

The Power of Nature-based Solutions in Restoring Tanzania's Natural Vegetation

Our Farmers Share their Success Stories



LEAD 
FOUNDATION



TABLE OF CONTENTS



Foreword 02

by retired Bishop Simon Chiwanga, Founder of LEAD Foundation

LEAD Foundation at a glance 03

What are Nature-based Solutions? 04

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration and Kisiki Hai 05
Rainwater Harvesting 07

Farmers Stories 08

Farmers from six villages in Dodoma Region narrate their stories about the implementation of Nature Based Solutions

Kisokwe	08
Mzase	09
Hachwi	10
Mpamantwa	11
Sagara	12
Pembamoto	13

Challenges & Lessons 14

Contact and further information 16

Bishop Simon Chiwanga

Founder of LEAD Foundation



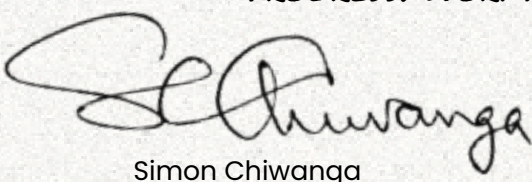
Foreword

Land degradation in Tanzania is a life-or-death issue. People face acute problems from soil erosion, shortage of rain and extensive heat, mostly due to reckless deforestation. The tree planting solution has been practiced for years without much success, particularly in dry regions. I had also tried this method for many years without much success. The enormity of the problem of desertification, land degradation and climate change in Tanzania requires a solution equal to the task.

In 2012, Eng. Njamasi Chiwanga - our director of programs - and myself had a unique opportunity to learn from Tony Rinaudo about Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), which immediately impressed us as the solution equal to our task: cost-effective, rapid, and scalable by the communities themselves. Since then, LEAD Foundation has vigorously and passionately run with the vision to regreen the whole of Tanzania through FMNR, which we call Kisiki Hai. Together with diverse partners, starting with JustdiggIt from the Netherlands, we planned and implemented huge greening programmes in central and northern Tanzania. Over the past six years, an astounding 18 million trees have been rejuvenated, with millions more already being revived and poised to flourish into mature trees, enhancing livelihoods.

What inspires me most are the enormous efforts of communities and the exemplary commitment of our Board of Directors, partners, staff, trainers, volunteers, and champions at all levels. I am especially fascinated by the tireless efforts of Sarina, our volunteer, in collecting and editing the material for this booklet, which is a call for more friends to join us in our mission.

“COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING. KEEPING TOGETHER IS
PROGRESS. WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS. - HENRY FORD”



Simon Chiwanga



LEAD is an acronym for:

L - Leadership,
E - Environment and
A - Action for
D - Development

LEAD Foundation is a purpose-driven local NGO registered with the government of Tanzania. We promote best principles and practices of **leadership**, environmental **conservation**, and community **development**, extensively working in Central and Northern Tanzania. For over 12 years, we have been reinforcing nature-based solutions to enable resilient communities of small-scale farmers. We dug 28,000 water bunds, 158 kilometres of rainwater harvesting trenches, revived over 18 million trees, reached over 225,000 households, and restored a total of 135,000 ha of land!

How does Regreening look like with LEAD Foundation?

With our programs in Dodoma, Singida, Manyara and Arusha Regions, we reached over 200,000 households in more than 616 villages and trained them about Kisiki Hai, Rainwater Harvesting and their benefits. Together with our partner Justdiggit, we already raised over 18 million trees in central Tanzania alone!

We managed this by training at least four Champion Farmers for each village. They attend three consecutive one-week trainings over three years, get a certificate and then pass on their newly acquired knowledge to at least 150 households each. Apart from these trainings, our district coordinators regularly visit the villages to check on how the farmers are doing, provide them with advice and keep in contact with local leaders. Additionally, we use special methods of rural communication to connect with a wide audience in minimal time. One example is our movie road shows, where we show an inspiring movie about Kisiki Hai in every village.



