



Delivering an Integrated Forest Management and Restoration Program: Success stories from the elephant corridor of Western Uganda



September 2024

Stories Written by: MUCHODO Lydia

Edited By: BUSIINGE Christopher, Jese Knowledge Management and Communications Department



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Contents

Foreword	5
Kakuru’s journey: Championing agroforestry as a community enabler and entrepreneur	7
Entrepreneurial extension and tailored agroforestry: Hamiddu’s journey to resilience and green leadership	11
From food crops to forest stewardship: Kato’s journey to agroforestry success	15
From passion to profit: How Byabagambi’s organic fertilizer and herbicide dream is taking root in Rwibaale	20
Sowing sustainability: Joy’s agroforestry success and the need for fair markets	26
Tembo Organics: Empowering youth, innovating green solutions, and pioneering change	30
From a casual honey gatherer to a thriving green entrepreneur: The journey of Alithuha Robert	35
Christine Amanyire: A journey to environmental consciousness and sustainable entrepreneurship	38
Breaking barriers: Sophia Nyiramahirwe’s journey as a female trainer in beekeeping	42
Conclusion	45

Foreword

Since 2019, the JESE program, in collaboration with Forests of the World, has worked tirelessly to empower smallholder farmers and communities in the Itwara and Matiri Forest landscapes by implementing an Integrated Forest Management and Restoration Program. Through innovative approaches and strategies, the program has enabled these communities to cope, adapt, and become resilient to the growing impacts of climate change and other external shocks. By focusing on sustainable forest management, agroforestry systems, green entrepreneurship, and market-led restoration, the program has created a profound and lasting impact on both the environment and livelihoods of the people living in and around these landscapes.

Over the past five years, the program has introduced key practices like agroforestry, the integration of high-value crops such as cocoa and vanilla, and a replicable, bottom-up eco-entrepreneurship model. With the community at the forefront, this program has not only improved agricultural productivity and environmental conservation but has also nurtured green jobs, increased household incomes, and enhanced the overall quality of life for farmers. Moreover, it has contributed to the restoration of vital ecosystems, particularly in the elephant corridor that spans across these forest landscapes.

The success stories featured in this booklet showcase the resilience, determination, and innovation of farmers and entrepreneurs who have embraced the program's vision for sustainable, climate-resilient livelihoods. From **Kakuru Peter's** transformational journey with agroforestry and nursery bed management to **Turyatunga Hamiddu's** entrepreneurial leadership in community-led extension services, these stories highlight the immense contributions of local champions and the enduring legacy of JESE's efforts.

In **Kato Expedito's story**, we witness his transition from a smallholder farmer to an agroforestry champion, committed to environmental conservation. Over 13 years, he has become a model for transforming both livelihoods and the landscape.

Byabagambi Christopher is a visionary agroforestry entrepreneur integrating multiple farming enterprises, from coffee to beekeeping. His ambition to scale organic production underscores his leadership in sustainable farming.

Joy Tumworobere has transformed her two-acre farm into a model of sustainability through agroforestry.

Under the Green entrepreneurship component, you will meet young innovators like the team behind **Tembo Organics**, whose organic mosquito repellent business—born from a green innovation competition—has not only tackled health challenges but also created new entrepreneurial opportunities for students. Their journey from winning seed capital to scaling their business with JESE's support exemplifies the spirit of innovation and resilience that we aim to nurture.

You will also be introduced to individuals like **Alithuha Robert**, who transformed his passion for honey into a thriving business. Through targeted training in beekeeping and green entrepreneurship, Robert's venture has expanded to include value-added products like shoe polish and candles, providing him with sustainable income and a brighter future.

Another remarkable figure is **Christine Amanyire**, a deputy headteacher who has embraced green entrepreneurship alongside her role in education. Christine's journey with JESE opened her eyes to the environmental impact of human activities, leading her to adopt eco-friendly practices. Her participation in exhibitions and competitions has further expanded her horizons and contributed to her business's growth.

Lastly, we feature **Sophia Nyiramahirwe**, an entrepreneur and trainer in the male-dominated field of apiculture. Since 2005, she has not only built a successful beekeeping business but also taken on the role of trainer, uplifting other beekeepers through her work with JESE and a source of inspiration especially for women in her community aspiring to succeed in beekeeping.

The nine stories presented here—five from the broader program and four from the green entrepreneurship component—underscore the transformative power of community-driven initiatives, sustainable agriculture, and climate-smart practices. These narratives serve as inspiration for future endeavours and provide valuable insights into how rural economies can thrive when rooted in local capacities and aligned with environmental conservation.

As you explore the remarkable journeys of these individuals, we hope that their experiences will inspire further collaboration, innovation, and action towards building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable communities across the region. Through their efforts, the impact of JESE and Forests of the World's partnership continues to expand, proving that with the right support and vision, communities can rise to meet the challenges of our changing climate and create a future where people and nature thrive together.

Kakuru's journey: Championing agroforestry as a community enabler and entrepreneur



Kakuru, an agroforestry entrepreneur.

Kakuru Peter, a 57-year-old resident of Kajuma-ntutu village in Kyenjojo district, is transforming his community through agroforestry. His entrepreneurial venture in nursery bed management has grown from a small communal initiative to a significant commercial enterprise, becoming a cornerstone for agroforestry adoption in his locality. His success story not only showcases the potential for agroforestry systems to improve livelihoods but also demonstrates how entrepreneurial farmers like Kakuru can be key enablers of agroforestry practices, providing vital resources that foster wider community participation and landscape restoration.

A community leader and agroforestry enabler: Fourteen years ago, Kakuru was introduced to JESE, a partner in the Forests of the World program, through his involvement with KIFECA (Kajuma Itwarra Farmers and Environmental Conservation Association). It was through JESE's guidance and sensitization efforts that Kakuru and the other farmers were introduced to agroforestry. They received training in environmental conservation and nursery bed establishment, focusing on growing cash crops like cocoa, vanilla, and coffee alongside agroforestry trees such as *Grevillea* and *Cordia*. Motivated by these teachings, the farmers, including Kakuru, committed to adopting and expanding agroforestry practices.

One of the most significant impacts of JESE's program has been the establishment of a community-led nursery bed for agroforestry seedlings. Kakuru played a pivotal role in this initiative, and his dedication transformed the communal nursery into a thriving commercial entity. With initial support from JESE, including tools, an irrigation kit, and seedlings, Kakuru and his community established the nursery. Over time, Kakuru took sole responsibility for managing and expanding the nursery, which has become a critical resource for farmers looking to adopt agroforestry systems.



