



# THE TREE

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## TIST Uganda October. 2013 News letter

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

### OKUKORA KWAITU

TIST n'elogombe ekyehaireyo kwimutsya omufindo gwabahingi aba henshi kirikubonyeramu amaani gokurwanisa okucwekyerezebwa kw'ebibara, okwejuna obwono nekyenda kitan kyaburijo.

### EBIGYENDERERWA BYAITU

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

### PREFACE

- ▶ TRY THIS! LIQUID MANURE PLUS NATURAL PESTICIDE
- ▶ CONSERVATION FARMING AND HOW TO MAKE COMPOST MANURE
- ▶ FOLLOW THESE SMALL GROUP BEST PRACTICES TO ACHIEVE BIG THINGS!
- EBIROMUNDA
- ▶ GYEZAHO ORWEEZO RWENKARI NOMUBAZI GW'EBIKOOKO GW'OBUIANGWA.
- ▶ OKUKORA ORWEEZO.
- ▶ AHABWENKI TUSHEMEREIRE KUBAGARA EMISIRI Y'EMITI YAITU
- ▶ MUKURATIRE EMITWARIZE
- ▶ URUNGI YA ZA GURUUPU

## EIHURIRE RYO KWIKUMI 2013

### OCTOBER 2013 NEWSLETTER.

#### EDITORS MESSAGE.

It is now maize, beans, sorghum and other annual crops weeding. Make sure weeding is done timely. On top keep in mind planting indigenous trees of different species as agreed in our trainings to clean our environment.

Ara.

#### OBUTUMWA BWA EDITA.

Egi nshumi neibagara ryebihimba, ebicoori, omugusha nebindi bihingwa bya buri mwaka mureebe ngu mwayoombera mwaheza omubwire buhikire.

Obwo muteebirwe nokugumizamu nimubyara emiti yenzarwa nkoku twaikirii zeine omumishomo yaitu kushemeza obuhangwa bwensi yaitu.

Ara.

## **TRY THIS! LIQUID MANURE PLUS NATURAL PESTICIDE**

I have legumes in my banana plantation and I use liquid manure to prevent the spread of some diseases and pests.

### **Liquid manure composition:**

The liquid manure is made of urine, pepper, tobacco, and ash in the following way:

- 1 plastic mug of pepper
- 1 plastic mug of tobacco
- 1 plastic mug of crushed ash

### **Preparation:**

Mix the above ingredients to 20 liters of urine and let them stay for 14 days. By this the time, the mixture will have decomposed. Add two jerry cans of water, and then filter for application to the banana plantation.

### **Application:**

Spraying of this component to sword sucker, and is very important for controlling banana weevils and other insects that affect the plants. This manure is also used in orchards for spraying of fruits to control pests and diseases and as it goes down to the roots, it feeds the plant as liquid manure. It is valuable both as a natural pesticide and to feed the plants as organic fertilizer. I have also used this to increase yield in market gardening, fruit growing and in banana plantations.

I give this testimony to my fellow TIST members to apply. I have found it to be one good way to control pests and diseases in

damp and humid conditions in our agricultural lands.

Let us work together for better yields!

By Enoch Tumwebaze, Training Coordinator

## **CONSERVATION FARMING AND HOW TO MAKE COMPOST MANURE**

Agriculture is the art or science of rearing animals, plants, fungi, fiber, products to sustain life and other life forms for food. The practice of Conservation Farming, where we do not till the land but instead leave the soil undisturbed and enrich soil in the holes where plant crops with compost manure. This practice benefits farmers and the land and subsistence farmers implement it wherever TIST emerges.

Some farmers say Conservation Farming on land is a luxury and cannot be managed by a poor man, but in Uganda, we are lucky. What I saw in Kenya shows that this is not true. The organization of the Small Group efforts makes it easy for the farmer to use conservation farming. Without using Conservation Farming the poor man will remain poor, lagging behind, and get poorer as soils degrade and erode away.

We are using Conservation Farming to conserve our soil and increase the natural fertility in the soil. Many families practice it to grow seasonal crops to support their families. Farmers in TIST come together to plant trees, but also share and develop other Best Practices like Conservation Farming as they consider the nature of their land.

Using our local materials for compost manure is of great value. The farmer collects weeds, kitchen refuse, the seasonal crop remains and animal dung, especially that of cows, goats, pigs, rabbits and chickens. Conservation Farming makes soil better year after year, increasing yields. It is said that over 10 years, the compost pits will serve the farmer with good yields.

