

Tree Talk Plus

Branching out to empower communities

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World Vision®



"Scaling up the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration Model in Uganda"

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FMNR Monitoring crucial and important

Monitoring the progress of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration implementation is crucial for several reasons.

Assessing impact and effectiveness allows stakeholders to measure the success of FMNR practices in regenerating trees, and enhancing biodiversity. It becomes easier to determine whether the interventions are meeting their intended goals.

Data-driven decision making is enhanced by accurate data that can inform decision-making processes. The data helps in adjusting strategies, addressing challenges, and optimizing the implementation process to achieve better results.

Understanding the progress and challenges of FMNR implementation helps in the efficient **allocation of resources**. Monitoring ensures that resources are directed to areas where they are most needed, enhancing the overall impact of FMNR initiatives.

Community engagement and ownership is enhanced by monitoring. When local communities are involved in tracking the progress of FMNR, they are more likely to remain committed to the practice and ensure its sustainability.

Monitoring identifies which FMNR practices are most **effective in different contexts**. This knowledge is essential for scaling up successful interventions to other regions or communities, thereby expanding the benefits of FMNR.

Documenting the progress and success of FMNR provides the evidence needed to advocate for further support from governments, NGOs, and donors.

FMNR Network Uganda to launch a new Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Following the expiry of the Strategic Plan 2016-2020, the FMNR Network started reviewing and updating its Strategic Plan. It took long due to financial challenges to facilitate the consultative and intensive process given the wide and diverse nature of its membership.

This process was however completed with funding support from Vi-agroforestry and World Vision Uganda. Consultations were held in Northern, Eastern, Central and South Western Uganda. Consequently, it was embraced by the Steering Committee, to be used as a working document for the FMNR Network on 18th July 2024 at Golf Course Hotel Kampala. After its launch in September, the Strategic Plan will be accessible to everyone on our website.

The genesis of this Strategic Plan can be traced back to a shared recognition of the urgent need to address pressing environmental challenges while simultaneously improving livelihoods and promoting social equity. It emerged from a

collaborative process involving government agencies, NGOs, academia, civil society organizations, local communities, and farmers, all united by a common vision of harnessing the potential of FMNR to address multifaceted challenges and create positive change.

Stakeholders came together to identify key result areas and strategic objectives that would guide our collective efforts over the next five years.

Result Area 1 underscores the importance of **engaging government and other partners** to ensure the uptake and adoption of the FMNR model in the implementation of projects and programs.

Result Area 2 focuses on improving **biodiversity conservation through natural regeneration**, recognizing the crucial role that FMNR plays in restoring degraded ecosystems, enhancing habitat connectivity, and preserving native flora and fauna.

Result Area 3 highlights our commitment to **promoting environmental sustainability and climate justice** through FMNR,

recognizing the inherent linkages between environmental degradation, social inequality, and climate vulnerability.

Result Area 4 underscores the importance of **amplifying citizens' voices and participation** in the FMNR model, recognizing that meaningful engagement and empowerment are essential for sustainable development.

Result Area 5 emphasizes the need for FMNR practice to be **inclusive and gender-responsive**, recognizing the unique contributions, knowledge, and priorities of women, youth, and marginalized groups.

Result Area 6 focuses on **strengthening the institutional governance** of the FMNR network in Uganda, recognizing the importance of effective coordination, capacity-building, and knowledge sharing mechanisms.

We hope the Strategic Plan will lead us to attainment for the FMNR goal which is attaining environmental sustainability amidst climate change catastrophes

FMNR digital monitoring tool, discussed



Andrew Carter, from World Vision Australia, conducted a one day session for the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration Network Members, focusing on a digital FMNR monitoring tool.

The goal of this session was to build the capacity of members and enhance their skills in digital

monitoring. This is a significant step in ensuring that FMNR practices are well-documented and supported by solid data, aiding in advocacy and implementation efforts.

The demonstrations were based on Solstice App, with the capacity to capture maps of FMNR regeneration. Solstice can map out

areas where FMNR practices are being implemented. This includes locations of tree regrowth, species diversity, and changes in land use over time. Its geospatial capabilities allow for precise mapping and data collection, making it easier to track the progress of regeneration efforts. The tool is user-friendly and can be accessed via smart phones or tablets, making it accessible to a wide range of users. It is crucial for advocacy efforts, as it provides concrete proof of the benefits of FMNR, such as increased tree cover, and enhanced resilience to climate change. It allows the generation of reports and visualizations, which can be shared with stakeholders.

It is a tool to reckon with.

Outcomes of the FMNR symposium @ Jinja



which ran from 26th July to 4th August, the FMNR Network members were privileged to participate in one of the side events (symposium) with support from World Vision Uganda.

The symposium aimed at advocating for FMNR as a tool approach to landscape restoration. This event was attended by a total of 100 participants and these 54 were FMNR Network members. Other stakeholders included representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture,

Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Private Sector and farmers.