Kakuru's tree nursery bed

From community initiative to commercial venture: While the communal nursery successfully supplied cocoa and coffee seedlings to local farmers, Kakuru saw a larger opportunity. He recognized that as agroforestry practices gained traction, demand for tree seedlings would rise. Taking up the challenge, he transformed the communal nursery into a commercial venture, becoming a pioneer in scaling up agroforestry efforts.

In 2023, Kakuru took a bold step by preparing a new stock of seedlings—20,000 cocoa seedlings and 15,000 coffee seedlings—anticipating the growing demand. His first batch of coffee seedlings was a success, selling 15,000 seedlings at 300 UGX each, earning him 4.5 million UGX. Encouraged by this success, Kakuru now nurtures his cocoa seedlings, which will be ready for sale in March 2025. With 20,000 seedlings priced at 500 UGX each, he expects to generate 10 million UGX. The demand for cocoa seedlings is unmet, and Kakuru is confident that his nursery will continue to play a critical role in supplying the local community and beyond with high-quality inputs for agroforestry expansion.

In addition to his nursery work, Kakuru earns UGX 650,000 as carbon credit annually from TACIT for preserving 1,500 trees on his farm. This incentive has motivated him to continue expanding his agroforestry efforts and share his knowledge with others. He is also keen on upgrading his skills, particularly in areas like grafting, which would enhance the productivity of his nursery.

Agroforestry as a pathway to sustainable livelihoods and landscape restoration: Kakuru's entrepreneurial spirit is proof to the viability of agroforestry as a business model and a landscape restoration tool. Through his nursery, farmers in the community now have easy access to tree seedlings, which are crucial for integrating agroforestry practices into their farms. Agroforestry has not only improved soil fertility and increased crop yields but also contributed to landscape restoration in the Itwara and Matiri forest landscapes.

By intercropping cocoa and coffee with agroforestry trees, Kakuru has helped farmers reduce deforestation and increase the availability of firewood from fallen branches, reducing the need to extract resources from the forest. His efforts have also attracted attention from key players in the restoration space, such as the National Forestry Authority (NFA), Eco-Trust, and local government officials, who visit his farm to benchmark from his experience and create linkages with their interventions.

A learning hub on agroforestry: Kakuru's farm has become a learning centre for agroforestry, attracting visitors from both local and national levels. His hands-on approach to nursery bed management, combined with his deep understanding of agroforestry systems, has made him a highly sought-after resource person. He regularly demonstrates best practices for nursery management, pest control, and crop integration to farmers and visitors alike.

Beyond his entrepreneurial success, Kakuru is committed to sharing his knowledge with the community. His nursery has inspired more than 50 farmers to establish their own nurseries, further deepening agroforestry practices in the region. His farm stands as a model of how agroforestry can be scaled up through community-led initiatives and entrepreneurial ventures.

Challenges and prospects: While Kakuru's journey has been marked by success, it hasn't been without challenges. Managing a large nursery bed requires significant labour, and the availability of reliable workers remains a constant hurdle. He also faces resource constraints. Despite these challenges, Kakuru's resolve remains strong. He recently reinvested in a new water pump, further solidifying his commitment to ensuring the continuity of his nursery operations.

Looking ahead, Kakuru plans to expand his nursery to 50,000 seedlings in the coming years, driven by the growing appreciation for agroforestry in his community. He is confident that the market for cocoa seedlings will remain strong, providing a steady income for farmers and contributing to the broader goals of climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

The role of JESE and the project's impact: The success of Kakuru's nursery bed management is deeply rooted in the support provided by JESE and the Forests of the World program. Through training, technical support, and access to resources, the project has empowered Kakuru and other farmers to embrace agroforestry as a viable solution for climate change adaptation and economic development. The program's focus on community-led extension systems, market-driven restoration, and green jobs has laid a strong foundation for farmers like Kakuru to thrive.



Kakuru's irrigation unit that helps him operate the tree nursery bed year-round.

A vision for the future: Kakuru's story is a shining example of how agroforestry systems can be scaled up through entrepreneurial efforts and community-led initiatives. His nursery bed management enterprise has not only stabilized the supply of tree seedlings but also fostered a deeper appreciation for agroforestry among farmers. With prospects for further expansion and a growing market for cocoa seedlings, Kakuru's venture gives hope for sustainable landscape restoration and climate-resilient livelihoods in the region.

As Kakuru continues to nurture his seedlings, his vision is clear: to provide a reliable source of inputs for agroforestry interventions and to inspire more farmers to embrace agroforestry as a pathway to sustainable livelihoods and environmental conservation. His journey is proof that with the right support and entrepreneurial drive, farmers can become key enablers of change in their communities, helping to create a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

Entrepreneurial extension and tailored agroforestry:

Hamiddu's journey to resilience and green leadership.



Hamiddu Turyatunga.

Turyatunga Hamiddu, a dedicated farmer and extension worker in the Itwara landscape, is a remarkable example of how agroforestry systems can transform livelihoods and landscapes. As a member of the Kijuma Itwara Farmers and Environmental Conservation Association (KIFECA), Hamiddu has embraced the agroforestry practices promoted by JESE in partnership with Forests of the World. His story highlights how a community-led extension model can be commercialized, how tailored agroforestry practices can mitigate land degradation, and how an entrepreneurial approach to extension can create employment and improve climate resilience.

Adopting agroforestry: A solution to soil erosion and land productivity: Hamiddu's farm is located on a steep slope, and he faced significant soil erosion that was rapidly degrading his land. He understood early that soil health was critical not only for sustainable yields but for improving his overall livelihood. Through training provided by JESE, he adopted agroforestry practices, including

tree planting and trenching, which transformed his farm. Trees such as Calliandra and agroforestry crops like coffee and cocoa now help him mitigate soil erosion, restore fertility, and improve water retention.



Water and soil management practices on Hamiddu's farm.

With these practices in place, Hamiddu saw tangible results. His coffee production increased from 7 bags (700 kgs) to 10 bags (1,000 kgs) per season. These changes have made his farm more resilient to extreme weather conditions—whether excessive rainfall or scorching sunshine.

Entrepreneurial approach to extension services: Hamiddu not only improved his own farm but also saw an opportunity to share his skills with the broader community. JESE's community-led extension model encourages farmers like Hamiddu to commercialize their expertise. He became an extension worker, offering his services to other farmers in setting up coffee gardens and implementing agroforestry practices.

