**At Glance**

- Environment Minister impressed by Conservation farming.
- TIST: Local Community and Economic Development.
- USAID tours TIST small groups projects.
- District Commissioner praises TIST program.
- Best Small Groups and Field Office attend the 7th TIST-Kenya seminar.
- Kinyaritha office: Serving beyond borders.
- Chugu office: Growing bigger.
- Lamuria office: Harnessing our potential.
- Narumoro office: Aiming higher.
- Poems.

---

**Kimeru Translation**

**Kwa Matemo**

- Minista wa kumenyeera nthiguru akenetue mono na urimi bubwega.
- TIST niikurita ngugi ndene gukuria nthiguru kiri biashara.
- Anene ba USAID yariungira murandi jwa TIST.
- DC wa Meru akenua ni murandi jwa TIST.
- Ikundi biria biega bia TIST bieta semina ya mugwanja ya TIST Kenya.
- Ofisi ya Kinyaritha kurita ngugi miankene ya kuraja.
- Ofisi ya Chugu yakura nkuruki.
- Ofisi ya Lamuria kwongera inya.
- Ofisi ya Naromoru kwoona kabere.
- Mantu ja Ngai.
Best Small Groups and Field Office members attend the 7th TIST-Kenya seminar.

The 7th TIST-Kenya seminar was held at Gitoro conference center between 13th-18th November 2006. Participants were drawn from the best new and original small groups and the field office members. Twenty existing best small groups sent two representatives each; five new best small groups sent five representatives each whilst the five field offices had three representatives each. The US-TIST team with help of TIST-Kenya staff led the facilitation.

The key seminar goal was to improve the TIST Kenya program and to learn the best ideas from the reports presented by all the participating groups and field offices.

Participants of the seminar discussed issues including: the best ways to pay the small groups; how to make the program sustainable through the greenhouse gas business with special consideration of how many acres of land and the number of trees a small group should have within a five year duration to be sustainable and how to ensure that small groups are quantified and get their payments in good time.

Semina Ya Ikundi Binini Bia TIST.


Mworoto ja semina iji jwari jwa kuumba kumenya mantu jamgega ja TIST kuumania na ripoti cia ikundi biria biega na Ofisi cia TIST. Semina ni yaririe njira iria njega ciagutetheria kuria ikundi bietu na mpui na kuthithia biashara ya ruo na kumenyeera muinda iria tuumba kuanda miti ndene ya miaka itano iria iijite na uria ikundi biumba gutariwa miti yao na mpui na kagiita kanini.
The seminar noted that for the green house gas to be sustainable and profitable, it is fundamentally important that small groups should have adequate land to plant a minimum 1,000 trees per every year and that 3000-5000 trees was the minimum a small group should have. It was observed that several registered groups do not have access to enough land to achieve the above target, hampering the program efforts to provide the required tones of carbon for the business.

Participants discussed this issue in length. Small groups were formed in the seminar to generate the best ideas. Each group came up with solutions that were discussed in the seminar.

The seminar was graced by the presence of Meru Central District Commissioner, Mr. Chege Mwangi, who praised the program for having worked extremely well in mitigating the environmental crisis in the area.

A representative of USAID, a partial funder of the TIST Kenya program, also visited. The USAID Chief Technical Officer, Ms. Wairimu Mungai, addressed the seminar. Ms. Wairimu commended the best groups who have succeeded well in conservation farming, development of improved stoves/jikos and in tree planting. A report of her tour visit is given elsewhere in this newsletter.

Kagiiita ka semina iji munene wa USAID Ms Wairimu Mwangi na kunire mono ni mantu jaria TIST ithithite kiri urimi bubwega, kuthithia mariko na uandi bwa miti.

