



ESTABLISHMENT OF SEED-BANKS FOR REFORESTATION OF INDIGENOUS TREES AND CROPS

My name is Charles Mpitagi 65 b years old a Tanzanian resident and a Project Chairman at Youth Training Organization(YTO), since 2006 I have been working in a Charity , as a Chairman I Herewith t to introduce YTO.Youth Training Organization (YTO) is a community based Organization (CBO),and a non-government, non-profit, non-partisan, and non-religious Organization. YTO committed to mobilize and equip youth with technical training for self help economic activities in order to alleviate poverty in the short run and eradicate poverty in among youth in the long term. Because of the Government having a limited opportunity to absorb youth into formal sector (forcing them to pursue as the result for those who fail to secure any means of life are induced to practice immorality in order to survive) Registration documents: YTOhas been established in 2006, but it became a legal entity in 2012 as per registration number 314 of 2002. YTO operates national wide and its registration number is 00NGO/00005273. VISION To ensure that our country Tanzania brings into being youths with self sustaining income and prosperous life filled with hopes of the future. OUR MISSION: To mobilize disheartened youth and encourage them to undertake technical training, formulate various economic activities which can keep their mind busy, and perform follow-up monitoring and evaluation to guarantee self reliance The Indigenous Tree Seed Bank project aim is to address critical issues of sustainability in the conservation of forests and biodiversity protection, and environmental management in Tanzania by ensuring a wider range of indigenous tree species are readily available to different participating community groups in order to promote sustainable environmental management at the local level through involving schools and existing community groups. In order to ensure greater biodiversity in tree planting initiatives, the project will aim to sensitize the wider community to the value of the rare and endangered species in order to promote wider participation in conservation efforts. Problem Description Tanzania has various types of Ecosystems

like, mountainous forests, terrestrial forests, hilltop forests, savannah forests and mangrove forests among others which exhibit high diversity of both Flora and Fauna. Allover Tanzania deforestation is a serious problem resulting in environmental degradation; it continues to strip the land of its soil, wildlife of their habitats and the people of their livelihood due to drought & famine and extinction of species both Flora and Fauna. At present Forest cover in Tanzania is estimated to be only a meagre 1.7%, against a UN minimum recommendation of 10%. Various reforestation programs in the country have been initiated, but one of the key issues is a lack of viable source of indigenous tree seeds. This always leads to reforestation being done with a very small mix of indigenous tree species, with introduction of numerous exotic species in forests leading to loss of biodiversity and thus habitat and ecosystems for a wider range of fauna and flora due to change of eco-balance.

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