

## **CONCEPT FOR THE FMNR NATIONAL CONFERENCE - 2014**

### **1.0 Introduction**

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) is one of World Vision Uganda's models to address environmental degradation challenges. The model hinges on the ability of most indigenous tree species to regenerate or coppice naturally, if allowed to. Hence it seeks to build this awareness among communities, and to challenge them to allow tree stumps to coppice, nurture the coppices, and do all it requires to keep regenerating more trees. In Uganda, FMNR was piloted in Offaka ADP between 2010-2013.

A new and running project was launched in 2012 at a national workshop (which attracted 67 participants), followed by another national workshop (which had 41 participants) to bring project implementers on board in 2013. The project is being implemented together with ICRAF Uganda in Kibaale, Nakasongola, Abim and Kotido districts.

However, aside from the four districts, the current FMNR project has a national outlook, which aims at creating a national FMNR movement. Since challenges of deforestation are country wide, it is important to utilize all possible avenues to address them. It is against this background that a national promotional conference is organized to reach out to partners that are spread across the country.

### **2.0 Rationale**

The FMNR model has been developed within World Vision internationally and in Uganda. Except for those who have participated in the past two national FMNR events or the current FMNR project, information has largely remained within the confines of World Vision.

As indicated in the introduction above, this third national FMNR event aims at creating awareness about the FMNR model in contrast with other efforts that exist to increase tree cover within Uganda. The specific objectives of the conference are as below.

## 2.1 Specific conference objectives

- a) To create awareness about FMNR and its potential for re-greening landscapes
- b) Share experiences and learn from different initiatives for regenerating and conserving trees.
- c) To establish a network of stakeholders for promotion and initiation of FMNR scale up

## 2.2 Conference outcomes

- a) Recommendations for scale up of FMNR in Uganda
- b) A network of stakeholders that are committing to integration of FMNR into own programs

### **CONFERENCE THEME**

#### ***“Re-greening Landscapes”***

#### ***Investing differently in building climate change resilience***

The theme of the conference is centered on the FMNR model, as an alternative way of investment in the building climate change resilience. With financial resources from both donors and within dwindling, reforestation is getting lower and lower on the investment priority list of the Government of Uganda. Yet the need for re-greening landscapes through increasing tree cover is more evident in the wake of climate change. Hence the need to find more cost effective ways of increasing tree cover. FMNR is one such way, but may not be the only one.

### **3.0 Conference target participants**

Given the objectives of the conference, a wide range of participants is expected. These will include: NGOs, community based organizations, National Agriculture advisory services staff, participants from Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institutions (ZARDIs), District local government staff from selected districts, World Vision staff from the FMNR project areas, and from Clusters that have integrated FMNR into their programs as well as officials from Ministry of Agriculture, Animal industries and Fisheries and Ministry of Water and Environment.

Two things are common with all the participants that will participate in this conference and that is; either working in the natural resources sector, or operating in vulnerable ecosystems.

### **4.0 Key Conference Guests and speakers**

The chief guest is expected to be Margaret Adata, Commissioner for Forestry in the Ministry of Water and Environment. We also expect Dennis Garrity, former Director General for ICRAF and UN Drylands Champion, to be present as a guest speaker that has a wide knowledge about climate change issues and is passionate about FMNR. Tony Rinaudo the FMNR champion who saw the beginning of FMNR in Niger and who has done a lot of work to promote FMNR worldwide will also be present.

Other presentations about how different stakeholders are investing in re-greening landscapes and building Climate Change resilience are expected from the following categories.

- i. Local Government
- ii. Research institutions – NaFORRI
- iii. Private Sector
- iv. NGOs
- v. ICRAF
- vi. World Vision

## **5.0 Conference Organizers and funding**

The conference is being organized by World Vision Uganda (WVU) and World Agroforestry Center commonly known as International Center for Research in Agroforestry (WAC /ICRAF). These are the two organizations that are implementing the running FMNR project.

Funding for the conference is from World Vision through the current FMNR project, with the generous support of the Australian Government through DFAT.