST group?
5. What other requirements do you need to be a TIST group?
6. Mention four things that happen in the cluster meetings.
7. What are the requirements to receive a voucher?
8. Why does TIST want each group to do Conservation Farming?
9. Why does TIST educate about HIV/AIDS?
10. How long must we let the trees in our TIST grove grow before we harvest them? Why is this important?
11. Why is it important to plant indigenous and fruit trees?

**By Pamela Barigye  
Quantifier Kabale.**