



TIST HABARI MOTOMOTO FEBRUARY 2026

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Photo 1: A Smart Agriculture Group Nursery, Shauri Moyo Kakonko

In this newsletter, we are going to have three articles;

- (I) It is Time for Planting More Trees
- (II) How to increase tree survival rates in the first year
- (III) Guideline on Clear Cut and how your Small Group get back lost Tonnes

I. It is Time for Planting More Trees

TIST Farmers for the regions where the rains have started raining it is time to plant trees move seedlings from our nurseries to our farms. Each Group should make sure you plant 500 trees. TIST program will be sustainable if every Farmer plants trees in abundance every year. We have to make sure that we plant trees considering the dimensions of each type of tree, the benefits of trees and try to plant different types of trees in the grove.

Farmers need to prepare seedlings for transplanting (Hardening Off). Now that the rains have come, seedlings need to be planted out. It is important this rainy season to make sure that seedlings will be ready to be moved from the nursery and planted in the field.

Seedlings first need to be prepared for the harsher conditions of the field. If seedlings have been properly looked after in a nursery, they may have received more water and shade than they will have once they have been planted. Gradually reduce the watering and expose the seedlings to full sunlight to make this transition successful.

Characteristics of good seedlings

- As a general guide (remember different species have different characteristics) good seedling for planting out have the following characteristics:
- The shoot should be twice the length of the roots or the pot.
- The stem should be strong and woody.
- The seedlings should have many thin roots in addition to the main roots.

Many seedlings will achieve these characteristics two months after germinating.

Transplanting

- Transport the seedlings in an upright position.
- Mark out a circle with a diameter of 30cm in the field.
- Remove the topsoil and place in a pile.
- Remove the next soil layer to a depth of 30cm and place in a separate pile.
- Put in a 5cm layer of grass (dry grass in rainy season, fresh grass in dry season, called mulching). Some groups add manure as well.
- Water the seedling before you take it out of the bag so the soil will all stay together.
- Remove the seedling from the polythene bag. Do not break the earth-balls around the roots.
- Place the seedling in the hole.
- Replace the topsoil first, then the second soil layer.
- Some groups do not fill the hole completely, but leave a gap of a few cm. This helps the rainwater enter the hole and infiltrate the soil. This can be especially helpful in dry areas.

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- Any remaining soil can be placed in a mound on the downhill side of the seedling. This will help trap any rainwater and divert it into the hole.
- Water the seedling. Also remember that to give your seedlings the best chance of survival; you should plant them 3m - 4m apart. If you plant them closer together then the seedlings will not get all the water and soil nutrients they need because there is much competition. They will become weak and may die, so follow the Best Practice of a spacing of 2.5 - 3m.



Photo 2: Mshikamano Group distributing their trees seedlings after reaching to their Groves

(II) How to increase tree survival rates in the first year

The first year of a tree's life is when it is most vulnerable, and decides whether it will grow strong or wither away. For farmers in the TIST program, it's not just about planting more - it's about planting with purpose, care, and knowledge, to ensure your trees don't just survive, but thrive. Below are a few guidelines to consider:

1. *Plant at the right time.* The best time to plant is at the start of the rainy season - not before, not too late. Early rain gives roots time to grow deep before the dry months come. Late planting = weak roots = dead trees.
2. *Dig deep, plant right don't dig shallow holes.* A good hole should be at least 45 cm deep and wide. Break the soil well, mix in compost, and plant your seedling straight and firm. Roots should be fully covered, but the stem base must stay above the soil.
3. *Water the trees.* In dry periods, water your young trees at least twice a week. But don't flood them - slow and deep watering helps roots go deeper. Shallow watering = shallow roots = weak trees.
4. *Guard them against enemies* Goats, cows, termites, and careless people are common killers of young trees. Protect with strong local fences (e.g. dry sticks or thorny branches), and smear ash or chilli water to chase

5. *Weed, but don't disturb.* Clear weeds every 2 - 3 weeks, but be gentle. Don't disturb the roots when weeding. Use a small hoe or your hands to avoid harming the baby tree.

