



## English

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## Kimeru Translation

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- 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 Narumoru kwoona kabere.
- Mantu ja Ngai.

**TIST**  
The International Small  
Group & Tree Planting  
Program



**TIST**

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## Best Small Groups and Field Office members attend the 7<sup>th</sup> TIST- Kenya seminar.

The 7th TIST- Kenya seminar was held at Gitoro conference center between 13<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

Semina ya ikundi binini bia TIST yari Gitoro Conference kuuma ntariki 13-18 Mweri jwa ikumi nemwe 2006. Antu baria beejite baumite kiri ikundi bibiega na antu ba ofisi. Kiri ikundi biria biikuru



Group photo: Participants who attended BSG seminar at Gitoro Conference Center on 13<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> November 2006

Mbicha y'a antu baria bakinyitie semina Gitoro Conference Center ntariki 13th - 18th Novemba 2006

bibiega bia TIST mirongo iiri ni kwari na antu bairi kuuma kiri ikundi bibi, antu batano kuuma kiri ikundi bibieru biria biega na antu bathatu kuuma kiri ofisi cieti cia TIST. Antongerira ba kuma Amerika na Ofisi ya TIST ya Kenya na bathetherie na uritani.

Mworoto ja semina iji jwari jwa kuumba kumenya mantu jameega 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 gutarirwa 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.

Kuumania na kandarasi iria ikundi bia TIST biandikanirite na CAAC gikundi kibati kuanda miti 1000 o mwaka. Ikundi biria bingi bitumbite kuingia wirane bubu na untu bubu CAAC itumbite kwoona kiro iria ikwendekana cia biashara iji. Ikundi bibi ni biumbitie kwaariria mantu jaja mono na boomba kurita mano jameega ja uandi bwa miti.

Semina iiji nia ya rugurirwe ni DC wa Meru Central district Mr Chege Mwangi na auga murandi jwa TIST ni jukurita ngugu ijeega mono na nijugutetheria kuthia nthiguru yetu.

Kagiita 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 Haites 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.

Ni umbire kuriungira ikundi bia TIST na akeena mono ni ngugi iria ikundi bibi biumbite kurita na niakuthugania ikundi bibi bikarita ngugi kuruki ya biritane ikundi bingi bibieru. Mr Charlie Williams uria withagirwa ari munini wa Ben niagure niakeneta mono ni Ikundi bia TIST na ngugi iria boombite kurita.

### **TIST: Ngugi iria TIST iritite kiri gukuria Nthiguru yetu.**

TIST ni iciumitie mono kiri kurita ngugi iria igukuria nthiguru yetu mono. TIST ni iritanaga ikundi mantu jaria jakabathetheria gwita mbere ndene ya kagiita gakaraja. Arimi baria bari amemba ba TIST ni baritani urimi bubwega na boomba kwona umithio kumania na urimi bubu.

Susan Muita umwe uria utumirite njira iji ya urimi ariuga "kuuma riria ndambiririe kurima na njira iji miaka iri ithiri, niumbite kurera nja yawe na oomba kwendia mpempe iria igutigara. Niumbaga guketha nkunia imwe ya mpempe ndene ya muunda jwawe jwa nusu ika indi kiri muunda juju nandi ni akethaga nkunia inyanya. Niakuigua ari na kugwirua mono nikwithirwa niaritanirwe njira iji ya urimi. TIST niumbite kumuritana mantu ja kuthithia mboreo na nandi atitumagira mboreo ya kugura ya ndukene.



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.

Murandi jwa TIST ni jukwenda amemba baju boona mbeca kumania na wendi bwa ruo(GhG).Amemba ikundi na bakandikithua na TIST na nibaritangwa mantu ja kumithia na uandi bwa miti na kumenyera kienda itumirwa kuthithia biashara.Ndene ya biishara iji ikudi ni biriagwa miti yao nyuma ya mieri ina ndene ya mwaka mbeca iji igakinya ciringi imwe na cumuni na gikundi gikariwa mbeca iji miaka miringo itantatu kethiira amemba bageeka miti yao kuringa na wirane buria bacainanirite.Miti iji igatetheria mono kuthithia ruo rurutheru ruuia ruketheria nthiguru.

Arimi baria baandite miti iria yumaga matunda bakoomba kwoona mbeca inyingi nkuruki.Kinya arimi ni bakuritanwa kuthithia riiko riria ritigumira nkuu inyingi na rikanyia toogi iria yumanagia na nku na yoomba kureeta mirimo ya mauri toontu rira gikumagaria toogi kaja.



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.