Nitwombire kuriungirwa kinya ni Mr. Eric kuuma naaria Toronto Canada na ethagirwa ari umwe wa antu baria bathithagia biashara ya rua na ni mucoore wa Mr Ben Henneke.
Other visitors who graced the seminar included Mr. Eric Haite from Toronto, Canada. Eric is an expert in GHG business and an associate to Ben Henneke. He said he was able to visit small groups and was so pleased with the best practices they were using e.g. conservation farming and tree planting. He hopes all small groups will continue doing the same and especially on recruiting and training of other people. He believes in leading by example. This is where people who know how to be successful set the example in TIST. Mr. Charlie Williams, CAAC vice president, also addressed the participants. He said that he was so pleased to meet so many people who were familiar. He emphasized on the importance of Best Small Groups taking the lead in showing others on the best practices.

**TIST: Local Community and Economic Development**

There was much discussion at the recent TIST Seminar about the TIST Program as a business not a charity. To this point, TIST Kenya has received both business and donor funding. If further donor funding can be found, it will bring more opportunities to TIST, but for the TIST program to be sustainable, it needs to be a business.

The seminar participants talked about what they have received from the program such as their trees, conservation farming, best practices, establishing tree nurseries, better environmental conservation, making improved stoves, rotating leadership, gwakana, groups networking with other partners and friends through TIST, as well as other benefits. Each member of the TIST small groups will always have these benefits.
The program trains people on sustainable development activities so that they may continue to reap benefits for long-term duration. For instance, farmers in Mt Kenya area have been planting trees for income and have also been trained on conservation farming. This has resulted in an increased harvest thus alleviating the famine in the area.

Ms. Susan Muita, a farmer in Meru central says of Conservation Farming, “Since I started practicing conservation farming two years ago, I am now able to feed my family and sell the surplus maize. Initially, I used to harvest one bag of maize on my land but now I harvest 8 bags. I am grateful for having been taught this farming practice. TIST also taught me how to make compost manure such that I do not use fertilizer any more’.

TIST also works towards providing long-term revenue for the Small Group participants through the sale of greenhouse gas credits (GhG). Small groups of 6 –12 members are recruited, registered and then trained on tree nursery management, tree planting and grove management. As the trees grow, each group receives a stipends for every live tree after every four months. However, the farmers are expected to retain their trees for sixty years and above so that they can significantly reduce the carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere.
Farmers can also increase their income and yields through production of fruits and other tree products.

Another health related and cost saving measure the program has introduced is the development of improved stoves / jikos. These jikos are made in such a way that they consume less firewood, thereby saving considerably fuel cost and significantly reducing pressure on trees planted in the surrounding areas. In addition, the stoves are smoke free, venting the smoke outside the cooking area with chimneys. This can considerably reduce lung infection diseases caused through inhaling the smoke. Consequently, medical costs can be reduced and production of good and services can increase as there are fewer illnesses.

The program has also incorporated HIV/AIDS awareness programs. This is geared towards supplementing the government and other agencies efforts in arresting this scourge.

TIST empowers small group members to reverse the devastating effects of deforestation, drought and famine. TIST creates a long-term structure for local community and economic development that responds to the sustainable development goals developed by the participants. By their actions they are addressing and surmounting the challenges they face.
District Commissioner praises TIST program

“The TIST program has done extremely well in mitigating the environmental crisis in Meru Central and other areas,” says the Meru District Commissioner, Mr. Chege Mwangi.

Mr. Mwangi was addressing TIST program participants during a seminar held at Gitoro Conference Center. He commended the program for having worked tirelessly in planting trees. He regretted that the area has for the past two decades been deforested thereby subjecting it into frequent dry spells. He said that this has resulted in famine in an area that was previously a prime producer of agricultural products.

He said deforestation has resulted in soil erosion from highlands to the coast and hence making soil infertile. However, he expressed optimism with the program and urged them to cooperate with other like-minded groups or organizations.

He pledged to provide TIST program small groups with seedlings which he said are meant to be planted in public schools compounds. He extended the same offer to groups outside Meru Central district saying that drought, if it were to happen, knows no boundaries.

DC Wa Meru Central Akenua Na Ekiira Murandi Jwa TIST.


DC ni augire kuriika miti nigutumite muthetu kuuma rutere rwa irima jukamatwe l ruuji mwanka nteere cia iria kwondia muthetu. Naonanire wirigiro bwa murandi jwa Tist na abeera bagwatanire na ikundi bingi bia mirandi tai u.