6. *Prune, train them early* Remove dead or broken branches early. Train the tree to grow straight by pruning side branches from the lower trunk - but not too many at once.

7. *Start with fewer, grow big later* Start small - plant only what you can manage well at a time. It's better to have 100 trees surviving than 500 dying. Grow your skills first, then scale up and expand your forest.

As a TIST farmer, remember: ***"You are not just planting trees; you are planting tomorrow."***

Care for each young tree, and you'll be proud of the forest you raise.

(III) Guideline on Clear Cut and how your Small Group get back lost Tonnes

One of the biggest risks in carbon sequestration project that involves tree planting is clear cut of significant number of trees. In TIST, clear cutting hurts all Small Groups in the program. When one TIST Grove is harvested, it harms all of TIST! For instance, when we are audited by outside Verifiers, and find a Grove has been clear cut, the verifiers conclude that this could be the case everywhere else. This means we will be allowed to sell less tone hence less sales for the rest of the Farmers.

What to do when a member of your Small Group decide to cut down TIST Trees

1. Talk to them about the dangers of Clear-cut. Remind them if they are in need of money from sale of firewood or timber, TIST allows Farmers to sustainably thin their trees or prune branches for firewood. TIST Farmer can harvest 5% of his/her trees for building purpose, making furniture's, etc.
2. If they insist of clear cut, kindly notify your Cluster Servant and Cluster Leaders.
3. At the Cluster meeting, please have a discussion with other Farmers about the issue.

4. Convene a meeting with rest of your Group members and discuss how you are going to replace lost tones. You can do this by planting additional trees in your farms. If you do not have a space to plant more trees, you can invite new members to join your Small Group. New member can only be invited when your Small Group has less than 12 members.

5. Immediately after there is clear-cut, please invite your Cluster Servant to come and re-quantify your Small group.

6. It is important to record, how the harvested trees were treated up to the final product. For instance, if there were used for building materials, etc. if you can find out how much the person received for the trees, it will help to compare with the annual profit share they would have received.

We should all remember that our trees are only paid for carbon because they act like a store for carbon they sequester from the atmosphere. When we cut down TIST trees, we destroy the “store” it is because of the “storage services that hold the carbon tonnes” trees get paid for that role.

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TIST Values

As TIST Family we have our Values which most of TIST Small Groups know and practice. We always reflect on these Values and to ensure that we all are truly living by them. The success of TIST is based on the integrity and effort of individual members within TIST. What we can achieve depends on each of us following these Values;

Who are we?

- (i) We are Honest
- (ii) We are Accurate
- (iii) We are Transparent
- (iv) We are Servants to each other
- (v) We are Mutually Accountable to Each Other and
- (vi) We create Low Budget/ cost, yet we achieve Big Results

How we do things that other people can see

- 1) We are committed
- 2) We do our work in small groups
- 3) We seek and use the best way
- 4) We use our minds and hands

What do we do?

- 1) We plant different species of trees for long - term
- 2) We find ways to improve our health

3) We practice Conservation Farming

4) We do other projects and businesses (sustainable agriculture, nurseries, citrus growing, dairy goats and farming, chickens, bee keeping, fishponds and fish keeping, silkworm farming etc.)

5) We sell carbon credits

What do we create?

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 - In Conservation Farming and from other projects and business that we do.

5) We create Low Budget/Cost, yet we achieve big results.

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Picha 1: Kitalu cha niche, Kikundi cha Smart Agriculture, Shauri Moyo, Kakonko

Katika jarida hili, tutakuwa na makala tatu:

- (i) Sasa ni wakati wa kupanda miti zaidi
- (ii) Jinsi ya kuongeza uwezo wa miti kuishi kwa mwaka wa kwanza
- (iii) Mwongozo juu ya Uvunaji miti na jinsi Kikundi chako Kidogo kitakavyorudisha Tani zilizopotea

(I) Sasa ni wakati wa kupanda miti zaidi

Wakulima wa TIST kwa mikoa ambayo mvua zimeanza kunyesha ni wakati wa kupanda miti kuhamisha miche kutoka kwenye vitalu vyetu kupeleka kwenye mashamba yetu. Kila Kikundi kihakikishe kinapanda miti 500. Mpango wa TIST utakuwa endelevu ikiwa kila Mkulima atapanda miti kwa wingi kila mwaka. Tunapaswa kuhakikisha kwamba tunapanda miti kwa kuzingatia vipimo kwa kila aina ya mti, faida za miti na kujaribu kupanda aina mbalimbali za miti katika shamba.

