



Thomas Bangsgaard Vestergaard from the Royal Danish Embassy Kampala plant a tree seedling during a field visit to Tree Talk Gulu

# Tree TALK

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Tree Planting has no age limit, young or old, Tree Talk will support you to plant and grow trees!

# Regreening from stumps

## Be smart, leave the stumps to re-grow for better yields

The state minister for Environment, Sylvia Munaba, recently launched Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration as another approach for regreening Uganda in Kibale district.

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) allows trees to grow from existing stumps, roots and germinating seed buried in the soil. "Trees growing from stumps and roots normally grow faster because the stump has many roots that are already established to pick nutrients from the soil," says **Sebastian Walaita, a tree expert.**

"People want to grow trees that are straight and tall yet we should be growing trees depending on what we want to use them for. If I need trees for firewood, charcoal, or to hung bee-hives, they do not have to be straight and I do not have to plant a seedling," says **Daniel Isaac Munaaba, World Vision Staff, Nakasongola.**

**Cotilda Nakyeeyune, Project Manager**



Benson Lotyang (World Vision) showing farmers in Nakapelimoru, Kotido district how to manage trees growing from stumps.

class studying rather than looking for firewood."

"The trees we have managed through this approach are growing faster. They are not affected by termites. It is a good way to re-introduce trees in Karamoja," says **Akorio Rose, an FMNR champion in Nakapelimoru, Kotido district.**

Although FMNR is not a new approach, a lot of action research has been going on around it since 1993. This was after the founder Tonny Renaudo getting a lot of frustration planting trees in the Niger. He then noticed that tree stumps were regenerating and he decided to build on the opportunity nature was presenting this community to regreen.

Renaudo adds that FMNR promotes regenerating, maintaining, restoring, protecting and preserving indigenous trees. He adds that its benefits are immense and they include; increasing of crop yields, production of fodder for animals, fuel wood yet it uses less water.

**Rasur Abajere, a pupil at Kasozi Primary School in Nakasongola** says, "We learnt about growing trees on stumps and I am now applying the approach at home. Mum and Dad have liked it."

• **for FMNR at World Vision says.**

• "We need trees in farmlands, grazing lands, natural woodlands and forest and these do not have to be planted."

• "We need firewood, and we should not be investing a lot of money to grow trees for firewood," says **Okuda Veronica, Gere, Oreta parish, Nyakwae sub-**

• **county in Abim District.**

• **Kabugo Betty, a champion in Kyakatono, Nakitoma in Nakasongola district.** "Everybody should nurture Indigenous trees because, they have medicinal values and wild fruit that we need. Besides, our children should be in



1 Survey your land, noting which tree species exist on it

## The way to do it

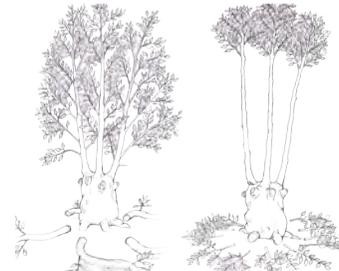
2 Select which tree stumps to be used for regeneration. This depends on your preference

2



3 Trees are allowed to grow from existing stumps or roots and germinating seed buried in the soil.

3 Choose the best shoots, prune them and cut off the rest



4 Tie the pruned shoots together for support and straight growth

4



# Regeneration enhances local knowlege on trees

**I**t is four years since World Vision Uganda introduced Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration in Uganda. Starting in Offaka and Anyiribu sub-counties in Arua district, it trained 54 farmers who have since adopted and started implementing the approach.

After the success in Offaka, a new and bigger project started in October 2012, with a goal to improve food security and climate resilience in small holder farming systems in selected sub-counties of Nalweyo in Kibaale, Nakapelimoru in Kotido, Nyakwae in Abim and Nakitoma in Nakasongola.

The first step is to identify a farmer to champion the approach. The champion together with the local leaders then mobilise a group of farmers who are trained. School children in primary schools are reached through school environmental clubs. All implementation is done jointly with the district local government officials from the departments of natural resources, production, education and the sub-county leadership.

3000 people had been trained with over 471.8 hectares (1,180 Acres) under



Working through a community champion. A farmer demonstrates how to remove extra stems in Nakitoma subcounty, Nakasongola.

FMNR at the beginning of 2014, according to World Vision.

Buzu Fred Bayo, a farmer in Anyiribu sub-county in Arua district was one of the first beneficiaries of the training. Bayo, who now has 1,000 trees on his farm with over 26 tree species says "When people saw me pruning the trees, they started respecting them and my land. I

focused more on indeginous trees. Select trees based on how useful they are to you. For example I retained the Oli tree because it is medicinal to my goats."

