Project Update: May 2023

I'm very pleased to inform you that our project is going well and we have conducted a lot of activities that I would like to share with you.

1) We organised three field workshops and trained farmers in different techniques of agroforestry such as design on farms, species site matching for biodiversity conservation and other values, site preparation and enrichment planting.
2) We have done enrichment planting on 26 degraded farmlands and 5926 trees have been planted to boost the species diversity.
3) We have done a follow-up on the planted trees and the survival rate ranges between 65 and 96%.

During the implementation of the project, we have experienced a few challenges as indicated below.

1) Some of our main tree species, especially East African mahogany (*Khaya anthotheca*), had a low germination rate and even the seedlings that germinated died within the nursery.
2) Most of the farmers within the project area are interested in growing commercial tree species, especially eucalyptus which are not good for biodiversity conservation.

Here are our suggestions for the way forward:

1) We are going to raise more seedlings of East African mahogany and African cherry to plant them in the coming rainy season of September to November 2023.
2) We will go on with the creation of awareness among farmers on the role of native tree species in biodiversity conservation to shift their minds from monoculture plantations.

Finally, the project is going well, and we hope to accomplish our goals in the proposed time frame. Below are some of the photos from the field.

Photo 1: Training of farmers in agroforestry.

Photo 2: A field assistant monitoring the planted trees.

Photo 3: Farmers demonstrating how tree planting is done.

Photo 4: Enrichment planting by a child on a degraded site.

Photo 5: Enrichment planting by a farmer on a degrade site.

Photo 6: An established tree of African cherry on a maize crop farm.

Photo 7: An established tree of *Terminalia superba* on a degraded site.