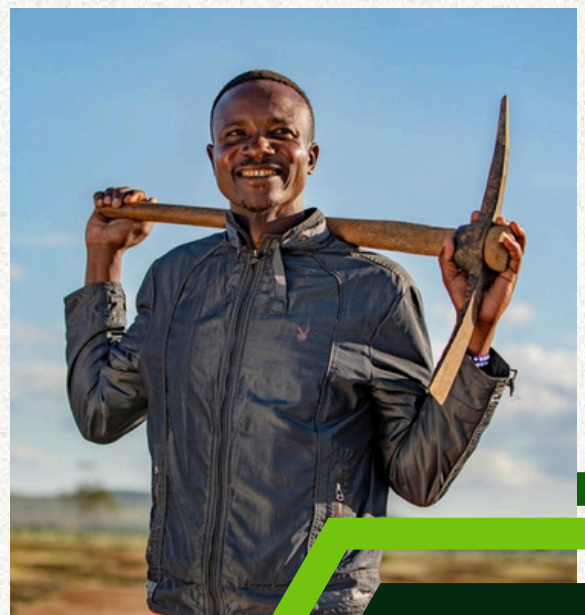
We also paint murals that explain Kisiki Hai, host radio programs and developed a weekly SMS system to remind our farmers of the necessary steps and give them advice based on the season.

03



“When LEAD Foundation arrived in our village, I felt like I had been brought a honeycomb. I realized we can restore God's depleted earth.”

Ashery Mazengo, 48 years, Msunjilile



What are Nature-based Solutions?

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) address social challenges through actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems, benefiting people and nature at the same time. They target major challenges like climate change, disaster risk reduction, food and water security, biodiversity loss, and human health. Their benefits can contribute to several of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Different examples of implementation of NbS across the world have already shown that they can have multiple, cross-sectoral benefits and development impacts at lower costs.



DID YOU KNOW?

NbS are sometimes defined as the opposite of gray infrastructure: green infrastructure. For example, instead of building a water tank for watering plants, you can also restore vegetation that retains water in the ground.

BENEFITS OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

There are plenty of NbS that are used on a small and large scale around the world. In this booklet, we want to focus on NbS that we use to restore arid and semi-arid lands in Tanzania. Namely, these are Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration and Rainwater Harvesting. We did not invent them, but we developed and adapted them to best implement them with our local communities. The vegetation we restore has benefits on many different levels. Obviously, trees prevent soil erosion, serve as windbreakers, provide shade, and their leaves serve as fertilizer for the soil. This means that more moisture is retained in the soil, the fertility of the soil and biodiversity increase, the groundwater table can recover, and, in some places, even dried-up streams have started to carry water again! All these impacts lead to better resilience against the climate crisis. Not to forget, a healthier environment in turn brings social improvements for whole communities as trees increase the yields in their fields. This ensures increased food security and better nutrition for local people. In addition, the fact that trees grow in one's own field means that one must travel shorter distances to get firewood, a job especially done by women and children. Higher yields, both from larger and healthier animal herds and crops, will also lead to higher incomes for the farmers, resulting in additional positive effects such as higher education or higher employment rates. The interaction of all these impacts from the trees brings a new level of independence and empowerment for our villages and raises hope for the future.

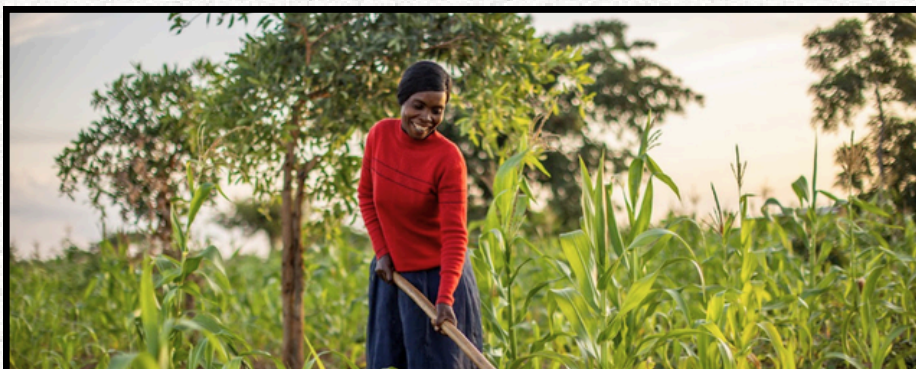
Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration

IN SHORT:
FMNR



Imagine trees could be growing on degraded land. Imagine desertification could be stopped, hundreds of millions of people would not have to leave their homes. Imagine all that is needed is still there, right beneath our feet. Imagine a whole underground forest is waiting to emerge again. Now just imagine that this is not a dream, but has already been successfully practiced on thousands of farms across the African continent and it is exactly what we are doing right now here in Tanzania. Incredible, isn't it?

