



THE TREE

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"The tree" n'orupapura rw'amakuru orurikuhandikwa aba tist uganda itaagi rya The International Small Group and Tree Planting Program.

OKUKORA KWAITU

Tist n'ekigombe ekyehaireyo kwimutsya omutindo gw'abahingi aba hansi kirikubonyeramu amaani gokurwanisa okucwekyerezibwa kw'ebibira, okwenjuna obworo nekyanda kitari kyaburirije.

EBIGYENDERERWA BYAITU

Omukunywanisa entunguuka yentuura n'okurundana orwoya orurungi orurikuru ga omumiti. Tist nehweza abahingi abarikurenga 25,000, eby'okwerinda shimu, endiisa enungi yab'omumaka nokucendeza enkoresha y'anku n'amakara.

PREFACE

Sharing the good news about tist.
We need to change our behaviour.
Thinning and pruning for success.
A poem about caring for your land.
Create awareness in your locality you will be wise.

EBIRY'OMUNDA

Okubagana amakuru marungi ahari tist Nitwetenga kuhindura ahamicwe yaitu Ob' singuzi oburi omukwitira nokushabira Okusharira Ekikwato ahakurinda eitaka. Reetaho okumanyisa omukyanga kyanyu noija kuba omunyabwengye.

MAY 2012 NEWS LETTER.

EDITORS MESSAGE.

It is time to complete weeding for maize, beans and sorghum, think of planting other food crops like potatoes, cassava and banana plantations to be able to get good food yield during the coming season.

Ara.

AKATABO KOKWATAANO 2012

OBUTUMWA BWA EDITA.

Hati n'obunaku bw'okumariira okwombera ebicoori, ebihimba n'omugusha. Tekateeka ahakuhinga ebyokurya ebindi nk'ebitakuri namuhogo hamwe n'okuboneza entookye kubaasa kusharuura eby'okurya bingi nyensya.

Ara.

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT TIST.

It is good to share the good news about TIST with others. The work we do together in TIST is for all the people. We want to improve the environment and show how the work we do planting trees, practicing Conservation Farming, and using improved stoves improves the lives of vulnerable people including subsistence farmers, and show the positive change and impact we have on the environment.

There is hope if everyone discovers that planting a tree is life saving. The tree takes in carbon and keeps it in the wood and soil and in return, gives us oxygen. Deforestation can be stopped if individuals, corporations, and the public sector play the good role of replanting and protecting trees that are helpful to man. TIST is doing the work, planting trees, including indigenous species that are friendly to our environment.

The Small Group's work is to take action, plant trees, and live by TIST values. Our neighbors and communities learn from our example when they observe how we live by these values and the best practices we have formulated to care for the environment. The trees we plant help to firmly hold the soil, hence preventing soil erosion. Furthermore Conservation Farming improves yields so we can protect forest land. TIST improved energy saving cook stoves use less firewood and protects women and children from diseases from smoke.

We are TIST's best marketing. Let's serve as leaders and examples in our communities and encourage others to join us. In TIST, together we can accomplish great things.

Abias, Rwembirizi Tree Planting.

WE NEED TO CHANGE OUR BEHAVIOUR.

Unless we change our behavior, the environment will continuously be polluted. We are littering our world with polythene papers and packing

materials. We are filling our air with dirty air from our cook stoves and vehicles and carbon dioxide when we cut forests and clear land.

We are encroaching upon and destroying wetlands without regard for our own wellbeing. We are clearing even small trees for construction for the growth of towns and trading centers. We are mining and quarrying stone, sand, and minerals for building purposes and industry. We leave these mines and quarries bare, a scar on the earth that pollute our water and hasten erosion of our valuable soils.

Tree planting makes us aware of the danger of our destructive behaviors and helps us change our course. When we struggle to help seedlings grow into strong trees, we understand our role as caretakers of our environment, and we understand that we all have a responsibility to create positive change, to counter the destruction of mining, of land clearing, of litter. We should be creative, and work for good, both with local environmental action and pursuing the good government policies that maximize land utility and protect and improve it so that the growing population, our children, may depend on it for generations.

George Bagenda, Kyangyenyi

THINNING AND PRUNING FOR SUCCESS.

Thinning is an operation carried out as trees grow by selecting and deliberately removing some of the trees from a given plantation. If done well and at the right time, thinning gives the best trees more space to grow and encourages good growth.

Why should plantations be thinned?

As trees grow, they start competing with one another for light, nutrients, water and space, thereby slowing down growth. Therefore, some of the trees in the plantation should be systematically removed in order to reduce competition between trees. This allows the best remaining trees to grow

faster and larger, increasing the value of your plantation.

Thinning is done by selecting the "best" trees in the forest. For many species, including eucalyptus, grevillea, and cypress, these are often the largest trees, each with a single, straight stem. Each tree species has different spacing requirements to maximize tree growth and quality, and requirements may vary based on the type of site on which they are located, but here are some general guidelines. To grow strong, healthy trees, a spacing of two meters or more is recommended. This spacing works for many TIST trees (i.e. pine, grevillea, and cypress), but some trees require more space (mango and macadamia, for example). Closer spacing is acceptable when trees are young. As the trees begin to mature, inevitably some trees will be larger and more robust than their neighbors. These are the best trees that should be kept. In determining which trees should be removed, look at the best trees to see if they are appropriately spaced. If they are not, some nearby trees will need to be removed.

