



# THE TREE

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## TIST Uganda July 2011 News letter

"The Tree" N'orupapura rwamakuru orurikuhandikwa aba TIST Uganda, etagi nya the International Small Group and Tree planting program.

### OKUKORA KWAITU

TIST n'ekigombe ekyehaireyo kwimutsya omutindo gwabahingi aba'nansi kirikubongyeramu amaani gokuwanisa okucwekyerezibwa kw'ebibara, okwejuna obwono nekyenda kitari kyaburijo.

### EBIGYENDERERWA BYAITU

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

### PREFACE

Wetland protection benefits us all  
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### EBIRYOMUNDA

Okurinda ebisharira amateme kitwiniire mugasho.  
Okubyaara emiti erikurya hamwe n'ebindi bimera namatungo.  
Okurundaana nokucooka embibo.  
Okurinda amasharurura  
Tist nekoreki?  
Tist nentunguka  
Okutuubya empinduka y'ensi

## JULY 2011 NEWSLETTER

### TIST UGANDA FARMERS;

As you are aware it is dry season, you are advised to open your fire lines where it is bushy so that the trees are protected from wild fire. Remove all the dry branches pruned from trees. Use them for cooking at home. This will reduce strength of fire if it accidentally attacks your grove.

Ara.

### OBUTUMWABWA EDITA.

Nkokumurikukimanya ngu obu nobwire bwekyanda, nimbashaba kwigura obuguuto bwokutanga omuriro omu bibira byanyu kurinda emiti yaanyu okutakwatwa omuriro. Mwihemu amataagi goona agoomire agumwashariire ahamiti mugatekyese. Ekyi nikijja kuceendeeza amaani gomuriro ogwakukwata ekibira kyaawe.

Ara.

## **WETLAND PROTECTION BENEFITS US ALL!**

The protection of wetlands is life saving. They are the source of water for our homes and farms, and the home of aquatic plants and animals. Cold blooded animals enjoy the cool vegetation within wetlands. Traditionally, we respected the wetlands in our communities. There were certain hours for an individual to go to the well for fetching water. The limited hours were for the other creatures like reptiles, amphibians and giant fish within the water to enjoy. There was no bush clearance in wetlands without notice.

The crested crane of Uganda would go to the wetland for breeding. The mist and fogs would crown the hills from the wetlands. This precipitation would bring the cool breezes replacing the warmer breezes that would rise up, causing the formation of regular rains that would fall on and around the mountains.

The plateaus had their good shrubs, grass and scattered trees that would make life pleasant. All of these are disappearing because of man's activities. The sky is blue, cloudless and the sun's rays are affecting our bodies. What shall happen?

The giant trees are being cut down for timber. Some species are no longer seen. The environment is polluted. Unless we leave the wetland to regenerate and the bare hills to

have the cover, we will lose these precious places and suffer even more.

Let's all work together to protect our wetlands. Let us plant water-friendly trees to protect riverbanks. Let us leave the trees and plants that hold the soil and help clean the water that flows to the rivers. If we work together to protect wetlands and put in more effort to limit our activities that are unfriendly to our wetlands, for example dumping garbage in wetlands, clearing trees near streams and marshes, we can restore these places that help us all.

Let us work together to protect our wetlands for a better environment to live in.  
**By Flora Tumuhairwe**  
**Integrated homes Kyangyenyi.**

### **AGROFORESTRY:**

Agro forestry is an old practice that was used by people around the world and that has modern applications for us today. Agroforestry may be any system where farms incorporate trees in crop fields, as windbreaks, wood lots, or among crops. Historians say that as long ago as 7000BC, shifting cultivation was practiced. Trees enriched the soil, making it able to absorb water, and providing excellent nutrients for crop growth. Agroforestry is a multipurpose system, protecting and improving soil fertility, diversifying harvest, providing fodder for farm animals, while trees consume carbon dioxide from atmosphere, yielding climate benefits and income from carbon credits. By mixing trees in

crop fields, all of these benefits may accrue on a single piece of land.

Agroforestry has many benefits: it is efficient and can increase and diversify farm productivity, combat soil loss and climate change. With TIST, it also opens a new market opportunity: the international carbon market. Agroforestry is drawing attention as a viable and sustainable alternative to other land use systems.

Agroforestry can help maintain and improve the fertility of the land. If we choose to plant acacias or other nitrogen-fixing trees, we provide a natural fertilizer for crops. It can provide shade and help keep fields from drying from strong winds. By keeping the leaves and branches of the trees for mulch, it reduces waste, and organic matter is changed into natural manure.

By choosing to plant diverse tree species, and to mix trees with our crops, we increase biodiversity, which can protect us from pest outbreaks. When we improve biodiversity, we show we value all things, and see their benefits. Let's practice agroforestry to improve our standards of living.

**By Kangahi Kenneth**  
**Kufid Group.**

### **CONTROLLING CLIMATE CHANGE.**

Climate change and its impacts are real. Sea levels are rising; we are seeing extreme weather shifts and increases in severe flooding.

Unless we do something about our environment and climate change now, we all will face increased risk of dangers like poverty and hunger.

While some climate change may result of natural processes, the most significant shifts in the earth's temperatures are caused by human activities. Specifically, climate change is being caused by the excessive release of greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere, largely the result of deforestation, agricultural conversion and poor agricultural practices, and industry.

Deforestation due to poles for construction have destroyed or degraded much of the natural forests. The impact is creating more harm to human life and all creatures.

Poor methods of farming without control of soil erosion, monoculture, where a single crop is grown repeatedly in a field, and overgrazing, have caused the washing away of the soil upper layer. This soil, washing away, is one of our greatest resources, and its loss hurts us, our children, and our planet.

