



# THE TREE

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"The Tree" N'orupapwa r'wamakuru orurikuhandikwa aba TIST Uganda, etagi ryya the International Small Group and Tree planting program

#### OKUKORA KWAITU

TIST n'ekigombe ekyehaireyo kwimutsya omulindo gwabahingi aba'hansi kinkubonyeramu amaani gokurwanisa okucwekyereziwira kw'ebibara, okwejuna obwono nekyenda kifari kyaburijo.

#### EBIGYENDERERWA BYAITU

Omukunyanyisa entunguka yentuura nokurundana orwoya orurungi orurukuruga omumiti TIST nehweza abahingi abarikurenga 25,000, ebyokwerinda Simu, endisa enungi yabomumaka nokucendeza yenku namakara

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## EIHURIRE RWO'KWAMUKAGA 2014

### EDITORS MESSAGE.

**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

**Obutumwabwa 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 eri kukwata. Mube mugumisirize okuhisya obukirakorweho.

Ara.

## **TAKING CARE OF TREES- OUR RESPONSIBILITY.**

**By Rukunyu Tutungukye Group.**

We the members of Rukunyu Tutungukye are among the hundreds of Small Groups who have joined the TIST Program.

Since joining this program, we have benefited from the trainings offered, and as a result made significant achievements in growth of our Small Group.

For instance, our members have tripled their tree planting effort. This has resulted in an almost 300 % increase in number of trees in our farms.

From the trainings, and through exchanging and sharing of best practices in cluster trainings, we have learned new and better ideas in nursery establishment and management, tree planting and management.

Initially, we didn't consider that trees require care like any other crop. We used to leave them untended, and this often resulted in many of our seedlings dying early.

The new best practices that we have learned in TIST have taught us the importance of proper tending of trees from the time they are transplanted until they are mature. This includes appropriate spacing – which depends on tree species, but should be no less than 2 meters. Weeding and pruning are also part of taking care of the trees, together with regular inspection for pests or other diseases.

Besides tree planting, our Small Group is involved in practicing Conservation Farming. Conservation Farming is an improved farming technique that has allowed us to get higher yields from small pieces of land.

We hold our meeting every week and we do practice rotational and servant leadership.

This has enabled us to instill a sense of ownership in every member of our Small Group, and most importantly, harnesses and improves our leadership qualities as well as making our Small Group strong.

### **SMALL GROUP PAYMENTS: RULES FOR PAYMENT**

**By Sarah Nankunda.**

Your Small Group should have more than 500 trees. Your trees must have been quantified. If your Small Group has not met this requirement; you will be required to put more effort in planting more trees in

the coming rainy season. When you do that, make sure that you attend training meetings in your nearest location and notify TIST quantifiers of your readiness to be quantified.

Your Small Group needs to have planted your trees in a proper spacing (best practice 3 –4 m and minimum spacing 2m).

Your small group should have clean groves; always make sure that your trees are well tended in a clean environment. It is important to have a fire line around your groves and to clear away dead branches and weeds that can make fire more severe.

Your Small Group members must have signed the Greenhouse Gas contract individually. You must make sure that the signatures appearing in the contract are true and correct signatures of the members. If the signatures and names are not correct, you will be required to sign afresh. Your Small Group will only be paid if all of these are correct.

Remember, It is important that your Small Group attend monthly training meetings. At meetings, besides getting training and learning and sharing newly developed best practices, you will receive TIST updates. At Cluster meetings, you will get a chance to share best practices with other Small Groups. It will be easier to learn what other Small Groups are doing and to work together to overcome challenges.

Small Groups that attend meetings are given the first priority in quantification. We will also be giving them priority in payments. It is therefore important that you send at least 3 representatives (members of your Small Group) to participate in each meeting.

Finally, in TIST, we are Mutually Accountable, Honest, and Accurate. This means each of us has a role in the payment process! We should review our vouchers together as a group to be sure that the trees Quantified is an accurate count of the TIST trees in our groves. If there is a mistake, we should notify the TIST staff so that it can be corrected.

When we work together, in payments and in the rest of our work in TIST, we can have great success.

## **TIST SMALL GROUP MEETINGS: ACHIEVE MORE TOGETHER.**

**By Katungi Asaph, Nyakabingo Tpg Mitooma.**

TIST meetings are good. They help to bring us together to work with one heart to achieve a common goal.

I like the meetings of our small group at the village level. When we meet, we make our own observations and decisions which help to promote us to another level in development. We review the work we have done and discuss matters concerning our small group.

The meetings are mutually scheduled. Each member has a chance to chair the meeting, hence practicing rotational leadership. At the end of each meeting, we build up the leader and co-leader of the day.

In our small group meeting, we try to visit our members and look at what they have done, to see their Conservation Farming, nursery bed preparation, thinning and pruning of trees, and sometimes to work together cleaning our groves and making fire lines around our tree groves.

In the meetings, we learn and discuss whether all of our tree groves have been quantified and if not, we alert the quantifiers to do it. We again come to know whether we have been paid and if not, we visit the TIST office and get information from them.

