



TIST PROGRAM UGANDA

Empowering subsistence farmers to combat the devastating effects of deforestation, poverty and drought



The International Small Group and Tree Planting Program (TIST) works across Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and India. Combining sustainable development with carbon sequestration this project greatly enhances the reforestation and biodiversity efforts of subsistence farmers, while also providing them with a sustainable income source.

The Context

The majority of poor rural populations across Uganda rely on subsistence farming to survive. The increasing frequency and severity of droughts and deforestation is exacerbating resource scarcity, which has devastating effects on the already precarious livelihoods of these people.

The Project

Through a network of training and communications, the project provides structure and training to around 75,000 farmers worldwide to support their reforestation and biodiversity efforts. In Uganda, TIST began in 2003 and has grown to around 7,800 TIST participants who have organised into 1,200 Small Groups. The main project activity involves the planting of trees, which is monitored using hand-held computers, GPS and an online "real-time" database.

The Benefits

The project brings about significant environmental and social benefits that work to break the local cycle of deforestation, drought, famine and poverty. Beyond carbon sequestration, farmers are shown where to plant trees for maximum benefit, for example along watercourses to reduce run-off and erosion. This helps conserve water and stabilise and enrich the soil, which also increases crop yields. In terms of building sustainable livelihoods, the participants receive cash stipends from the sale of carbon credits based on the GHG benefits created by their efforts. When the trees mature they will provide additional benefits, including marketable commodities such as fruit, nuts and honey. Within the Small Groups rotating leadership is encouraged regardless of education or social standing, this helps to empower women.

Since beginning in 1999, TIST participants worldwide have planted over 16 million trees in their own and community lands



**USD
3,937**

average financial benefits per TIST member, providing a new source of income



Health and sanitation training for members

including HIV/AIDS, malaria, clean water, hygiene and indoor air pollution



**4,270
people received training**

building their conservation, farming, commercial, climate change and biodiversity knowledge



**81
jobs created**

for locals through the project



**7,787
tCO₂e**

mitigated on average per year



**2,663
hectares**

of improved biodiversity from 2012-2018



**22,998
indigenous trees**

planted from 2012-2018

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

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