

Enjoying benefits of environmental conservation practices

Good Practice AT A GLANCE (by Verah Nyakato 3/2019)

AFIRD (Agency For Integrated Rural Development)



Before Isaiah Gwotta was trained by AFIRD on sustainable agriculture, his production of crops and animals was poor. This was attributed to the soils that are rocky clayish that he could hardly harvest anything at the end of the season. This resulted into frequent hunger and poverty in his family.

He was a member of Busaku Farmer's group which was composed of 30 members. Isaiah was trained on sustainable agriculture practices. He planted trees, improved soil fertility by mulching. He did water harvesting for crop production, that entailed the construction of swales and deep beds. This ensures that more water is absorbed and retained by the soil. Isaiah also composts organic matter for soil improvement. The family constructed an energy saving stove for saving fuelwood and reduces smoke during the cooking.

IMPACT

- Better livelihood by selling tree-seeds → income generation
- Improved yields through higher productivity → soil improvement
- Use of "Lorena energy-saving stoves" improves the health of women by reducing fire related hazards (for eyes and lungs).
- Less environmental pollution and degradation
- Improving micro-climate
- Less soil erosion by planting trees → soil cover and wind-breaker

Experience description

AFIRD promotes sustainable agriculture among small-holder farmers. Interventions focus on environmental conservation practices such as agro-forestry, use of energy saving stoves and making soil and water conservation structures (trenches and contours). This is done majorly by building capacity of farmers through trainings (practically and theoretically). AFIRD supports farmers, who are organized in groups.



Other characteristics



BENEFICIARIES

- Small-holder farmers and their household
- Farming communities
- Society through protection of the environment



CHALLENGES

- Land evictions
- Urbanization, reducing agriculture land



LESSONS LEARNED

- Clear plan and commitment leads to success.
- Adoption of technologies is better with practical training.
- Micro-climate improves with agro-forestry.
- Change of mind-set is necessary.