By leveraging his knowledge and experience, Hamiddu has turned his skills into a business. He currently manages 40 acres of coffee farms, hired by four different community members, and works with a team of five young people, creating employment opportunities. His entrepreneurial approach extends beyond coffee planting; he has trained a network of vanilla pollinators who are on-call to assist with pollination services for local farmers. This commercialized extension model is a key success factor in expanding agroforestry practices in the region while simultaneously creating jobs.

Agroforestry's impact on livelihood and climate resilience: The benefits of agroforestry on Hamiddu's farm extend beyond productivity. The trees he planted provide firewood for his family, reducing the need to extract resources from nearby forests. This has significantly reduced pressure on the Itwara forest, contributing to sustainable forest management—a key objective of the project. Other farmers in the region share this experience, highlighting the broader environmental impact of agroforestry systems.



Hamiddu's thriving agroforestry farm with successful integration of trees and crops.

Moreover, Hamiddu earns an additional income of 680,000 UGX annually through carbon credits for preserving trees on his farm. This financial incentive has made agroforestry not just an ecological practice but an economic asset, helping him further invest in his farm and community.

Commercializing agroforestry through green entrepreneurship: JESE's approach to green entrepreneurship has been pivotal for farmers like Hamiddu. Through the project, he received training in vanilla pollination and agroforestry nursery management. Using the tools and knowledge provided, Hamiddu helped establish a community nursery that distributed 200 seedlings to each farmer. Although the group nursery is no longer maintained, this initial push gave farmers like Hamiddu the confidence and resources to integrate agroforestry trees into their farms.

His experience with vanilla farming, however, has been mixed. Despite implementing all best practices, including precise pollination, market prices for vanilla fell drastically. The recent sale of 3 kgs of vanilla earned him only 90,000 UGX, far below expectations. Nevertheless, Hamiddu remains committed to the enterprise, hoping that collective selling through the cooperative and organic certification will stabilize prices. In his first harvest, he earned 700,000 UGX from 14 kgs of vanilla, showing the potential for agroforestry to improve livelihoods when market conditions are favourable.

Challenges and the way forward: The major challenge for Hamiddu and other farmers in the region remains market volatility, particularly for vanilla. Despite their hard work and adoption of sustainable practices, fluctuating prices have made it difficult for farmers to break even. However, Hamiddu remains optimistic, focusing on collective marketing through the cooperative, which he believes will improve their negotiation power and offer better returns in the future.

Another challenge has been the adoption of technology in extension services. Although the project supports farmers with smartphones and e-learning platforms, many farmers still rely on traditional communication methods. Hamiddu, who has a smartphone, receives weather updates and market information via SMS and WhatsApp, which he disseminates to other farmers. However, challenges such as lack of smart devices among farmers and delayed reception of SMS alerts need to be addressed to make the system more effective.

Conclusion: Hamiddu's story is proof to the success of JESE's agroforestry interventions and community-led extension model. His entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to agroforestry practices have not only transformed his farm but also created opportunities for others in his community. By commercializing his extension services, he has become a key player in expanding sustainable farming practices and building climate resilience in the Itwara landscape.

Hamiddu's journey from struggling with soil erosion to becoming a community leader and successful green entrepreneur embodies the vision of agroforestry: improving livelihoods, restoring ecosystems, and fostering resilience in the face of climate change. Despite challenges, his dedication to learning, adaptation, and sharing his expertise offers a model of how smallholder farmers can thrive in sustainable farming systems.

From food crops to forest stewardship:

Kato's journey to agroforestry success



Kato Expedito.

Kato Expedito's story is one of transformation, resilience, and a deep commitment to changing both his livelihood and the environment around him. In 13 years of dedication and support from JESE, Kato has transitioned from a smallholder farmer growing food crops like maize, beans, and potatoes, to an exemplary practitioner of agroforestry in the Itwara forest landscape. His journey highlights the powerful impact that the right knowledge, support, and determination can have on both individual livelihoods and environmental conservation.

A new beginning: Discovering agroforestry: Before engaging with JESE, Kato was unaware of the environmental degradation occurring in the nearby Itwara Forest Reserve, despite living adjacent to it. He, like many others, was both a victim and a contributor to the forest's decline. However, through JESE's outreach and sensitization on agroforestry, Kato found not only a solution to improve his income but also a meaningful way to address the growing environmental challenges.

When Kato was introduced to agroforestry, the idea immediately resonated with him. The potential to increase his household income while contributing to environmental conservation was exactly what

he had long sought. He quickly adopted JESE's agroforestry system, integrating high-value crops such as cocoa, vanilla, and coffee, along with trees like mesopsis and caliandra, into his farming practices. What began as a simple solution for improving his livelihood soon evolved into a deeper commitment to environmental stewardship.



Kato demonstrating the correct way to harvest cocoa, thanks to capacity building in cocoa agronomy.

Adapting and thriving: The impact of agroforestry: With the training and support provided by JESE, Kato embraced agroforestry wholeheartedly. He learned to combine trees with crops, understanding that the trees not only helped conserve the environment but also enriched the soil and improved crop yields. Trees like mesopsis, with deep roots that bring nutrients to the surface, helped reduce soil erosion and retain moisture, even during prolonged dry seasons. The introduction of shade trees and diverse crops has significantly improved the fertility of his soil, resulting in healthier crops and more resilient farming.



Kato's healthy cocoa pods

Today, Kato attests to the benefits of agroforestry, noting that his farm is more productive than ever. The trees provide natural protection against excessive heat and rainfall, while their leaves enrich the soil. Even when the dry season is harsh, his yields remain strong. Kato's agroforestry system now generates multiple income streams: cocoa earns him about 500,000 UGX per harvest, coffee brings in 1,500,000 UGX, and beekeeping yields around 300,000 UGX. Although his vanilla has yet to mature and produce, Kato remains optimistic about its future potential.

Leveraging support for greater success: One of the most remarkable aspects of Kato's journey is how fully he has leveraged the support provided by JESE and its partners. In addition to agroforestry, Kato has benefited from partnerships with other stakeholders, such as the National Forestry Authority (NFA), which provided him with beehives and training in beekeeping and soap-making. Although he eventually discontinued mushroom farming due to limited market demand, he has continued to excel in other entrepreneurial ventures.



Kato's livestock purchased with income from agroforestry, further diversifying his farm for greater sustainability and profit.

