



# Sustainable Livelihoods Newsletter

Empowering people to secure sustainable incomes, food security and improved quality of life in harmony with nature

A Quarterly Newsletter produced by SLINT-Uganda

April-June 2010

## EDITORIAL



SLINT-Uganda is happy to present the April-June 2010 issue of Sustainable Livelihoods Newsletter.

During the reporting period, considerable progress was made especially with the Gayaza Fruit Tree Growing and Community Forestry Project. More than 3000 tree seedlings were raised in the community tree nurseries established at Butikiro and Kiyuni villages. Notable progress was made with the beekeeping project as well.

SLINT-Uganda also established new partnerships with the New Forests Project (NFP), an NGO based in the US and Community Forests International (CFI) a volunteer-driven organization based in Canada. SLINT-Uganda hopes to collaborate closely with the new partners to expand its community tree planting initiatives.

I wish you a good reading and look forward to your continued support.

Denis Marsha Kabuuka  
Executive Director

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## Gayaza Fruit Tree Growing and Community Forestry Project Pressing Forward

Recent field visits to Butikiro and Kiyuni villages provided SLINT-Uganda with more optimism about meeting aims of the Gayaza Fruit Tree Growing and Community Forestry Project in the near future. While meeting and speaking with some of the project beneficiaries in their homes and farms, it was apparent that everyone is excited about the project. "It is very reassuring to see the fruit trees we planted growing very fast", remarked Mr. Tito Byakatonda, supervisor of the Kiyuni Community Tree Nursery.

The two tree nurseries established with support from the project are expanding fast. So far, more than 3,000 multi-purpose tree seedlings have been raised in the two community tree nurseries at Butikiro and Kiyuni. The farmers hope to double that number in the next few weeks. We aim to also establishing two additional community tree nurseries, each with a capacity to produce at least 10,000 seedlings per year.

SLINT-Uganda donated to farmers more than 8,000 tree seeds of eight different species namely: Neem (Scientific name: *Azadirachta indica*); Silky oak (Scientific name: *Gravellia robusta*); African mahogany (Scientific name: *Khaya grandifoliola*); Leucaena (Scientific name: *Leucaena lucocephalla*); Musizi (Scientific name: *Maesopsis eminii*); Mango (Scientific name: *Mangifera indica*); Muvule (Scientific name: *Milicia excelsa*) and Guava (Scientific name: *Psidium guajava*). This was in addition to the donation of tree seeds of Albizia (scientific name: *Albizia chinensis*), locally known as "omugavu", and Calliandra that was received from "Trees For the Future" ([www.treesftf.org](http://www.treesftf.org)), an agroforestry resource center working with people to improve livelihoods and restore degraded lands to sustainable productivity through planting beneficial trees.



The Gayaza Fruit Tree Growing and Community Forestry aims at promoting the growing of fruit and multipurpose trees for improved food security, income generation, provision of fuelwood and improved tree cover for environmental protection and climate change mitigation. More than 400 farmers and their families are expected to benefit from the project.

The project has adopted a step-by-step approach to promoting tree growing in the area and engagement of farmers in the fruit tree business. Concretely, this involves improving the tree productivity, product quality control, improved marketing and establishment and professionalization of the farmers' groups. The distribution of tree seedlings to the farmers is stop-gap step. Ultimately, the farmers will be collecting their own seeds and raising their own seedlings. This will be achieved by fully establishing the two community tree nurseries in Butikiro and Kiyuni villages and by farmers collaborating through their groups to lower the costs of production and increase the economies of scale in the procurement of inputs and services as well increasing the efficiency in the marketing of their products.



We are confident of being able to empower farmers in Kiboga overcome poverty and becoming economically self-sustaining in the near future, while conserving the environment at the same time. The project forms a sound foundation for the active work to follow.

## Community Forests International Staff visit SLINT-Uganda

SLINT-Uganda hosted staff from Community Forests International (CFI) from 3 to 8 May 2010. Daimen Hardie and Estelle Drisdelle who visited Butikiro and Kiyuni villages, in Kiboga district conducted a community training workshop on tree nursery set up and tree care under the “Gayaza Smallholder Fruit-Tree Growing and Community Forestry Project”. The visit was within the framework of the new partnership between SLINT-Uganda and Community Forests International (<http://forestsinternational.org/2010/05/kiboga-district-uganda/>). The purpose of visit was to enable CFI staff to learn more about the communities where SLINT-Uganda is operating and to share their experiences in community tree planting and forestry conservation practices. During the training workshop, local people were advised on sustainable practices in fruit tree growing and tree planting.

Environmentally conscious and sustainable practices have become imperative in villages such as Kiyuni, where reliance on external resources is not an option and where these practices promote community self-sufficiency.



Daimen and Estelle also visited one of SLINT-Uganda’s partner organizations, the Centre for Integrated Development (CIDev) and its Community Forest Management (CFM) Programme in Mabira Forest Reserve, Mukono district: <http://www.forestsinternational.com/news/>.

The visit by CFI staff provided a good opportunity for SLINT-Uganda to work with other partners to support the tree planting initiatives, promote environmental education and conservation and assist local communities to increase food security.



## SLINT-Uganda website Redesigned

In June, Sustainable Livelihoods International Uganda (SLINT-Uganda) launched its new website: <http://www.slint.org/>. The website was redesigned free of charge by Ms. Marina Klimi, a volunteer with the Online Volunteer Network, NABUUR (<http://www.nabuur.com/en/village/butikiro>) and founder of the Web Design company known as Pandora Web Box (<http://www.designpandorabox.eu/portfolio.html>).

The new website will go a long way in helping SLINT-Uganda to communicate more effectively and contribute to the achievement of its mission. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Ms. Klimi for her generous support.

## SLINT-Uganda becomes a seed distributor for the New Forests Project

SLINT-Uganda has been selected to become one of the seed distributors for the New Forests Project, an international organisation based in USA ([www.newforestsproject.org](http://www.newforestsproject.org)). Through this partnership, SLINT-Uganda will distribute seeds of different tree species for free of charge to local community groups and organizations on behalf of the New Forests Project World Seed Program. SLINT-Uganda will also

provide support to seed recipients on how to raise and grow the trees.

The partnership further contributes to the mission of New Forests Program and to SLINT-Uganda's mission to empower people to secure high standards of living while at the same time maintaining the diversity and long term productivity of the environment and natural resources that underpin their livelihoods.

## SLINT-Uganda to host Operation Groundswell volunteers

More than 17 Volunteers are expected to visit SLINT-Uganda's field projects in Gayaza sub-county in Kiboga district central Uganda from 16 to 20 July 2010. During the visit, the volunteers will meet with farmers in Butikiro and Kiyuni villages to learn more about livelihoods activities and share their experiences. They will also conduct on-farm visits and demonstration activities for farmers.

The volunteers are also expected to conduct a participatory appraisal session and refresher training on beekeeping and work with farmers in Kiyuni to expand the two community tree nurseries at Kiyuni and Butikiro villages. They will also conduct a training seminar on tree planting and environmental conservation for students at Kyumulalama and Nankandula primary schools and assist them to establish tree nurseries at their respective schools.