



THE TREE

A TIST UGANDA'S Publication
Volume 1 Issue No. 22 March 2011

TIST Uganda March News letter 2011

"The Tree" N'orupepura r'wamakuru orurikuhandikwa aba TIST Uganda, etagi ry'ya the International Small Group and Tree planting program.

OKUKORA KWATU

TIST n'ekigombe ekyehaireyo kwimutsya omutindo gwabahingi aba'hansi kinkubongyeramu ameani gokurwanisa okucwekyerezibwa kw'ebibara, okwojuna obwono nekyenda kitari kyaburijo.

EBIGYENDERERWA BYAITU

Omukunyanyisa entunguka yentuura nokurundana onwoya orurungi orurukuruga omumiti. TIST nehweza abahingi abarikurenga 25,000, ebyokwerinda Sirimu, endiisa enungi yabomumaka nokucendeza yenku namakara.

PREFACE

Successful Harvest
Good practices minimize food wastage
Stink wood is a good indigenous tree
The need for clean grovs

EBIRYOMUNDA

Amagezi gambwetu
Reberera amasharura gawe cendeza okushisha ebyokurya.
Amasharura meingi
Omuryamaz

MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER

OBUTUMWA BWA EDITA.

Okusima abahingi bemiti ahabwa TIST 'omuri Kanungu, Kabale na Bushenyi, namwera abekwatanise natwe omukurinda ebyobuhangwa. Mugumizemu mutyo tushemeze omwoya oguri omukaabunga. Turi abankugyenda omumasho. Mwongyere kubyaara emitil mingi kandi y'ebika bingi. Tutari abankugaruza emyima ebigyere.

Ara Baanyanga.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE.

Thanks go to TIST small group farmers in Kanungu, Kabale and Bushenyi, well wishers and all communities.

Continue with the spirit of cleaning the air.

Forward ever backward never.

Ara Baanyanga.

TURYAKIRA TREE PLANTING GROUP

Ekibiina eki kikatandika omu mwaka gwa 2005 na ba members 6. Bakatandika nokubendeka emitil ya Pinus Patula, Entusi, nebijuma, nabwanyiima batandika kuhinga emwe hamwe egi omumisiriri yaabo. Omu mwaka gwa 2006, kubahunire ebyekitongole kya TIST Uganda, ikaba ekyetengo kyaabo kumanya ebigyendererwa, kandi nokubakubasa kukiya jumbiramu. Bakeebuza ahari omwe owebaire ari omukozi wa TIST Omukyara Jennifer Tumushabe, rikoku bokubasa kutaaha omukitongole eki.

Bwanyiima yokumanya ebigyendererwa bya kitongole eky'a TIST, bakareeba biru birungi reero nabo bakahandikisa nka ba members 1/3/2006. Bakaguma baine omuzimbwe omubyokuhinga emitil ya Pinus Patula, Entusi hamwe na Alnus.

Obwahati batandikireho kubendeka Avocado ezinywanisibwe (Grafted Avocados) azibarateekateka kuhinga omumisiriri yaabo omu kwezi kwa mwenda 2008.

Nibaragaanisa kukwatanisa nekutongole kya TIST Uganda omukurinda obyobuhangwa obwo begumizemu okuhinga emitil nokugirebeerera gye, nokuhinga ebijuma habwa magara manungu gaabo na bomumaka gaabo.

By Barigye Pamela

Kabale Quantifier.

BE READY FOR PICKING UP SEEDS

This dry season is good for seed collection. We encourage farmers to select seeds for the nursery and establish their own nurseries. This helps us achieve big results at a low cost.

1. Which tree species should we grow in our area?

The best ones are those growing naturally in the area. Select ones that meet your needs. TIST particularly encourages fruit and indigenous trees, and others that will remain in the ground for 30 years or more.

2. Are all trees good?

Not necessarily! Some may be difficult to control, be poisonous to your animals or use too much water. Choose ones you know will benefit your area.

3. Do trees produce seeds every year?

Most trees do, but observe your local trees to be sure. Some may only produce good quality seeds every 2-3 years.

4. Which is a good mother tree to collect seeds from?

- Collect seeds from healthy trees that are good seed producers.
- Avoid isolated trees. In this case the seed is likely to have been self-pollinated which leads to poorer quality seeds.

- Avoid unproductive trees and ones with a bad shape.

- It is better to choose a tree in the middle of a healthy group of trees of the same species. Seeds will be higher quality from trees with flowers that are spread out rather than packed closely together.

- Good trees for timber are straight, have few branches and grow quickly. Good trees for fodder should be fast growing, many branches with multiple stems, and fast growing leaves with the ability to recover after being pruned. Good fruit trees should obviously have good quantities of healthy fruits!

