

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Jjemba Bonny
Project Title	Farmer-managed natural regeneration for restoring and keeping a maximum level of biodiversity on farmlands of Gogonya Village, Mubende District, Uganda
Application ID	32373-1
Grant Amount	£5506
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Date of this Report	09 th December, 2021

1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
To sensitize at least 50 farmers from Gogonya Village and increase their awareness on Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR)				<p>Sensitisation was done in two sessions in Gogonya Village following the Covid-19 guidelines on social gatherings, and a total of 63 farmers attended.</p> <p>Out of the 63 farmers, 37 were male and 26 female.</p> <p>During workshops, 200 posters and 400 brochures were distributed to farmers to create awareness in the wider community.</p> <p>Sensitisation is still going on whenever there is a community gathering in the village.</p>
To train at least 20 farmers from Gogonya village and equip them with skills of regenerating and managing trees from live tree stumps.				<p>Twenty-one farmers were selected from Gogonya village and trained to become champions in the implementation of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) in the community.</p> <p>Out of the 21 farmer champions, 14 are male and seven female.</p> <p>Training was done in form of demonstration on different sites in the field.</p>

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

Difficulties:

- From April to August 2021, the project area experienced a dry spell that affected the regeneration of trees on some of the selected sites.
- There was a problem of livestock especially goats feeding on young shoots on sites located within pasture lands.
- There were incidences where regenerating trees on crop farms were sprayed with agro-chemicals during weeding, and this led to wilting of such shoots.
- Some of the sites selected for farmer-managed natural regeneration were heavily degraded and had little or no natural regeneration.

Solutions:

- During the dry spell, pruning of regenerating trees was stopped to avoid damage that could lead to wilting of trees.
- On FMNR sites located in pasture lands, regulation of the grazing intensity was emphasised to boost regeneration of trees.
- Spraying of regenerating trees with agro-chemicals on crop farms was controlled through awareness creation among farmers and conducting frequent farm visits to identify such cases.
- We encouraged farmers to collect tree seedlings from the wild to plant on sites with little or no natural regeneration.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- The project has increased farmers' knowledge on Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) technique and improved their skills in management of trees on farms.
- The project has also increased tree cover on farms in Gogonya Village especially on the 21 sites of the farmer champions. Over 2000 trees of multi-purpose indigenous tree species have been regenerated including *Albizia* spp., *Acacia* spp., *Ficus natalensis*, *Markhamia lutea* and others.
- Through this project, we have put 17 acres of degraded land under restoration in Gogonya Village.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.

Farmers from the local community were the main target group on this project. They were directly involved in sensitisation and awareness creation workshops, and trainings on farmer-managed natural regeneration.

They are now well informed about the positive effects of land restoration through farmer-managed natural regeneration on their livelihood and the native biodiversity. Farmers have gained skills in the management of natural regeneration and trees on their farms. They also received in-kind support from the project through provision of training materials such as brochures, posters, face masks, pruning shears, notebooks and others that can be used in the training of other community members.

Furthermore, the project helped some local leaders to capture baseline information that can be used in the preparation of community development plans.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This pilot project served as a baseline for generating information on how we can work with a large number of farmers from the community.

We plan to continue with the sensitisation of more farmers about farmer-managed natural regeneration from the village and adjacent areas.

We plan to train more farmers in the implementation of farmer-managed natural regeneration on their farmlands.

We would like to bring more degraded land from the project area under restoration through farmer-managed natural regeneration.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

I shared part of the results with my colleagues at the Institute of Tropical Forestry at Technical University of Dresden in Germany at (www.tropicalforestry.wordpress.com) in form of a blog.

I'm also compiling a scientific paper that I'm going to share with fellow researchers on ResearchGate (www.researchgate.net).

I'm also planning to share the project results and lessons learnt with different farmer groups in Mubende and other stakeholders in form of presentations.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The grant was used for a period of 14 months (from October 2020 to November 2021) as planned. There was a slight increase in the project budget, but it didn't affect the implementation of the field activities. In the last month of the project, we relied heavily on voluntary work.

8. Budget: Provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Travel	630	895	+265	The amount increased due to the rise in travel fares in the Covid-19 period
Subsistence	2938	2789	-149	The amount reduced due to reduction in food prices in the Covid-19 period
Accommodation	1080	1080		
Communication	280	161	-119	The amount reduced because the internet was required at reduced intervals during the project work
Printing	440	322	-118	The price of brochures was low as compared to the initial budget

Tools and equipment	46	96	+50	The amount was increased by the purchase of pruning shears to ensure effective demonstrations in the field
Stationery	46	46		
Reserve amount	46	146	+100	The reserve amount increased due to the high bank charges
Total	5506	5535	+29	

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

In the next step, it will be important to train more farmers in the implementation of farmer-managed natural regeneration from Gogonya Village and adjacent areas. This will put more land under restoration.

There is also a need to complement farmer-managed natural regeneration with the planting of multi-purpose and ecologically important tree species. This will aid in rehabilitation of degraded land with little or no natural regeneration.

There is also a need to reach-out to more community members through sensitisation and awareness creation. Through this, we should also target schools because we identified a knowledge gap among children within the community.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, the Rufford Foundation logo was used on posters, brochures and all printed material used in the project work. During the introduction of our project work in Gogonya Village, we informed the community about The Rufford Foundation as our funder and how it has been supporting thousands of similar projects in the developing world.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Jjemba Bonny (Project Leader) – I was responsible for planning, facilitation and supervision of the project activities. I was also responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the project activities. I was also responsible for writing of scientific reports and submit to relevant stakeholders.