The method making this possible is called Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) and was discovered by an Australian agronomist Tony Rinaudo in the 1980s. Human deforestation had led to enormous desertification in Niger, where he tried to regreen the land by planting trees. Nearly all the trees died, mostly due to water scarcity. But one day everything changed: He realised that tree stumps from cut-down trees still have far-reaching root complexes and sprout many small stems. These can grow into small bushes on their own, which are usually eaten by livestock or cut down by people to be used as firewood. However, if farmers take care of these stems and reduce their number to just a few in order to lower food competition among the sprouts, a small bush will rapidly grow into a large tree again. The present root system enables the tree to reach water far underground and lets it flourish even during dry seasons without human watering. This was the solution he had been searching for all these years! He developed the technique and called it "Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration". However, FMNR is not just based on tree stumps, it is "the systematic regrowth and management of trees and shrubs from felled tree stumps, sprouting root systems or seeds, or in woody thickets." He spread his knowledge of FMNR among thousands of farmers in and outside Niger and enabled them to regreen their land using simple methods. The technique is low-cost, rapid, very easy, locally led, and implemented using local skills and resources. Every person can learn by observation and teach their neighbours. This makes the communities implementing it independent from external resources and therefore creates long-lasting changes in the environment and communities. In 2018, Tony Rinaudo received the alternative Nobel Prize for his achievements.





Kisiki Hai

“Take care of trees and they will take care of you”

Gershom Mhalale, Champion Farmer in Manungu



Here in Tanzania, FMNR is called **Kisiki Hai**, Swahili for “living tree stump”. This name is much easier to remember, especially for farmers who do not speak English, and it also sounds much nicer! It consists of four major steps:

Chagua – Select: The farmer detects living stumps and selects those that he wants to grow into big trees again. He identifies the location and species of the tree and keeps those that will benefit him the most.

Pogolea – Prune: The farmer cuts off the weaker stems and leaves only a few strong ones. Afterwards, he prunes the lower branches of the selected stems up to half-way. This will reduce food competition and speed up the growth of the selected stems.

Alama – Mark: After pruning, the farmer marks each stump by tying together the stems with a small and bright piece of cloth. This will keep the stems growing upward and alarm other farmers not to cut down this tree.

Tunza – Protect: Now it is important that the farmer protects the tree from anything that could harm it, e.g., livestock, fire, or being cut by people. At this point, the whole community is involved, and maybe by-laws will be imposed. The farmer will also cut away one more stem each year until only the strongest stem is left, which will grow into a strong and mature tree.

“We see great benefits from Kisiki Hai. It has redeemed us. Before we started using Kisiki Hai, we had a hard time getting firewood. We walked all the way to the mountains over there to get firewood (points to the mountains a few kilometres away). Today, we can harvest everything we need from trees directly on our farm. For example, firewood, fruits, fertiliser, medicine, and wood for processing.”

Janeth Chigunda Twalale, 50 years,
Champion Farmer from Msunjilile
(Picture on the Backcover)

CHAGua - POgolea - Alama - TUNza

06 CHAPOA TU! = It's only cool!

Rainwater Harvesting

A common challenge in arid lands is water shortages. But in many cases, the reason for this is not only short rains, but notably the fact that if it rains, the rainwater just washes away over the dry soil instead of infiltrating it. This is where NbS can make a significant difference. By digging water trenches and bunds, the rainwater is temporarily stored to infiltrate into the soil.