Kato's farm now stands as a model of what agroforestry can achieve. The trees he planted eight years ago are thriving, and his efforts in conservation have not gone unnoticed. Tist Uganda, a forestry conservation organization, which now pays him 380,000 UGX annually as part of their carbon credit scheme. Kato also took advantage of JESE's infrastructure support, joining a group of five farmers who share a simple irrigation system. This system, combined with a well he dug near his farm, enables him to maintain a nursery bed for cocoa seedlings and grow tomatoes throughout the year.



cocoa Tree seedlings raised by Kato ready for planting on his agroforestry farm.

Kato's entrepreneurial spirit doesn't stop there. He now raises and sells cocoa seedlings, benefiting from the growing awareness of agroforestry in his community. This nursery business not only provides an additional income stream but also supports the expansion of agroforestry practices in the region.

Overcoming challenges and expanding horizons: Despite his many successes, Kato has faced challenges along the way. Malicious damage to his vanilla plants has been discouraging, and the struggle to keep his vanilla vines productive has tested his resolve. Yet, Kato remains determined to make it work, tending to his 100+ vanilla vines with hope for future harvests. He also acknowledges the need for additional organic fertilizers to further boost soil fertility, as agroforestry alone can only go so far in enriching the soil.

Another challenge Kato faces is the unorganized nature of the market for his crops. While he is able to sell his products individually, the prices are not always competitive, and he often sells in piece-meal quantities rather than in bulk through his cooperative, KIFECA (Kijuma Itwara Farmers and Environmental Conservation Association). Despite these challenges, Kato continues to thrive and looks forward to better market opportunities.

E-learning and information sharing: A new era of extension: In addition to physical extension support, JESE introduced an Eco-Information Alert System to provide farmers like Kato with timely updates on production, marketing, and climate-related information. Although Kato has not yet fully embraced the e-learning platforms, relying more on phone calls and in-person visits from extension workers, the potential for digital learning remains an area for growth. With further training and access to digital tools, Kato and other farmers could benefit even more from these innovative approaches to extension.

A lasting legacy: Kato's contribution to the community: Kato's success has not gone unnoticed by his community. His farm serves as a living demonstration of the benefits of agroforestry, and many neighbouring farmers have begun to adopt similar practices. Kato frequently shares his knowledge and experiences with others, offering advice and encouragement to those looking to follow in his footsteps.



Towering high trees stand on Kato's farm as proof to successful agroforestry, blending sustainable forestry with profitable crop production."

Beyond his immediate community, Kato's journey is proof to what can be achieved when individuals are empowered with the right knowledge, tools, and support. JESE's continuous training and on-the-ground assistance have played a crucial role in Kato's success, but it is his personal drive and commitment to change that have made him the great adaptor he is today.

A model for resilience and growth: Kato's story is one of transformation, both for his livelihood and the environment. Through agroforestry, he has not only improved his income but also contributed to the restoration of degraded landscapes and the fight against climate change. His farm stands as a model of resilience, productivity, and sustainable development, showing what is possible when farmers are given the support they need to innovate and adapt.

Kato's journey serves as an inspiration to others, demonstrating the power of agroforestry to transform lives and landscapes. As he continues to expand his entrepreneurial ventures and share his knowledge with his community, Kato's legacy of environmental stewardship and sustainable farming practices will undoubtedly endure for years to come.

From passion to profit: How Byabagambi's organic fertilizer and herbicide dream is taking root in Rwibaale



Byabagambi speaking to JESE team on his agroforestry interventions.

Byabagambi Christopher, aged 54, stands out as a model farmer in Rwibaale, Butunduzi sub-county. A trained T.o.T (Trainer of Trainers) and passionate advocate of agroforestry, now carries a vision of creating a commercial organic fertilizer and herbicide enterprise, alongside his diverse agroforestry projects. Known for his passion for agroforestry, Christopher is a hands-on innovator who has integrated multiple farming enterprises on his farmland to demonstrate sustainable and profitable farming techniques. Christopher's farm is a unique demonstration of agroforestry principles. He grows crops both on the ground and up in the trees, creating an ecosystem where every plant co-exists and mutually benefits the other. Climbers such as a special variety of nuts grow on the trees, while

the ground hosts diverse crops, all thriving in harmony. He has also established a nursery for coffee seedlings, complete with a home-based irrigation system that ensures productivity year-round.

Yet, in the midst of his diverse agricultural ventures, Christopher's dream to turn his organic fertilizer and herbicide production into a commercial enterprise shines brightest. His innovation in creating both liquid and solid organic fertilizers at home is born out of his deep knowledge of plant science and a desire to restore soil fertility, addressing a critical need in his community where soil degradation has severely affected productivity. The organic products he has already started producing are packed and awaiting labels, while his vision extends to scaling this into a commercial venture. He envisions building a factory right at his home, where he can produce organic inputs not just for local farmers but potentially for the entire district and beyond.

A partnership with JESE: The roots of success

Christopher's journey is closely tied to his long-standing relationship with Joint Effort to Save the Environment (JESE), an organization he has been involved with since 2002. JESE's mission of promoting farming and conservation aligned perfectly with Christopher's values, especially his Christian belief in stewardship over God's creation, inspired by the teachings of Genesis.

It was through JESE that Christopher gained critical skills in environmental conservation, nursery bed management, and conservation farming. JESE not only provided technical training but also supported him with inputs such as coffee seedlings. Between 2008 and 2010, Christopher took on the role of a nursery operator, teaching fellow farmers and supplying 90,000 coffee seedlings in the process. Although the JESE-supported nursery project has since ended, Christopher continues to run a personal nursery bed for trees and coffee seedlings, passing on the knowledge he gained to his community.



Byabagambi demonstrating the home-based irrigation system which enables him to operate a tree nursery all year round.

JESE's impact on Christopher's work didn't end there. They provided him with the foundation for many of his projects, including tools and resources to establish his irrigation system, which is crucial to the productivity of his coffee nursery bed. JESE's support has helped Christopher advance his vision of becoming a key supplier of organic inputs in a region where soil degradation is a pressing issue.

Tackling soil degradation: A growing market for organics: Christopher's organic fertilizers and herbicides are not just products of his innovation; they address a critical need in the region. Soil degradation has been a major challenge in Rwibaale, and farmers are increasingly aware of the need for sustainable solutions to replenish soil fertility. Christopher has conducted his own studies, observing the decline in soil productivity and advocating for organic solutions. His products, made from locally sourced organic materials, offer an affordable and environmentally friendly way for farmers to restore their land and improve crop yields.



Byabagambi's organic fertiliser and herbicides site.

