



Food security

The combined effects of the climate and COVID crises have shown how crucial good agricultural practice and food security really are. Many people have suffered hunger this year because they had neither food nor money in reserve.

Discover has therefore made these topics a priority.

Eric Kihuluka and his colleagues in the Mikwano in Kaliro District, Uganda, have developed a “Farmer Field School” in which they train farmers in improved agriculture and nutrition. In these days which are dominated by the corona crisis, trained farmers (mostly women) have visited and



Here they are making a drink from soya. In the background is a field with a crop of soya beans.



Sharing a meal together

trained many other farmers. A group of 30 women came together recently and held a celebration at which to cook and to demonstrate what they had learnt. The vegetables they cooked included soya, matooke, sorghum, sweet potatoes, cassava, rice, cabbage and sikuma wiki (a local green vegetable).

Thanks to the generous support of Discover friends, as soon as it became physically possible, Rehema Namyalo ran training seminars in these topics in two very poor communities in Uganda which have suffered badly from food shortages and bad health. The land was degraded, farming skills were poor and in one community flooding had made the situation much worse.



The training included measures to increase soil fertility. Here a simple thermometer is demonstrated for measuring heat during compost making.



The training is always very practical. Here the participants are preparing a demonstration garden, with vegetables and medical plants, including Aloe vera.

Tree planting

All Discover partners plant trees in their communities. Through donations received via the project “Plant for the Planet” (see <https://www.plant-for-the-planet.org/de/unterstuetzen>) we are supporting two partners to plant trees, the Kasese Network in Uganda and Discover Zimbabwe Trust in Zimbabwe.

In Mikwano, a great deal of work has been done with schools to establish school gardens, Many trees have been planted with children on the school campuses, which are usually very bare, with no areas of shade.

Discover Zimbabwe has also worked predominantly with schools and has planted trees on degraded ground and tropical and indigenous fruit trees in the school grounds.



Harungana madagascariensis, an indigenous tree, in the nursery in Kighenge village,

As reported in previous newsletters, the Kasese community has suffered

terribly from flooding this year. They aim this year to train and support 150 farmers, helping them each to plant 100 trees. These trees should contribute to the prevention of soil erosion, stabilise riverbanks and improve soil fertility. Through planting certain indigenous species such as *Warburgia ugandensis* and *Prunus africana*, they also contribute to the protection of species that have become very rare. *Grevillea robusta*, a timber tree, is also being planted, which will be a source of income for the farmers when they mature after 10 years.

We are delighted that the Rems-Murr Kreis, in which Winnenden is situated, has awarded us 7000 Euro towards the tree planting

work of the Kasese Network. Discover must also contribute 3000 Euro. We will receive half of the grant in advance but will not receive the second half until the project is complete. That means that we must find another 3500 Euro. As a small organisation, that is not easy. A donation of 50 Euro (£45 or 59 USD) for example would enable 75 trees to be planted. Of course, lower or higher donations are also very welcome.

Receiving grants is never without its challenges!

With our best wishes for your health and wellbeing,

Keith Lindsey and the Discover-Team



Mikwano: A pupil plants a musizi tree (*Maesopsis eminii*) in the school maize garden



Mr Kule of BioGardens, Kasese, trims his *Prunus africana* tree that he planted in March 2020