Bayo adds that the training enhanced the indeginous knowlege of the farmers on the different tree species and their usefulness.

"The main cost in this project is related to changing attitudes, training of trainers, exposure visits, radio talk shows and motivation of best performers. Otherwise the cost of tree seedlings and establishment in the field are eliminated," says Lazarus Okot FMNR Project coordinator in Abim District.

"We encourage district local governments to embrace FMNR and integrate it in the District Development plans," says Cotilda Nakyeyune.

Nakyeyune says they plan to identify income generating activities based on FMNR and promote them among communities. "These might include bee-keeping, backcloth making, processing of tamarind, and shea butter among others.

If adopted, farmer managed natural regeneration will significantly improve biodiversity that will enable farmers to be productive in the face of environmental shocks such as drought, floods, severe storms and pest attacks.

**E-mail: info@treetalk.or.ug to learn more about FMNR.**

## Offaka and Anyiribu famers reap big

**A**part from improving on their understanding and love for trees, FMNR champions in Offaka and Anyiribu are reaping big from the additional benefits of FMNR.

"Before, we were not concerned about how many trees were on our farms but now we know the actual number and their location. Our goal is to improve food security and fight climate change," says Milton Anguyo a farmer in Anyiribu who has 8,000 trees on his farm with 57 different species.

Anguyo has increased his animals from 25 goats to 70 goats and 30 herds of cattle to 90 because of the pastures that resulted from practicing FMNR.

Yuda Matuong had 68 herds of cattle, 24 goats and 32 sheep. To-date he has increased to 120 herds of cattle, 50 goats and 60 sheep.

FMNR provides a good environment for bee keeping as well. A number of farmers have started bee-keeping in the areas under FMNR and honey sells like hot cake.

Bayo recently harvested 150kgs of honey from 14 bee hives earning Shs 525,000/=. "I used the money to pay school fees for my daughter. The balance I used to buy two piglets."

Anguyo harvested honey and realized



Dratele Goffin, a farmer in Adabu Village, Ocebu Parish Ndraba in Arua district looking after his animals.

Shs 750,000/= that he used to pay school fees (Ushs 350,000/=), paint his house (50,000/=), hospital bill (Shs 50,000/=) and Shs 300,000/= was used to dig fresh land for cultivation.

"We now have colleagues coming from Karamoja to learn from us how FMNR works. It is kind of local tourism for the people of Offaka and Anyiribu," says Bayo.

The biggest challenge is bush fires, especially during the dry spells. These fires kill off the young regenerating trees.

Secondly, there are land wrangles caused by encroachment which is difficult to handle at times.

**Need Tree Talk ?**

**Get to any Straight Talk Youth Centers in Gulu, Kitgum, Nwoya, Adjumani, Agago and Moroto.**

If you are in Northern Uganda, listen to our radio programs on Luo FM (Pader), Radio Wa (Lira), Radio Rupiny (Gulu) and Radio Amani (Adjumani)

Follow us on facebook [www.facebook.com/pages/Tree-Talk](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Tree-Talk) and twitter @treetalkstf OR Write to P O Box 22366, Kampala. Email: info@treetalk.or.ug

# Ever-green agriculture - prevents soil exhaustion

**E**ver green agriculture involves maintaining a green cover on the land throughout the year. Trees are integrated into the farming system amongst the crops and livestock.

FMNR is a form of evergreen agriculture, as trees are maintained on the farmland which prevents soil exhaustion by providing the soil with a constant cover.

Other forms of evergreen agriculture include conservation agriculture, inter-cropping trees with regular



Crops and trees together in Inomo, Apac

crops, and planting trees in tilled cropland.

Having a constant cover of trees on the land provides soil protection, fertilizes the soil, fixes nitrogen and reduces the amount of time a farmer takes to till the land.

It is an easily accessible agricultural practice, one that is able to build upon indigenous farming techniques and provides the whole community benefits.

Resting of used cropland has been the preferred method of restoring fertility to soil.

However, as populations increase, there is no time for the soil to rest. Farmers have to plant continuously, degrading their fields and reducing the productivity.

Fertilizers are not readily available to many farmers and are expensive. Ever green farming offers a low cost, sustainable, and environmentally friendly way of increasing food security.

In Zambia, more than 160,000 farmers have inter-cropped their maize farms with *Faidherbia albida*, a species of acacia native to Africa. In Malawi, maize yields on farms with fertilizer trees are found

to be 2.5 times higher than the yields on farms without them.

Tree Talk encourages farmers to intercrop with trees because trees provide nutrients to crops when the leaves drop, dry and decompose.