Important to note, that MAAIF invited an FMNR representative to be part of the review of the National Agroecology strategy, this presents an opportunity for FMNR approaches to be included in the strategy where applicable.

Outcomes of the symposium

- To engage NFA for meaningful discussions on use of FMNR as a tool for regeneration. Such land for regeneration should be well demarcated and boundaries opened to stop land grabbers.
- World Vision and Tree Talk Plus, with help of Climate Action Network Uganda, to develop a position paper on the role of FMNR in climate change, addressed to the National Advisory Committee on Climate Change.
- The Network should engage cultural and reli-

gious leaders (shaping the minds and attitude towards FMNR) for the uptake and adoption of FMNR. The tradition leaders have the ability to influence its subordinates for uptake of the practice.

- Civil Society Organizations to lobby local governments to integrate FMNR in the District Development Plans, as unfunded priorities. This gives it chance for implementation when funds become available.
- FMNR training materials should be translated into local languages and graphic interpretations which can easily be understood by the local farmers for easy implementation
- Design and implement school programs where students and teachers within schools are trained on FMNR and be followed up to ensure the concept is understood from an early age.
- There is need to develop by-laws that guide farmers to protect regenerated local trees and the use of such trees should be by a permit, requiring permission from the respective authorities.
- There is need to increase information dissemination and sensitization about the FMNR model as many farmers are unaware of the advantages, therefore depend on traditional tree planting instead of natural regeneration.
- There is need to create awareness and sensitization among refugee communities as these are key forest product users and therefore important to train them about the benefits of FMNR and the existing tree stumps.
- There is need to bring on board private sector during advocacy as these are also key stakeholders in utilizing forest products like timber.
- An FMNR membership recruitment campaign should be conducted per region to bring on board more members into the FMNR Network.
- A refresher training for new and old members building their capacity in the FMNR approach as compared to traditional tree planting
- A representative from the FMNR Network and one from UNFFE to attend the review and implementation of the National Agroecology Strategy by MAAIF.

Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE) which is the umbrella organization for all farmers in Uganda always organized and hosted National Agricultural shows every year since 1992 except for the years 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 and the associated restrictions.

According to UNFFE, this event brings together over 500,000 people from across different value chain actors and stakeholders. The National Agricultural Show which usually runs for 10 days has a series of side events alongside exhibitions. These events include; an official opening and closure where significant dignitaries bless the event, symposia, and dialogues where strategic partners collaborate with UNFFE to organize separate workshops with carefully selected topics aligning with the theme and also their line of work.

Special training, where key value chains are nominated annually and experts are paid to facilitate them accordingly. For this year's Agricultural show





PRACTICAL INDIGENOUS SEEDS / FOOD FAIR.

Venue: **HOMELAND ORGANICS CENTER MUBENDE**



Date: **16th October 2024**

Theme: *Practical Understanding of Agroecological food systems, production, marketing and consumption for our good health, incomes for development.*



Grow more Kidney Beans



Harvest kidney beans 90-120 days after planting. Harvest when the pods are dry and the beans inside are firm. The pods can be picked by hand. Harvesting continues throughout the year.

How are these beans relate with FMNR

Kidney beans relate to FMNR in several key ways:

1. They have the ability to fix nitrogen in the soil through their root nodules, which host nitrogen-fixing bacteria.
2. The trees regenerated through FMNR can provide shade and act as windbreaks, creating a favorable microclimate for the beans.
3. Trees in FMNR systems enhance water infiltration and retention in the soil.
4. FMNR promotes biodiversity, which support kidney bean cultivation by attracting pollinators, natural pest predators, and enhancing ecosystem resilience
5. FMNR encourages the integration of trees, crops, and livestock. Thus, contributing to food security and income generation.
6. By promoting agro-forestry practices through FMNR, farmers increase the resilience of their farming systems to climate change.
7. The benefits of FMNR and kidney bean cultivation can lead to food security and income for farmers.

"Embrace the growing of kidney beans".

Growing kidney beans in Uganda is quite is favoured by climate and soil conditions.

Kidney beans thrive in warm climates with moderate rainfall. They thrive under the wet and dry seasons, ideal for their growth. Kidney beans prefer well-drained loamy soil rich in organic matter.

Planting is best done at the beginning of the rains (March-April or August-September). It is recommended that you sow seeds directly into the soil, spaced 30-40 cm apart in rows that are 60-75 cm apart. Plant seeds 2.5-5 cm deep.

Caring through weeding is necessary to prevent competition for nutrients. They require moisture, during flowering and pod formation. Avoid waterlogging. Use organic compost or a balanced fertilizer at planting. Supplement with nitrogen if the soil is deficient.

FMNR for the elderly and vulnerable people

Mzee Tibikundwa Vito Adyeri, (pictured right) form Matiri Village, in Kyenjojo District, is one of the promoters and founders of Matiria Natural Resources Users and Income Enhancement Association (MANRUIA).



He doubles as a champion of FMNR in the community, promoting the regeneration of trees for charcoal and timber, in the infested tree resource exploitation areas of Matiri.