Tunatakiwa kuandaa miche kwa ajili ya kupandikiza. Kwa kuwa mvua zimeanza kunyesha, ni muhimu kila mkulima kuhakikisha kwamba miche iko tayari kuhamishwa kutoka kwenye kitalu na kupandwa shambani.

Miche inahitaji kutayarishwa kwa ajili ya kukabiliana na hali ngumu zaidi ya shambani. Ikiwa miche imetunzwa ipasavyo kwenye kitalu, inaweza kuwa imepata maji na kivuli zaidi kuliko itakavyokuwa itakapopandwa shambani. Punguza kumwagilia hatua kwa hatua na anza kuweka miche kwenye mwanga wa jua ili kuanza kuzoea mabadiliko haya.

Tabia za miche mizuri

Miche mingi itafikia sifa hizi miezi miwili baada ya kuota. Kwa kufuata mwongozo wa jumla (kumbuka aina mbalimbali za miche zina sifa tofautitofauti) miche mizuri ya kupandwa ina sifa zifuatazo:

- Chipukizi liwe mara mbili ya urefu wa mizizi au kiriba.
- Shina la mche liwe imara.
- Miche iwe na mizizi mingi myembamba pamoja na mizizi mikuu.

Kupandikiza

- Safirisha miche kwa kuisimamisha
- Weka alama kwenye mduara wenye kipenyo cha sentimita 30 shambani.
- Ondoa udongo wa juu na uurundike pembeni
- Ondoa safu inayofuata ya udongo kwa kina cha cm 30 na uurundike sehemu tofauti
- Weka safu ya cm 5 ya nyasi (nyasi kavu msimu wa mvua, nyasi mbichi wakati wa kiangazi, inayoitwa matandazo). Wakulima wengine huongeza samadi pia.
- Mwangilia miche kabla ya kuitoa kwenye mfuko ili udongo ukae pamoja.
- Ondoa mche kwenye kiriba. Usitoe mchanga, kata kiriba kwa kutumia kisu au mkasi.
- Weka mche kwenye shimo.
- Rudishia udongo wa juu kwanza ulioweka pembeni, kisha udongo wa chini ulioweka fungu la pili
- Vikundi vingine havifukii shimo kabisa, lakini huacha nafasi ya sentimita chache juu. Hii husaidia maji ya mvua kuingia kwenye shimo na kuingia kwenye udongo. Hii inaweza kusaidia hasa katika maeneo ya ukame.

- Udongo wowote uliobaki unaweza kuwekwa kama tuta upande wa mteremko wa mche. Hii itasaidia kukinga maji yoyote ya mvua na kuyaelekeza kwenye shimo lenye mti.
- Panda miti yako kwa umbali wa m3 - 4. Ukipanda kwa ukaribu basi miche haitapata maji na rutuba yote ya udongo inayohitajika kwa sababu kutakuwa na ushindani mkubwa. Itakuwa dhaifu na inaweza kufa, kwa hivyo fuata Mbinu Bora ya umbali wa m 3- 4.



Picha 2: Kikundi cha Mshikamano wakigawa a miche baada ya kufikishwa shambani

(II) Jinsi ya kuongeza uwezo wa miti kuishi kwa mwaka wa kwanza

Mwaka wa kwanza wa maisha ya mti ni wakati hatari zaidi, mti unaweza kukua au kunyauka. Kwa wakulima kwenye mradi wa TIST, Hatupandi miti zaidi tu; bali tunapanda kwa kuzingatia madhumuni, uangalifu, na ujuzi, ili kuhakikisha miti yetu haiishi tu, bali inastawi. Ifuatayo ni miongozo michache ya kuzingatia ili miti iweze kuishi na kustawi:

1. *Panda kwa wakati sahihi.* Wakati mzuri wa kupanda ni mwanzoni mwa msimu wa mvua - usipande kabla ya msimu wa mvua kuanza wala usichelewe baada ya mvua zitakapoanza kunyesha. Ukipanda miti wakati wa mvua za mapema mizizi huwa imara na kupenya chini kabla ya msimu wa kiangazi. Kuchelewa kupanda = mizizi dhaifu = miti iliyokufa.
2. *Chimba shimo refu, panda kwa usahihi,* usichimbe mashimo mafupi. Shimo zuri linapaswa kuwa angalau 45 cm kwa kina na upana. Ponda udongo vizuri, changanya na mboji, kisha panda mche wako moja kwa moja. Mizizi inapaswa kufunikwa kikamilifu, lakini shina lazima litokeze juu ya udongo.
3. *Mwagilia miti yako.* Katika vipindi vya kiangazi, mwagilia miti michanga angalau mara mbili kwa wiki. Unapomwagilia usijaze majje hadi kuzamisha mti - kumwagilia polepole na kwa umakini husaidia mizizi kwenda chini zaidi.

4. *Linda miti yako dhidi ya maadui kama vile Mbuzi, ng'ombe, mchwa, na watu wasiojali.* Weka uzio wenye nguvu (k.m. vijiti vikavu au matawi yenye miiba) kuzungukuka miti au shamba lako, paka majivu au maji ya pilipili ili kufukuza wadudu.
5. *Palilia shamba lako la miti kwa umakini.* Ondoa magugu kila baada ya wiki 2-3, lakini uwe makini, usiguse mizizi wakati wa kupalilia. Tumia jembe dogo au mikono yako ili kuepuka kudhuru miti midogo.
6. *Pogolea miti yako.* Ondoa matawi yaliyokufa au yaliyovunjika mapema ili miti uzoe kukua moja kwa moja kwenda juu, unaweza kupogoa matawi ya pembeni kutoka kwenye shina la chini - lakini yasiwe matawi mengi kwa wakati mmoja.
7. *Anza kwa kupanda miti michache,* halafu utaendelea kuongeza na kukua kidogo kidogo baadaye- panda miti utakayoweza kuisimamia vyema kwa wakati mmoja. Ni bora kuwa na miti 100 iliyonusurika kuliko 500 kufa. Kuza ujuzi wako kwanza wa namna ya kupanda na kutunza miti, kisha utaendelea kuongeza na kupanua msitu wako.

Ukiwa mkulima wa TIST, kumbuka: *“Hupandi miti tu; bali unapanda kesho yako.”*

Tunza kila mti mchanga, na utajivunia msitu unaokua.

(III) Mwongozo juu ya Uvunaji miti na jinsi Kikundi chako Kidogo kitakavyorudisha Tani zilizopotea

Mojawapo ya hatari kubwa zaidi katika biashara ya kaboni inayohusisha upandaji miti ni ukatwaji wa idadi kubwa ya miti. Katika TIST, kukata/kuvuna miti kunaathiri Vikundi Vidogo vyote vya kwenye mradi. Msitu mmoja wa TIST unapovunwa, hudhuru TIST yote! Kwa mfano, tunapokaguliwa na Wakaguzi kutoka nje, na kukuta shamba limevunwa miti yote na kubaki wazi, wakaguzi huhitimisha kuwa hii inaweza kuwa hali iko hivyo kila mahali. Hii ina maana kwamba tutaruhusiwa kuuza tani kidogo za kaboni, hivyo wakulima wengine wote watapata mauzo kidogo.