Christopher's commercial vision for organic production is not just about making money—it's about contributing to the health and productivity of the entire community. He believes that with continued refinement of his products and skills, he can play a critical role in advancing organic farming in the region, a goal that JESE fully supports. The organization sees Christopher as a key figure in their efforts to promote organic production and is committed to helping him scale his enterprise to meet the growing demand for organic inputs.

Beyond fertilizer: A multifaceted farm enterprise: While Christopher's focus is on growing his organic fertilizer and herbicide business, his farm is a bustling hub of diverse agricultural activities. He practices beekeeping, producing an average of 100 litres of honey each season. He envisions creating a Rwibaale Honey brand by becoming an off taker for the honey produced by other local farmers, many of whom he has trained in apiary management. His dream is to turn beekeeping into a regional enterprise, creating a recognizable honey brand that benefits both his farm and the broader community.



Byabagambi in the midst of his well-planned farm, showcasing how some trees support vertical production, with climbing nut vines winding around the trunks.



Byabagambi's apiary site.

Christopher also runs a fish farming operation, with ponds stocked with catfish that take 8 to 12 months to mature. He is already preparing for the future by cultivating another pond dedicated to raising feed for the catfish, and he has plans to pack and sell both fresh and processed fish once they are ready for market.

Eco-tourism is another area Christopher is exploring. His farm, with its diverse projects and integrated agroforestry practices, is a natural educational hub for visitors interested in sustainable farming. He is developing a serene, well-landscaped space around his fish ponds to accommodate visitors who come to learn from his practices. The potential for eco-tourism aligns with his long-term vision of

turning the farm into a learning centre, where agroforestry and conservation enthusiasts can come to experience and learn from his work.



Byabagambi's fishpond.



Byabagambi shows the area next to his fish ponds which is under making into a peaceful recreation space, where visitors can relax while learning about sustainable farming practices and aquaculture.

A family affair: What makes Christopher's enterprise even more remarkable is the involvement of his family. Every member plays an active role in the various projects on the farm, ensuring that the knowledge and vision are passed on to future generations. The family's participation has allowed Christopher to manage his various enterprises, from organic fertilizer production to beekeeping and fish farming, without losing focus. He is committed to ensuring that his children and grandchildren carry on his legacy, especially the dream of building a commercial organic fertilizer and herbicide business that will serve farmers throughout Uganda.

Building a brand: The future of Rwibaale organics: With support from JESE and his own relentless dedication, Christopher’s dream is steadily becoming a reality. He has already laid the foundation for a home-based fertilizer factory, with compost pits set up to produce organic waste for the production of fertilizers. His products are well on their way to being commercially available, and he is keen to refine them further, ensuring they meet the highest quality standards for the farmers who depend on them.



Byabagambi’s honey packaged in various sizes for a sweet option for everyone!

JESE’s continuous support has been instrumental in this journey, and Christopher advises that moving forward, beneficiaries should have more involvement in project budgeting and decision-making. He believes that timely provision of inputs and closer collaboration with farmers in planning will ensure even greater impact.

Through his work, Byabagambi Christopher has not only become a local leader and counsellor in the community, but he has also positioned himself as a reference for innovation and sustainability. His farm stands as proof to what can be achieved with knowledge, passion, and the right kind of support. As he looks toward the future, his vision of a thriving organic enterprise and the creation of the Rwibaale brand will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on both his family and the farming communities of Uganda.

Sowing sustainability:

Joy's agroforestry success and the need for fair markets



Joy Tumworobere.

In the heart of the Itwara and Matiri forest landscapes, Joy Tumworobere, a diligent and passionate farmer, has transformed her two-acre piece of land into a sustainable agroforestry model. With the guidance and support of JESE, in partnership with Forests of the World, Joy has embraced agroforestry practices that have not only improved her family's livelihood but have also positively impacted the surrounding ecosystem and contributed to climate change adaptation. Joy's farm is proof that even small farms can thrive with the right techniques.

The impact of agroforestry systems on community livelihood: Before engaging with JESE, Joy's farming was primarily subsistence-based, cultivating maize, beans, and potatoes for food and faced several challenges common to farmers in her area. Her farming methods included burning grass for field preparation, which caused significant soil erosion and degraded soil fertility. Seasonal rains led to water runoff, further damaging her farm. These practices were all she knew—until JESE introduced new methods in 2020.

Through sensitization and training, JESE taught Joy about agroforestry, trenching, mulching, and other sustainable farming techniques. With guidance, Joy stopped burning grass and started implementing these new methods. The results were immediate. Her soil, once brown and nutrient-poor, turned rich and black, significantly improving fertility. Water runoff issues were mitigated by the trenches, and mulching helped retain soil moisture. Her small plot transformed into a well-managed farm, neatly arranged with crops and trees, creating a harmonious environment where each element supported the other.



The impressive and healthy vanilla plants cultivated by Joy.

Despite her small acreage, Joy's agroforestry practices have proven to be incredibly beneficial. She integrated high-value crops such as vanilla, cocoa, and coffee with indigenous tree species like calian-dra and mesopsis. The trees not only provided shade, protecting her crops from excessive sunlight, but their leaves also contributed natural fertilizer when they fell, enhancing soil health.

Joy's diligence and rapid adoption of agroforestry techniques are remarkable. With 50 trees on her farm, alongside her crops, she exemplifies how a small farm can maximize productivity by integrating tree and crop systems. Her commitment to these practices is evident in the transformation of her land.

One of her greatest challenges, however, has been the market. Despite her hard work and improved yields, particularly in vanilla, the market has not been favourable. After waiting three years for her vanilla plants to mature, Joy's first harvest yielded a promising 15 kilograms in 2023. However, the price—6,000 UGX per kilogram—was far below the expected 100,000 UGX. The labour-intensive vanilla production process requires careful pollination, a skill Joy has mastered with the help of JESE's training. But even with a good harvest, the lack of a fair market price left her disheartened.

Joy is not alone in this struggle. Many farmers in her community face the same market challenges. While the agroforestry practices promoted by JESE have significantly improved yields and sustainability on the farm, the next pressing issue is the organization of markets. Joy's story highlights the need for stronger market structures that ensure farmers receive fair compensation for their hard work. Without remunerative markets, even the best farming practices fall short of transforming livelihoods.

In addition to farming, Joy participates in a savings and credit scheme through her farmer's group. The group has been a lifeline during difficult seasons, allowing her to borrow for immediate needs. She also expanded into livestock, starting with four piglets and growing her project into a reliable source of income, which has helped support her family.



