

TIST Farmers Announce the Verification of Over 1 Million Tonnes of Carbon Reductions in Kenya and Uganda

Smallhold Farmers Have Received Verified Co-Benefits Over \$69 Million Dollars

The International Small Group Tree Planting Program (TIST) farmers and Clean Air Action Corporation (CAAC) are proud to announce the verification of an additional 480,617 tonnes of carbon reductions in Kenya and 550,957 tonnes of carbon reductions in Uganda. Carbon reductions are created by smallhold farmers who are taking action to restore degraded portions of their land by planting trees. These recent verifications incorporate 40,852 of TIST's 80,000+ farmers, growing a total of over 6.26 million verified trees. In total, TIST farmers have over 16 million live trees. These verifications were under both Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and The Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) standards.

In addition to significant benefits for the climate, these farmers have created \$69,854,890 of verified additional economic benefits to date. Benefits include improved crop yields through conservation farming, fruit, nuts, fodder, firewood, and the introduction of more fuel-efficient stoves. TIST farmers participate in health and sanitation education, leadership opportunities, and information networks. Due to these benefits, TIST projects have achieved the gold level of Exceptional Community Benefits, by the CCBA.

Clean Air Action Corporation Vice President Charlie Williams stated, "These two large verifications are particularly important because they prove that the TIST monitoring and auditing systems, operated entirely by TIST participants, are highly reliable and replicable. The system of monitoring was so robust that our error calculations were below 2.2% percent. This requires not only a good data system but also extremely good training, monitoring, and auditing in the field, by dedicated teams of TIST participants. We were also able to include 16,737 new tree groves representing 650,389 tonnes."

CAAC President Ben Henneke added, "We are particularly proud that the non-carbon benefits to the farmers are so much greater than predicted. Another exciting thing about these verifications is that all of the field work and work with the third party verifier was accomplished by East Africans and did not require an expat to be on site. TIST is developing proven leadership and the technical capabilities that will make this effort and others sustainable. A team in the US and East Africa is already at work preparing the next set of project documents for verification."

TIST smallhold farmers gain access to the international carbon market through CAAC, so they can profit from the carbon they sequester. These farmers join Small Groups of 6-12 members and work together to address climate change, land degradation, and poverty. Women, youth, and other marginalized groups do not face barriers to participation. TIST farmers are creating economic improvement for their families, environmental health for their communities, and a sustainable future for the world.

TIST is a program of Clean Air Action Corporation, which has been a pioneer in emissions compliance and reduction for over two decades. All inquiries should be directed to info@tist.org or (918) 747-8770.