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The TREE is a monthly newsletter Published by TIST Uganda, a project area of The International Small Group and Tree Planting Program.

Mission statement:

TIST Uganda is a community initiative dedicated to empowering small groups of subsistence farmers to combat the devastating effects of deforestation, poverty and drought.

Objective statement:

Combining sustainable development with carbon sequestration, TIST supports the reforestation efforts of over 25,000 subsistence farmers. Sales of carbon credits generate participant income while TIST today also addresses agriculture, HIV/AIDS, nutrition and fuel wood challenges.

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HOW TO GRAFT MANGOES

Mangoes are fruit that are native to subtropical climates. They grow best in subtropical climates with high heat and humidity. In more temperate climates, mangoes are harder to raise and typically produce less fruit. While there are several ways to plant mangoes successfully, grafting is preferred by some gardeners, thanks to the plant's ability to transmit the genetics of an existing tree to a new tree that can grow successfully. The process of grafting a mango requires a bit of gardening skill and a plan.

1. Create rootstock growth using the seeds of a successful mango tree.

Water and fertilize the seed until growth occurs. Allow the new seedling stem to grow to a thickness of about 3/8 to 1 inch in diameter. If the seedling is green in color, without rot or disease, and it produces healthy leaves and buds, it will be useful as a rootstock. The proper age for rootstock is typically between 6 months and 1 year old.

2. Cut the rootstock off about 4 inches above the soil using a pair of very sharp pruning shears or a grafting knife.

Make the cut level, and avoid any damage to the stem below the cut. Use your grafting knife to split the remaining stem in half from the top down to about 1 inch above the surface of the soil.

3. Locate a scion, or new growth shoot, on an existing mango tree.

The scion should be taken from a successful tree that produces regular quality fruit and flowers. The scion should have a thickness equal to or slightly smaller than the rootstock to which it will be grafted and should have fresh buds and healthy leaves. Use your grafting knife to cut the scion from the tree.

4. **Cut the open end of the 5- to 6-inch-long scion in a wedge shape.** Slice away the bark along each side of the scion to create an angled point at the center. Slide the scion wedge into the slot you have cut in the rootstock so the respective cuts line up. Use your grafting tape to wrap the rootstock tightly to the scion so that all is held firmly in place.

5. **Place a plastic bag over the new graft from the top down, and tie it off at the bottom.** The bag protects the graft from insects and pests and provides a mini-greenhouse effect by raising the temperature and moisture levels. If the graft sits in direct sunlight, cover the plastic bag with a second paper bag for a bit of shade.

6. Remove the bags once the grafted tree has started growing, and remove the tape when the tree starts to produce new leaves. Water the grafted tree as you would a normal mango tree seedling.

Things You Will Need:

- Fertilizer
- Sharp pruning shears
- Grafting knife
- Grafting tape
- Plastic bag
- Paper bag
- Work gloves

***By Mugisha
Apex Agro farm and Nursery bed***



Mango trees ready for grafting at Apex Agro Farm and Nursery bed

CLUSTER LEADERS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY

Cluster Leaders, Co-leaders, and Accountability people serve for a period of 4 months. After 4 months of service, the Cluster leader rotates out. The Co-leader becomes the Leader while the Accountability person becomes the Co-leader.

Women and men alternate in the elections. If the Accountability Person is a man, the next one elected will be a woman. Your Cluster should democratically elect a new Accountability person. Leadership and Governance in your Cluster elections are important and mandatory for all TIST Clusters.

Description of Cluster Leadership Roles

Roles of a Leader:

1. Should be a servant to the whole cluster and exemplify TIST Values.
2. Leads/facilitates cluster activities; coordinates cluster meeting, quantification and training schedules with other servant leaders.
3. Motivates Groups to achieve big results, including planting trees and practicing CF. Helps the Cluster to remain strong and united
4. Helps plan for well-organized Cluster meetings with other servant leaders and making sure the meetings are properly led and trained.
5. Works with Accountability Person to ensure that Cluster Meeting and Accounting records are kept properly.
6. Works with Accountability Person to ensure monthly Cluster reports and Accounts reports are sent and are accurate.
7. Helps recruit more Small Groups to be registered.
8. Helps Small Groups have their Green House Gas contracts signed, scanned and uploaded
9. Welcomes and introduces any new visitor who might attend the meeting.
10. For payments: gets vouchers and other materials before cluster meeting. Works with Accountability Person to make sure the proper payment process is followed, and communicate any questions or problems to TIST leaders and Payment coordinators.
11. Reminds Small Group members of the next meeting.