The best tree species for evergreen agriculture are those whose leaves easily decompose when they drop off. They also do not form a thick canopy hence allowing light to reach the crops.

The species include *Grevilea robusta*, *markhamia lutea*, *Albizia coriaria*, *Maesopsis eminii* among others.

## Select the best spot for your bee hives

**L**ike human beings, bees require a clean environment to be able to produce quality honey. Christopher Mutagubya, a champion in Kyakaton Village in Nakitoma, Nakasongola says "before placing your bee-hives, you need to identify a minimum area of one acre."

"Bees can migrate to another hive which they find to be cleaner. Therefore, it is important that you clear all unnecessary bushes and thickets for the bees to colonise," says Isaac Kiirya, Program Officer, Nature Uganda.

"Make sure that there are no wasps. Do not use pesticides or herbicides in the area. A part from poor bee-hive



and modern beehives such as the Top Bar model. Local bee-hives are preferred because they are cheap. Other forms of bee-hives include broken clay pots, gourds and those woven out of rattan.

When choosing which tree species to leave in your plot, look out for medicinal trees. Honey made from pollen collected from flowers of medicinal trees normally has medicinal value too.

**For more information about bee keeping, talk to bee-keepers in your area.**

hygiene, lack of water and hot weather also affect the performance of bees."

Fence off the area to avoid animals going through the same plot. If the animals are sprayed against ticks, then this scares the bees.

Use a mix of local bee-hives

## Lead by example

**S**tate Minister for Teso Affairs, Christine Amongin Aporu (pictured below with seedling) officiates at a tree planting activity spearheaded by Teso Na Ikoto oni, a social media group of young Iteso professionals with a goal to develop Teso.

The activity took place in Kumi district. Tree Talk provided the group with 1,000 seedlings

of different varieties. The group planted the trees in Kumi Technical School, Bishop Maraka SS, Kumi Primary School, and Kapokin Primary School in Atatur sub-county. The activity took place in June 2014.

"On top of planting trees, we should take care of all stumps in our gardens to improve tree cover in Teso to avoid floods and droughts in the future," said Amongin.



"When we grow such trees, women and children in Teso will be able to find firewood with ease", added Hon. Dr. Peter Eriaku, MP for Kapelebyong, Amuria district.

## Karamoja sees hope with regenerating trees

**K**aramoja is becoming a desert! You can not find firewood or construction poles. Farmers in the region have realized this and decided to do something about it.

"We have demonstration gardens, where we mix regenerating trees with crops. The crops are shared, the regenerating trees belong to the members. When the weather is good, the yield is good," says Akorio Rose, a community group leader in Nakapelimoru, in Kotido district

Lotyang Paul and Lochode



Andrew, who are members of the same group say that having regenerating trees is the only way to manage the desert. Foreign trees require watering in the dry season and yet there is no water, even for human consumption.

"In 2012, we planted many foreign trees with support from various organizations but all failed. We even wanted to give up on tree growing but now there is a ray of hope with FMNR method" says Napcyok Madelene, another group member.

"Women are the majority members because they are the

most affected when there is no firewood. They leave at 5.00 a.m and get back at the sunset, walking over 10 kilometers to look for firewood", says Nakwang Pauline.

Men, too, spend days in the wilderness looking for construction materials.

The group members use live fences to protect regenerating tree plots from animals.

"Our goal is to have as many trees as possible to stop the desert. This way we shall also have enough firewood, enough timber and more rain," concludes Nachan Veronica,

speaking at a children's training on how to manage trees from stumps, roots and germinating seeds.



# Kasozi PS: Nakasongola environmental champions

**K**asozi PS in Nakasongola district has an environment club that is engaged in establishing and managing a nursery at school. The club also carries out pruning of indigenous trees and protecting them.

"The pupils are highly involved in managing regrowth of trees from stumps and have gone ahead to practice it in their

homes," says **Daniel Munaba, World Vision, Nakasongola.**

The participation of pupils has high multiplier effect and resultant adoption of the practice at community level.

"My father easily accepted the practice," says **Nayebare Leticia, a pupil.**

"When I won a prize during the school debate on the

importance of trees, it was a motivation for my parents to start liking trees," says **Rasur Abujere, another pupil.**

"I have a cow and I feel happy seeing it every morning. Now I want to own trees at school and at home," says **Gumisiriza Kenneth, the chairman of the school environment club.**

"It is our target as a school to have all children participate in



**Pupils of Kasozi P/S Environment Club, Nakasongola District**

protecting trees. That is why they participate in potting, seed sowing and watering at the nursery.

