

## TREE PLANTING PROJECT

Arivu, Uganda

We have lost a great number of indigenous trees in our village over the last ten years. The five villages of Nyirivu, Obaru, Erevu, Obaciko and Aruku used to look so beautiful with indigenous trees like shea butter tree, tamarind and fig trees, and fruit trees like mango. There were many in our area, but many of these trees have disappeared.

We have identified three key areas for tree planting:

1. Church areas. Most of the Churches have a vast land on which they sit. This is because the grandparents donated large pieces of land to build churches. In Arivu Catholic Parish, there are 20 Chapels. Each of these chapels will allocate a piece of land for tree planting. With this tree planting project in Churches, we expect that in the next three years to come, the Church areas will go green. We intend to plant 500 trees in each of the 20 chapels
2. Schools. Schools, just like Churches, have large piece of land. We have 10 Primary schools and 2 secondary schools. We intend to plant 200 trees in each of the 12 schools
3. Individual tree planting initiative. Land is increasingly getting fragmented in our villages. People have the mentality that tree planting will rob them of agricultural land. We have this truth in mind but there is a solution for it. There are some indigenous tree species that are excellent in promoting agroforestry. We shall encourage individuals to plant tree species that enable crops to grow under them. A typical example is fig tree as an indigenous plant provides excellent condition for the growth of coffee. There is a family here dealing in supplying coffee seedlings. We can collaborate with him to do this.

The types of trees we want to plant include: Indigenous trees like shea butter tree, fig trees, tamarind, fruit trees like mango, lemon, jackfruit, avocado, and trees for shade like the neem, cassia, frangipani etc.

Trees are important:

- To mitigate the effects of climate change, specifically to enable heavy rains to soak into the ground and thus to prevent flooding and soil erosion, and to reduce the impact of drought.
- To improve the biodiversity and the health of our environment.
- To preserve trees, that would otherwise be extinct, for future generations.
- For agroforestry, which yields a double benefit: growing trees, especially those that improve soil fertility, and at the same time cultivating bananas, coffee or beans etc. under them.
- For their medicinal benefits from the trees, like tamarind, shea butter, neem etc.
- For good health from the consumption of fruits like tamarind fruits, avocados, mangos, lemons etc. These fruits also provide a source of income.
- To provide natural shade on the compounds of churches, schools and homes.
- To act as clear natural boundaries and to thus reduce to danger of conflicts over land – which are sadly commonplace.
- Last but not least, to absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

## HOW MANY TREES ARE WE PLANTING?

We aim to plant 15,000 trees.

- a) Church 10,000
- b) Schools 24,00
- c) Individuals 2600

## WHAT IS THE TOTAL COST?

- a) Church tree project (43 cents or 38 pence per tree x 10,000) = 3660 Euro / £3186
- b) School tree planting project (43 cents or 38 pence per tree x 2,400) = 880 Euro / £780
- c) Individuals tree planting (43 cents or 38 pence per tree x 2600) = 950 Euro / £840

Total..... 5490 Euro or £4806

Christopher Nyakuni

Project Leader



Tree nursery with seedlings ready for planting.



Project leader Christopher Nyakuni with a mango seedling and youngsters who, through planting and caring for trees, learn a lot about nature.



A sheabutter tree, a valuable tree but also a tree that is felled indiscriminately. Like all indigenous trees, it also offers habitat for many insect, birds and small animals.



A majestic tamarind tree, a large, indigenous tree that provide shade and very nutritious fruits.