



THE TREE

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

OKUKORA KWAITU

TIST n'ekigombe ekyehaireyo kwimutsya omufindo gwabahingi aba'hansi kirikubongyeramu amaani gokurwanisa okucwekyerezibwa kw'ebibara, okwejuna obwono nekyenda kitari kyaburijo.

EBIGYENDERERWA BYAITU

Omukunyanyisa entunguka yentuura nokurundana orwoya orurungi orurukuruga omumiti. TIST nehweza abahingi abarikurenga 25,000/, ebyokwerinda Sirimu, endisa enungi yabomunika nokucendeza yenku namakara.

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»OKUREBERERA EMITI

»OK WOMBERA.

Obutumwa bwa edita.

Amakuru marungi gaba ekyomuhendo.

Ebibira/ amahamba gaitu meingi gahinguzibwe gaikirizibwa aba E S ku abahingi baitu ba TIST batandika kushashurwa sente zorwoya oru emiti erikukwata. Mube mugumisirize okuhisya obukirakorweho.

Ara.

Great news is a pleasure.

Many of our SGs/ groves were validated by E.S.Inc. Our TIST farmers will in future be paid according to how much carbon has been sequestered by their groves. Be patient for that great news.

Ara.

GOOD NEWS!

Validators from Environmental Services Incorporated, an independent auditor that works to determine whether work done, like tree planting, qualifies for inclusion in carbon markets and assesses whether data reported are accurate, visited TIST Uganda groves together with TIST staff for the second time and the end of this November 2012.

The purpose of this visit was to audit the TIST program and ascertain whether our work has been accurate and honest. This is important to assure our buyers (carbon credit buyers) that what we tell them about Small Group activities is true and correct. This gives the buyers confidence and trust in us, hence they are able to buy carbon credits from TIST farmers that support program operations and tree payments.

They visited TIST groves around Kabale, Kanungu and Bushenyi. The TIST farmers were very happy to meet and see verifiers in their groves. We are grateful to the farmers and all who welcomed the verifiers and helped the team complete their assessment. We were grateful to farmers who had their groves well-maintained so that it was easier to count and measure trees and the boundaries of the groves.

Because we abide by TIST Values, we passed the field visit portion of the validation and verification. This is good news for thousands of our farmers and entire TIST family!

TIST farmers are encouraged to plant more trees, especially indigenous and fruit trees for their good benefits, and to keep their trees healthy, clean and alive for 30 years. Great thanks go to representatives from Environmental Services Inc, TIST US staff, TIST Uganda staff, quantifiers, trainers and farmers for the good work done!

This underscores the importance of abiding by TIST Values. Everyone should respect and adhere to TIST Values. Quantifiers should be accurate in the tree counts, and ensure complete baseline or quantification of each group they visit. Auditors must ensure that audits are up to the highest standards; Trainers should ensure farmers get accurate information.

Leaders should help hold each other mutually accountable. TIST farmers should keep their word, and follow the training guidelines.

All of us, should be honest, accurate, transparent, serve one another as we hold each other mutually accountable. Because, in TIST, We are!

Rev Enoch Tumwebaze

Thinning and pruning your trees for successful growth

by Ben Misleh

In general, the purpose of thinning and pruning trees is to improve individual tree health, as well as overall forest health. This is done by selecting the "best" trees in the forest. For many species, including hardwoods, grevillea, eucalyptus and cypress, these are often the largest trees, each with a single, straight stem. Trees may have different needs for space depending on species, site, planting style (woodlot, incorporated into crop fields, or windbreak), and climate, but some general principles apply.

To grow strong, healthy trees, a spacing of two meters is recommended. This spacing works for many TIST trees (i.e. grevillea, and cypress), but remember some trees require more space (mango and macadamia, for example). Giving trees proper spacing helps them get enough water and nutrients to grow to their full potential. Closer spacing is acceptable when trees are young. As the trees begin to mature, some trees will be larger and more robust than their neighbors. These are the trees which should be kept. In determining which trees should be removed, look at the best trees and determine if they are appropriately spaced. If they are not, you should remove some nearby trees.

Once you have determined which trees to remove, cut these at the base of the tree. In the weeks and months following cutting, many trees will begin to sprout from the stump. To keep the tree from coming back, cut or break these sprouts off at the base of the tree.

One of the easiest ways to determine if a tree should be taken out is to look at its size relative to nearby trees of the same age and species. Tree growth will vary based on soil, water availability, etc. In

general, if all trees of the same species in an area are close to the same age, the larger trees should be chosen to allow growing. Another good indicator of tree health is the position of the crown of the tree in the canopy. Trees with crowns above the general canopy level can absorb more light than those lower down, and so can grow better. Finally, trees should have a single stem, with no major disease or rot. However, this does not mean that all small trees should be removed! Aim for a two meter by two meter spacing so that the trees are as large and as healthy as possible to maximize carbon capture.