He leads the elderly and vulnerable people to manage trees, providing a reliable source of firewood without depleting local forests. The pruning of branches ensures that the trees continue to grow, offering a continuous supply of firewood. By selling firewood, tree products like fruits, or even the seeds of regenerating species, they can generate income. This economic activity is now critical to improving their livelihoods, where alternative income sources is limited.

He says, FMNR has to led the production of marketable goods, such as medicinal plants, timber, or fodder, providing diverse income streams to communities in Matiri.

FMNR provides the elderly and vulnerable with a sense of purpose and contribution to their communities. It allows them to play an active role in land management, which can boost their self-esteem and social inclusion.

FMNR creates opportunities for inter-generational knowledge transfer, where the elderly teach younger community members about sustainable land management, fostering a sense of respect and value for their wisdom and experience.

Lastly, FMNR captures and stores carbon dioxide, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change. This is important where the regeneration can help stabilize the environment.



Vi Agroforestry

OPPORTUNITY

Job Advertisement: Uganda FINANCE, HR & ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

The position is responsible for financial administration, HR-administration as well as general administration for the country office.

Deadline: Wed, 4th September 2024

Full details on the application process, see website: <https://viagroforestry.org/work-with-us/>

www.viagroforestry.org

Prunus africana



This is the regeneration of *Prunus africana* in Turmaise Village, Maikut Parish, Tuikat Sub-county of Kween District, at an altitude of 2,000 meters above sea level on the slopes of Mount Elgon. It is a remarkable occurrence.

Prunus africana, also known as the African cherry or red stinkwood, is a valuable medicinal tree species known for its bark, which is used to treat various ailments, particularly prostate issues. This particular tree was seen regenerating in Turmaise Village, in the middle of maize, onions and *Sukuma wiki* (Kale).

The elevation of 2,000 meters above sea level, provides a cool and moist environment, which is conducive to the growth of *Prunus africana*. This species thrives in montane forests, which are characteristic of the slopes of Mount Elgon. The presence of *Prunus africana* in a mixed farming system alongside maize, onions, and sukuma wiki (kale) adds biodiversity to the agricultural landscape. This can enhance ecosystem services such as soil fertility, water retention, and habitat provision for other species.

The natural regeneration of *Prunus africana* within fields of maize, onions, and *sukuma wiki* suggests a harmonious coexistence. The tree may offer shade and windbreaks, contributing to the microclimate and potentially improving crop yields.

Prunus africana is listed on Appendix II of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), indicating that it is not currently threatened with extinction but may become so if trade is not regulated. The natural regeneration of this species in Turmaise Village presents an opportunity for its conservation in the area. The bark of *Prunus africana* is highly valued for its medicinal properties. Local communities could benefit economically from the sustainable harvest and sale of this resource, provided that proper conservation measures are in place.

Charcoal Production *a business for FMNR Practitioners*



Charcoal burning, also known as charcoal production, is a significant economic activity in Ugandan communities, particularly in rural areas. The activity presents a big threat to the environment and biodiversity as it is one of the main causes of deforestation across the country.

As a result, communities and stakeholders made an alarm on the high rates of degradation of forests and trees. This resulted into enactment of a ban on charcoal burning in the northern and eastern parts of the country by the President. This measure aimed to curb the extensive deforestation caused by charcoal production.

However, there is need to appreciate the importance and relevance of charcoal production as it is the main fuel/energy source for most of the cooking within Ugandan households both urban and semi-urban areas. Other benefits of charcoal industry include;

Job creation: Charcoal burning provides employment opportunities for many people, especially youth and women.

Income generation: Charcoal production and sales can generate income for individuals and households.

Entrepreneurship: Charcoal burning can be a viable business venture for entrepreneurs, with opportunities for value addition and marketing.

Community development: Charcoal production can contribute to community development through revenue generation and social services.

Opportunities in charcoal production

The growing demand for charcoal especially with the growing populations and urban centers demand for expansion and increase in production instead of a ban on the activity.

1. Charcoal production presents an opportunity for promotion of FMNR within communities where charcoal is burnt by encouraging regrowth.
2. Communities prone to charcoal burning can be encouraged to promote practices like re-afforestation and Agro-forestry as a sustainable way for charcoal production.
3. Charcoal production presents an opportunity for innovation for efficient and sustainable charcoal production technologies which can improve productivity and reduce environmental impacts.
4. Charcoal burning can provide opportunities for training and skills development in areas like entrepreneurship, marketing, and sustainable land management. This is an opportunity for FMNR advocacy.

Join the FMNR Network in Uganda

Farmers, Farmer groups and other stakeholders in landscape efforts are encouraged to join our growing family to amplify on the advocacy voice. The FMNR Network now has a total of 69 members, our newest recruits being Selfhelp Africa and Agrifund International. You can reach us through email: fmmrnetwork@gmail.com or Tel: +256777493739 to learn more about the FMNR model and the Network.

This issue is an initiative between Tree Talk Plus, and the FMNR Network.

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