During our meetings, we train each other. Those of us who have skills in one area share those skills and strengths with others so we may all learn from each other. We have learned a lot and we encourage all the small groups in our area to carry out meetings. They do help.

Before we go for cluster meetings, we attend small group meetings for the good of our small groups. Let all small groups have meetings. You will really see a difference. God bless you.

## **TIST HELPED ME START MY BUSINESS AND HELP OTHER TIST FARMERS.**

**By Kano, Fff Kashenyi.**

We have realised that TIST can play an important role in helping us start up business ventures.

The tree incentive I get from my TIST trees has acted as my start up capital for my enterprise. I have now started processing mango juice drink, am selling it and getting income to support my family.

I have been able to start up a fruit processing enterprise to make juice drinks from mangoes, oranges and paw paws. I use mangoes from my grove and others from TIST farmers.

I practice Conservation Farming which has increased on my harvest.

I have enough food for my family and the surplus harvest from conservation farming is sold to increase my income.

TIST has brought joy to my family, neighbours and friends. It has helped me start a business that provides a market for fruit from other TIST farmers, and so help them as well. My business now also provides income for those I have employed in my enterprise, so they also get some money for their well being.

I am really grateful to TIST because it has improved my standard of living. I encourage everybody to grow fruit trees, especially mangoes, oranges and paw paws. My enterprise is in position to buy these fruits from your groves, and I will work with you to transport your fruit from your home to my processing center.

Long live TIST!

Let's all plant more indigenous trees and fruit trees, practice Conservation Farming, and to use organic manure. We shall put in less and harvest more.

## **PREVENT SOIL EROSION: SAVE YOUR LAND!**

**By Kasigwa, Kyanamira Hilltop Farmer Gr, Kabale.**

Soil erosion is the removal of the fertile, productive, upper surface of the land from one place to another. For example, topsoil is washed out from a hillside into a river in heavy rain. When we lose this soil from our farms, our harvest can suffer for years to come. What can we do?

The most important factor causing soil erosion is poor farming practices. When people cultivate land without taking care to use good methods of farming, for example, when we till on steep hills and riverbanks and leave soil bare, then rainfall can wash the good topsoil away.

Another cause of erosion is grazing too many cattle or sheep in a small area. When animals graze the same

area for a long time, they always break the layer of the soil into small particles. They can destroy the grass, bush, and trees that hold the soil with their roots. This makes it easy for the topsoil particles on the surface to be carried away by water or wind.

There are good measures to protect our land from the danger of soil erosion. First, when you are preparing your farm, do not remove or burn dead weeds. Instead, you can divide your farm into portions of 30 to 35 meters and arrange the residues from one side of the farm to the other side, making terraces against the slope. Then take the soil and put on top of the residues to make the terraces again. These terraces can slow water running down the hill and catch soil.

Another way is to put some residues between lines of crops. Also remember that the farm needs to have 30% of residues remaining in order to decompose and improve soil fertility.

This method of making terraces works in other areas to prevent soil erosion as well.

On top of the terraces, you may plant trees 5 to 10 meters apart so that when they grow, the roots may hold the soil and keep it from being taken away by running water. The number of terraces to make depends on the size of your farm. You may put one terrace each 30 to 35 meters, or closer on a steep slope.

TIST conservation Farming methods also are a good method, since you do not till the soil. A live fence of trees around a field, or row of trees or uncultivated land within your fields can also slow soil erosion.

For the problem of over-grazing, it is better for livestock keepers to keep the animals contained for zero-grazing, or to reduce the number of animals that go on the land.

Protect your land and share your best practices with other TIST farmers to keep Uganda green and productive.

## OKUREEBERERA EMITI:

### OBUJUNANIZIBWA BWAITU.

#### By Rukunyu Tutungukye Group.

Itwe bamemba ba TIST aba Rukunyu Tutungukye turi bamwe omuriza gurtuupu ezitandikirweho juba.

- Kwiha nituza omukigombe tutungiremu ebintu bingi kurabira omukutendekwa.
- Ekyokureeberaho tuhingire emiti maingi haihi emirundi eshatu. Ekikitumire twahinga emiti haihi ebicweka 300 ahari 100 omumisiri yaitu.
- Kurigirira omumishomo eyitutungire hamwe no'kubagana amakuru gemihingire mirungi namunonga omukuhinga obusiri obwemiti obukye hamwe n'okuhinga emiti.
- Omukubanza tukabatutafira hakubyara emiti, kandi ekikabakigirectera yaayoma ekirimito. Hati okwegyesibwa okutwatungire cyane TIST twegire Kureeberera emiti kuruga omubuto kuhisya ekuzire. Omunimwe hari okugihya emyanya kurigirira ahabika byayo, nk'obutaza hansi yamita 2, okugyomberera, n'okugisharira nabyo nibimwe ahandeberera nungi y' emiti otaire honokugireeberera ngu etakwatswa obukooko n'ezindi ndwara.
- Okwongyera ahakubyara emiti, ebigombe byaitu nibihinga birukurinda orweezo omwitaka. Okuhinga n'okukurinda orweezo nigumwe aha mihingire y'omutindo eri kuretera ebihingwa bya yerakuruga ahaitaka rikye.