When making thinning choices, remember that growth rate varies greatly by species. If a mango tree is growing near lots of eucalyptus, the mango may be far smaller and slower growing than the fast-growing eucalyptus, but it certainly should not be cut simply because it is smaller! In fact, a tree like mango is of great importance due to its usefulness in producing fruit for food and sale. Mango also is better for other crops growing in the field. Eucalyptus can make other trees and crops nearby grow poorly. It is important to remember this as you select which trees to thin. There are many uses for trees, depending upon species besides carbon capture. For example, you may want trees for shade. In this case, you should give the tree more room than usual to expose the tree to more sunlight. This will stimulate the tree to produce new branches on the main stem and on larger limbs. If you want to use a row of trees as a windbreak, keep trees in that row spaced closely together, but remove trees to either side in order to increase the "bushiness" of the trees.

Pruning

In a natural forest, trees naturally self-prune. Branches in the upper canopy shade out lower branches. As leaves on the lower branches begin to die off, so does the branch to which they are attached. Dead and rotted branches naturally fall off or are knocked off. While natural pruning may happen on

TIST sites, it may be necessary, or beneficial to prune trees by hand. While each tree species requires a different pruning technique, some general principles apply to all trees as you decide which limbs to remove.

Most tree species should have a single main stem at the ground level. Trees with a single stem generally grow faster and are less prone to split during storms. If a tree with multiple stems is chosen as a crop tree, when choosing which stem to keep, generally choose the largest, but make sure it is healthy, with lots of leaves, free of rot, and relatively straight

Many people think you should cut limbs parallel to the trunk. This is false. Cuts should be made perpendicular to the limb, slightly out from the trunk. This minimizes the amount of exposed wood, and allows the actively dividing cells in the branch collar to grow over the cut over time (see figure 1). This helps the tree to remain healthy and free of rot.

When pruning, don't be overzealous. Tree trimmings are often used for fuel wood or fodder. While this is good, remember that while pruning can improve tree health and increase growth over time, removing leaves will initially reduce the tree's ability to capture sunlight and cause stress to the tree by creating a scar, which it must heal. If you remove too many, the tree will grow slowly or may die. After removing a limb, leave the area cut alone. Do not cover it with tar or any other material, so the tree can expel any toxic material on the wound. This is essentially the same process used by the human body to heal a cut.

Don't forget that trees tend to produce new shoots near cuts from thinning or pruning. Some species do this more than others. Generally, these are very easy to remove during the first year after cutting by simply snapping off the supple shoots. Shoots will often not grow back.

Some trees, especially fruit trees, produce better yields with multiple stems. These are cut near the base of the stem when they are young in order to stimulate new growth. Once the tree has established these new shoots, they too may be cut in order to produce more growth. This process may be repeated in order to increase the bushiness of the tree, but be sure to allow at least a few months or more between trimmings so the tree can recover from the stress caused by cutting.

Remember that to take part in the carbon market, we have to commit to keep trees for the long term. We should allow trees to grow for at least 30 years, thinning and pruning to produce useful, sustainable forests that provide us benefits for years to come.

take care of your trees for our benefits.

In order for our trees to grow well it is very important to know one of the most effective practices which is frequent weeding. Clean groves will make your trees grow healthy and faster. Also when weeds contaminate trees it is attractive to the dangerous animals like snakes. Meanwhile, weeds take nutrients and water from the soil so trees cannot use them. Hence trees become thinner and unhealthy. In our travels, TIST staff has seen small groups that have put more efforts on keeping their groves. These groups gave weeding a high priority in their weekly activities and this is keeping the trees healthy. As a reminder to all TIST small groups, here are some of the advantages of

Weeding your groves:

Trees grow faster because weeds don't take the nutrients and water from the soil. Trees will become stronger and grow taller in a shorter period of time. Trees can get the sunlight they need unhindered. Trees are not exposed to as many diseases. Trees are more protected from a fire spreading.

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. The TIST office staff encourages all small groups to carry on weeding their groves. It is worth the effort of

each member of your small group, and you will be able to see the difference in your healthy trees.

By Hakim Bachwa.



Pruning cuts should be made just outside the branch collar.

On a dead branch that has a collar of live wood, the final cut should be made just beyond the outer edge of the collar

Taking Care of Trees In Your Grove

It is time to remind group members about taking care of trees in our groves. Conserving our groves is very important. Groves are the source of the life of our trees we transplant. Remember that, if trees are not well taken care of, they will become weak and lack energy and even die. Trees have many important uses for people and animals.

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

- Give fresh air that's good for people and animals
- Absorb carbon and put it back into the soil
- Encourage rain, Prevent soil erosion
- Give shelter to wild animals, Provide firewood for cooking,
- Provide timber for building, making furniture,
- Give shade Shelter our houses from wind,
- Provide fruit and nuts.

Those are some of benefits from tree planting.

There are many profits which are in touch with daily human life. Therefore groups members,