Halfmoon bunds, or as we like to call them, **earth smiles**, are used to restore depleted grazing lands. The water is stored temporarily in the bund, enabling it to infiltrate into the soil. Increased humidity boosts existing seeds in and around the bunds to sprout and thereby contributes to restoring the vegetation and water balance in general. Once the process is initiated, the vegetation keeps spreading and spreading, and after only a few years, it covers the whole area.

→ Read more about our Bunds side on page 13

Trenches, or **Fanya Juu/Chini** in Swahili, are perfectly suitable for farmland, as they are dug along the contour lines within the farmland to prevent erosion and capture the valuable rainwater within the land. At the higher end of the farm, we dig Fanya Chini trenches. Fanya Chini means “throw it downwards” as the soil dug out of the trench builds a dam below the trench. Fanya Chini trenches prevent rain falling outside the farm from entering the farm, inhibiting the erosion of fertile soil. Fanya Juu (throw it upwards) trenches instead are dug in between the farm and prevent the rain falling within the farm from flooding away, increasing the water availability for the crops on the land.

→ Read more about our Trench side on Page 12

On the following pages, few of our over 3,000 Champion Farmers from Dodoma Region will give you a slight but impressive insight on how our projects impacted their farms, livelihoods, and the whole community.

07



Soooo big!

Trenches are 60cm deep and as long as the farm, divided by small cross-ties every ten metres to keep the water from flowing to one side. Halfmoon bunds are 30cm deep and have a diameter of around five metres. That means an adult elephant can fit in one bund!



“What motivates us to keep on educating fellow farmers is that we can already see the benefits of the trees and the rainwater harvesting trenches. We didn't dig them only on the farms but also at our homeplaces. Since then, we haven't had any trouble with water entering our houses during the rainy season anymore. Where there have been wide gullies before, they have already fully disappeared.”

Omana Ngoitanile (52 years) and Zanal Njeleza (48 years) from Msunjilile

The story of Kisokwe

One of 39 schools participating in our Kisiki Hai for Schools project is located in Kisokwe village. We build the capacity of students and teachers in Kisiki Hai and environmental protection by teaching them in special sessions organised according to the school schedule. Additionally, we have provided them with tools such as t-shirts, books, and knives for pruning.



**SCHOOL AREA REGREENED
WITH PLENTY OF
KISIKI HAI TREES!**



Amosi Senyegalo
50 years



“ I like Kisiki Hai a lot! Not only because it's low cost and therewith easy to implement for anyone, but also because you can see the benefits right after implementing. You will get firewood, leaves, and branches as fodder for livestock, and even the natural vegetation will return very fast. The same is true for rainwater harvesting: We can clearly see that the gullies have already started to disappear. In our village, you can even measure the impact: Only a few years ago, we used to take water from rivers. In 2021, after implementing Kisiki Hai for three years, we tried to dig wells again and discovered that the groundwater had returned. We now have more than 20 wells in our village, and the water is available less than 10 metres underground. A major lesson I have learned from the Kisiki Hai program is that it's possible to use a forest as a source of income. For example, you can protect a forest and, at the same time, sustainably harvest trees by just pruning them instead of cutting them down. You will get timber and firewood, and you can produce charcoal or burn bricks out of clay and sell these products for income.

Most of the people I taught here already saw the benefits and started to use Kisiki Hai, but there is no work without challenges. There are some people who have mindsets like stones. They see the benefits of our trees, but they still don't want to protect them on their farms because their belief that "trees are a farmer's enemies" is so deeply rooted in their minds. I think the best way to reach our goal of regreening the village is to teach people again and again by taking action and being a good example.

Protecting trees is everyone's duty. God created the earth and its environment for humanity to live on, not destroy it. This is why those who believe in God know that protecting trees is a duty brought on by God. The Kisiki Hai program is therefore an agent sent by God, as it spreads what God has started. It's everyone's duty to protect the environment with Kisiki Hai because it's the best way to do so.

The story of Mzase

In cooperation with the German search engine Ecosia LEAD Foundation trained 20 Champion Farmers about Kisiki Hai in Mzase village. With the strong support of their village leader, they did not only teach their fellow farmers and institutions like the school, the dispensary, and the CCM Office (Political Party), but they also restored a 54-hectare communal area on the hillside adjacent to their village with 35,000 Kisiki Hai trees.