Murandi jwetu jwa TIST ni juritanaga mantu ja murimo jwa mukingo na iji ni njira imwe ya gutetheria thirikari na kugeria kuritana antu thiina ya murimo juju. Kuringa na mantu jaria TIST ithithagia nikugeria kuthiria thiina inyingi moni ndene ya nthiguru yetu.



**IMPROVED: A model of an energy saving jiko.**

**Utaramu bubweru: riiko riria ritumagira nkuu inkai.**



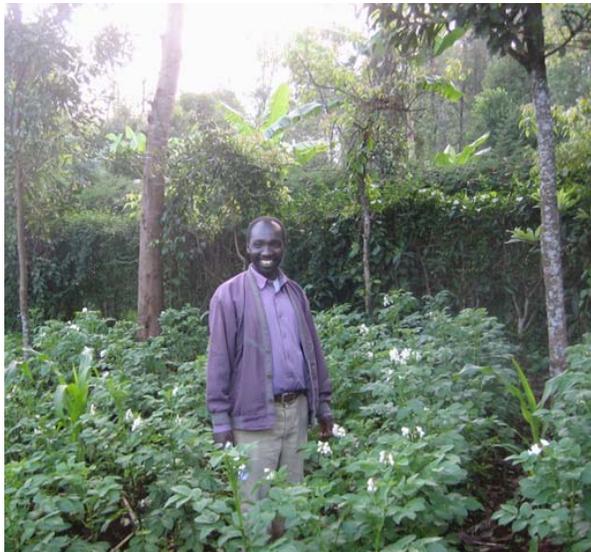
## District Commissioner praises TIST program

“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 wa Meru Central Mr Chege Mwangi niaugire TIST niumbite kuthithia bwega mono kuthiria thina cia nthiguru ndene ya Meru Central kagita ka semina ya ikundi binini bia TIST iria yari Gitoro Conference Centre. Niakwigua akenete mono ni ngugi ya ikundi bia TIST biria bikurita ngugi inene mono. Ndene ya miaka mirongi iri iria ithirite antu nibatemete miti mono na nikio gitumite kugia na waagi bwa mbura. Thina iji nitumiite kwagia na thina ya irio.

DC ni augire kuriika miti nigutumite muthetu kuuma rutere rwa irima

jukamatwe I ruuji mwanka nteere cia iria kwondia muthetu. Naonanirie wirigiro bwa murandi jwa Tist na abeera bagwatanire na ikundi bingi bia mirandi tai u.

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

Niaugire akeejana utethio buu kinya kiri ikundi bia ome ya District ya Meru ya gatigati akiugaga ati gukara kwaaga mbura gutiuragia 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.

### **Ofisi ya Kinyaritha: Iririta ngugi itikumanya mianka.**

Ofisi yetu ya kinyaritha ithagirwa iri mwankene jwa district cia Meru North na Central.Niumbaga gutumikira cio ijiri igiita rimwe.

Nandi itwandikithitie tukundi tuniini 400 na tukaritana amemba bonthe mantu ja urimi bubwega, kumenyeera nasari uandi bwa miti na kubamenyethia untu bwa murimo jwa mukingo.

Ituandite miti igita rii ria mbura na tugicokaagiria ingi iria yoomire riria kwariite na mbura yaregere kugana.

Ndeene ya district ya Meru North ikundi bimwe biandite mibau maguta indi itukubeekira moyo kenda baanda miti ta Muringa, Munguani, Mugumo, Muangwa na miti tai u.Miti e mibau Maguta itumagira ruuji rurwingi mono kuuma ki muthetu( Lita 40 o ntuku) na tontu buu muthetu jukaumagaara na gutuma imera bingi bitigakure bwega.

Itwitite na mbere kuritana arimi mantu ja urimi bubwega. Kiingo kii iika 19 cia mpempe iciandi gutumira urimi bubwega.Mpempe iu icigukura bwega mono kuringania na ingi ciandi na njira iu ingi iti cia urimi bubwega.

Amemba betu ba ofisi ibareetaga micemanione ya National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Program (NALEP) iu bareeta.Macemanio iu nibatethetie kumenya mantu jamaingi ja urimi buria bwega buru.

Munene o mwitu jwa Lower Imenti natutethetie na kianya kia gucemaniria na gwika into bietu bia ofisi.

Recently, we accompanied a USAID representative, Ms. Wairimu Mungai, to some small group projects. Also attending was Mrs. Vannesa 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.



**Best practice: One of the tree nurseries practices being conducted by the small groups.**

**Njira injega: miti iri nasarine**

Kagiita gatikurukiite mono itwariungiire ikundi tutongeretue ni Ms Wairimu Mungai wa USAID. Itweetanirie na Mrs Vanessa Henneke wa kuuma

Institute For Environmental Innovation (I4EI). Kaithe self-help group I kimwe gia ikuundi biniini biria twariungiire. Gikundi kii gia Kaithe ikithithagia urimi bubwega, uandi bwa miti na miunda ya kuumithia miti. Itwaariungiire kinya Intra-Com youth group, ta yo gikundi kiria

kiritanaga mantu ja muingo na mirimo iingi ya uthungiiri.