Niaugire akaa ikundi binini bia TIST miti ya nursery kenda yaandwa bienine bia cukuuru cia thirikaari.

Niaugire akejana utethio buu kinya kiri ikundi bia ome ya District ya Meru ya gatigati akiugaga ati gukara kwaaga mbura gutilragia mianka.
Kinyaritha office: Serving beyond borders

Our Kinyaritha office is strategically located at the border of Meru North and Meru Central district, thereby serving the two districts effectively.

Currently, we have registered 400 small groups whom we have trained on conservation farming, tree nursery management, tree planting and created awareness on HIV/AIDS scourge.

We have taken advantage of the current short – rains in planting trees and replacing those which dried up during the last drought season.

In Meru North, a number of small groups had planted eucalyptus trees but we are now encouraging them to plant indigenous tree such as Muringa, Munguani, Mugumo, Muangwa, Mutero e.t.c. Eucalyptus trees consume a lot of water from the soil, about 40 litres per day, thereby draining the soil of moisture and hampering the growth of other crops.

We have continued to train farmers on conservation farming. This season 19 acres of maize have been put into conservation farming. The crop is doing well compared to others planted in traditional way.

Our office members have benefited from National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Program (NALEP) meetings, which they have been attending and they have gained skills on other best farming practices.

The local lower Imenti forester has provided us with a space where we hold weekly meetings and keep our records.
Recently, we accompanied a USAID representative, Ms. Wairimu Mungai, to some small group projects. Also attending was Mrs. Vanessa Henneke from the Institute For Environmental Innovation (I4EI). The visit included Kaithe self-help group, which has practiced conservation farming, tree nurseries and tree planting. They also visited Intra-Com youth group who create awareness on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

**Chugu office: Growing bigger**

Our Chugu office has worked tirelessly to extend the TIST program to distanced areas such as Meru south, Tharaka, Chuka and Embu.

Currently, we are working in hand in hand with the trainers and the best small groups to revive the dormant registered groups and also recruiting new groups.

The best small groups under our office have taken an active role in training and recruiting new groups. This has helped us to expand our services to communities in other areas within a short time.

![Best practice: One of the tree nurseries practices being conducted by the small groups.](image)

**Njira injega: miti iri nasarine**

The best small groups under our office have taken an active role in training and recruiting new groups. This has helped us to expand our services to communities in other areas within a short time.

**Ofisi ya Chugu: Ikunenea**

Ofisi yetu ya chugu nigeretie mono gukinyithia murandia jwa TIST ruteere rwa Meru South, Tharaka, Chuka na Embu. Gunu guku nikuwagirwa gwi kuraaja mono kuuma naria ofisi cia TIST iri.

Nandi itugwita ngugi na arimu ba TIST na ikundi biria biega bia TIST na kureeta ikundi bibieru. Itugwita ngugi na inya gukiria ikundi biri bitithingataga watho bwa TIST.

Ikundi biria biega bia TIST ibie ngugi e kuiriana na kuandikithia ikundi bibieru. Ituumbite gutambwa utethio bwetu kiri ntuura inyingi igiitene rikai.
Recently, a USAID representative visited groups under our office and was impressed by efforts being put by the small groups in areas of conservation farming, tree nursery management and tree planting. Groups that she and others visited included Giantune Aki, Mukiao and others in Kithoka area.

At the moment, we are making payments to the small groups, an achievement we value highly. For now, the small groups have started to reap the benefits of Greenhouse gas business.

So far we have quantified 58% of the registered small groups. We expect to achieve a higher percentage by the end this year.

**Naromoru office: Aiming higher**

We, the Naromoru office, have made a tremendous achievement during the month of November 2006. We have recruited an additional 19 new small groups. We were able to achieve this because of the cooperation and assistance from the Best Small Groups.

During the same month, a US team which included Mr. and Mrs. Henneke visited our core areas of operations. They provided us with helpful information on the TIST program and we were encouraged to learn that the TIST impact stretches beyond the current generation.