“When I was young, every child knew several species of wild animals. But they disappeared, and some children didn't even know what a Dik-dik is! Now, not only Dik-dik but also bees, frogs, and wild cats have returned to the area, and we can show them to our children again.

Elia Chibupa, 44 years
Champion Farmer

LOCAL
MEDICINE

“Our houses have been flooded by water because, when it rained, water washed down from the mountains and entered our village. It destroyed everything: farms, houses, and streets. But now we don't face these problems anymore because the trees hold the water on the mountain and release it slowly after the rainfall.

Rosemary Lyakona
47 years
Champion Farmer

“A few years ago, when people used to come here to fetch water, everyone could see them from the village. There was no shade at all because there were no trees. With Kisiki Hai, we managed to make even the smallest shoots grow into mature trees, so that today the water tank is located in a dense, impenetrable forest.

Milton Zakaria, 44 years, Champion Farmer



The story of Hachwi

In Hachwi village, only two Champion Farmers managed to motivate 140 farmers and three institutions to implement Kisiki Hai. All together, the village restored nearly 130,000 trees! One of the two Champion Farmers is a 60-year-old Mohamed Walulu. He has thin, short dread locks, an everlasting smile on his face, and incredible energy when it comes to his forest reserve.



“Many years ago, the rain had been enough in this area. It came regularly. We could eat maize until August. But as the years passed by, the number of people increased, and surrounding forests were cut down to get farmland. This is when the rain became a problem for us. It became so rare that even cultivating maize was a tough challenge. The rain fell less, and the rainy seasons shortened. Beans, which we had been cultivating for longer than I can remember, became a dependable crop. In some seasons, the rain had been so little that the beans died because of drought and heat. That was when I understood that we have a serious problem: the enormous destruction of forests.

Back in 2012, I determined that a small part of my nearly 20-hectare land is enough for me to farm and decided to turn the bigger part of it into a forest reserve. After six years of protecting the area, the LEAD Foundation provided me with additional education. I especially love the part about Rainwater Harvesting: Right after the training, I dug rainwater harvesting trenches on my farm to protect it from soil erosion.

I love my forest reserve that I restored with Kisiki Hai and the work that comes with it! The whole of last month, there was not one single day that I lost. You can find me on the farm every day. Today, I went to see a teacher as we worked together in a protected school area and helped him with pruning the trees. I am very happy to have this forest. You know, I am 60 years old now, and I hope that I can be a good role model for future generations by protecting the environment for them.

I have been protecting my forest reserve for so many years with Kisiki Hai, and now I can see the outcome. When you look at the other side of the mountains, where they don't have this green environment, they still struggle with drought and short rains. This isn't a major challenge for me anymore since the trees store rainwater, increase water availability for my crops, and provide my farm with moisture.

The *Mwenge wa Uhuru*, or *Uhuru Torch*, is one of the national symbols of Tanzania, which stands for freedom and light. Every year, there is a Uhuru torch race that visits outstanding places in every Tanzanian district. In 2024, Mohamed and his forest reserve will get the honour of being visited.





The story of Mpamantwa

Mpamantwa in Bahi District is one of LEAD's best-performing villages. 588 households and six institutions restored 225,000+ trees in only six years! One reason for this tremendous success might be these two young and motivated Champion Farmers:

Elias Bosco Emmanuel, 33 years

“Before national independence in 1961, people lived widely scattered around here. The land was green and sprouting with a lot of wildlife, like elephants and lions. My parents told me that they could find several roots that they used as medicine. But since then, the environment has been destroyed significantly. People cut down all the trees in order to get farmland. When trees became rare, people even began to rip out entire tree stumps to use them as charcoal. Luckily, I was chosen as a Champion Farmer, and on September 2, 2018, my first training started in Dodoma. The first time I heard about Kisiki Hai, I was shocked: “What way is that to protect a tree stump when I know that this stump has already died? The stumps are just like stones. They don't sprout out! How is this supposed to work?” I was used to removing every piece of vegetation before applying cow dung to the field and cultivating it. But gradually, I realised that these tree stumps were alive underground. Just like a tree, but hidden under the surface. We began to believe that this is true and that it is possible.

