

Project Update: November 2022

Introduction

Our project started in August 2022 in Gogonya Village, Kitenga Sub-County of Mubende District in Uganda. It is intended to achieve two objectives as indicated below:

- i. To conduct enrichment planting on farms undergoing restoration in Gogonya Village using seedlings of threatened and multi-purpose tree species.
- ii. To train farmers in appropriate agroforestry techniques to improve their skills in tree management on farms.



Photo 1: Farmers filling the potting bags with soil. © Jjemba (August 2022)

Activities Done

Most of the activities done are related to tree nursery establishment and management:

- We constructed a greenhouse of 20 by 10 feet wide, and 8 feet high to accommodate our tree seedlings. We decided to use a greenhouse because it can protect the tree seedlings from adverse weather conditions, pests and diseases.
- We purchased 7 kg of tree seeds and carried out sowing in the seedbed. The tree species whose seeds were purchased are *Khaya anthotheca*, *Prunus africana*, *Melia volkensii*, *Terminalia superba*, and *Anona muricata*. Some of these have already been transplanted while others haven't germinated yet.

- We carried out filling of the potting bags with soil and arranged them in the greenhouse.
- Other nursery management activities done include watering, weeding, sorting of seedlings among others.



Photo 2: The greenhouse with seedlings of Prunus africana that had just been transplanted on a sunny day. © Jjemba (August 2022)



Photo 3: Seedlings of *Melia volkensii* in the nursery © by Jjemba (November 2022)



Photo 4: Seedlings of *Prunus africana* in the nursery © by Jjemba (November 2022)

Challenges experienced

Poor germination of some tree seeds especially East African mahogany (*Khaya anthotheca*) and African cherry (*Prunus africana*). This has reduced the number of seedlings transplanted to the nursery bed.

Outbreak of Ebola in our operation area. Farmers can no longer gather for field trainings and movement of the project leader is restricted.

Way forward

We have ordered for new seed batches for African cherry (*Prunus africana*) and East African mahogany (*Khaya anthotheca*).

We shall conduct our field trainings when the lockdown of Mubende district is lifted after the decline of Ebola. However, the tree nursery management activities are going on well.

Conclusion

Generally, the project is going on well despite the few challenges, and the intended objectives are going to be achieved soon.