Kagita gatikurukite mono gikundi gia USAID ikiariungiire ikundi bia TIST na ibagwirirue mono I ngugi iri igwitwa ni ikundi bia TIST naria bakuthithia urimi bubwega, umenyeri bwa nasari ya miti na uandi bwa miti. Ikundi bia Giantune, Aki, Mukiao ni ikundi bimwe bia Kithoka biria gikundi kia USAID kiarungiire.

Kugwirua gwetu I kurea ikundi bia TIST na niu tukuthithia nandi. Ikundi biu ibiambiritie koona mawega ja biashara ya Green house Gas.

Nandi itutariite 58% ya miti iria yaandi ni ikundi bia TIST. Mwaka jukithira itwirigirite kwithira twina miti imiingi nkuruki ya ii.

**Ofisi ya Naromoro: Wirigiiro Buunene**

Batwi twi ba ofisi ya Naromoru ituthithitie mantu jamanene ndene ya mweri jwa November 2006. Itwandikithitie ikundi 19 bibieru. Jaa jonthe jau mbithitue I kwona utethio na ngwataro injega kuuma kiri ikundi bia BSG.

O mwerine o juu jwa November gikundi kia US kia Mr na Mrs Henneke igiatriungiire mono mono naria twitaira ngugi ikundine bietu bia TIST. Ibatwirire mantu jamega ya murandi jwa TIST na itwagire moyo kumenya ati TIST iri na maisha miaka imiinge mono iria ikeeja kinya nthuki li yathira.
We are also pleased for having hosted some delegates who were attending the recently concluded global conference on climate change in Nairobi. The visitors were led by the CAAC vice president, Mr. Charlie Williams. Among the small groups visited were those in Mureru area.

We feel honoured for being visited by this team. We had an opportunity to share with them some of the best practices we have been implementing in our field office and small groups such as rotational and servant leadership.

We are indeed grateful. We pray that all may all succeed in their endeavors.

Lamuria office: Harnessing our potential

We the Lamuria office take this chance to express our gratitude to the US team lead by Mr. Ben Henneke who is also the president of CAAC for having visited us during the month of November 2006.

We were encouraged by their motivational discussions with us and agree with them that our area has a lot of potential. We are currently encouraging the small groups to practice conservation farming. We have observed that conservation farming brings more yields than traditional farming. This we believe will help alleviate poverty.

We also had some visitors from Nairobi, who were attending the recently concluded conference on climate change. They were impressed by the best practices we have put in place such as conservation farming, Tree planting and Tree nursery management.

Itwagwirirwe kuriungirwa ni team iu. Itwonere kagiita gakeega kubonia mantu jamwe jamega jathithagua ni TIST ndene ya offisi ciao na kiri ikundi biao ta uria utongeria bwa kuthiurukaga na uthumba.

Itugucokia nkaatho inyingi mono na kuromba boombane kiri mantu jao jonthe.

Ofisi ya Lamuria: Itugutumira inya iria turi nayo

Twi ofisi ya lamuria itugucokia nkaatho kiri gikundi kia US kiria gitongeretue ni Mr. Ben uria uri president wa CAAC. Itwagwirirwe mono ni utu bwa guturiungira mwerine jwa November 2006.

Rwaria rwetu nabo nirwatwikiire inya mono tontu bwa gutumenyithia ati guntu gwetu kwina utonga bubwingi. Itugwikira ikundi bietu bia TIST moyo kenda bathiithia urimi bubwega tontu iburetaga maciara jaumungu kiri urimi buu bungi. Itugwitikia ukia bukathira mantu jau jonthe jathithua.

Ageni bangi kuuma mucemanio jwa climate juria jwari Nairobi ibaturiungire na bagwirua mono I mantu jamega jaria TIST ithithagia tontu urimi bubwega, uandi bwa miti na kumenyera nasari ya miti.
Environment Minister impressed by Conservation farming

Environment and Natural resources Minister, Prof. Kivutha Kibwana expressed gratitude for efforts being carried out by the TIST program in alleviation of poverty and famine through its sustainable food security program. Prof. Kibwana was impressed by conservation farming practice being introduced by the program to the farmers in Mt. Kenya region.