### How to make a compost pit with rich compost manure:

- The compost pits are dug 4 feet wide by 4 feet long by 2 feet deep. Add the organic matter above to the pit. Then, chop dry sticks into small pieces and place these chopped pieces as the 1<sup>st</sup> layer in the pit hole.
- Next, add dried grass also cut into small pieces of 3-5cm.
- Add the 3<sup>rd</sup> layer of animal droppings, then add dried grass, and put on the top a layer of ash and cover thinly.
- Always add water, at least 20 liters, two times a week. Water helps the microbes that break down the organic material into good compost. It also keeps the pile from getting too hot and catching fire.
- After a month, turn this compost out into another pit, mixing it well, and add a thin layer of ashes, then topsoil to cover.
- When the second month is over, mix and turn it to another compost pit, and leave it for a month. In three months time, your manure is ready for crops.

You can use the pit many times, so when you transfer the manure from the first to the second pit, you can start making new compost manure in the first hole. This way, you will have a good supply of manure for your crops all year.

The compost manure supports agro forestry because it improves the soil for crops and trees, and leaves and other materials from trees may be used to enrich the compost. Growing diverse crops will support the subsistence farmer's family to get the right amount of foodstuffs and the surplus may be sold.

When I retired from teaching I had no idea how Conservation Farming worked until Ara and Rev. Enoch came into my village conveying the TIST program.

I am glad because TIST has improved most of the TIST group member's income in my area.

By Katungye Asaph, Nyakabingo Tree planting

### **WEED YOUR TREES! HERE'S WHY:**

During the recent Validation and Verification visit, the audit team noted something TIST farmers have known for years: trees groves that are well-tended and weeded have much better tree growth than groves that were poorly tended and choked with weeds. Trees in a well-tended grove were often twice as big as trees of the same age!

#### Weeding is important for these reasons:

- Your seedlings need water, soil nutrients, and light to grow strong. The weeds will use the soil nutrients and water that your seedlings need. Weeds grow fast and limit the light to your trees, which become stunted or grow thin with weak trunks as they try to reach the light. The result is weaker seedlings and may not survive.
- If your area is not weeded, more pests will be attracted to the area and can damage or kill your seedlings. The fewer weeds there are the less chance of snakes and insects.
- When weeds become dry and die, they make fires spread to your grove causing more damage and are dangerous because they provide fuel for the fire to burn.

#### 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. This will attract many people to come and see your work.
- Clean groves enable quantifiers to count the trees quickly and accurately.

We encourage you to weed your groves. The hard work will make a difference - your trees will be healthier and stronger.

By Agaba Denis, Quantifier Bushenyi

## **FOLLOW THESE SMALL GROUP BEST PRACTICES TO ACHIEVE BIG THINGS!**

TIST Small Groups should be between 6-12 people. With fewer than six people, you may not get as many good ideas, or it may be harder for you to achieve your TIST goals. With more than 12 people, it is more difficult for everyone to feel included. It may be difficult for everyone to share their ideas or to listen properly and it is more difficult to find a time and place to meet together that works for everyone.

It is generally better if group members are not from just two or three different families.

Family groups may find it more difficult to rotate leadership and divide work tasks fairly. If the groups are friends or work together in other ways, it is easier for all members to share ideas freely and work together equally.

### **Rotating Leadership**

With Rotating Leadership, each group member takes a turn to lead and co-lead the group meeting. There is no single leader. Rather, the responsibility is equally shared among everybody.

### **Rotating Leadership has many benefits:**

Each person has different ways of leading, and each person has different gifts to share. Rotating the leadership means group members can all learn from each other about leadership.

If everyone is supportive and encouraging, even shy group members will have the chance to grow in confidence and leadership abilities. We are able to learn something from everyone.

Rotating leadership also reduces the stress of one person being responsible all the time.

The responsibility is equally shared with no one person overly burdened or tired by the job.

Rotating the leadership means there will be fewer problems if one person likes to dominate the conversation and will be in charge all the time.

### **Servant Leadership**

The leader is a servant because he or she should put the other group members first.

- The leader should be humble, patient, accepting and honest.
- The leader should show the same acceptance and respect for every group member, regardless of what they do outside the group.
- The leader should speak very little!
- He or she should encourage all members to share their ideas and have the chance to speak.
- Leaders should make sure they properly listen to the group members, and encourage people when they have made a contribution.
- Don't pretend you know all the answers!
- Even if you do know the answer, it is better to let the group discuss the question themselves. If someone asks a question, offer it to the rest of the group to discuss. For example, say 'Good question. What do others think?' or 'what do others feel?'.
- Try to recognize the gifts that each person brings, and to encourage them in the things they do well.
- Remember to share your own stories, strengths and weaknesses with the group.
- An honest, open leader makes others feel comfortable to share themselves.

By Millian Kyorimpa, Bushenyi Quantifier