- Try to choose seeds from a tree growing at the same altitude

and soil type as where you want to plant.

- Choose a mature tree, not a young one.

5. When do we collect the seeds?

Learn the time of the year when the seeds are ripe.

- Ask other local people or observe the tree yourself.

- Sometimes seeds are ripe when the fruit or pods change color, become dry, or break easily from the branch.

- Most seeds are ready for collection when they fall from the tree naturally.

6. How do we collect the seeds?

- It is helpful to clear the area around the bottom of the tree first. Many seeds can be collected from the ground. Inspect the seeds for insect damage.

- The tree can be climbed to collect the seeds, but take care!

- Some fruit dry open and disperse their seeds without falling to the ground. These are hard to collect if the seeds are small. Collect the fruit or pods after they are ripe but before they have split or fallen to the ground. Then dry the fruits or pods in a clean, sheltered place to obtain the seeds.

- Some seeds can be knocked from the tree with a long stick.

- Try putting a sheet under the tree and gently shaking the tree.

- For tall trees a simple tool can be made by attaching one end of a pair of shears to a long, strong stick. The other handle can be attached to a rope.

- Note that some seed species cannot be collected from the ground and have to be collected as wildlings. These are newly germinated seedlings found growing under mature trees. These can be transplanted to pots in your nursery. This is often the best method for trees that are hard to grow in a nursery or whose seeds are hard to collect.

- All seeds must be removed from their fruit or pods. Hand, or putting the fruit/pod in the sun and waiting for it to dry and split can do this.

7. How can we tell if the seed is good?

- First, look at the seed. Discard ones that are smaller, lighter or a different color than the others. Discard any that have been damaged by insects.

- For some hard-coated species floating in water is a good test. Normally the good seed sinks and the bad seed floats.

- You can do a simple germination test. Take a small counted number of seeds (20-100). Do any pre-treatment needed. Put the seeds on a damp cloth in a bowl. Cover with another fold of the cloth, moisten it thoroughly and put in a warm (not hot) place. Check the seeds daily for signs of germination and keep the cloth moist. When germination begins keep a record of the day and number. The test usually lasts about two weeks depending on the species. Germination of over 50% means you have good seed. Small-seeded species having only 5% germination are still worth keeping.

8. Do we plant or store the seeds?

- Some seeds do not store and should be planted straight away (especially soft, fleshy seeds, fruit tree seeds or seeds with high oil content).

- For seeds with harder coats the basic rule is to keep the seed clean, dry and cool.

- Seeds should be removed from the fruit/cone and dried thoroughly. To dry the seeds put them in the sun for 2-3 days.

- Storing in a paper bag or metal container out of the sun is good. Avoid plastic bags as this makes the seed sweat and rot. Make sure the container is clean and airtight.

Label the container with the name of the seeds and the collection date.

Remember that the germination ability of the seeds will decrease with time. If seeds have been stored for too long they may expire.

9. Do all seeds germinate?

The percentage of seeds that germinate varies greatly between species. Some seeds require some form of pre-treatment.

The percentage of seeds that germinate varies greatly between species. Some seeds require some form of pre-treatment.

10. What kind of pre-treatment might be needed?

If the seeds have a very small or thin coat often no treatment will be needed.

Seeds that have thick coats will need some form of pre-treatment. Some need to have their seed coat cracked with a hammer or a stone. Seeds should be planted immediately after cracking.

Some seeds just require a small cut in the seed coat to help water infiltrate (nickling). Do not cut the part that was attached to the pod or capsule as this part contains the baby plant.

Others need to be soaked in mild acidic solutions for 5-20 minutes before sowing.

Another method for hard-coated seeds is to boil them in water for 5-10 minutes. Then put the seeds in cool water. This weakens the coat and helps water to enter.

Some seeds can be soaked in normal water for 12-24 hours.

All seeds, once pre-treated, need to be planted straight away.

11. How do we plant the seeds?

Some seeds that germinate readily can be sown directly into the field or into pots. Species that require special conditions to germinate are sown into a seedbed first.

The time taken for germination depends on the seed type, the temperature, the amount of water available and the age of the seed.

Generally sowing is done just before the rainy season starts.

As a general guide, for direct sowing, seeds should be planted at a depth two to three times their diameter and should be covered firmly with soil. The soil should then be kept moist.

12. Do seedlings grow only from seeds?

Some tree species produce root suckers (young plants growing from the mother plant's roots). These can be cut and transplanted.

