



TIST

The International Small Group and
Tree Planting Program

REPLICABLE AND RAPID REFORESTATION

TIST empowers Small Groups of subsistence farmers in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and India to combat the devastating effects of deforestation, poverty and drought. Combining sustainable development with carbon sequestration, TIST supports the reforestation efforts of over 25,000 subsistence farmers. Future sales of carbon credits can generate participant income while TIST today also addresses agriculture, HIV/AIDS, nutrition and fuel challenges. TIST ensures more trees and more income for more people.

Small Group empowerment is the key. TIST Small Group members implement all tree planting activities, deciding which tree species to plant and where. From their successes and their failures, Small Groups develop “best practices” that others are encouraged to adopt. Small Group involvement is central to local program development.

Trees can create new income. Carbon sequestered by TIST trees creates a ‘virtual’ cash crop for TIST participants. Small Groups receive quarterly cash incentive payments from Clean Air Action Corporation (CAAC) according to the number of live trees maintained. Participants’ efforts also provide shade, fodder, fruits, nuts and medicines, and create a sustainable supply of firewood and timber.

TIST participants go beyond Sustainable Development. When Small Group members use “best practices” to reduce erosion and improve tree cover, agricultural productivity and health, they improve the environmental and economic resource base that their children and grandchildren will inherit. TIST provides training on nursery development, tree planting, conservation farming, fuel-efficient stoves, nutrition, and preventative health education (including HIV/AIDS, wood smoke and malaria). The Institute for Environmental Innovation (I4EI), a non-profit foundation, funds this training. I4EI has received financial support from USAID, the Dow Chemical Company Foundation, CAAC and individual donors.

The TIST infrastructure facilitates the work of the Small Groups. TIST’s innovative reporting, quantification and village training infrastructure uses GPS, palm computer, digital camera and internet technologies to achieve low cost information and “best practice” dissemination as well as transparent, timely reports. Please follow the “Project Areas” link at www.tist.org to view the results of quantified tree data.

The Small Group efforts are working. Since 1999, TIST has grown from 40 Small Groups in Tanzania, to over 2,000 Small Groups in 4 countries. TIST Small Group members have planted over 10 million trees, and over 1.5 million trees are alive today. TIST participants expect to plant 30 million trees and sequester five million tonnes of carbon dioxide in these trees by 2020. Active TIST participants have recruited and trained others, have more than doubled crop yields and have reduced their health risks substantially. TIST is a World Bank BioCarbon Fund project. (<http://carbonfinance.org/biocarbon/router.cfm?Page=html/TanzaniaSmallGroupandTreePlanting.htm>).

You have an opportunity to participate and help:

- Provide intellectual capital to improve TIST Small Group opportunities
- Make donations to I4EI for TIST’s sustainable development activities
- Invest capital through CAAC to fund TIST’s carbon sequestration
- Purchase carbon dioxide offsets

Visit www.tist.org for up-to-date information. Use Info@tist.org to contact us.