Back in the village, we started with a few people who, at first, didn't quite listen. We gave short lessons before soccer games, and slowly but surely, people began to comprehend. Today, people are really happy and grateful for having received this education. Also, our children are taught about Kisiki Hai in school since LEAD Foundation trained the teachers about Kisiki Hai in 2022. Since Frida Amani and Ben Pol came to our village to shoot the “kijanisha” song, they love Kisiki Hai!

LISTEN TO THE SONG!



“Previously, my parents taught me to cut down trees before the farming season. How wrong they were! Their mistake was that they didn't prune. If you don't prune and manage trees, tree stumps, and bushes on your farm, they will truly impact the crops. But if you do so, they grow as tall trees, and the crops thrive even better because a tree doesn't take up much arable land and provides the crops with humidity. By pruning, you also get firewood without killing the tree, so that in the following year it will have grown even bigger. I unlearned cutting down trees and learned the Kisiki Hai way!

Our village leader instantly understood that Kisiki Hai could benefit us. He assigned us an area near the hills that had been completely deforested. He announced that this side would now be protected using Kisiki Hai. For two years, it was forbidden to do any destructive actions for any reason. And luckily, the villagers agreed. Today, six years later, the area is a forest! Wildlife began to return, and just a few metres below the surface, plenty of clean water is available again. We dug a well, and even people from distant villages come to get water here because it is so clean. As you see, the benefits are ours, not those of the people who taught us about it!

Aivan John Lungwa, 29 years

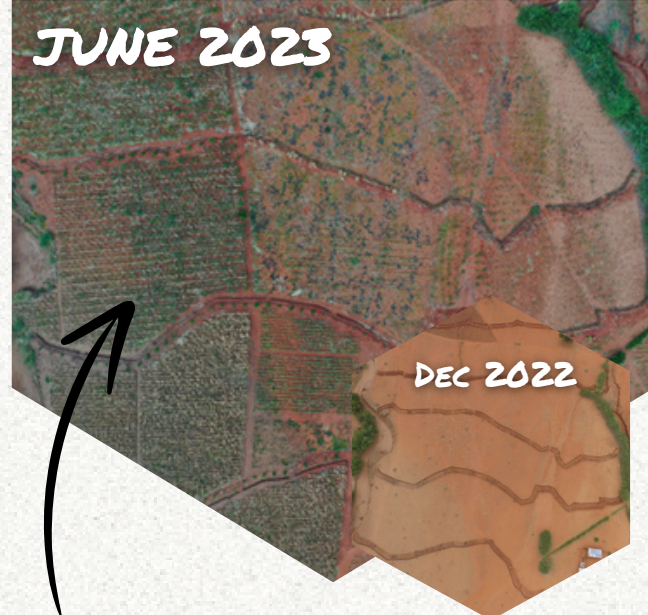


The coverpicture of this brochure is also from Mpamantwa!

”

The story of Sagara

In Sagara village, Kongwa District, even before you enter the village office, you will notice that this is a Kisiki Hai village: A few years ago, there were no trees, whereas now you can hide from the burning sun under plenty of tree shade. Once entered the office, the vice village leader, Samson Ngitao (34 years) narrates: "The area has been a desert. But by teaching people about Kisiki Hai and pruning the trees, we reversed this process, and today our crops prosper again!"



Even a once neglected area that has been left out for several years could be turned into an over-average productive farm thanks to Fanya Juu/Chini trenches!



Sesilia Kamando
57 Years
Champion Farmer Sagara

WHY...?

...ARE THE TRENCHES NOT IN STRAIGHT LINES?

A line of trenches is not one long trench but consists of many 10m long sections separated by one-metre-wide cross-ties. This prevents water from flowing through the trenches from one end of the farm, creating possible gullies. In addition, each 10m section is measured precisely to face the slope. And as you can guess, the farms have irregular slopes, which makes irregular patterns arise.

