



# THE TREE

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## TIST Uganda February 2012 News letter

"The Tree" N'orupapura r'wamakuru orukuhandikwa aba TIST Uganda, etaagrya the International Small Group and Tree planting program.

### OKUKORA KWAITU

TIST n'ekigombe ekyehaireyo kwimutsya omutindo gwabahingi aba'hansi kirikubongyeramu amaani gokuwanisa okucwekyerezibwa kw'ebibira, okwejuna obworo nekyanda kitari kyaburijo.

### EBIGYENDERERWA BYAITU

Omukunwanisa entunguka yentuura nokurundana omwoya orurungi orurukuru ga omumiti. TIST nehweza abahingi abankurenga 25,000/, ebyokwerinda Sirimu, endisa orungi yabomumaka nokucendeza enkoresa yenku namakara.

### PREFACE

Tist farmers received validators Team with happiness.  
Prepare for C.F for a great harvest  
Weed your trees here is why:  
Banana bacterial wilt: Action to protect your plantation.

### EBIRYOMUNDA

Abahingi b'emiti ba Tist bakaakiira abashwiji ba miti namashemere rwa.

Tebekanisa kukora C.F ahabwamasharura marungi.  
Yombera / bagarira emiti omu muringo ugu.  
Endwara y'ebilookye, okurinda orutookye.

### EDITORIAL

#### EDITORS MESSAGE:

Last month TIST UGANDA hosted a team of verifiers/ validators from Environmental Service Inc. who went to many groves in Kabale, Kanungu and Bushenyi and promised to make another trip before this year ends. Thanks to those who received them at your groves. Plant more indigenous and fruit trees and care for them. Wish you good life in the New Year. **Ara.**

#### OBUTUMWA BWA EDITA:

Okwezi kumwe okuhwira TIST Uganda ekataayisya abashwiji bemiti ya TIST abekigombe "Environmental Service Inc". Bakashwijuma amahamba/ ebibira bingi omuri Kabale, Kanungu na Bushenyi kandi bakaraganisa kugaruka omwaka ugu gutakahweire. Mwebare ababahikize ahamurimo gwanyu. Mwongyere kubyara emiti mingi yenzarwa neyobijuma kandi mugireebereregye. Omwaka musya gubabeere ihoreere. **Ara.**

Okwezi kwa ikumi neebiri abashwiji bemiti kuruga omuri "Environmental Service Inc. bakajja kushwijuma kumanya ku TIST ebyekora biraabe bini ebyamazima kandi bihikire, okuhamiza abagura omwoya ngu ebitugamba ahamurimo yebibira ebikye kubiri ebihikire kandi byamazima.

Ebishushani ebyo nibyoreka abo bashwiji ba ESI, orukurata ahamukuru wa ekibira CAAC, Charlie Williams, ababazi bemiti nabebembezi ba TIST Uganda bariyo nibahwira omukushwijuma, nipapima obuhango bwemiti noburaingwa kuruga ahamuri kuza ahagundi. Ekindi nikyoreka enyeteerana hamwe nahahingi nabandi bebembezi babantu.

Nitusiima ababyazi bemiti, ababazi baayo abebembezi ba TIST nabainire omwete TIST ahabwomujinya/ omuzimbwe ogwabaasiise omurimo ogwo kuhwagye.

Twaaba tutegeyereze rupota eratubaasise kwikirizibwa kutandika kuguza omwoya omurundi gurikubandiza kimwe, tushemereire kugumizamu nokukuratira ebitwegyesibwa nokutatema miti yaitu omubwire bwemyaka 30. Twena tube abeesigwa, abarukuhikiriza, abakukora kyo kyeniyini, tuhwerane nkokuturikujunirwa ebya bagyenzi baitu.

Emikorere ya TIST mirungi niyo ndugiiriro yo kutubaasisa kuguza omwoya tukatunga enshagi kumara emyaka mingi.

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER TIST FARMERS RECEIVED VALIDATORS' TEAM WITH HAPPINESS

Last year in December, a team of auditors from the United States visited TIST farmers in Uganda to conduct a Validation and Verification of TIST in Uganda. They were received with great joy and happiness by TIST farmers as they visited their groves in different parts of Kabale, Kanungu and Bushenyi. The farmers were happy because the audit is essential for selling carbon stored in the trees. TIST farmers are in the carbon business, and will receive 70% of profits from sales. As in any business, if we don't make sales, the business will fail. From the time TIST started, in Uganda, we have not had any carbon income. Funds to run the program and for tree incentives have been made with the expectation that we would succeed in carbon sales. Money from these sales will be used to cover expenses through today, and when revenue from sales is larger than costs, farmers will start to receive more carbon income. Successful Validation and Verification are only possible when we follow TIST values of being: Honest, Mutually Accountable, Transparent, and Servants to each other. Profits are only possible if we are committed volunteers who continue to achieve big results by planting and caring for our trees, and recruiting friends and neighbors to join TIST. TIST, its benefits, and profits are only possible if we keep our word, and maintain our trees for at least 30 years so that they grow big and store a lot of carbon. The farmers, opinion leaders and religious leaders who met the Validators were very happy that what was seen as a dream is becoming

reality. They were interviewed individually and shared their views about TIST in Uganda.