Roles of a Co-leader:

1. Takes over when the leader is not there. A co-leader is to serve both the cluster members and the cluster leader.
2. Helps during Cluster Meetings in keeping time
3. Takes records during the cluster meeting
4. Reads the previous minutes to the meeting
5. Keeps record of the minutes and discussion held in the cluster
6. Helps train newly elected Accountability People

Roles of an Accountability Person:

1. Receives Cluster Budget and announces budget received and spent at each Cluster meeting.
2. Works with the Cluster to plan how to use the Cluster Budget to achieve big results.
3. Keeps and maintains Cluster records in an organized Cluster record book, accurately and in proper condition.
4. Allows inspection of Cluster Records by Cluster members and TIST leaders.
5. Sends both Monthly Cluster meeting and Accounting reports every month.
6. Trains the next accountability person
7. Helps and supports other servants to serve the Small Groups
8. During payments: hands out vouchers to groups with 2 members present, reviews vouchers, communicates with payment support coordinators, and follows the payment process accurately and honestly.



Rutoto Cluster members after training by Green Team in Ryeru

ENERGY COOK STOVE CONSTRUCTION

I am pleased to share this opportunity with people in the TIST program and the nearby communities. TIST program has been able to promote me as a cook stove builder and instructor and I was able to travel to various places to train people on how to build energy saving cook stoves. As a TIST small group member and trainer, I was able to gain skills about building energy saving cook stoves. I am now the lead training person in our Cluster and have trained other members on how to build the energy saving cook stoves. I also earn extra income from building and constructing energy saving cook stoves for people in my community. I thank TIST program in our community and in Uganda.

By, Annah Musiime

Kyandago Bakyara Kureberaho Small Group, Itembezo-Kanungu District



TIST Volunteer trainers after their training in Kanungu

WORKING TOGETHER IN A GROUP

Greetings to all TIST Small Group members! My name is Jane Rutashoberwa and I would like to thank the TIST program for introducing Small Groups and working together in Small Groups.

While in our Small Group meeting, I was able to learn leadership skills and how to lead people in meetings. As a woman, I also learnt how to prepare liquid and compost manure, which I use in my vegetable gardens. My vegetable gardens can now produce a lot of vegetables that I sell in the nearby local markets. Through vegetable growing, I have learned how important health and nutrition are to the family and now my family feeds on vegetables for a health body and to prevent diseases.

Long live TIST.

By Jane Rutashoberwa

Nyakabingo Small Group, Mitooma-Bushenyi



Small group members in Kyangyenyi starting passion fruit growing as an income generating project.

IMPORTANT BENEFITS OF TREES

Trees are important precious gifts. They are the source of food and shelter for human beings and animals on the earth. Trees are natural homes to many tribes living inside forests and home to all the birds. They give us timber to make furniture, refresh air, prevent soil erosion and floods, give cool and clean air in summer, source of products like gum, paper, rubber, medicine, rain, etc. We should understand the roles and importance of trees in our life and avoid destroying them as well as encourage people to plant more trees.

They benefit all the living things on earth in some direct and indirect ways. Everything on the earth connects to each other and runs according to nature's balance. If any disturbance occurs to it, the whole environment may get disturbed and lives on earth get disturbed. Plants protect us from many natural disasters and nourish our lives in many ways. They keep our environment clean and earth green so we are also responsible to them and try our best to protect trees. Large and mature trees are more benefiting in nature than smaller ones as they capture more carbon, filter green house gases at a higher rate, capture more storm water, provide big shadow and combat urban heat, reduce energy use and many more.

Let's plant trees and save lives.

By Bachwa Hakim



TIST Volunteer trainers after their training in Kabale

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS GAINED FROM TIST

I am very happy to testify that with the introduction of the TIST Program, I was able to learn and gain skills in liquid manure and compost manure preparation. As a farmer, I rear goats and I have been blessed in a sense that goat droppings act as manure that I apply in plantations. Also the remains of grass cuttings, which the goats feed on, also help in making compost manure when well mixed with urine. I was able to start a small vegetables garden that produces vegetables for home consumption and surplus for sale. I therefore thank TIST program for this innovation.

By Makuba P.

Kyamup Small Group, Kyangyenyi-Bushenyi