“

When I was a small child, the environment was really green and beautiful here. But as I grew older and became a young woman, there were massive changes. Due to human deforestation, the environment got worse and worse until it became a complete desert. By the time the project arrived in our village, it was very hard to get new farmland because many people sought it because their old farms couldn't be cultivated anymore. We were frightened, our land had become a desert. What should we do?

After we had been selected and educated as Champion Farmers, we first started to teach a few people not to cut down all their trees. Slowly but surely, the environment recovers to the state it formerly was. We already harvest more crops, for example, peanuts, sunflowers, millet, or maize, since the trees protect our farms from drought. Severe weather conditions like strong rain, wind, and drought have and will always be a challenge to deal with since you can't foresee them. But the trees truly help us to cope with it by slowing down the rain and providing shade.

Thinking of my grandchildren, I'm so happy to see the environment returning to the state it was so many years ago. Even a water source on the mountain carries way more water than a few years ago. We really strive to restore our environment, and I believe in us. We will, and we can manage it!

”

AFTER

BEFORE

A self-reinforcing challenge in Pembamato has been giant water gullies that eroded deeper with every rainy season. As the vegetation now spreads outside the bunds and people place branches in the gullies, the process has been reversed, and they clearly begin to fill up again!



SURPRISING FACTS

SCAN HERE:



“Before digging the bunds, we had difficulties burying people in the area that is partly used as a cemetery. The soil had become too dry and compact to resolve the grave. But now, people are buried again because the soil has become less hard!”

Fanuel Muhali, 44 years, Champion Farmer in Pembamato

The story of

Pembamato

In 2018, JustdiggIt and LEAD Foundation implemented a Rainwater Harvesting pilot project in Pembamato. We assisted the local community in digging more than five thousand halfmoon bunds on a 100-hectare grazing area adjacent to their village. The village leader and Champion Farmers put enormous effort into convincing the whole community to protect the area and succeeded: The area has transformed from a barren desert to a sprouting savanna with over two metres high grass! Until today, they have prevented pastoralists from feeding their animals in the area to avoid hindering progress. Instead, they have established a non-destructive source of income generation: they harvest grass to sell it to pastoralists. Additionally, LEAD Foundation pays villagers for harvesting grass seeds, which will be used for other greening projects. In the first two years of harvesting, 2021 and 2022, they created a sizeable income, which they used to build classrooms for the village primary school. In 2024, they harvested over 300kg of grass seeds without harvesting the whole area because the grass was more than sufficient.



In 2024, the project has earned recognition from UNESCO Green Citizens, highlighting its innovative approach and its potential to make a significant impact. This acknowledgement presents us with the opportunity to showcase the power of community-driven environmental initiatives on a global scale.

SCAN HERE AND
READ MORE ON THE
UNESCO WEBSITE



Challenges & Learnings

Setting the legal basis

Regreening is a goal that changes the whole life of a village. In most villages, by-laws are implemented to protect the farming of trees. These laws impose a high penalty on the unauthorised felling of trees, which clarifies the ownership. This motivates farmers to protect their trees because they know it will be for their own benefit.

Another challenge we face is the fact that 80% of villages in Tanzania do not have land use plans, which makes it difficult to implement projects on communal lands. To realise successful projects despite this circumstance, it is important to involve the community and intensively focus on their benefits.

Including the whole community

Meetings with stakeholders, village leaders, regional and national leaders, and different partners are an essential part of sustainable regreening. Only when we manage to include all of them properly in our projects will the seeds of knowledge we deploy with our projects prosper and sprout out, even far from where we sowed them.

Community becomes creative

We saw our communities getting creative many times. For example, in Pembamoto, after they had seen the benefits of regreening, the villagers built beacons out of cement around the boundaries of the project side to make it visible to everyone.

Women in action

During all of our projects, we make sure to have an equal gender balance. According to our experience over the past 12 years, in most of our successful projects, women have been at the forefront, and therefore actively involving them is a critical intervention for thriving projects. Especially when it comes to the hard work of digging trenches and bunds, women did not step back but instead significantly pushed the work forward!