The Minister was touring a TIST program stand during the recent concluded conference on climate change held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi.

Charlie Williams, the Vice president of Clean Air Action Corporation (CAAC) and Mr. Charles Ibeere, a member of the TIST program introduced the Minister and other guests to the program projects. These included tree nursery management and planting, conservation farming, development of health and cost saving improved stoves and HIV/AIDS prevention and advocacy programs.

Since the program introduced conservation farming, many farmers have doubled their yields. Many farmers testify that they now have surplus food which they sell in the market.

The Minister who is also a member of parliament in Makueni constituency of Ukambani region said that in the near future he would visit TIST projects.

Minista wa mantu jaria jaturigicirite naagwirirue Urimi Bubwega

Minista wa mantu jaria jaturigicite Prof. Kivutha Kibwana naagwirirue mantu jaria murandi jwa TIST jukuthithia kuthiria ukia na waagi bwa mbura. Murandi jwa TIST ijwikitie mantu jao tontu urimi bubwega kiri arimi ba ruteere rwa Mt. Kenya.

Minista uu ategaira biria tist ereteete mucemanione jwa climate juria jurari ofisine cia UNEP Nairobi.

Minista uu na ageni bau bangi bamenyithanirue ni Mr Charlie Williams tawe Vice president wa Clean Air Action Corporation (CAAC) na Mr. Charles Ibeere mumemba wa TIST kiri murandi jwa TIST. Mantu jaria boonerue I umenyeeri bwa nasari ya miti, uandi bwa miti, uandi bwa miti, kuthithia riiko ritina goro na riutumira nku inkai na kurigiiria mukingo.

Kuuma riria urimi bubwega bwambiriure arimi babaingi ibongerete maciara ja miunda yao.Barina biakuria bibingi biria bendagia.

Minista uu niwe mubunge wa constituency ya makueni iria iri ruteere rwa ukambani. Naugire ntuku iti kuraaja akariunga mirandine ya TIST.
USAID tours TIST small groups projects

On 15th November 2006, a technical officer, Ms. Wairimu Mungai, from USAID visited several groups under the TIST program. In company were Mrs. Vannesa Henneke and Mr. Joshua Irungu. Mrs. Susan Muita, a quantifier, led them to the groups.

Among the groups visited included Murega, Kamithaga A and Mukiao small groups.

In the morning hours, the team visited Murega small group. They were conducted through the conservation farming. They in particular visited Mzee Mputia who has practiced conservation farming and has planted six different species of trees in his farm.

The team also visited Ms. Joyce, a member of Kamithaga A, who has adopted newly introduced improved and modified stoves / jikos and has adopted water harvesting techniques. She has planted three different species of maize in her shamba under conservation farming which are doing very well.

In the afternoon, Mr. Joshua Irungu, a director of the TIST program, joined in and the team proceeded to Katheri area within Meru central where they visited Mukiao group. This group has done exceptionally well having all its 12 members practiced conservation farming which is promising better yields. Also, the group has significant number of seedlings in their tree nursery.

USAID bariungira ikundi bia TIST


Gikundi kiu kiarungiire gikundi kia Murega mbere ya thaa thita cia muthenyana naria boonirue mantu ja urimi bubwega. Bariungiire Mukuru Mputia uria uthithagia urimi bubwega na aandite mithemba itanthatu ya miti muundene jwa we.

For TIST Kenya:
Joshua Irungu, Director of Administration
P.O. Box 1508, Nanyuki, KENYA
Phone: +254-724-255-369 / Email: joshuah@tist.org
So far, they have planted 578 trees of different special in a public land donated by the area district officer. The group also caters for terminally ill patients especially HIV positive patients and also children orphaned by HIV/ Aids and vulnerable children too. Currently, the group is providing support for 150 children.

Poems

In Search of an Answer

Aids ooh Aids
Where is your hope?
We are all finished.
And our strength has gone.
Two decades have passed.
And our memory is fading away.
PROBABLY.

There will be no return,
Generations are dying.
Because of this disease.
Which is killing.
Aids, do you have mercy?
UNFORTUNATELY.

