

Project Updates: May 2017

As it is exactly 6x months since the commencement of the Rufford Boaster Grant, it was proper time for project beneficiaries and other stakeholders to come together in a 6-monthly review and planning workshop in order to evaluate the progress so far made, see what still need to be done in the next 6 remaining months and propose recommendations that will translate into the project attaining its overall objectives.



Over 64 community members drawn from all the four project communities as well as other stakeholders mainly representatives of collaborating NGOs, converged on Kaiy village in a 1-day review and planning workshop. During the review and planning workshop, activities already carried out in the last 6 months were presented by the two community field staff. Difficulties encountered during the implementation of these activities were as well highlighted and solutions were suggested by participants. One of the major problems so pertinent to the project was the destruction of young trees in one of the four community tree nurseries by stray animals. It was resolved that the owner of these animals be recruited by the community to be the nursery care taker, the job he readily accepted. Activities for the next 6 months were as well jointly planned together by participants with emphasis being placed on the need for the project to source market opportunities for bee farmers who are now operating as a cooperative for the sale of their produce.



At the level of the community especially in Kaiy village where more than 75 % of the beehives were donated by the project and installed in the agroforestry seed bank, trained farmers are already collecting and processing the honey. Since the prices for honey are not presently attractive, these farmers would register all the quantities collected and processed and will store in the warehouse to be sold later when the prices are encouraging.

Also within this period of reporting, over 1,655 tree seedlings belonging to eight different species were planted out in the community agroforestry seed bank and in two of the four community water catchments. With enough rains now, more trees shall be planted out in the various water catchments in the days.

Farmers previously trained in best agroforestry systems also intensified the planting of soil fertility improvement agroforestry tree species as well as the use of organic manure on their crop farms especially maize farms. There has been a significant reduction in the use of chemical fertiliser by most farmers since the adoption of agroforestry practices amongst farmers in the various communities.



One other significant and visible outputs of the project realized during this period was at the level of the community seed bank where some of the agroforestry tree species planted here since 2014 during the second Rufford Grant are already producing seeds ready to be collected.



This is a milestone towards attaining the objectives of the seed bank of making available local seeds to farmers while preventing farmers from depending on seeds from foreign provenances.