



# THE TREE

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## TIST Uganda August 2011 News letter

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

### OKUKORA KWAITU

TIST n'ekigombe ekyehaireyo kwimutsya omutindo gwabahingi aba hansi kirikubongyeramu amaani gokurwanisa okuwokwerekizibwa kw'ebibara, okwejuna obwono nekyenda kitari kyabunjo.

### EBIGYENDERERWA BYAITU

Omutunyanyisa entunguka yentuura nokurundana onwoya orurungi orurukunaga omumiti. TIST nehweza abahingi abarikurenga 25,000, ebyokwerinda Sirimu, endisa erungi yabomumaka nokucendeza yenku namakara.

### PREFACE

Tree spacing for success  
Prevent soil erosion  
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I shall use C.F like Murungi.

### EBIRYOMUNDA

Okubyarira ahabipimo bihikire  
Okuzibira omutunga kutwara itaka  
Ebyafayo omuri Meru, Kenya  
Teisaho omutima aba ebibina ebikye kubyara emiti yenzarwa.  
Akasime kembi  
Omujugangoma  
Ninyija kukoresa okuhinga noorinda orweezo nka Murungi.

### 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.

### OBUTUMWA BWA 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 kuccendeeza amaani gomuriro ogwakukwata ekibira kyaawe.

Ara.

LETTER

TREE SPACING for success.

Why more than 2m is the best spacing?

TIST has been tracking tree growth and spacing data over the past several years. We have found that trees grow best only well spaced, with a space between trees of two meters or more. Some farmers have been using this spacing for many years, and their trees have been growing much better and larger than trees planted at one meter. Trees planted at two meters or more do not fight for water and minerals in the ground. They do not fight for the sunlight they need to grow.

We have seen that trees planted at one meter grow slower, are smaller, are more likely to die in a drought, and most importantly, do not sequester a lot of carbon. The main goal of TIST and our farmers is to plant trees to capture carbon and improve the land of the farmer.

Income from sales of carbon offsets on the carbon market is key to keep TIST running so we can pay our tree incentives. Our goal is not to plant trees very close together that are going to be harvested and cut down soon for utility poles. Such trees will not qualify for the carbon market since this requires a long-term commitment to keep trees alive and growing. TIST and the farmers who plant at two meters have seen the good results of that spacing.

It is important for all TIST farmers to know that quantifiers will only be counting trees planted two meters or more apart from each other. This spacing still allows farmers to plant up to 2,500 trees on a hectare of land! This also means that the trees planted farther apart will grow stronger, yield more fruit and nuts, and more income from carbon.

Ara Baanyanga.

PREVENT SOIL EROSION

Fertile soil is one of Uganda's greatest riches. We need it to grow the food to feed our families and animals, for our income, to grow trees for fuel, building, and more. However, without care, we are letting our wealth wash away.

Soil erosion is the loss of soil due to water or wind transportation.

What causes soil erosion?

Cultivated soil left uncovered:

Digging land loosens the soil and exposes it to erosion. Such soil is very vulnerable to erosion unless trees or plants with strong roots cover it

Overgrazing: When too many animals are allowed to use a piece of land there is loss of vegetation and subsequent soil erosion.

Cutting down trees: When land is cleared of trees, soil can become exposed and be eroded.

Erosion has many dangerous consequences:

**Food shortage:** Soil erosion reduces soil fertility and hence reduces food productivity.

**Water impacts:** Soil entering water can disrupt habitats, and carry harmful chemicals used on fields into the water supply.

**Hazard risk:** Soil erosion can cause dangerous flooding. When the soil settles in streams and rivers it can raise the water level. Water that had been slowed by plants and absorbed by roots and soils runs off and can wash away people and homes. It can also provoke landslides.

**Displacement:** When soil erosion degrades land to the extent that it can no longer support agriculture, people are forced to move to other land. If they clear this land, the new site may also become degraded and eroded!

**Spread of deserts:** As soil is lost, vegetation also decreases and so the climate gradually becomes drier. Eventually the land is at risk of becoming a desert.

How can we reduce the amount of soil erosion?

Practice Conservation Farming

When practicing CF, the land is left untilled. You only prepare holes. This prevents rill erosion in your plot since soil structures are firm.

Provide soil cover: Ensure that soil is continually covered. Plant a cover crop, intercrop (plant two or more crops together on the same land), and practice agro-forestry (growing trees on the same land as crops).

More layers of roots hold the soil better!

Plant trees: Trees cover and bind the soil, and provide an effective solution.

**By Ara Baanyanga.**

### **HISTORICAL EVENT IN MERU, KENYA**

On 13 June 2011, over 850 TIST Farmers from Kenya and friends of the TIST Program met in Meru, Kenya to celebrate TIST FARMERS – FIRST IN THE WORLD. TIST Kenya had achieved the first dual certification of carbon credits by both the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA). TIST representatives from Uganda, Tanzania and the US and important religious and governmental delegates shared in the happiness of the occasion and showed their support of the accomplishment.

The celebration started in the morning at the Meru Stadium. Some farmers had indigenous trees in their hands as they were walking, singing and dancing because of the exciting news. The first stop was a primary school where we joined pupils and teachers to plant over 400 trees around the school and on riverbank beside it. Thereafter, we gathered at Gitoro Conference Center where trainings were conducted and speeches were given in celebration. As part of the speeches, Ben Henneke read a congratulatory message from Joseph Rexon of TIST India.