The farmers thanked the TIST staff: Quantifiers and Trainers for the good work done already and encouraged them to keep up the spirit. The farmers promised the US staff that they will plant more trees, especially indigenous and fruit trees, for the benefit of their families and the environment.

We are hopeful for the good results so that Uganda is allowed to sell carbon. This will encourage many farmers to plant more trees and take good care of them for 30 years.

Thanks to every one who participated in the Validation/Verification exercise.

God bless you  
Enoch Tumwebaze.

## PREPARE FOR C.F. FOR A GREAT HARVEST!

The Conservation Farming preparation months are here! The harvest season is best for preparing fields since the ground is dry and we have many crop remains to slash for fodder and to heap up for mulching and to make compost manure. Farmers are opening the land, digging holes for conservation farming. They are chopping crop remains into small pieces and adding them to other organic materials and aged to create rich compost manure. Farmers are mixing the aged manure with soil in the CF holes during the dry season. Join other TIST farmers and try CF to see a better harvest in your own fields. This month, dig your holes and mix in manure to be ready in good time before rains come.

Holes for seasonal crops can be dug in between rows of perennial crops. Many farmers have had good results from C.F. holes dug in banana

plantations if the plantation is well spaced to allow intercropping. *Maize* is one seasonal crop that can be planted in C.F. holes to intercrop with bananas, but many crops have benefits. C.F. using beans and peas may help improve soil fertility, while growing sweet potatoes with bananas may help prevent damage by nematodes.

The banana plantation or other fields cared for using C.F. techniques will gain nutrients from the soil and the manure added to C.F. holes. Because the land isn't plowed, C.F. will also help prevent erosion that robs soil of its fertility. C.F. will help the farmer to get more yields from both annual crops and the banana plantation.

I urge my fellow farmers to practice Conservation Farming to get the best yields. Get started with your Small Group today! By working together, you can make the preparation easier and share your successes.

Robert Tumuhairwe Babu, Trainer,  
Masoro

## WEED YOUR TREES! HERE'S WHY:

During the recent Validation and Verification visit, the audit team noted something TIST farmers have known for years: trees groves that are well-tended and weeded have much better tree growth than groves that were poorly tended and choked with weeds. Trees in a well-tended grove were often twice as big as trees of the same age!

Weeding is important for these reasons:

1. Your seedlings need water, soil nutrients, and light to grow strong. The weeds will use the soil nutrients and water that your seedlings need. They can grow fast, and limit the

light to your trees, so that they become stunted or grow thin, weak trunks as they try to reach the light. The result is that your seedlings will be weaker and may not survive.

2. If your area is not weeded, more pests may be attracted to the area. Pests can damage and kill your seedlings. The fewer weeds there are, the less chance there will be of snakes and insects.
3. Weeds, when they die and dry, can make fires that spread to your grove more damaging and dangerous because they provide fuel for the fire to burn.

Here are some of the advantages of weeding your groves:

- Trees grow faster because weeds don't take the nutrients and water from the soil.
- Trees will become stronger and grow taller in a shorter period of time.
- Trees can get the sunlight they need unhindered.
- Trees are not exposed to as many diseases.
- Trees are more protected from a fire spreading.
- Clean groves indicate that Small Groups are maintaining them and are good examples of the TIST program. This will attract many people to come and see your work.
- Clean groves enable quantifiers to count the trees quickly and accurately.

We encourage you to weed your groves. The hard work will make a difference- your trees will be healthier and stronger.

**Agaba Denis**  
**Quantifier Bushenyi.**

### **What is a TIST "Cluster" and why is it important for TIST Small Groups?**

A cluster is an area where 40-60 Small Groups and their groves are all located within walking distance of each other, and where groups meet monthly to share updates and best practices and to receive training. Having clusters of groups reduces the distance traveled by trainers and quantifiers in reaching the group members and their trees. Similarly, when groups are scattered and far away from each other, group members have to travel long distances to attend TIST training events and to receive tree incentive payments. TIST also has to conduct more training events so that all Small Groups can be trained. When groups are in clusters, TIST training can be held within walking distance for group members. When groups are in clusters, quantifiers can quantify many more groups in a shorter time. As you can see, having clusters of Small Groups reduces the cost of running the TIST program since trainers and quantifiers can get more work done while spending less money on travel. Since TIST members share carbon profits (that is, sales revenue from carbon minus the cost of operating the TIST program), we all benefit when we reduce costs!