It can’t be bribed
Rich people with money are also dying.
Doctors, Teachers and Students are no exception.
And to make the matter worse,
Our parents are deteriorating!
Aids, do you have mercy?
ISITOSHE

Orphans are the topic in the world
Everywhere you go children
Have no parents because of you Aids!
Aids, do you have mercy?

Everywhere you pass by
Burials are being attended
You here people singing …
Riria choro wa mwathani…
Aids, where is your hope?
Do you have mercy?
ABSTAINANCE IS THE ONLY CURE!

By, Lucy Muita
Kamithagara C Small group

Gikundi kii kina miti imingi nasarine yao.
Nandi ibaandite miti 578 ya mithemba
mianya muundene jwa thirikari juria
munene wa district eejanire. Gikundi kiu
kimenyagiira aacie ba murimo jwa
mukingo na kinya aana baria baete
ntigwa niuntu bwa murimo jwa mukingo
na aana baria baumite nja itiguciumba.
Gikundi kiu nadi igikumeenyeera aana
150.

Mbugwa

Gucwa macokio

Mukingo ooh mukingo
Bwiku wirigiro bwaku
Tukuthira
Na inya yetu ikuthira
Miaka mirongo iiri ikuthira
Mathuganio jetu ijakuthira Mbuga!

Guti mucooko
Nciarwa niikuthira
Niuntu bwa murimo juu
Juu jukuuraga
Mukingo, wina kiao?
Mbaati imbii

Itiumba gukukumwa
Kinya itonga bia mbeca na mathuganio ibigukua
Daktari, Arimu na Aritwa batutigwa.
Na kwigia mantu,
Kinya aciari betu nobakuthira
Mukingo, wina kiao?
Na nkuruki

Twana ntigwa itu rwaria ruria rukwarua
Onaria kunthe ugwitira twana
Batina aciari niuntu bwa mukingo
Mukingo, wina kiao?
Onaria kunthe ugwitira
No mathiko jakuthithua
Antu bakiinaga….
Riria coro ya mwathani…
Mukingo,bwiku wirigiro bwaku
Wina kiao?
Ndawa ni kurega umaramari!

Mwandiki Lucy Muita
Kamithagara C BSG
Carbon gas is all over,
Smoke from industries and moving vehicles,
Day in day out,
The earth is getting hotter and hotter
Who is there to save us?

We didn’t know it,
Nor did we dream about it,
Did we think of it? No.
But there was somebody thinking about it
Yes the carbon harvesting business.

TIST is her name
The International small groups and Tree planting Program
Not long that she came to the face of Africa
And finally to Kenya
To relieve her agony

Conservation farming, another achievement,
High yields to feed and cater for our families
And not forgetting energy saving jikos
To protect and preserve our environment.

TIST you have brought hope
We can now imagine of a great future
Full of fresh air and great satisfaction
Yes, a Greenland Kenya
Who can pay you for this?
We support you TIST
And God bless you TIST.

By Eunice Wambui,
Narumoro Field Office

---

Ruuo routhuku ruujurite kunthe
Togi kuuma kiri macini na ngari iria ciitite
Ntuku cionthe
Nthiguru iniita na mbere kugwata mwanki
Nuu ugatutethia?

Tutaiji
Kinya tutamirotera
Turamithuganiria?Ari.
Indi kuri na muntu wamithuganairia.
Li biashara ya ruo.

Riitwa riawe ni ni TIST
The international Small group Tree planting Program.
Ti kuraja niejire kwona Africa.
Na mwishone yeeja Kenya.
Kubutethia kuumania na thiina.

Urimi bubwega ni untu bungi
Maketha jamaingi jakurera na kumenyera nja cietu
Na tuti kurirua ni mariko jaria jatumagira nku inkai.
Kumenyera na gukaria nthiguru yetu.

TIST ni uretete weru.
Ni tukuthuganira maisha ja nyumene
Yjurite ruo rututhuru na na nyiro
Li, Kenya injega
Nuu umba kuria mantu jaja
Ni tugwikira TIST inya.
Ngai agutethie TIST.

Mwandiki ni Eunice Wambui
Ofisi ya Naromoru.