



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 kirikubongyeramu amnani gokurwanisa okucwekyerezibwa kw'ebibira, okwenjuna obworo nekyanda kitari kyaburirije.

EBIGYENDERERWA BYAITU

Omukunywanisa entunguuka yentuura n'okurundana orwoya oruningi orurikuru ga omumiti. Nokunyunyuta orwoya orube kuruga omu mwanya TIST nehwera abahingi abarikurenga 25,000, eby'okwerinda sirimu, endiisa enungi yab'omumaka nokucendeza enkoresa y'enku n'amakara.

PREFACE

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EBIRI OMUNDA

Obubulina bwa tist obukye kwigura akaunta omu za banka.

Obubiina bwa tist obukye kwigura akaunta omu za banka.

Okureberera obusiri bw'emiti.

EDITORS MESSAGE.

TIST FARMERS

You all have been trained on the importance of opening small group Bank accounts with three signatories.

As there is no more cash payment, do it to avoid inconveniencies.

SGs whose payment is less than UGX 50,000= will be paid by Mobile Money.

Hakim and Sarah are training you on the system to follow.

Ara

OBUTUMWA BWA EDITA.

ABAHINGI BEMITI ABA TIST.

Mweena mukegyesibwa ahabukuru bwokwigura Account yekibiina omu Bank eteirweho emikono yabantu bashatu.

Obuhatakiraho kushashurwa sente zoburiho, kora ekyo kwezibira okuremesibwa kutunga sente.

Abarikutunga sente ziri ahansi ya 50,000= nimuba nimushashurwa ahasiimu.

Hakim na Sarah bariyo nibabegyesa entwaza eimurakuratire.

Ara

TIST SMALL GROUPS OPEN BANK ACCOUNTS

By Sarah Nankunda

For 10 years since TIST Uganda started, we have been paying tree incentives in the form of cash. We would carry cash as we travel from district to district, from places of meeting to other places. TIST has now graduated from that level to another level where we shall be depositing your money on your bank accounts.

This is to inform and encourage each group to open a bank account in a bank of your choice near your home. Open bank accounts in International banks like Post Bank (U) LTD, Pride Microfinance, Centenary Bank, Barclays Bank, Bank of Africa and others. You are advised not to open bank accounts in our village SACCOS. For this to take place effectively, the following is a must:

- Ø The group should open a bank account in its group name
- Ø The group should have a meeting where they shall select three members who will be their account signatories.
- Ø The group should write a set of minutes indicating their need to open a bank account in a named bank. This will also serve as an application for opening the account.
- Ø The group signatories' chosen shall go to the bank to open a group account. Each person will need (2) passport size photos, identity cards and a confirmation

letter from local council one (LC1) chairperson.

- Ø The group will be advised to present a group certificate from a Community Development officer.
- Ø The group will also be asked to present their group constitution signed by the chairperson, secretary and their treasurer.
- Ø TIST office shall provide an introductory letter introducing those groups in the banks where TIST groups shall open bank accounts.
- Ø TIST office shall also provide a document which group should fill out completely; group signatories will sign, write the group name and the account number and leave this document at the bank where they will open the account.

I want to thank all those groups that have already opened bank accounts. For those that have not opened yet, it is your time to do the same. I further caution all groups opening bank accounts to use group signatories who are true members of your groups. For all groups which have received tree incentives that exceed UGX 50,000=, you will open bank accounts. For TIST members which get incentives less than UGX 50,000=, you will get your money from mobile money services on your phones and do not need to open bank accounts.

Let us all work together to make TIST a success.

MANAGING TREE NURSERIES

Molly Kyanziba, Igorora Tree Planting

By planting our own nurseries, we can achieve big results at a low cost. It is now time to start your nurseries. First, choose a suitable place for the tree nursery. It should have a slight slope so water runs off, out of floods but near a water source like a river or water tap. It is useful if the nursery is close to where the trees will be planted.

Once you choose the site, prepare the seedbed. The nursery bed should be surrounded with dried maize stalks or branches as a fence to prevent animals from getting in. Now the fertile seedbed soil should be prepared by using 3 parts of topsoil from forest areas, 2 parts of sand and 1 part of manure or plant compost. This will ensure that the soil is rich with nutrients to help the seeds grow.

Best Practices for planting nurseries:

Time planting the seeds according to how long it will take it to be strong and the right size to transplant into the prepared hole in the field. The best time is most likely during rains.

Put the seed in some sort of bag or tube filled with the fertile soil mixture so the bag constrains the plant vertically. To keep costs low, you can try using materials like milk cartons, banana leaves, and reusing plastic bags.

Seedlings should be checked at least every week and probably more often. Take care to water the seedling and to move them so that seedlings don't root into the soil below the tube.

When you check the seedlings and look at the roots, you can either clip off the small roots coming out or you can just move the seedling in the nursery.

As well as working in your nurseries, don't forget that Conservation Farming holes should also be dug before the rains come. In a seminar, we agreed that the best practice is to have the conservation farming holes finished a month before the rainy season begins. Working on both the nurseries and the conservation farming holes will mean that you have new trees and better crops.

Conservation Farming - It really DOES make a difference!

Karamuzi Perry, Kyeitembe M U VI.

When we talk to the Small Groups that use Conservation Farming best practices, we hear that they know they will always get some harvest even in the very worst years when rainfall is not steady or low. In the years when their neighbors get some food at harvest, these Small Groups often get many times more maize and other crops!