Cuttings can be taken of a young tree branch with at least three nodes or buds. Choose a long, healthy branch and make a clean, angled cut. Strip off the leaves. Plant the cutting into soil at least two nodal lengths deep, with at least one exposed. Keep it watered until sprouting occurs. Seedlings grown in this way will have the same characteristics as the parent tree and can be useful for making sure a productive fruit tree is grown. We discourage monocropping. This is why we pick the variety species so as to balance the nature of the land. Biodiversity in seed selection is very important. It is helpful to consult the ministry of forest and agriculture and your TIST neighbors to get good advice. The department can help us know the danger of diseases, the pests and even the effects of dryness.

By Annet Tumwebaze.

THE ENERGY SAVING COOK STOVE

Within TIST values, there is an article of low budget and big results. We have learnt how to make the energy saving cook stove which has helped us as we deal with our usual activities while we are cooking.

This energy saving cook stove decreases smoke. The smoke is very bad to breathe. Housewives and

children may develop cancer, breathing problems, and other body problems such as an eye disease which makes the eyes shed tears. The TIST improved

stove prevents the young babies from falling in the fireplace and being burned, especially those who have begun to move around from one place to another.

The TIST stove also helps in other ways. There is lack of firewood these days because land fragmentation and land tenure make farms small in relation to the population in our area. It is even affecting our resources for income. The TIST stove uses much less wood than our traditional stoves. We agree in TIST not to cut young trees.

We agree to replant any trees that die. We permit trees to grow to be 30 years old. However, some trees die naturally or may be thinned from a dense planting to make space for their neighboring trees to grow huge. With good TIST forest practice and the use of this cook stove, fewer trees will be cut. The farmer gains a lot because he/she will harvest the trees that have died or deadwood that has fallen from live trees, and this will be enough to cook meals.

It is worth the effort of making the energy saving cook stove. As you use it, your family will be on a good foundation of growing into healthy women and men.

By Musilma Anna

From Bakwara Kureberaho Itembezo
Kanungu Southern ward

MOBILISATION OF COMMUNITIES FOR AWARENESS AND ACTION

Local community groups create awareness and build capacity so that we can, together, create and work toward goals and objectives that relate to our needs.

We can develop the goals if we have vision. We are living in different locations. Therefore our needs are quite different. We need

to analyze the changes that affect us in order to prioritize ways to make our lives sustainable and strong.

When we plan, we can mobilize the scarce resources available.

Our goals and objectives shall have a common mission and serve our needs and those of our communities.

In TIST, tree planting is the starting point of people coming together as Small Groups to make our communities sustainable and have the resources we need. When groups form a cluster, and we have Cluster meetings, participants can contribute and share more ideas on environmental conservation and best practices.

Though we may have different needs in different areas, we all know that conserving nature is conserving life! Using the resources available and protecting the scarce resources is very important.

When we create goals, we can work toward them together. We can try, observe the results, and improve together to move towards our goals. In all of this, TIST Values are key. Together, we can achieve great things.

Rev. Enoch Tumwebaze.

Create your own Forest by Planting Trees Near Your Home

Trees give us shade during hot afternoons when we are at our homes. Trees protect our houses from strong winds.

It's a request to everyone to plant trees in the compound, especially fruit trees.

Forests are useful. From them we can get trees to build houses, timber for furniture and firewood. By planting trees near our homes, we can easily enjoy all of trees' benefits. It is easy to pick fruit for our meals or market, or fodder for our livestock. We can see that the trees are growing and healthy, and care for them as they provide for us.

By Nuwagira Michael.

WHAT IS TIST?

TIST is The International Small Group and Tree Planting Program.

TIST is a community initiative dedicated to empowering small groups of farmers through tree planting. Today, there are TIST farmers in six countries.

- Small groups have 6-12 members from at least 3 nearby homes.
- Men and women are in TIST and serve as rotational leaders.
- To join TIST, there is training and a process to ensure groups are committed to work together for the long-term.
- SG members sign the Green House Gas contract once they receive training about TIST and qualify to be registered as a Small Group.
- SG members bring the confirmation letter from LCI Chairperson to confirm their land ownership.

SG members are trained on TIST best practices and on TIST Values:

TIST Values:

- 1) We are honest
- 2) We are accurate
- 3) We are transparent
- 4) We are servants to each other
- 5) We are mutually accountable to each other

We work on diverse issues important to our communities:

- Food security
- Conservation farming
- Food and nutrition
- Nursery bed preparation and management
- Tree planting and spacing for good growth (a minimum of two meters or 6 feet).
- AIDS/HIV awareness, prevention and counseling

-Using cook stoves that use low energy /firewood

-Rotational leadership

-Building up one another

-Servant leadership

TIST farmers have been helped in:

-TIST best practices and tree planting

-Earning money (incentives from green house gas)

-Poverty eradication through tree planting

-Child education by getting school fees from tree incentives

-Working together in small groups with farmers from other TIST countries

-Role models in chairing meetings

Hakim Bachwa