We want these children to grow

up as responsible citizens with practical knowledge on how to protect the environment," says **Munaaba, World Vision, Nakasongola.**

## Intercropping saves time



**M**any people involved in tree growing will agree that it is expensive to maintain them. No wonder many farmers now mix trees with other crops so



that they can weed the crops and at the same time weed the trees. "Inter-cropping is one of the easy ways of maintaining trees and crops at the same time,"



says **Patrick Sidonyi, Tree Talk coordinator in Gulu.** My son has inter-cropped his trees with peas. When it is weeding time, he does the weeding once," says **Mzee Ociti**



**Charles, Tetum village, Pabo** pictured above. "It was always difficult for me to grow trees but now that I mix with crops, I find it easy to take care of trees too, says **Adong in**



**Anaka.** "Tired of having separate plots, mix your crops and trees."

## Your views

**W**e kindly need a handbook on tree planting so as to support and guide our community on how they can develop woodlots on their lands. We have 10000 eucalyptus seedlings to give out this season from the seeds that you gave us. **Baluku John, 0774984292**

**Thank you John for producing seedlings. For the handbook, you can come to Tree Talk Kampala office. Partners like World Vision are also preparing one on .**

**I**work with Beads for Life in Otuke district. We train women groups in different farming methods; using oxen to plough slightly large land to improve their yield. We now want to engage them in planting trees within the same agricultural land. Is there any way we can benefit? **Moris Ogwal, 0414695631, 0777607635, 0706065625**

**These are the partnerships that we are looking for. Kindly get in touch with Gerald Bwire (0782 241109) at our office in Lira. Have a discussion with him. I am sure we will find a way to collaborate.**



Head mistress, **Wimunopeck Primary School, Lira Palwo, in Agago** says, "we are among the best schools in terms of tree planting in the entire district"

**Above - Tree Talk Farmers in Adjumani after harvesting maize. - Tree Talk Farmer in Mucwini, Kitgum**

**I**am working in a new station that would need your attention. This is Lake Mbuo Secondary School near Lake Mbuo National Park. Is there a way you can help my school to plant trees? For now, there are no trees on the compound and we have over 50 hectares of land where we can extensively plant trees. My headmaster likes the idea.

**Please advise!**

**Dear Rev Ahabwe,** it is good that you are willing to plant trees. Kindly encourage the school administration and the environment club of the school to start a nursery. Tree Talk pledges to give you tree seed and some instructional materials to start a small nursery in the school. Start small and you will grow big.

## Do you want a fuel saving stove?

Contact the following Energy Service Providers (ESPs) trained by Tree Talk

Name	Village	Contact
<b>Bungatira S/C Gulu</b>		
Kibwola Jacob O Cet Kana		0778821107
Dudu Cicilia	Rwot-Obilo	0714341716
Amone Fidele	Ayak	0782891995
Oneka Denis	Rwot-Obilo	0782723634
<b>Purongo S/C Nwoya</b>		
Onen Regan	Yagopino	0788247810
Ajok Sunday	Yagopino	
Bongomin Geoffrey	Yagopino	
Auma Agnes	Yagopino	0715853754
<b>Lamogi S/C Amuru</b>		
Opiro John Polycap	Agwayugi	0717330594
Adong Jennifer	Agwayugi	
Atoo Evaline	Agwayugi	
Okot Kenneth	Agwayugi	0779755566
<b>Paloga S/C Lamwo</b>		
Oyoo Ronald	Central	0782305647
Okello Joe	Aloko-rom	0788945559
Komakech Rassal Drolex	Kangole	0789154049
Omwony Ronald	Aloko-rom	0789517016
<b>Ongom S/C Pader</b>		
Adong Monica	Lacinga C	0777762894
Ogwang Patrick	Vietnam	0777060699
Okot Richard	Ogom	0783005900
Olanya Patrick	Coorom	0771249201
<b>Adilang S/C Agago</b>		
Odong Charles	Gang-Kal	0775001108
Okeng Madivan	Lalal North	0785400294
Lubangakene Alfred	Lalal Central	0785915918
Okwera Rafeal	Corner Adek	0777484342
<b>Mucwini S/C Kitgum</b>		
Canopwonya Geoffrey	Paryeko Tel	0785651760
Okeny Alex	Pudume	0775127804
Nyeko Denis	Linga-linga	0771600186
Odong Francis Obwoya	Jepa - B	0785189203
<b>Ciforo S/C Adjumani</b>		
Nzima Christopher	Okangali	0777707669
Izaruku Stephen	Opejo	0775342065
Akuku Simon	Agali	0777488005
Tiondi Christopher	Eraji	0779578760