### **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.

### **Ofisi ya Chugu: Ikuenea**

Ofisi yetu ya chugu nigeretie mono gukinyithia murandi jwa TIST ruteere rwa Meru South, Tharaka, Chuka na Embu. Guntu guku nikwithagirwa 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 guukiria ikundi biri bitithingataga watho bwa TIST.

Ikundi biria biega bia TIST ibiei ngugi e kuritana na kuandikithia ikundi bibieru. Ituumbite gutambia 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.

Kagiita 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 kiariungiire.

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.



Members of Chugu field office and Small groups during one of their nodes meetings.

Amemba ba Ofisi ya Chugu na ikundi binini muchemanoene jwao

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

Kugwirua gwetu I kurea ikundi bia TIST na niu tukuthithia nandi. Ikundi biu ibiambiritie koonna 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.

### Naromoru office: Aiming higher

### Ofisi ya Narumoro: Wirigiiri Buunene

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.

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

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.

O mwerine o juu jwa November gikundi kia US kia Mr na Mrs Henneke igiaturiungiire mono mono naria twitaira ngugi ikundine bietu bia TIST. Ibatwirire mantu jamega ja murandi jwa TIST na itwagire moyo kumenya ati TIST iri na maisha miaka imiinge mono iria ikeeja kinya nthuki ii 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.

Twina kugwirua gukunene kugwata ageni baria batumi kwija mucemanione jwa nthiguru yonthe ya Climate Change iria irathithirue Nairobi. Ageni bau batongeretue ni Vice president wa CAAC Mr. Charlie Williams na baariungiire ikundi bia TIST biria bii ruteere rwa Mureru.

Itwagwirirue kuriungirwa ni team iu. Itwonere kagiita gakeega kubonia mantu jamwe jamega jathithagua ni TIST ndene ya offisi ciao na kiri ikundi biao ta uria utongereria 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. Itwagwirirue mono ni untu 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 bathithia urimi bubwega tontu iburetaga maciara jamaingi 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 umenyeeeri bwa nasari ya miti, uandi bwa miti, uandi bwa miti, kuthithia riiko ritina goro na riutumira nku inkai na kurigiiria musingo.

Kuuma riria urimi bubwega bwambiirue arimi babaingi iboongerete 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Kamithana 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

Tariki 15 mweri jwa November 2006, CTO wa USAID Ms Wairimu Mungai nariungiire ikundi bia TIST. Ibari na Mrs. Vanessa na Mr. Joshua. Batoongeretue I mutari o miti Mrs Susan Muita. Kiri ikundi biria biariungirwe ni Murega, Kamithanga A na Mukiao.

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



USAID team on field visit.

USAID yariunga miundene

Ibariungiire Ms Joyce mumemba wa gikundi gia Kamithanga A. Joyce ari na riiko ririeru riti gutumira nku inyingi n aria mbeca inkai. Naandite mpempe mithemba ithatu muungene jwawe akithithia urimi bubwega na mpempe iu niigukura bwega mono.

Thaa thita cia muthenya ciigukinya director wa TIST tawe Mr. Joshua Irungu neetire kiri bon a amwe betania ruteere rwa Katheri ruria ruri district ya Meru Central bariungira gikundi gia TIST gia Mukiao. Amemba bonthe ba gikundi kii bonthe ikumi na bairi bathithie urimi bubwega na bukareta maketha jamaingi mono.

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  
Kamithagana 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 igikumeenyera aana  
150.

## Mbugwa

### Gucwa macokio

Mukingo ooh mukingo  
Bwiku wirigiuro 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 mbeba na mathuganio ibigukua  
Daktari, Arimu na Aritwa batiutigwa.  
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 wiirigiuro bwaku  
Wina kiao?  
Ndawa ni kurega umaramari!

*Mwandiki Lucy Muita  
Kamithagana C BSG*

### TIST You Have Done It

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*

### TIST Ibuthithitie

Ruuo ruthuku ruujurite kunthe  
Togi kuuma kiri macini na ngari iria ciitite  
Ntuku cionthe  
Nthiguru iriita 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 tukuthugania maisha ja nyumene  
Yujurite ruo rurutheru na na nyiro  
li, Kenya injega  
Nuu umba kuria mantu jaja  
Ni tugwikira TIST inya.  
Ngai agutethie TIST.

*Mwandiki ni Eunice Wambui  
Ofisi ya Narumoru.*



