

THE SECOND **ECHO** EAST AFRICA SYMPOSIUM
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LEAD Foundation's Presentation

FMNR - GOOD NEWS FOR EAST AFRICA

INTRODUCING FARMER MANAGED
NATURAL REGENERATION (FMNR)

LEAD Foundation

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LEAD Foundation is a registered NGO. **LEAD** is an acronym for:

Leadership Transformation,
Environmental Conservation and
Action for
Development.

The acronym conveys the ethos of the Foundation: to inspire and equip stakeholders to be upfront in applying appropriate and most effective principles and practices of servant leadership, environmental conservation and community development.

LEAD implements its mission through training, consultancy, research and initiation of pilot projects.

LEAD Current Activities:

- Leadership Training and Consultancy through TUMIKA (Taasisi ya Uongozi na Mipango Afrika).
- Conserve Kiboriani – The Fountain of Life (FMNR – “VISIKI” - Central Zone).
- Promotion of Eco Tourism and Heritage.
- Education for Character Formation through-
 - Malewo English Medium Nursery School
 - Lead Education Academy
- Mkami Graphics and ICT Solutions

Vision, Mission, Objectives

Vision

Good governance and best practices of environmental conservation, economic and social development practiced globally.

Mission

To undertake training, consultancy, research and initiation of pilot projects which impart and promote best attitudes, principles and practices of servant leadership, environmental conservation, and community transformation.

Objectives

- Being a centre of excellence in inspiring and equipping leaders and communities at various levels to enhance their passion, commitment and skills for good governance, planning and conservation of the environment and heritage.
- To enhance knowledge and skills of strategic environmental planning, project formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- To restore degraded environments that have significant bearing on livelihoods of communities such as Kiboriani range of mountains and Central Tanzania.
- To promote sustainable programmes related to Climate Change mitigation and Adaptation.
- To promote the Tanzania Vision 2025 and Millennium Development Goals.

LEAD Current Key Activities:

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Head Office: Mpwapwa, Tanzania

Introduction

“Can God spread a table in the wilderness?” (Psalm 78:19)

This was an outcry of the Israelites during their travelling through the desert to the promised land. The situation in the desert had become tough, most discouraging.

Some said: No, he can't. God can't set a table in the wilderness!

Others said: Yes, God can and will set a table in the wilderness, as He has done always!

This outcry of despair, hopelessness and frustration is very familiar in many parts of East Africa, particularly, perhaps, in the Central Zone of Tanzania where the ever escalating destruction of the environment, especially forests, is dangerously inviting desertification in the region. I, myself, have gone through times when I expressed a similar questioning of God, “Can He really set a table in the wilderness of Central Tanzania after several attempts of rescuing the situation seemed futile?”

Mr. Tony Rinaudo, the Pioneer of FMNR, reached a stage of wanting to resign from missionary assignment in Niger when he felt nothing was working with reversing desertification through tree planting.

Someone has described a desert situation in this way, *“The wilderness is a fearful place to be. Nothing but barren hills, deep valleys, and sun-baked, gray dirt that seems to go on forever. A man without supplies wouldn’t last long in the wilderness. A million-plus people wandering around would soon starve to death. There isn’t enough water, there isn’t enough food, the sun beats down mercilessly during the day, and at night the desert grows dark, cold and dangerous. Few people can survive there for very long.”*

Can God Set a Table in the Drylands of East Africa?

My convinced answer is Yes!

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) is very good news indeed to East Africa.

FMNR is basically the selection and pruning of stems which sprout from indigenous tree and shrub stumps.

It is a method of harnessing an underground forest that needs to be released to produce miraculous results.

This method is a revelation, compared to the familiar traditional method of reforestation by tree planting.

Our emphasis, therefore, is to promote the FMNR method.

Where necessary some tree planting is undertaken to supplement, or in place of, FMNR, for example fruit and fertilizer trees.

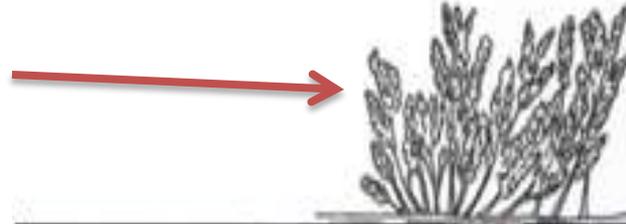


NJIA RAHISI NI KUPOGOLEA UOTO WA ASILI

KISIKI HAI NI MTI HAI ARDHINI

Machipukizi ya Kisiki hai yanalishwa na mizizi mirefu sana

MACHIPUKIZI YA KISIKI HAI



MIZIZI YA KISIKI HAI



FMNR was first publicly practiced in [West Africa](#) from the 1980s, now practiced on over 30,000 km² of land in the [Niger Republic](#) as well as [Chad](#), [Burkina Faso](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Mali](#) and other countries. In these countries millions of hectares of land that were once barren have been rejuvenated, water springs that had dried out began to flow again, biodiversity came to back new life.







Achievements / impacts so far

The Project started in July 2012.

- LEAD Foundation Board Members, Government leaders at Regional and District levels have espoused FMNR and are promoting it enthusiastically.
- 300 groups of farmers have resolved to practice FMNR both in their individual farms and in their group forest land.
- FMNR training has been conducted to ten village assemblies, educational institutions, governing councils of faith organizations, and to local Prisons.

What contributed to the success?

- The simplicity of the method as compared to the traditional tree planting practice.**
- Conviction and passionate commitment of FMNR Champions.**

Who were the key Partners in the Programme?

- World Vision Tanzania**
- The Government at District level, NGOs, CBOs, Faith Organizations, communities.**

Lessons learned

- Conservation farming and agro-forestry are not given serious attention in our Pilot area.
- Contrary to our expectations, functional development officers are slower than government and political leaders in grasping the revolutionary method of FMNR.
- Given the crucial nature of FMNR in reforestation and green agriculture, there is need:
 - To champion FMNR as a “movement” and not just as a “project”
 - To be alert to farming cycles so that FMNR training is given before farm clearing begins and during weeding time when new shoots are sprouting and can easily be cleared.
- In spite of FMNR’s potential for farmer to farmer spontaneous propagation at very little cost, there is still need for adequate resources in order to scale up FMNR.

How this success can be applied by others in the region

- FMNR is like a soft ware that can and should be adopted by all NGOs, government and faith based projects involved in green agriculture and reforestation in dry lands.
- Exposure visits should be facilitated.