New Forests Project's 2011 Financial Support for Trainings

In 2011 New Forests Project funded five different trainings in the following African countries: Uganda, D.R. Congo, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Cameroon. Following is a summary for each training.

D.R. Congo Centre d'Education et Developpement de Fizi (CEDEF)

CEDF works to help vulnerable rural people in the territory of Fizi implement activities in the areas of sustainable rural development and forestry. The objectives of the workshop were to educate local people on agroforestry practices, sustainable agriculture and management of natural resources. The one-day training took place in Baraka-Fizi, Province of South-Kivu. A total of fifteen women and thirty five men participated. Participants were leaders of local associations, small farmers, local non-profit representatives and school authorities. The training was geared towards increasing local farmers' capacity to implement agroforestry practices and covered topics on the benefits of trees and how to grow them. Agroforestry seeds were distributed at the end of the training. The workshop is also expected to increase and strengthen partnerships and communication between core agencies and groups involved in agroforestry adoption and promotion in Baraka.



Workshop in progress



Distribution of NFP seeds at the end of the workshop



CEDEF Workshop participants

Uganda

Agency for Rural Development and Community Education (ARUDECE).

ARUDECE works in Kasese District to enhance the capacity of marginalized communities to improve their economy, health and environmental management. Funds from NFP were used to carry out a three-day training on the benefits and on how to implement agroforestry practices in coffee and banana plantations. The purpose of implementing agroforestry practices in plantations on degraded mountain slopes is to increase productivity and provide key environmental services, such as improving water retention and soil quality. Sixty one men and women participated in the training which included a field trip to an agroforestry-coffee/banana plantation that is experiencing higher yields due to such practices. At the end of the training, 800 seedlings of agroforestry trees were distribute to the participants.



Field trip to coffee and banana agroforestry plantation



Practical demonstrations during the training



Workshop participants

Cameroon

Assembly of Youths for a Sustainable Environment and Development (ASYOUSED)

ASYOUSED works with communities to identify, implement and evaluate projects in the thematic zones of environment, agriculture and good governance. A total of 17 women and 8 men participated in this 4-day training in Nkwen village, North West Region. The overarching topic was on integrating trees into the Nkwen Village farming system. Participants were leaders of common initiative groups with farming as their main activity. After the workshop, ASYOUSED will support participants in setting up group nurseries and training other members.



Participants during the ASYOUSED training



Practical demonstration during the training



Workshop participants

Sierra Leone

Peoples Action Against Hunger (PeAAH)

Peaah Sierra Leone, is a non political, humanitarian and voluntary organization working for the development of rural communities. This was the second Peaah training funded by NFP. The three-day training trained fifty men and women of the Tiaama and Gerehun communities on the importance of trees and on agroforestry and reforestation techniques. Trainees are expected to go back to their communities and train another 20 people each. The training targeted beneficiaries such as former Liberia refugees who have been integrated into the local communities, farmers and other community members. After the reforestation trainings, PEAAH also hosted a mass community education radio discussion on trees and agroforestry which gave opportunity to thousands of community radio listeners to ask questions and make meaningful contributions.



PeAAH's training in progress



Lunch break during the workshop

Kenya Save Mount Kenya

Save Mount Kenya was established to address environmental degradation and poverty affecting the districts of Meru South and Embu in Mount Kenya Forest. To do so, it works with 20 community groups in the area to promote tree planting, protection of water catchment areas and sustainable farming practices. The purpose of these trainings was to provide locals in the areas of Gitogoto, Kiangungi, Kiangondu, Iriari and Thuita, with information on the importance of trees and how to grow them, training on agroforestry technologies and on other pov111erty reduction activities on the farm. Three separate one-day trainings were done to cover all the areas and a total of 178 local people participated.



Training session in progress at Kanduviu village



Kiangungi group members after one of the trainings



Note taking by Kiangondu Environmental Network members during one of the trainings