



New Forests Project

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2010 TRAININGS

In April 2010 New Forests Project funded three trainings in agroforestry and reforestation in Uganda, Sierra Leone and Cameroon. Below is a summary for each of these trainings:

Uganda **Go-Agroforestry Workshop**

Location: Karwemera Village, Kasese District, Uganda
Partner: Karwemera United Women Association (KUWA)

This two-day workshop (May 12-13) trained a total of 49 people (12 men and 37 women) on how to establish agroforestry practices in their community. *(add sentence on local situation)*. The following topics were covered during the training: defining agroforestry, describing different agroforestry practices, special forest products, short rotational woody crops, the business of agroforestry, marketing, evaluating agroforestry, nursery bed establishment and management, seed sources and preservation, how to sow seedlings and when to transplant them into the fields. At the end of the trainings a radio talk show was hosted to expose other members of the community to those topics covered in the workshop.

The training was meant to train people who will become agents of agroforestry development. They are expected to deliver information at the household, group and community levels, as well as in schools. By implementing their own agroforestry practices, the trainees are also expected to become role models to other members of the community. At the end of the workshop, most participants agreed to put into practice what they had learnt (e.g. some will make their own tree nursery beds, others will plant agroforestry trees, and others will plant their own forests for firewood collection and income generation). Some of the restrictions expressed by the participants for implementing such practices include the lack of access to land, lack of enough capital to purchase some of the expensive agroforestry seeds (NFP has recently coordinated a first shipment to KUWA) and lack of equipment to establish secure and sound tree nurseries.

KUWA is a local community-based organization that works to empower women to be respected and give them the capacity to develop their communities. KUWA has adult literacy programs, provides training in income-generating skills and helps local people establish income-generating activities (i.e. bee-keeping, sustainable agriculture).

Sierra Leone

Community Leaders Training Workshop & Mass Sensitization in Agroforestry-Bandajuma Refugee Camp

Location: Bandajuma, Sowa Chiefdom, Pujehun District, Sierra Leone
Partner: Peoples Action Against Hunger (PeAAH)

The main objective was to train local farmers, school children, and men and women of former Bandajuma refugee camp and surrounding communities on agroforestry and reforestation. This training was intended to address the long standing deforestation condition of the former refugee camp and to sensitize the surrounding communities about the importance of trees to human beings. During the war in Liberia, which then followed the ten-year civil war in Sierra Leone, Bandajuma area became the host of thousands of refugees and some internally displaced persons. At the time the area was extensively deforested, especially where the camps were located.

A total of 30 community leaders who are expected to train twenty people each (totaling 600 trained persons) participated. The trained persons will in turn work with local communities to initiate reforestation efforts. Apart from the trainings for community leaders, sensitization meetings were done for all community members including men and women farmers, school children and teachers. The following topics were covered during the three day workshop: over view of agroforestry in Sierra Leone, pre-nursery treatment of seeds, nursery management, establishment of nursery, transplanting protection and management of trees, the importance of trees for both human and native wildlife habitation, global warming, follow-up activities.

PeAAH is a non-political, humanitarian and voluntary organization working for the development of war-affected rural communities. It was founded by a group of vastly experienced community development workers to address the underlying causes of poverty in rural communities and allow them to set their own priorities and manage their way of life using a holistic and participatory approach. Among other activities, the organization has worked with over 3,400 local farmers, farm families, women, youth groups, and marginalized communities in promoting sustainable development.

Cameroon Holiday Agroforestry Education Workshop

Location: Kumbo Central Subdivision, Northwest Region Cameroon
Implementing Partner: Centre for Nursery Development and Eru Propagation (CENDEP)

During this four-day workshop CENDEP trained 19 secondary school-aged children from farming communities of Kumbo, Cameroon on agroforestry practices. The objectives of the workshop were to foster basic knowledge and practice of agro-forestry as a means of increasing farm productivity and quality of life, empower youths with skills to practice agroforestry and educate youths in the use of key agroforestry species.

The workshop was announced on community radio, all interested youths were allowed to register and a smaller group was then selected among those who registered. The training used highly participatory and interactive approaches and techniques and was comprised of lectures and three field trips and. At the end of the workshop students were expected to:

- Understand the meaning of reforestation and agro-forestry in the context of environmental stewardship and improved agricultural productivity of low income small farmers.
- Gain hands-on experience on reforestation and agro-forestry activities in their area
- Learn basic seed preparation and planting techniques
- Be aware of the World Seed Program and where to acquire seeds for agroforestry activities.
- Learn about a local invasive plant and ways of eradicating it.

The Centre for Nursery Development and Eru Propagation, CENDEP, is a grass roots organization based in Limbe, SW Region Cameroon. Her mission is to train and assist local people in the domestication, sustainable production, and marketing of non-timber forest products of economic importance and in the sustainable management of natural resources. CENDEP also works to restore degraded montane forests and focuses its activities in the Southwest and Northwest Provinces of Cameroon.