

BACKGROUND

From 2011, Uganda in general and Mubende district in particular have had persistent drought. This is due to man's activities in search of arable land which has led to severe deforestation, with associated burning as well as the most recent worst trend of wetland encroachment through unrestricted wetland reclamation. This is further attributed to high levels of unemployment especially among youth and women who form the majority of Ugandan population. They lack alternative means of survival/livelihood as they are tied to tilling of land moreover with rudimentary technology that does not spare land to the detriment of environmental protection. This happens amidst limited information and knowledge of the likely effects of unrestricted deforestation and as well as wetland reclamation on climate change. The urgent and direct problems that must be addressed therefore include; worsening environmental deterioration including deforestation and wetland reclamation are a result of man's quest for arable land. This will address the indirect problem of high levels of unemployment.



The once evergreen tropical rain forest on Kibalinga sub-county-Mubende District is no more; a victim to combined charcoal burning to give way to arable farming

‘Lemon grass for essential oils production and sales project’ conducted by SORAK

GBN’s partnered with a Ugandan local NGO, SORAK development agency to address the above environmental problems through the ‘lemon grass production for essential oils for sales and income generation for surrounding communities. SORAK has further taken on value addition through tea blending with lemon grass oil.



Distillation in process with curious youths surprised by the new product



Lemon grass essential oil distilled by SORAK



Delivery of lemon grass at the SORAK community based Distiller



The distillation apparatus which SORAKA has, and SORAK carries out lemon grass distillation into essential oil here by gathering lemon grass from farmers



Emptying the 1 ton capacity distiller /boiler to remove spent grass- also good for cattle feeding if mixed with molasses/ an excellent mulch

~Environmental Protection and Education~

GBN has started a project on environmental protection and education in the collaboration with SORAK. The project seeks to promote environmental protection through practical and gainful cultivation of lemongrass. This will be accompanied by environmental awareness education targeting women, youth and 'in school' children who are envisaged to push forward a fruitful agenda of environmental protection in general.



Barren area in Mubende, Uganda



A farmer grows lemon grass in barren area with SORAK Executive Director during a

It is anticipated that the project will have environmental benefits of providing a permanent soil cover to the currently eroded bare grounds by expanding lemongrass growing. In addition, the production and sale of lemongrass essential oil and tea from tons of lemongrass gathered by the surrounding farmers will help income generation among them.

This project is supported by the fund from Japan Fund for Global Environment from April 2017



Project Title : Environmental Protection through Expanding Lemon Grass Growing and Education in Uganda

Project Period : 2017/4/1 ~ 2018/3/31

Project Area : Mubende and Kyegegwa Districts in Uganda

Number of beneficiary : Appropriately more than 5,050

(200 Women and Youth, 300 children x16 schools, and 50 stakeholders including local government policy makers and implementers, and local farmers)

The main objective:

To promote environmental protection through lemongrass growing and environmental education in unproductive areas of Mubende and Kyegegwa districts of Uganda integrated environmental protection, advocacy, awareness and lemongrass production for soil erosion control

Activity:

- I. Capacity building for women, youth and children in school for enhanced environmental protection through education and training for lemon grass growing
- II. Engagement of communities, stakeholders and local leaders for a favorable regulatory environmental protection environment
- III. Supporting communities of women and youth farmers for accelerated uptake of lemon grass production for environmental protection

Global Bridge Network (GBN) play the role of an agent to support this project which SORAK conducts for environmental protection through growing lemon grass and income generation.

GBN would like to conduct a sale of lemon grass tea in Japan someday soon.

People can enjoy such lemon grass tea from SORAK, and which connects to their supports...GBN hope to be bridge between them... in order to do this, GBN will continue to collaborate with SORAK.