People were aware of the meaning of the celebration and it created excitement among all the participants who came to honor the day to go out and plant more trees. Trees planted in the future will have many benefits and be used for many purposes. An emphasis was put on native indigenous trees and the impact all the trees planted will have on the local environment.

The music and traditional dancing were exciting! Dorothy, one of the TIST Kenya trainers and the person in charge of fuel-efficient stoves, was extremely happy and jumping up and down as if she were a warrior! She was so because the day was good and the farmers knew that planting trees for the carbon market would improve their lives locally and globally. I also will not forget the celebration cake of which Ara was invited to cut but somehow he didn't get a piece to eat!

This celebration was for all of the TIST family around the world. It was possible because of the work we have done and our honoring the TIST values of Honesty, Accuracy, Transparency, Mutual Accountability and Servants to Each Other in our work. Let us take bring home the joy and pride of our achievements, and work together to achieve even bigger results in the days to come. Recruit new Small Groups to TIST. Plant more trees to make your farms and rivers green and earn more carbon income. Let's plant more indigenous trees for their

many benefits. Let's use and share trainings to improve results.

Let all of us in TIST Uganda work hard, and one day, we also will host such a gathering

If we all work together, we can achieve great things

**By Martin Weru, with Enoch**

### **ENCOURAGE YOURSG TO PLANT INDIGENOUS TREES.**

Indigenous trees are good for soil improvement and for diversifying our farms and harvests. They are also good for shade and soil fertility. They give good yields, fruits, and nuts. The indigenous trees are also used to heal people as local medicine.

Indigenous trees are well suited to the local environment, and so often grow quickly and reliably. They do not consume much water. The trees for dry areas are known to the local dwellers. These are good for timber but need less care than exotic trees. Many indigenous trees support the crops planted by the farmer. They scare away the pests, and support beneficial insects that help crops grow. Some increase crop yields because the leaves that are shed act as a natural fertilizer.

Many have edible fruits. Some give oil, fiber, shade, poles for house construction. Try collecting seeds from indigenous trees and growing some this season. It is not difficult. This will help you have a good nursery at a very low cost! . 1

encourage my SG to plant indigenous trees so as to keep the environment clean and rich in nutrients.

**From Samuel Mwitabangoma,  
Ibambiro Group.**

#### **THE TREE INCENTIVE;**

The tree incentive is a motivation to me and an additional income to my family. The trees and their benefits remain in my hands.

This incentive I have received from TIST program shall be used in buying seedling to plant indigenous trees this time.

Planting fruit trees will generate even more income because my land near the homestead shall be planted with the fruiting trees. I will also plant them alongside my paths.

I am very happy and proud of our SG. There is unity, practical deeds, tree planting, and honesty, which have helped us to grow. TIST program is so good to us.

Long live TIST Uganda.

I shall always tell others the good news about TIST program.

**I am Nyesigire a trainer in Kirima,  
Kanungu.**

#### **CORDIA AFRICANA.**

Among the native and indigenous trees, one useful variety is *Cordia Africana*. This tree is a good one that provides many benefits to the environment and for our farms.

It survives in low altitudes, in woodland, savannah and bush in warm and moist areas including riverbanks. It is frost tender and can grow in drier conditions but thrives in good rainfall areas. It occurs afro-montane forest mixed with forest, usually along margins and in clearings.

It is an early colonizer in forest regrowth. Like many such trees, *Cordia* grows quickly so you can see its benefits soon. It is often left when forests are cleared for cultivation. *Cordia* is an excellent shade tree for crops since its leaves provide mulch to prevent weeds, minimize erosion, and enrich the soil. The leaves provide useful fodder for animals. The tree is medicinal, with bark used to bind broken bones. Fruits are edible, and enjoyed by people and animals. In addition to being native of Uganda, *Cordia* is native of Angola, DRC, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi.

The roots of the tree protect the soil, prevent erosion, and do not consume a lot of water.

Since it is a shade tree, it can be intercropped in coffee shambas.

It is good for its furniture, firewood and most constructions purposes. Plant *Cordia* on your farm to enjoy some of these benefits yourself, and watch the benefits increase each year!

**Enoch Tumwebwaze.**

**Integrated Homes.**

**Kyangyenyi.**

#### **ISHALL USE CF LIKE MURUNGI.**

I have to tell my SG members to use CF for this season. We visited Murungi's family in Bushenyi. All of their land is cultivated and the crops give the family enough food and side income to support them.

I shall use Conservation Farming because it gives good yields, but not only for the good yields. With CF the farmer has become famous for good work and skills.

I may begin with market gardening because Mrs. Murungi had different types of vegetables growing well with CF. She had maize in her banana plantation, fruits and most of the land was arranged and organized to make a great harvest.

Murungi is honored in the village.

The family is respected because they are hard working people.

All the participants who went to the place were pleased for what they saw.

Conservation Farming is good. Join me lets practice it!

**Alice Basheija.**

**Kyandago Bakyara Kureberaho.**

**Kanungu.**