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TIST Uganda June News Letter 2017

*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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1. In Groups, we have strength: why Groups are important in TIST

TIST encourages farmers to form groups and to get to know their group members well before they register as TIST members. Small Groups are so important to TIST that they are even part of our name: The International Small Group and Tree Planting Program.

Groups have a lot of benefits:

- Share knowledge about tree planting: We all know different things, and can learn from each other. In Small Groups, we discuss factors like where to plant, benefits of different tree species, when to plant, when to prune, and when to thin for best results.
- Learn improved farming methods: In Small Groups, we can learn, discuss and share improved farming methods like Conservation Farming.
- Share challenges met and solutions: In groups, we share challenges we met in tree planting like pests and animals that destroy trees and crops, and suggest ways to overcome them.
- Working together as a team: In groups we develop a spirit of working together. Cooperation makes farm work easier. Some groups choose to work together to help prepare Conservation Farming holes for each Small Group member, working one day on one farm, and another day on another in turn. Others choose to build and share work in a group nursery.
- Improving relationships: In forming groups and working together, we improve our relationships between families and individuals for a better functioning society.
- Sharing farm equipment: Group members come to know and trust each other, and so can share some equipment used in farming such as hoes, pangas, and machines used for pruning. Sharing equipment can reduce the cost of each member buying individually.
- Easier, better training and quantification: When groups are formed, it becomes easy for TIST trainers to reach the farmers and for quantifiers to count trees for these farmers in an area. Trees must be quantified for sale of carbon offsets and for farmers to receive a tree payment. It's important that all members of a Small Group live near enough to each other to meet regularly. It's important that they plant their tree groves close together so the Quantifier can easily walk from one to the next. This helps keep costs lower. When costs are low, we all benefit since TIST Small Groups share 70% of profits from carbon sales.

It is important that we know other members of our Small Groups well because we work together for the long term. When we join TIST as groups, we commit to keep the trees we have planted growing for at least 30 years. We are paid together as groups. We learn from each other and teach each other. For all of these reasons, making sure we form strong groups is important for our Success.

Caleb Kayabuki, Quantifier Kabale



Ruhija Cluster members after training meeting in Ruhija -Kabale

2. Indigenous trees are environmentally friendly

Indigenous trees are trees found in our localities for thousands of years. Our forests and lands are naturally rich and diverse, and included Red Stinkwood, *Cordia Africana*, and some Acacias and kinds of Albizia, to name just a few. These trees are useful to us and other creatures that live under their protection.

Benefits of indigenous trees.

Many indigenous trees in our localities provide beauty and shade. They are also functional and helpful as they provide medicine, fodder, fruits, and can produce valuable timber. They also cool the environment and make us feel comfortable.

We like to plant them around our premises for a pleasant life. They act as windbreaks and provide cleaner air that supports our health.

These indigenous trees were honored because some could be planted on memorial days if some rituals were performed. Tree planting and important events go hand-in-hand. Today, we can still see some trees planted by our fathers and mothers, our grandfathers and grandmothers, and remember these important occasions. Protecting and promoting these trees will help generations understand our unique values, events, and traditions proudly for years to come.

Indigenous trees are environmentally friendly. They consume a lot of carbon dioxide to help make the environment cool and regulate the temperature. They provide homes and food for beneficial insects and other organisms that protect our crops from pests and disease.

Deciduous indigenous trees, which shed their leaves during the dry season, can fertilize and protect the soil. The leaves are used on the ground as mulch and roots hold the soil, thereby preventing soil erosion.

Economically, we may choose to invest in tree planting for carbon income and to fight climate change and the harm that causes our farms and families. We each have a choice in what we plant, and with our choice, can transform communities for a long period of time. We can choose indigenous trees that provide all of these diverse benefits for years to come.

Indigenous trees produce fruits, bark, and wood, and can restore forests that are important for our rains and rivers.

Let's plant indigenous trees for a better Uganda and a better world.

Frank Arinaitwe-Nyabubaare Tree Planting



Rutoto Cluster members reading TIST newsletters after Training meeting in Bushenyi

3. Why should we plant trees?

Trees are of a great importance to human beings in their day-to-day living. And even from the first day, God created plants and man. Look around you and your residence. If you don't see trees surrounding you, think twice.

Let us know why we should plant trees right from the beginning of the earth.

Trees give glory to God: In Genesis 1:11-12 God commanded, "Let the earth produce plants of all kinds (including trees). God was pleased of what He saw." So every person who wishes to please God and give glory to Him should plant trees.

God, Himself was the first to plant trees: Genesis 1:9-10. God made all kinds of trees to grow and produce good fruits. We need to follow God's example to plant trees to have good fruits. We need to eat fruits and feed them to our children so that they can be wise.

Trees save people from hunger: Matthew 21: 18-19 "Jesus was hungry." He went to seek fruits to curb His hunger first on trees. Therefore we should bear in mind to plant trees that bear fruits. How many times have you desired to eat fruits?

Trees provide us with medicine: Indigenous trees and their fruits are a source of medicine to some diseases. Trees like mangoes, *Prunus Africana* and all indigenous trees have value, and some have value that we don't yet know.

Trees act as a habitat for animals, birds and insects: Trees also act as windbreaks and hold the soil firm. Trees provide us income through the sale of the tree products like fruits, medicinal leaves, bark and others.

Plant indigenous trees! Plant fruit trees! A very good Book gives us some of the many reasons we should all be tree planters!