(III) Nini cha kufanya ikiwa mwanachama wa Kikundi chako Kidogo ataamua kukata Miti ya TIST

1. Zungumza naye kuhusu hatari ya Kukata miti. Wakumbushe kuwa kama wanahitaji pesa kutokana na uuzaji wa kuni au mbao, TIST inaruhusu Wakulima kupunguza miti yao kwa uendelevu au kukatia matawi kwa ajili ya kuni. Mkulima anaweza kukata 5% ya miti yake shambani kwa ajili ya matumizi binafsi kama vile kujengea, kutengenezea samani, nk.
2. Iwapo wanasisitiza kuvuna miti yao, toa taarifa kwa Mtumishi wako wa Klasta na kwa viongozi wa Kikundi chako.
3. Katika mkutano wa Klasta, tafadhali fanyeni majadiliano na Wakulima wengine kuhusu suala hilo.
4. Itisha mkutano na wanachama wengine wa Kikundi chako na mjadili jinsi mtakavyorudisha tani zilizopotea. Unaweza kufanya hivyo kwa kupanda miti ya ziada katika mashamba lako. Ikiwa eneo lako halina nafasi ya kupanda miti zaidi, unaweza kuwaalika wanachama wapya kujiunga na Kikundi chako Kidogo. Mwanachama mpya anaweza tu kualikwa kama Kikundi chako Kidogo kina wanachama wasiozidi 12.
5. Mara tu baada ya kuvuna miti, tafadhali mwambie Mtumishi wako wa Klasta aje kuhesabu tena miti kwenye kikundi chako Kidogo.
6. Ni muhimu kuweka kumbukumbu jinsi miti iliyovunwa namna ilivyotumika hadi bidhaa ya mwisho. Kwa mfano, kama imetumika kwa ajili ya vifaa vya ujenzi, nk. na kujua thamani yake ni kiasi gani, itasaidia kulinganisha na faida ya kila mwaka ambayo mkulima angepokea.

Sote tunapaswa kukumbuka kwamba miti yetu hulipwa kwa ajili ya kaboni tu ni kwa sababu yenyewe ni kama ghala la kaboni ambayo inachukuliwa kutoka kwenye hewa/anga. Tunapokata miti ya TIST, tunaharibu "ghala letu" linalotoa "huduma ya kuhifadhi tani za kaboni" ambalo hulipwa kwa jukumu hilo.

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MAADILI YA TIST

Kama Familia ya TIST tuna Maadili yetu ambayo wengi wa Wanavikundi Vidogo vya TIST wanayajua na kuyatekeleza. Daima tunatafakari juu ya Maadili haya na kuhakikisha kwamba sote tunaishi kulingana nayo. Mafanikio ya TIST yanatokana na uadilifu na juhudi za wanachama binafsi ndani ya TIST. Tunachoweza kufikia inategemea kila mmoja wetu kufuata Maadili haya;

Sisi ni Nani?

- 1) Sisi ni waaminifu.
- 2) Sisi tunatoa taarifa sahihi.
- 3) Sisi ni wawazi
- 4) Sisi tunatumikiana.
- 5) Sisi ni wawajibikaji
- 6) Bajeti Ndogo, Matokeo Makubwa

Jinsi tunavyofanya mambo ambayo watu wengine wanaweza kuona

- 1) Sisi tunajitolea.
- 2) Tunafanya kazi zetu katika vikundi vidogovidogo
- 3) Tunatafuta na kutumia njia bora
- 4) Tunatumia akili na mikono yetu.

Tunachofanya

- 1) Tunapanda aina mbalimbali za miti itakayodumu kwa muda mrefu.
- 2) Tunafanya mambo kuboresha afya zetu.
- 3) Tunafanya Kilimo Hai.
- 4) Tunafanya miradi na biashara zingine.
- 5) Tunafanya biashara ya hewa ya kaboni.

Tunafanya.

- 1) Tunaunda kazi ya timu—kwa kufanya mambo kwa njia hii; tunaishia kufanya kazi kama timu.
- 2) Tunajenga Uwezo-tunaunda shirika, nguvu, na mfumo ambao ni imara.
- 3) Tunafanya mambo yanayotufurahisha-tunaona matokeo, tunatimiza mambo makubwa ambayo tunafurahia
- 4) Tunafanya mambo yanayoleta matokeo makubwa-matokeo makubwa ya upandaji miti. matokeo makubwa katika Kilimo Hai na matokeo makubwa kutokana na miradi na biashara zingine tunazofanya.