Joy's animal shed: Diversifying beyond the crop garden, embracing livestock for a more sustainable livelihood.

Her story is proof to the impact of JESE's sensitization, training, and extension work in promoting agroforestry. But it also underscores that improving farming practices is just one part of the equation. To truly uplift smallholder farmers like Joy, there must be a parallel focus on market organization to ensure that farmers' efforts are rewarded with fair prices. Joy's farm is thriving, and her story gives hope to small landholders, showing that change is possible. Now, the focus must shift to ensuring that the markets follow suit, creating an environment where these hard-earned gains can translate into tangible improvements in livelihoods.



Joy's coffee.

Joy's diligence, fast adoption of new practices, and determination to make agroforestry work on her small farm are inspiring. She has proven that with the right skills and support, small farms can flourish. Now, what's needed is for the market to catch up and provide the opportunity for true livelihood transformation.

Tembo Organics:

Empowering youth, innovating green solutions, and pioneering change



Part of the team at Tembo organics.

The birth of Tembo organics and addressing a community challenge: In 2022, Tembo Organics was born from a visionary initiative led by the Joint Effort to Save the Environment (JESE) through their green innovation competition. The team at Tembo Organics, primarily composed of teachers and students, was initially contacted to participate in the competition with a focus on green enterprises or innovations. Motivated by the need to address the pervasive issue of toxic products in the market, the students brainstormed ideas that would provide a natural and safe alternative. They quickly identified a pressing challenge: the widespread problem of mosquito-borne diseases like malaria.



Tembo organics signpost visible within the school system, proof of the strong support of the school management.

Despite the availability of solutions like mosquito nets, the students recognized that these methods had significant gaps. For instance, certain individuals, such as students during night study sessions or security guards on duty, cannot realistically use mosquito nets. This insight led to the innovative idea of creating an organic mosquito repellent. After conducting thorough research, the team confirmed the market demand for such a product, which not only promised to address a critical health issue but also aligned with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

From winning the JESE green innovation competition to market success: Participating in the JESE green competition was a pivotal moment for Tembo Organics. They emerged as winners, securing seed capital of 500,000 UGX, marking their first significant milestone. JESE continued to support the budding enterprise through regular follow-ups, monitoring progress, and providing essential advice for expansion. The students received training in business topics using the Canvas Model, as well as green entrepreneurship principles. Additionally, they benefited from the expertise of a technical team that assisted in improving the packaging, marketing, and branding of their mosquito repellent, making it more appealing and market ready.



Tembo organics registration certificate

With JESE's support, Tembo Organics took crucial steps toward formalizing their business. They registered the enterprise with the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) and had their product tested and approved by the National Drug Authority (NDA). The team also received training in financial management and opened a business bank account, ensuring that all documentation and financial records were properly maintained.

Unique school-driven enterprise model: What makes Tembo Organics truly unique is its integration within the school system, granting it a distinctive ownership structure. Each year, a new executive team is elected, offering numerous students the opportunity to learn both the technical and business aspects of the enterprise. The executive team, consisting of roles like sales manager, production manager, secretary, and their assistants, reports directly to the school board and management. The school has fully recognized and supported the enterprise, even participating in the Stanbic Bank competition, where they won four 10,000-litre water tanks. These tanks, now installed on the school grounds, have solved the school's water challenges by enabling rainwater harvesting.

In terms of business health, Tembo Organics is thriving, with 15 outlets selling their products on a commission basis. The students involved in the enterprise are confident in their ability to produce the mosquito repellent, with a reliable supply of raw materials and an efficient sales system. The enterprise has inspired students from Form 1 to Form 6 to engage in sales, motivated by the commissions they earn, and the valuable entrepreneurial skills they acquire. Many of these students, upon completing their education, are well-prepared to embark on their own entrepreneurial journeys.

Growth, innovation, and market expansion: Tembo Organics has set its sights on scaling up and going international. To achieve this, they plan to further improve their product quality, obtain a quality mark from the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), and enhance their production methods. Currently, production is done manually using a stove and pans, with labels and packaging sourced from stationery shops. However, the enterprise dreams of investing in more advanced equipment, such as a boiler and mixer, to increase production capacity and efficiency.

The enterprise's flagship product—a dual-purpose mosquito repellent and skin moisturizer—has proven to be a hit in the market. The product's unique value proposition lies in its all-natural, organic ingredients, with beeswax as the base, making it highly attractive to consumers who prefer chemical-free products. With weekly sales averaging 20,000 UGX for the smallest tin, and monthly revenues ranging between 800,000 to 1,400,000 UGX, Tembo Organics has established a solid market presence. The enterprise's profitability is evident, with production costs at 60% and a 40% profit margin on their products.

Beyond sales, Tembo Organics has made significant strides in networking, participating in fairs, and engaging with various delegations, including international visitors. These opportunities have not only boosted their confidence but also expanded their customer base, with continued sales resulting from these connections. The enterprise has also benefited from being part of the e-community WhatsApp platform, where they network with other like-minded enterprises, find potential suppliers for raw materials like beeswax, and gain exposure for their products.

Vision for the future: Sustainability and job creation: Looking ahead, Tembo Organics is poised for further growth. The school has allocated land for the construction of a dedicated production facility, which is now 90% complete and is expected to be operational by the start of the third school term in September 2024. This facility, designed to house both the production area and the main outlet, represents a significant investment, with 40% of the funding coming from Tembo Organics' profits and 60% from the school.



Tembo organics production house and main sales point

As Tembo Organics looks to the future, they aim to secure additional financial support to expand their business and enhance their production systems. They plan to invest in machinery like an oil extractor to produce essential oils in-house, reducing production costs and increasing competitiveness. The enterprise has already created up to 40 jobs, with plans to hire a full-time employee once the new production facility is operational. With an average production of 100-400 tins per month, Tembo Organics is well-positioned to continue meeting market demand and scaling their business.

Tembo Organics stands as an inspiring example of how young entrepreneurs can address critical community challenges while building a sustainable business. With the full backing of their school, a solid business model, and a growing market presence, the future looks bright for Tembo Organics as they continue to innovate and expand.



An array of jelly tins showcasing variety at Tembo organics.

From a casual honey gatherer to a thriving green entrepreneur: The journey of Alithuha Robert



Alithuha Robert

From honey enthusiast to beekeeping entrepreneur: The story of Alithuha Robert, affectionately known as Apuuli—a name of endearment in the Batooro culture- demonstrates how targeted training and support can unlock the potential of individuals and communities. Before his involvement in the project, Robert was merely a honey enthusiast who would wander through the wild bushes and forests, collecting honey for personal enjoyment. He had no idea that beekeeping could be a serious economic activity, let alone the potential of other hive products to generate income.