Apollo Tushabemukama, Bushenyi Quantifier



Raised Nursery bed establishment and management in Nyarushanje -Rukungiri

4. Benefits of Training in TIST:

Trainers and training are very important for TIST Small Groups. As a trainer in TIST, I have had the opportunity to meet people from different areas, learn new skills, and share information to help people.

One seminar encouraged me about construction of energy saving cook stoves. In other seminars, we were trained on TIST Values, and every action I take reflects these values. Seminars and exchange visits within TIST encourage individuals and groups to put in practice the good work they have seen. I have been able to share information I learned at TIST training seminars with groups in my area.

Cluster meetings really help us share training effectively. At cluster meetings, we collectively share more experience and testimonies that give the participants courage to go and act in the same way.

The trainers' monthly meetings give us courage and team spirit. I do not want to miss the meetings because what I learn there is important for my life.

I thank the program and TIST staff for selecting me to serve Small Groups by training them and helping people to make energy-saving cook stoves.

Kabikire Milton, Nyakastista Group

AKATABO KOKWAMUKAAGA 2017

AHABWENKI TIST NEKORERA OMUGURUUPU

TIST nehagira abahiingi kukorera omukweterana kandi bakamanyana batakhandikiise. Nikyo TIST erikweterwa (The international small group and tree planting program).

- Amagoba agari omukweterana:
- Nitubagana amakuru maingi ahakubya emiti, nebyarwa ryari, nkahi, amagoba agari omubiika byemiti, okugitira nokugireberera okasharuramu kihango.
- Nitwega ahampinga nungi yomureembe, nkokuhiinga orikuriinda orweezo omwiitaka.
- Nitureeba ahabirikutamba ikono okuhiinga emiiti nkobukooko namatungo reeru turonda omubazi.
- Nitukorera hamwe nka tiimu nkomukutiimba ebiina byokubya emiiti nari omukugibendeke.
- Hariimu enkoragana yabamemba hamwe namaka gaitu.
- Nikitubya ahamirimo nenshoza omukubara emiiti kandi kirahusya omunshashura sente zakasiimo abahiigi baheeza kuguza orwoya.
- Twayeterana nikituha amaani gokukorera hamwe tukahiinga emiiti ekahisya emyaka 30, tukagisharuura tukagoba kihango.

Nebya Caleb kayabuki, Quantifier Kabale

EMITI EYENZAARWA NERINDA EBYOBUHANGWA

- Emiti egi nemanywa nkeyashangirweho emyaka enkumi nenkumi. Nerinda kandi erebkeyesa ebyobuhangwa bwaitu. Omunimwehari Emiti nka: Omuryamaz. Nimirungi ahabyobuhangwa nebindi bihangirwe ebiine amagara.

Emigasho yaayo

- Emiti egi nereetaho ekibunda n'oburungi bw'omwanya, eine emibazi, ebyokurya byente, ebijuma, nempaaho. Nebobeeza omwanya kandi ereetaho amabeho.
- Nitugihinga ahabwokutangira omuyaga kandi ereeta amabeho garikurinda amagara marungi.
- Emiti egi ekaba ebyarwa ahamikoro kwenda kuguma kugwijukiraho. Eriigyenda nitureeba abazaire baitu barikubyara emitu egi kwenda kwijuka emikoro etari emwe nemwe, hamwe nanyensya.
- Emiti egi nekora nkekibunda, ebyokurya hamwe nobutuura bwenyamaishwa kubirinda endwara n'obukooko. Amababi gaayo nigarinda eitaka kandi gakora kasasiro gotangira eitaka obutatwarawa omutunga.
- Nitugiitemamu enku, ebijuma, ebitooma kandi ereetaho enjura.
- Murekye tubyare emitu, yenzaarwa ahabwoburungi bwa Uganda nensi yoona

Nebya Frank Arinaitwe – Nyabubaare Tree Planting

AHABWENKI NITUBYARA EMITI

- Omukutanga Ruhanga akabanza kuhanga omuntu nebimera kandi ebimera biine emigasho ahantuura yabaantu washanga notuura ahantu hatariho miti yebuuze kabiri
- Omubaiburi okutandika Ruhanga akahanga ensi nebirimu byana otairemu ebimera. Emiti netamba enjara kandi yesu akagira ngu emiti etakwana bijuma ekyeenwe.
- Emiti neturwamu abantu nebikooko kandi twihamu emibazi otebirwe, embaaho, nebindi.
- Buri kyahandiikirwe nikyehanangiriiza kubyara emiiti. Tubyare emiiti yobuhangwa tutungure emituriire yaitu.

Nebya Apollo Tushabe mukama Bushenyi Quntifier.

AMAGOBA AGARI OMUKUTENDEKA OMU TIST

-Okutendeka omu TIST nikirungi munonga. Nyowe omutendeeki wabandi omu TIST mbasiize kureeba nokubugana abantu baingi, kandi nayega obukugu namagyezi maingi, nkeega okunogoora amaheega garikukoresa enku nkye, kandi emishoomo neretaho okuta omunkora ebinshomiire.

-Omu za guruupu nitwega emikorere mirungi, tukorera hamwe, tukanyiisa amasharura. Omukutendeka emyoga etari emwe nemwe.

-Ninsiima enkora egi hamwe na TIST okuntorana kutendeka eziindi za guruupu eziindi, okuhweera bagyenzi bangye nokwombeka amahega agarikukoresa enku nkye.

Nebya Kabikiire Milton Nyakastisa Group.