Health effects of trees

The human health benefits of tree restoration in mitigating heat stress are poorly evidenced. This is why LEAD Foundation started a study funded by Wellcome Trust on how trees on farmlands alter health risks for farmers in Tanzania. The study has just begun in 2023, but even without scientific proof, our farmers can tell us what has changed in their lives since they started protecting the trees:

“Now we can place our water bottles near the trees to keep them cool, as in a fridge, and come in the shadow to rest. Also, our toddlers can rest in the trees shadows while we are farming.”

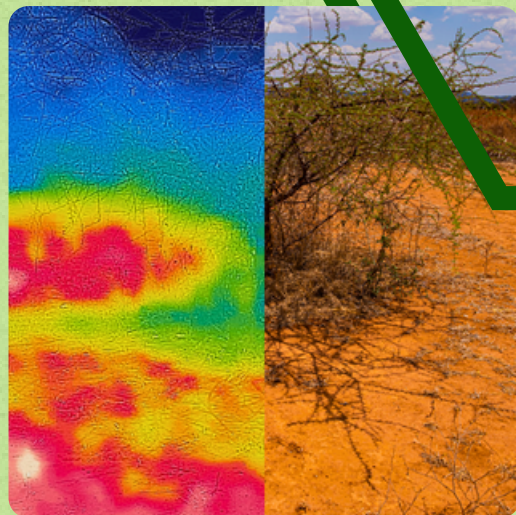
Zanali Njeleza, 48 years, Champion Farmer in Msunjilile

Changing mindsets

The heart of our work is changing mindsets. And this, for sure, is not an easy one. Especially when you work with local farmers who have been farming for their whole lives the way they were taught by their parents. We soon realised that the right solution for this challenge is to reach farmers with hands-on lessons and peer-to-peer mentoring. Farmers will more likely believe what their fellow farmers tell them compared to someone they have never seen before. They know that their fellow farmers will not tell them wrong practices, as it is their own livelihood that depends on good farming methods.

Turning Enemies into Friends – Tony Rinaudo

Implementing new sustainable farming methods is mostly about changing people's mindsets. In his autobiography "The Underground Forest," Tony Rinaudo narrates about a conversation with Mwalimu Michael Mbijima from Kongwa. The farmer told him about a tree stump that used to be his enemy, but since he learned about FMNR, he feels ashamed that he burned it down for so many years, as the stump has become his friend now. This made Tony realise what FMNR is mostly about: turning enemies into friends. Enemies of trees into friends of trees.



Contact & further information

Acknowledgement



Regreening is a worldwide movement that can only be successful if done together. This is why we partner with several local and global organisations. Big thanks go to our beloved partner Justdiggitt from the Netherlands, who has supported us for over six years in the Regreening Dodoma Program. We also thank Ecosia for their cooperation in our projects in Dodoma Region. Thanks to ICRISAT and TARI, we could implement a Rainwater Harvesting project in Sagara. Together with Awakentrees, we started our Kisiki Hai for Schools Project. Additionally, we also thank the Wellcome Trust for enabling us to launch our first research project.

Connect with us



www.leadfoundation.org



info@leadfoundation.org



+255 26 2322786



Plot no. 125 Kilimani/Uzunguni Street
P.O. Box 1823 Dodoma, Tanzania

Get social with LEAD



@lead.tz



LEAD Foundation



@leadtz



@leadfoundationtz



LEAD Foundation



Sources

Definition of NbS: <https://www.iucn.org/our-work/nature-based-solutions> <https://naturebasedsolutions.org/what-are-NbS>

Tony Rinaudo: The Forest Underground – Hope for a planet in crisis; 2021 ISCAST Australia



WITH BUNDS

WITHOUT BUNDS



Pembamoto: Page 13

**SCHOOL BUILT WITH REVENUE
FROM SELLING GRASS AND SEEDS**

FANYA JUU

Harvests valuable rainwater
and prevents soil in the farm
from erosion

FANYA CHINI

Harvests rainwater fallen
outside the farm and prevents it
from causing soil erosion



Rainwater Harvesting: Page 07



Kisiki Hai Road Show: Page 03



WWW.LEADFOUNDATION.ORG

ISBN 978-9912-9977-9-0