Unlocking new skills and opportunities through training: May 2021, Robert learned about a skilling opportunity in beekeeping offered by JESE through acquaintances in his village. As a member of the Kyakaitaba Twetongole Youth Group, which initially had a casual interest in beekeeping, Robert participated in training provided by JESE’s contracted green college trainers. The training opened his eyes to the potential of various value-added hive products, such as shoe polish, bee venom, propolis, and wax. Inspired by the training, Robert chose to focus on producing shoe polish, candles, and bee wax. His decision was influenced by personal needs: as a father of school-age children, he recognized the demand for shoe polish and candles for lighting. This insight, combined with his new skills, led him to focus on these products.



Eco-friendly shoe polish made from beeswax.

He sells his shoe polish, candles, and beeswax both within his community and at the weekly market in Rwibaale. At the time of the interview, he had three tins of shoe polish remaining from the old stock but had enough raw materials to produce over 100 more. His production cycle aligns with the school calendar, which drives demand for his shoe polish. On average, he produces about 100 dozen tins of shoe polish per term, with each tin selling for 2,000 UGX, generating a profit of around 300,000 UGX per production cycle.

Crafting success: Mastering the art of shoe polish production: In addition to shoe polish, Robert produces around 30 dozen candles per cycle, though the exact profit from this line is not known. His honey business involves 50 hives, yielding 3-4 20-liter jerrycans of honey per cycle. He sieves and bottles this honey for local sale and at the Rwibaale market. While the profit margins from honey and candles are not as well-documented as those from shoe polish, they contribute positively to his overall income.

Robert's expertise in shoe polish production is proof to his dedication and skill. He skilfully describes the process: burning tyres to obtain black powder, mixing it with wax and paraffin, and finally adding a small amount of cooking oil to achieve the right texture. His commitment to excellence has not only improved his own living conditions—moving from a mud-and-wattle house to a permanent structure—but has also allowed him to provide for his family more effectively. Robert has also leveraged the project-supported one-stop shop in the trading centre to sell his products to complement his neighbourhood and market sales.

Gratitude and reflection



The nearly completed brick house of Robert stands as proof of the benefits of entrepreneurial support of JESE.

While Robert did not engage much with the project's Community Information and Alert System, due to his lack of a smartphone and the practicality of traditional marketing pathways, he remains deeply grateful to JESE and the project for changing his life. At 34 years old when he joined, and now 37, Robert reflects with pride on his journey, the skills he acquired, and the opportunities that have transformed his life. He has even been involved in training others, sharing his knowledge and experience in green entrepreneurship. Robert is particularly inspired by Tembo Organics and is considering venturing into mosquito repellent jelly using bee wax, which could further diversify his product range.

Christine Amanyire:

A journey to environmental consciousness and sustainable entrepreneurship



Christine Amanyire.

Christine Amanyire, a 54-year-old deputy headteacher at Kiregesa Primary School in Kihuura Sub County, has always been a woman of many talents. In addition to her role in education, Christine has been actively involved in vocational training, a passion rooted in her church background where women are encouraged to pursue income-generating activities. Over the years, she honed her skills in soap making, crafts, and other practical trades, which she passed on to her students. However, it wasn't until she encountered JESE project that her journey took a transformative turn.

Embracing the green movement: When JESE began its project, they were on the lookout for individuals like Christine, who were already engaged in green entrepreneurial initiatives. Observing the

alignment between her natural products and the project's goals, the JESE team encouraged her to participate in their upcoming green competition. Motivated by their support, Christine entered the competition, she showcased her natural soap and jelly products, which caught the attention of the project organizers. Recognizing her potential, JESE not only accepted her as a participant but also enlisted her as a trainer for the youth groups they supported.

Through her involvement with JESE, Christine's outlook on her business and the environment underwent a significant shift. Initially, her focus was on the economic benefits of her products. However, JESE's emphasis on environmental sustainability opened her eyes to the impact of her activities on the environment. She became more conscious of ensuring that her products were environmentally friendly, a consideration that had never crossed her mind before. This new awareness has since guided her entrepreneurial endeavours, making her more committed to preserving the environment while making a living.

Expanding horizons through exposure: One of the most significant benefits Christine gained from her association with JESE was the exposure she received through various exhibitions. She was given the opportunity to showcase her products at major events, including one organized by the Ministry of Water and Environment in Kampala. This week-long exhibition was a game-changer for Christine, providing her with a platform to connect with other entrepreneurs, expand her business network, and gain valuable insights into the green business sector. She also participated in an exhibition in Fort Portal, where she not only sold her products but also established more business contacts.



Christine participating in the MWE exhibition that sparked her awareness, inspiring a deeper commitment to environmentally friendly practices.

These experiences were invaluable to Christine. The project covered all her logistics, allowing her to focus entirely on making the most of these opportunities. The exposure she gained through these exhibitions has given her a more positive outlook on her business's future, and she now envisions herself as a prominent player in the green space.



Christine's certificate of participation in another exhibition, representing her continued exposure and commitment to sustainability.

Building a sustainable business: Christine's products, which include soap and jelly made from natural ingredients like beeswax, shea butter, and local herbs, have become increasingly popular. Her unique value proposition lies in the fact that her products are corrective rather than cosmetic, helping people with skin conditions that have reacted negatively to chemical-based products. Despite her full-time role as a deputy headteacher, Christine has managed to build a loyal customer base. Five families regularly place orders for her soap and jelly, providing her with a stable income. The sales from these products are significant enough to cover the first instalment of her children's school fees each term.

On a monthly basis, Christine produces about 10 tins of jelly and 24 pieces of soap, with a production cost of 200,000 UGX and sales amounting to 350,000 UGX. While she is not yet fully devoted to her business due to her administrative duties at school, Christine views this enterprise as her retirement plan. She dreams of expanding her market by obtaining a UNBS quality mark and eventually branding all her products under her own business name, "Pearl Organics Products," a name she developed through business mentoring provided by the project.

Overcoming challenges and looking forward: Despite the successes, Christine has faced several challenges. The most pressing is the lack of capital to invest in her green products and establish a physical address for her business. Currently, she operates from a rented space that serves more as

a display area than a real shop. Additionally, the project's strict criteria for green products mean that some of her items, like liquid soap, do not qualify for the project's branding, affecting their marketability.