Isingoma Jackson (Field Assistant) – He was responsible for daily supervision of farmers in the field to ensure affective implementation of farmer-managed natural regeneration. He was also responsible for identifying training needs within the field in relation to farmer-managed natural regeneration and land restoration. He was also responsible for providing timely updates from the field on the progress of the project activities.

Agumisa Jacob (Male Lead Farmer) – He was responsible for mobilising of male farmer champions to attend trainings, meetings and to implement farmer-managed natural regeneration in the village. He was also part of the monitoring and evaluation team.

Nakiyana Catherine (Female Lead Farmer) – She was responsible for mobilising of female farmer champions to attend trainings, meetings and to implement project activities. She was also part of the monitoring and evaluation team.

12. Any other comments?

I appreciate The Rufford Foundation for its generous support to our work. Through this grant, we have been able to accomplish our goal of implementing farmer-managed natural regeneration in Gogonya Village. You truly made a difference for us, and we are extremely grateful. We will be delighted to work with you in future.



Figure 1: The project leader and the farmer champions during field work © by Jjemba (October 2020). Figure 2: Farmers during the sensitization and awareness creation workshop in Gogonya © by Jjemba (October 2020)



Figure 3: A farmer champion pruning shoots on a stump of *Markhamia lutea* under close supervision of the field assistant © by Jjemba (October 2020)



Figure 4: The progress of a tree of *Albizia coriaria* regenerated on a stump from October 2020 to November 2021 © by Jjemba. Left: July 2021. Right: November 2021



Figure 5: Field meetings with farmer champions © by Jjemba. Left: September 2021. Right: August 2021

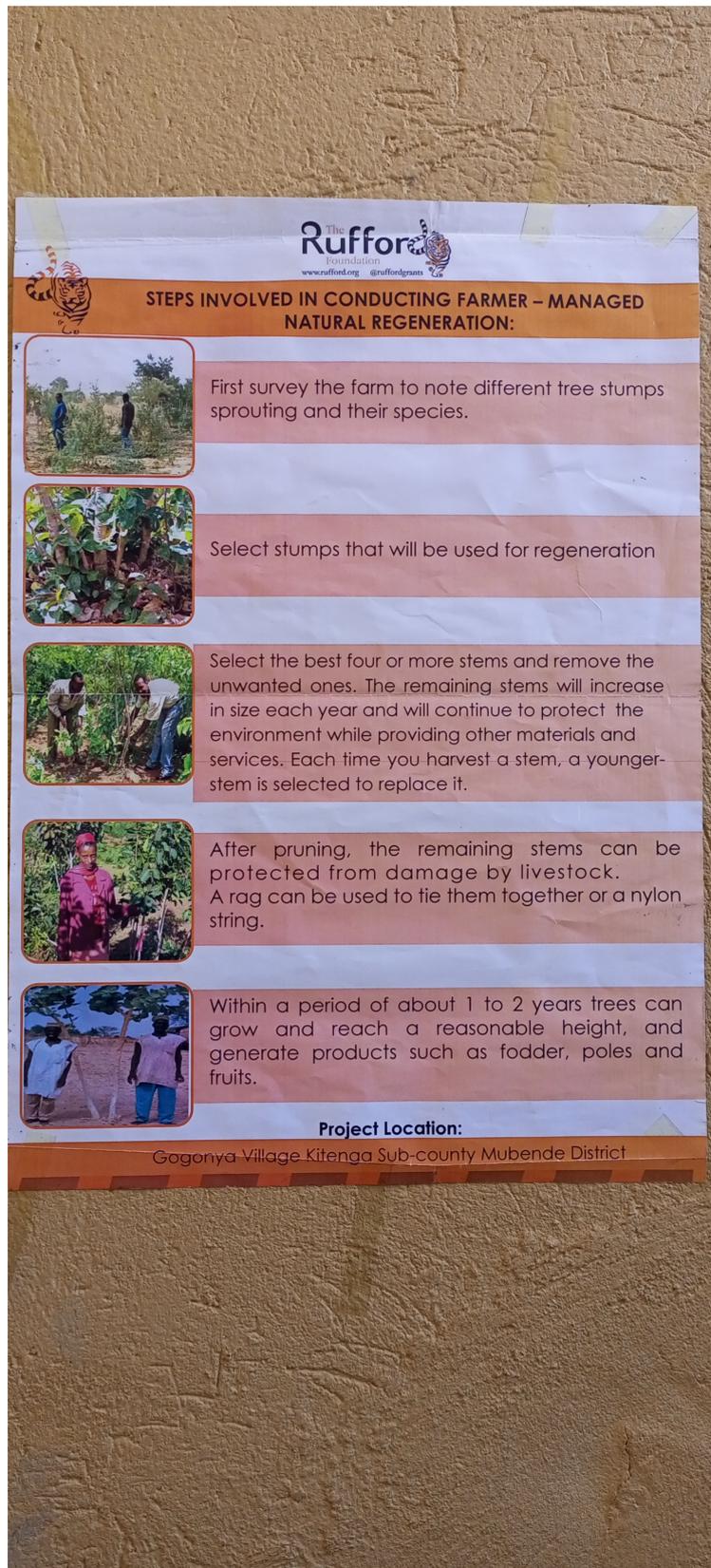


Figure 4: A poster on the wall of a farmer champion's house in Gogonya Village © by Jjemba (August 2021)