Curbing climate change is important, and we all can play a part. Conserving the nature is vital for us all.

By Enoch Tumwebaze.

### SEED SELECTION.

TIST farmers know that achieving big results with low budget is a key to success. To achieve this, seed collection is very important. With good seed selection, you can increase species diversity and have healthier seedlings that grow better trees. Good seed choice is one key too success in tree plating.

Select good, healthy tree mothers for the seeds first. For a fruit tree, choose a mother tree that produces good fruit abundantly. For a timber tree, choose a mother tree that has a strong, good trunk and good appearance. When possible, choose seeds from trees that are growing together with others of the same species. For most seeds, dry the seeds and make sure that they are mature for germination purposes.

Sow seeds in a bed, and as they germinate, uproot them and put them in pots. Carry them to a place prepared for them as a nursery bed at this time. Irrigate them and make sure they are free from diseases. When they are hardened and the season is ready, transfer them to the respective gardens according to your personal arrangement.

Another method is to gather wildlings, seedlings germinated under the mother tree. Dig around the selected tree and the dropped seeds will germinate directly under the selected mother. As they are ready to be potted, do so. Transfer them to nursery beds prepared for them, and care for them as they grow to 4 or 6 leaves, then transfer them to the required place.

As you are selecting seeds, see how well indigenous species are growing near you. Indigenous trees are essential, often resist pests, and provide many benefits. Gather some seeds, and promote them and they shall make our environment good.

Plant more fruits to diversify your income.

Tree planting is good when farmers know how to choose and select seeds. These trees are

planted according to the farmers' choice and benefits.

By Arinaitwe Generous  
Quantifier Kanungu.

### FOOD SECURITY

There is a saying in English: don't put all of your eggs in one basket. This means that if you don't plan carefully, and rely on only one thing, you may be disappointed or hurt. The banana plantations that so many of us depend on are now not entirely reliable because of diseases like banana bacterial wilt. Therefore, TIST farmers, prepare early enough to scare away the danger of hunger as you plant grains!

Planting diverse foodstuffs and storing them properly after harvest is very important to TIST farmers so as to keep away hunger and poverty.

Planting grains is good because they can be stored for a very long period without damage if cared for properly. Plant maize, millet, rice, and sorghum. After the grains dry, keep them in a safe storage place to keep them good to eat for food security purposes.

The stored foodstuffs will assist the ones that stay longer in the soil like cassava, sweet potatoes and Irish potatoes.

Food security brings you wealth and you will be a wise man. Assist your neighbors and others, too. You will have enough food even in bad times when it is very scarce and food prices are very high. We will be able to work together to fight hunger and poverty. Poverty makes a person have bad thinking, and the person to not love him or herself, and that brings sickness.

When we work together, we are valued as we are transformed with the changes of the world.

Friends, let us learn to plant more grains, fruits, vegetables for a better living where we are able to get all the nutrients to help our bodies grow well. We need enough food in our families for today and to keep some for tomorrow.

By Sarah Nankunda

### **TIST AND DEVELOPMENT**

I learnt of TIST in 2004 from my friend Tumuhairwe Babu. I was excited to know its operation and its goodness.

We then started our Small Group of 6 members from Matsyoro Parish and started joining our friends attending seminars conducted by Ara and Reverend Enoch.

I got to know that learning does not end. I learnt that from trees we get many products and services. Some of the benefits of trees include: money from carbon credits sales, food and fodder for human beings and animals, habitat for creatures, supply of nutrients to our exhausted soil, in the uptake of carbon dioxide and production of oxygen and many others.

#### **TIST benefits:**

Trees have many benefits. TIST does, too. Some of these are: Honesty, Volunteerism working together as a team, disease control, and good leadership. By taking part, and developing best practices, we enjoy these benefits, and make TIST better for all farmers who join. We make our communities and planet better for us all.

#### **Where can one plant trees?**

We all can plant more trees to improve our communities. We can plant on institutional compounds, alongside paths and roads, around one's land as a border and windbreak, in plantations, on bare land, and on hilltops.

#### **How the incentives from TIST help farmers?**

Incentives from the carbon market help us in many ways. We can pay school fees or purchase school necessities, like books, uniform, pens, soap and many others.

We can use the incentives to keep tree groves tidy so they can grow well. We can purchase seeds, so we can grow varieties of plants we cannot collect within our areas. SGs in Bushenyi are increasing in numbers. So are trees.

Love trees and care for them.

By Annet Tumwebaze.

### **WHAT DOES TIST DO?**

TIST is an international tree-planting program that now is growing in six countries globally.

TIST trains and encourages Small Groups to develop and share "best practices." It encourages improved farming and land use techniques for farmers who are now planting millions of new trees of different species including indigenous trees. Through trainings and seminars, TIST helps local farmers take action to plant trees, practice Conservation Farming, and organize to meet their economic needs even during severe dry seasons.

Small Groups covenant to meet the program requirements and assure tree survival and use of improved, sustainable land use techniques for years to come. The improved farming practices and tree planting will improve local welfare by stabilizing the local food supply and by providing families with additional income from TIST tree benefits and payments.

TIST Small Groups are also educated about HIV/AIDS and equipped to formulate a response to this pandemic at the group and village level. Adopting conservation farming techniques increases food yield and decreases annual physical effort after the first seedbeds are created. Family members can continue to plant in these seedbeds year after year and have food.

The improved cooking stoves as a way of conserving our trees and to promoting healthier families by reducing harmful smoke are encouraged. This has been welcomed by many in Uganda and has helped a lot.

TIST farmers not only count trees and train farmers, but also pay farmers for each live tree that was planted for the program.

Let us conserve our environment.

**Arineitwe Ezra Kagambira.-  
Kanungu.**