Using traditional farming methods, you cannot be sure that you will get any harvest and if you are lucky to get some harvest, it might be very small. Tilling the soil makes it easy to erode, making water dirty and the field's worse year after year. Small Groups who use Conservation Farming are seeing a huge difference in their crop yields. TIST members who took part in a recent survey all reported increased yields of diverse

crops when they practiced Conservation Farming.

So how does it work? By digging the holes for the crops and filling them half full with good soil and manure or compost, the seeds get more concentrated nutrients than they would if they were planted in normal soil. The extra nutrients help the seeds to grow into stronger plants with greater yields. The holes protect the seeds and you can weed around the holes without hurting the germinating plants.

The holes are very important. They serve as small seedbeds. When the rains come instead of washing the good soil and the seeds away, the water goes into the holes and helps the plants grow more. The combination of the holes and the manure ensures the water is held near the seeds for longer so the sun does not dry the soil and plants as fast.

When you harvest your crops this year, do not burn the Stover on the field. Leave it on the field so there is a covering, which protects soil from wind and water erosion. The Stover will rot down slowly, returning many good nutrients to the soil preparing and enriching it for crops next year.

When should you start digging the Conservation Farming holes? As early as possible! Once the rains start, it is too late and some of the benefits are gone.

If you had Conservation Farming holes this year, do not close them up but leave

them open and ready for next year. The more years you practice Conservation Farming in your fields, (even better if you can rotate the crops you put into that field) the better the soil will become and the more harvest you will get.

You can see the soil in your field getting richer as it turns from a reddish brown color to a dark brown/black color. The change in color shows that it has more nutrients than before.

Conservation Farming really is that important!

A TESTIMONY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF FRUIT TREES

Samuel Mwitabangona, Karabutungye Kanungu

I am encouraged to plant more fruit trees as I have seen the importance of them. Look at my jackfruit trees! They are good and the first harvest gave additional income to my family. I will always give testimony to the value and importance of fruit trees to my community because I have planted jackfruits on my hills which were non productive. They are now producing the best quality of jackfruits. These trees help hold soil firmly, hence preventing soil erosion during the rainy season. They are growing well and very fast. As years go on, I will earn even more income from the fruit as well as carbon incentive from TIST as the trees grow. In a training meeting which was held in Kanungu, we were trained on the benefits of fruit trees as well as medicinal plants and I decided to start with jackfruit trees. The fruits are sweet, nutritious, and when

sold, they yield good income. This has helped me raise my standard of living.

Fellow TIST members, I request you to plant fruit trees like jackfruits, mangoes, avocados, and oranges for the benefit of our families.

INDIGENOUS TREES ARE GOOD

**Ndyabawe Carl Peters,
Ababarisa Group, Kabale**

Oh, what good news! Planting indigenous trees is very useful to my land. This season the rains are heavy and the atmosphere is always intense. I would have experienced the landslides and heavy soil erosion, but the planting of stinkwood and Markhmia protected my farm from these dangers. The trees are quick to grow and cover the land as they shed their leaves. These leaves decompose and form organic manure that improves their growth and the soil.

We were trained that some indigenous trees are medicinal. I learned the trees can have other benefits as I established the nursery bed of Stinkwood. The strong smell scares away ants and mosquitoes, which used to disturb me. Local people often prefer indigenous species for a variety of uses such as charcoal, furniture, housing material, and medicine to mention just a few. Clearly, indigenous species are valuable. It is good to see my neighbors come to understand this value and to plant indigenous tree species.

I am planning to plant more than 100 trees this season on my own land and put many more in pots for my group members

use to increase the number of stinkwood trees in our group.

Indigenous trees are really good looking. I encourage everyone to plant them. Also, plant fruit trees for their nutritious fruit and benefits to our bodies and money from fruits sold.

We shall continue to plant indigenous tree species because these species:

- are well suited to local environment in which they have grown for years;
- are known and respected by the users;
- can help us achieve big results at low cost when we gather seeds and seedlings from local trees;
- provide diverse, beneficial products that many exotic species cannot

**Indigenous trees are good!
Let's all plant them.**

THE TIST VALUES

TIST Values are the foundation and heart of the TIST Program. Without them, TIST and the work that we all do will not thrive.

Following TIST Values will help all TIST participants and our communities achieve great things as we work together.

Who We Are

- 1) We are honest.
- 2) We are accurate.
- 3) We are transparent
- 4) We are servants to each other.
- 5) We are mutually accountable to each other.

How We Do Things that other people can see

- 1) We are volunteers.

2) We do the work ourselves in Small Groups

3) We develop and use best practices

4) We use our heads and hands.

What We Do

1) We plant a variety of trees for the long-term.

2) We find ways to improve our health.

3) We practice Conservation Farming.

4) We do other projects and businesses.

5) We sell carbon credits.

What We Create.

This is different from what we do. When we have these values and follow them as we live and do business following our Values, we create something that was not there before.

These include:

1) We create Team Work—by doing things this way, we end up working as a team.

2) We create Capacity—we create organization, strength, and a system that is strong.

3) We create Enjoyment—we see results, we accomplish big things that we enjoy.

4) We create Big Results—Big results in planting trees. Big results in Conservation Farming and from other projects and business that we do.

5) We create Low Administrative costs and achieve big results.

If there are things that are confusing or that you do not understand about the TIST Values, please ask questions so we can serve you better.

By Sarah Nankunda