Once you have determined which trees to remove, cut these at the base of the tree. In the weeks and months following cutting, many trees will begin to sprout from the stump. To keep the tree from coming back, these sprouts should be cut or broken off at the base of the tree.

In general, if all trees in a given area are close to the same age, the larger trees should be chosen as best trees to leave to grow. Another good indicator of tree health is the position of the crown of the tree in the canopy. Trees with crowns above the general canopy level are able to absorb more light than those lower down, and so can grow better. Finally, best trees should have a single stem, with no major disease, or rot. However, this does not mean you should leave only the largest trees! Aim for a two meter by two meter spacing in order to ensure that the trees are as

large and as healthy as possible so that carbon capture is maximized.

Remember that growth rate varies greatly by species. If a mango tree is growing near a stand with lots of eucalyptus, the mango may be far smaller and slower growing than the fast-growing eucalyptus, but it certainly should not be cut simply because it is smaller! In fact, a tree like mango is of great importance due to its usefulness as a food source. Indeed, there are many other uses for trees, depending upon species, besides carbon capture. For example, a tree may be desirable as a shade source. In this case, you should give the tree more room than usual to expose the tree to more sunlight, which will stimulate the tree to produce new branches on the main stem and on larger limbs. If you want to use a row of trees as a windbreak, you should keep trees in that row spaced closely together, but remove trees to either side in order to increase the "bushiness" of the trees.

Pruning

In a natural forest, trees naturally self-prune. Branches in the upper canopy shade out lower branches. As leaves on the lower branches begin to die off, so does the branch to which they are attached. Through natural weather events, the dead and rotted branches will fall off or be knocked off. While natural pruning may happen on TIST sites, it may be necessary, or beneficial to prune trees by hand. When deciding which limbs to remove, you should follow a few basic principles.

Most tree species should have a single main stem at the ground level. Trees with a single stem are generally faster growing and are less prone to split during storms. If a tree with multiple stems is chosen as a best tree, there are several factors to take into account when selecting which stem to leave. The largest stem should generally be selected to be the main stem. The main stem should be free of rot, appear to be healthy (e.g. lots of leaves), and be relatively straight.

One major misconception about tree pruning is that you should cut limbs parallel to the trunk. This is false. Cuts should be made perpendicular to the limb, slightly out from the trunk. This minimizes the amount of exposed wood, and allows the actively dividing cells in the branch collar to grow over the cut, over time, which helps the tree to remain healthy and free of rot.

When pruning, don't be overzealous. Tree trimmings are often used for fuel wood or fodder. While this is perfectly acceptable, remember that pruning can improve tree health and increase growth over time, but removing leaves will initially reduce the tree's ability to capture sunlight and cause stress to the tree by creating a scar, which it must heal. After removing a limb, the area cut should be left alone. Do not cover it with tar or any other material, so the tree can expel any toxic material on the wound. One often overlooked aspect of both pruning and thinning is that trees tend to produce new shoots near the cut. Some species do this more than others. Generally, these are very easy to remove during the first year after cutting by simply snapping off the supple shoots. Shoots will often not grow back.

Some trees, especially fruit trees, will produce better yields with multiple stems. These are cut near the base of the stem when they are young in order to stimulate new growth. Once the tree has established these new shoots, they too may be cut in order to produce more growth. This process may be repeated in order to increase the bushiness of the tree, but be sure to allow at least a few months or more between trimmings so the tree can recover from the stress of cutting.

Remember that to take part in the carbon market, we have to commit to keep trees for the long term. We should allow trees to grow for at least 30 years, thinning and pruning to produce useful, sustainable forests that provide us benefits for years to come.

By Agaba Denis, Kanyinya Small Group, and Ben Misleh

A POEM ABOUT CARING FOR YOUR LAND.

Care for me. You will live longer!
You awake acids in me! I don't provide you the right amount of food.
You expose me to sun rays. You are affected by famine and disease!
You don't care for me! You de natured me.
You uncover me by cutting grass/trees.
You won't get fibers for blanket.
Don't kill other creatures. You will live longer.
Don't make me exhausted. You will live a happier life.
Allow me grow more crops! You depend upon them.
Keep me beautiful. You will be wise.
Let me yield. You will get the surplus.
Come to me with manure. You will get a dish full of food.

I am your care. You are honored!

By Annet Tumwebaze TIST Farmer KUFID.

CREATE AWARENESS IN YOUR LOCALITY YOU WILL BE WISE.

We all have the ability and responsibility to change our communities for the better. We are called to be servant leaders, volunteers and to do good work together for big results at a low budget. God planted a garden, and we are called to tend it, not to destroy it, and to care for all of his creation. "For everyone to whom much is given, of him shall much be required." — Luke 12:48

We have been given a lot: a bounteous earth that can yield a good harvest, a voice, each other. Therefore, much is expected of us. Our words and action should drive change. We should plant trees, protect rivers and wetlands, and teach our neighbors to do the same. We should create awareness and serve as examples to others.

We should live by the TIST Values and work for the common interest and welfare of our communities.

Enoch Tumwebaze