Count the number of registered TIST Small Groups that are within walking distance of your group and of each other.

Are there at least 40 such groups?

Discuss with your group members how you can recruit new Small

Groups in your area that are within walking distance of your group. Begin recruiting new groups within walking distance of your group by talking to them about the benefits of the TIST Program

Work with Quantifiers, Trainers, and TIST Uganda Staff to register the newly recruited groups.

TIST Cluster meetings are good for us all. Let's remember to meet together to make TIST strong to benefit all of us and our environment.

**Kabikire Milton,**  
**Trainer Kyeizooba.**

**Small Group Best Practices**  
Remember and follow these practices to achieve big things:

TIST Small Groups should be between 6-12 people. With fewer than six people, you may not get as many good ideas, or it may be harder for you to achieve your TIST goals. With more than 12 people, it is more difficult for everyone to feel included. It maybe difficult for everyone to share their ideas or to listen properly, and it is more difficult to find a time and place to meet together that works for everyone.

It is generally better if group members are not from at least two or three different families.

Family groups may find it more difficult to rotate leadership and divide work tasks fairly. If the groups are friends or work together in other ways, it is easier for all members to share ideas freely and work together equally.

**Rotating Leadership**

In Rotating Leadership, each group member takes a turn to lead and co-lead the group meeting. There is no single leader. Rather, the responsibility is equally shared among everybody.

Rotating Leadership has many benefits:

Each person has different ways of leading, and each person has different gifts. Rotating the leadership means group members can all learn from each other about leadership.

If everyone is supportive and encouraging, even shy group members will have the chance to grow in confidence and leadership abilities. We are able to learn something from everyone.

Rotating leadership also reduces the stress of one person being responsible all the time.

Because the responsibility is equally shared, no one person should be overly burdened or tired by the job.

Rotating the leadership means there will be fewer problems if one person likes to dominate the conversation and will be in charge all the time.

### **Servant Leadership**

The leader is a servant because he or she should try to put the other group members first.

1. The leader should be humble, patient, accepting and honest.
2. The leader should show the same acceptance and respect for every group member, regardless of what they do outside the group.
3. The leader should speak very little!
4. He or she should encourage all members to share their ideas and have the chance to speak.

5. Leaders should make sure they properly listen to the group members. Encourage people when they have made a contribution.

6. Don't pretend you know all the answers!

7. Even if you do know the answer, it is better to let the group discuss the question themselves. If someone asks a question, offer it to the rest of the group to discuss. For example, say 'Good question. What do others think?' or 'what do others feel?'.

8. Try to recognize the gifts that each person has, and to encourage them in the things they do well.

9. Remember to share your own stories, strengths and weaknesses with the group.

An honest, open leader makes others feel comfortable to share themselves.

**Millian Kyorimpa.**

**Quantifier Bushenyi.**

### **BANANA BACTERIAL WILT: ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PLANTATION**

Here in Uganda, bananas are a vital staple. However, banana wilt is damaging plantations and killing plants, making hunger a real risk.

*What is banana bacterial wilt?*

Banana bacterial wilt is a disease that spoils bananas, causing the fruits to ripen early and the male flower buds to shrivel up. When you cut an infected banana stem, you can see yellow or orange pus coming out.

*How does banana bacterial wilt spread?*

Banana bacterial wilt spreads most easily when you cut a plant with a knife or panga that is dirty from an infected plant. Even if the knife looks clean, it may still carry the bacteria that spread this disease. To stop the spread, then, it is best to prune as little as possible. If you

need to prune, clean your blade by heating it, if possible, or clean it very carefully.

Bees and flies that have fed on diseased male banana flower buds may also spread bacterial wilt. To prevent this, remove male buds as soon as the last fruit bunches have formed. Use a forked stick to twist and break off the buds. That way you will not move the bacteria around as you might using a knife.

*What should I do if some of my banana plants are infected?*

Dig up diseased plants as soon as you notice the disease and take them away from the plantation area to compost them. Cut the plants into small pieces and make compost from them as usual. The heat from composting will kill the bacteria. Even if suckers from infected plants look healthy, don't use them to grow new plants since they may still carry the bacteria.

Work with your neighbors, other TIST members, and agricultural extension officers to share good practices and to create a community plan to limit the spread of this disease.

*What else can I do?*

It is important to grow diverse crops so that even if your bananas are infected, you will still be able to harvest other crops. Grow sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, arrowroots, and beans. Planting many different kinds of crops helps ensure a good harvest.

**Christine.**