Time constraints also pose a challenge for Christine. Her responsibilities as a deputy headteacher sometimes prevent her from fully participating in project activities or conducting follow-ups with the youth she trains. Nevertheless, she remains committed, making herself available whenever possible.

Through the JESE project, Christine has trained three groups of youth, each consisting of 25 to 30 members, in soap and jelly making. Although she did not implement the green curriculum at the time of training, her contribution to the project has been significant, and she continues to support the trainees remotely.

A future in the green economy: Christine's journey with JESE has not only enhanced her entrepreneurial skills but also instilled in her a deep commitment to environmental sustainability. She now sees herself as a future ecopreneur, poised to make a mark in the green economy. Her association with JESE has been a catalyst for this transformation, and she is determined to continue her work in this space.

Christine recommends that future initiatives should be more inclusive, allowing all participants to bring their existing products and receive guidance on how to make them environmentally friendly. She believes that this approach would encourage more entrepreneurs to adopt sustainable practices, rather than excluding those who do not initially meet the green criteria.

Through training, exposure, and ongoing support, Christine has not only built a sustainable business but also developed a new consciousness about the environment, proving that it is possible to make money while saving the planet.

Breaking barriers:

Sophia Nyiramahirwe's journey as a female trainer in beekeeping



Sophia Nyiramahirwe.

At 47, Sophia Nyiramahirwe has carved a unique space for herself as a leader and trainer in the male-dominated field of beekeeping. Her journey began in 2005 when she started her beekeeping enterprise. Over the years, she has not only grown her business but also become an inspiration for women and girls who aspire to thrive in the beekeeping industry. Her work with the JESE since 2021 highlights the impact of her passion, dedication, and ability to uplift others.

Empowering through training: Sophia's connection with JESE dates back to 2007-2009 when she worked as an Apiary Development Officer under the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) project, training beekeepers around Matiri Forest Reserve. Even after the GEF project ended, she continued supporting beekeepers by purchasing their honey and helping them find markets.

In 2021, Sophia was reconnected with JESE and invited to train beekeeping groups in Rwibaale and Bugaki. Since then, she has trained six groups—three of which are thriving—delivering approximately 25 training sessions in the course of the project period. Her teaching follows a green curriculum developed under the project. Sophia's approach includes not just technical skills but also value addition training, equipment access, and market connections for young beekeepers.

Overcoming challenges in a male-dominated industry: Though Sophia faces challenges as a female trainer, such as the physical demands of traveling long distances to remote beekeeping communities in Kyenjojo, her resilience continues to inspire. Despite chronic back pain, she endures two-hour motorbike journeys to reach beekeepers, demonstrating her commitment to supporting them.

Sophia is particularly motivated by the stability she brings to her business through training. Every training session she delivers results in better products, ensuring that the honey she buys and sells through her outlet meets high-quality standards. Seeing young people, especially women, succeed in beekeeping after her training sessions motivates her to keep going, knowing that her efforts contribute directly to economic empowerment.

Building a promising brand: Elephant corridor: Sophia manages an outlet in Kyenjojo town where she sells 90% honey and other value-added bee products. Her outlet processes between one and two tonnes of honey per season, generating around UGX 7,000,000 per season. A large portion of her honey is sold to Bunyangabo Beekeepers Cooperative (BBC), while the rest is sold directly through her shop. However, Sophia dreams bigger. Her vision for the future is to obtain a quality certification from the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) and establish the “Elephant Corridor” as a recognized brand, tapping into larger markets.



Sophia at her shop serving a customer.

Challenges and future prospects: Sophia faces various operational challenges, from the cost of transporting bulky honeycombs to the inconsistent quality of honey due to poor post-harvest handling by some beekeepers. She recognizes the need for better training in post-harvest handling, as well as access to airtight containers and other protective gear for beekeepers. Despite these challenges, she continues to inspire other women to join the beekeeping industry, helping to break gender barriers in the field.

Sophia embraced the e-community platforms developed by the project. She particularly uses WhatsApp to stay connected with producers, receive honey stock updates, and post about her products. This online presence has expanded her business network and connected her to new clients, all while raising awareness of the “Elephant Corridor” brand.

Looking ahead: As an off taker for young bee keepers in the project and the district at large, Sophia sees herself as part of the solution to increasing honey production and improving its quality. Her involvement in exhibitions, such as the one held by the Ministry of Water and Environment, has expanded her reach and attracted new business partners. She also envisions continuous training for beekeepers, particularly to ensure that quality standards are met at every level of production.



Shelves stocked with honey.



Soon to be 'Elephant Corridor,' honey brand of Sophia's market-ready product.

With a long-term vision to secure a UNBS quality mark for the “Elephant Corridor” and scale up her honey enterprise, Sophia remains hopeful for the future. Her work with JESE and as a role model in the beekeeping industry has positioned her not just as a successful entrepreneur but also as a gender champion, showing women and girls that they too can succeed in traditionally male-dominated fields.

Conclusion

The success stories captured in this booklet not only highlight individual achievements but also underscore the transformative impact of JESE and Forests of the World's initiatives in sustainable agriculture and green entrepreneurship. These stories reflect the resilience, determination, and creativity of local champions who have leveraged the program's vision for climate-resilient livelihoods.

From agroforestry innovators to green entrepreneurs, these individuals have embraced the tools and knowledge provided to them, translating them into tangible, lasting change. Their resilience, determination, and creativity light a path for rural economies to not only survive but thrive in harmony with nature.

An extensive evaluation conducted on the Green Entrepreneurship (GE) component concurrently with the documentation of these stories provides further context to these stories. The success stories under the Green Entrepreneurship component are largely a result of the project's successful partnership with local Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions, particularly Nyabyeya Forestry College. This college played a pivotal role in developing the green entrepreneurship curriculum and oversaw its implementation. Green colleges like CECO Uganda adopted this curriculum to train youth in practical green skills such as beekeeping, vanilla production, craft shoe-making, and mushroom production over the project's three-year period.

Through these stories, we see how individuals like Alithuha Robert, Christine Amanyire, and the team behind Tembo Organics benefited from the green skills they acquired through JESE's collaboration with TVET institutions.

As we close this collection, we hope that the stories within inspire you to continue supporting and advocating for initiatives that empower local communities, foster sustainability, and nurture the spirit of innovation. The future of climate-smart agriculture and green entrepreneurship lies in the hands of dedicated individuals like those featured here, and together, we can build a more resilient and prosperous world for generations to come.





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