

Project Update: October 2011

One stakeholders' workshop was organized for different community members, policy makers, farmers, technical staff at the district, prison officers and schools. The meeting was held at the Nakasongola District Headquarters-Production Hall on 3rd October 2011, which was well attended. During the workshop, participants were informed of emerging issues of climate change within the district and these include; poverty, siltation, wetland degradation, pollution, deforestation, bush burning, poor sanitation due to limited toilet facilities and clean water sources. Termites were also named as a major problem in the district and this affected the food security and biodiversity. The participants also drew a plan for the implementation of the project, sites where also selected in a participatory manner. The district leaders pledged support to the project and encouraged the implementers to have value for money considered during project implementation

ACCC conducted climate change mitigation awareness campaigns in selected schools, institutions and communities, which included Nakasongola Secondary School, Kirojo College School, Nakasongola Prisons¹ and Wabinyonyi community members. As a result of this awareness, the above schools pledged to work with project partners in implementing the project activities. The interface between ACCC and the stakeholders is key in promoting the conservation of environment and indigenous trees² supplemented by tree planting. Indigenous tree species are disappearing at unprecedented rate due to human activities and limited intervention by the government in reversing the negative impacts caused to environment



Photo 1: ACCC staff briefing students at Nakasongola SSS on the need to conserve indigenous tree species and environment. Photo 2: Fuel wood is the main source of energy in the district. This is causing deforestation.

Training and construction of energy saving stoves in schools and communities

The project has accomplished training of local communities and schools on the importance of using efficient energy saving stoves. They were also trained to construct the stoves and how to do maintenance on the institutional stoves constructed at the schools.

¹ For Nakasongola Prison, awareness campaign was made to prison warders, selected prisoners with the assistance of OC Prisons. Nakasongola Prison authorities accepted to offer land and labour for tree nursery establishment as part of community contribution requirement.

² Indigenous trees are almost facing extinction in Nakasongola due to massive charcoal-burning activity and pine tree planting.

At least 300 Secondary school students at Nakasongola SSS and Kirojo College were taken through the orientation and the steps of installing both local and Lorena stoves. The understanding was that Lorena is an expensive infrastructure that requires relatively huge amount of money and technical expertise, the reason why they were involved in the erection and installation of locally made stoves at their respective schools. The message was meant to enable students to adopt the technologies and be change agents in their respective areas and households.

Kirojo College Students collect materials to the construction site of three in one local energy-saving stoves



*Left: Kirojo College Students participate in the construction of energy-saving stoves
Right: The Energy saving stoves constructed by the students.*

Local communities were also trained at the residence of the Director of Kirojo SSS in Wabinyonyi sub county, Nakasongola District. In total 40 persons (25 females and 15 males) were trained on how to install the energy saving stoves. After an orientation session, 12 energy saving stoves were installed in selected households with the active participation of the trainees under the guidance of the trainer.



Community members in Wabinyonyi are taken through different stages of erecting local stoves.



The Headmistress of Nakasongola SSS admiring erected Lorena Stove; Optimistic that it will reduce on fuel wood consumption



Above is the Institutional Energy saving stove constructed at Kirojo College Nakasongola

Challenges during project implementation

Inflation is the major challenge. The current inflation rate in Uganda is 28%. Most items' prices doubled. This will affect the project output in terms of number of capital developments or size of the water tanks that will be constructed at the selected sites.

Conclusion

The implementation of the project activities, particularly the awareness on wetland management, tree planting and demonstration of energy-saving stoves has been accomplished. This demonstration has been accompanied by the erection of 12 local energy-saving stoves and 2 Institutional energy efficient stoves in the pilot project area.

The tree nursery establishment is on course. The site is already prepared only awaiting the introduction of seeds, which are already procured and planting exercise will take place in the near future. The planting of tree seedlings could not be done during this phase of the project implementation due to waning rainfall regime. It has been noted that this period is suited for tree nursery bed establishment and the sprouting of the seedling will coincide with the next round of rainfall regime late this year to early next year.