



Mahale Agroforestry Project

Mid-year project activity update
January - June 2025

A practical demonstration takes place at the Integrated pest management and compost making training in Lufubu village, 10 March 2025.



**Greater Mahale Ecosystem,
Tanzania**
Special Projects



Timeline:
2024 - 2029



Main implementing partner:
**Friends of Lake
Tanganyika (FOLT)**



Targeted ecosystem:
Miombo Woodlands



**Greater Mahale
#29947**

Despite the accessibility challenges brought by persistent rains, 95% of the target for registering new farmers in the agroforestry programme was achieved.

Activity update



Introducing forest-friendly livelihoods

- **50,368 seedlings** seedlings distributed to 79 farmers in order to complete 'Cohort A' seedling distribution (total distributed 154,482).
- **2 training sessions** for 72 farmers of 'Cohort A' took place on:
 - Integrated pest management and compost making, to reduce reliance on costly pesticides and fertilizers, improve soil health, boost crop resilience and achieve higher yields and sustainability.
 - Pruning of agroforestry, fruit and timber trees, to maximise benefits such as fruit production, timber quality and fodder availability, and promote sustainable woodlot management.
- Continued purchase and sowing of fruit, timber and agroforestry tree seedlings in the nursery for 'Cohort B' farmers.
- **427 'Cohort B' farmers registered** for participation in the agroforestry programme.
- **A SWOT analysis** was completed for developing farm-based value chains.
- **Two sessions** on environmental education took place for 28 participants.

Kalya Village June 2025



Case study

An environmental education session in Kalya village aiming to empower women in target villages with knowledge and skills in sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation. Topics included the ecological consequences of slash and burn, livestock grazing and extraction of fuelwood in protected forests as well as the benefits of sustainable agricultural practices. The facilitator used interactive methods such as quizzes, posters, videos and group activities and discussions to ensure effective learning and knowledge sharing among participants.

Case study



An innovative and sustainable drip irrigation system implemented by Mr. Dismas Nkulu on his agroforestry farm in Kashagulu village. Mr. Dismas is using recycled water bottles to create a low-cost, eco-friendly drip irrigation system. Bottles are filled with water and placed near the base of fruit trees as it is shown in the photo. Small holes or drippers in the bottle caps allow water to seep out slowly, delivering moisture directly to the roots. The system relies on gravity, eliminating the need for pumps or electricity.

Although plastic bottles degrade over time and may require replacement, the system is still beneficial as it reduces water wastage through targeted irrigation, crucial for arid or drought-prone areas. Steady water supply from the bottle enhances root development and reduces stress on fruit trees. The system is easy to replicate across the orchard with minimal resources. Mr. Dismas's initiative demonstrates how small-scale farmers can leverage affordable, sustainable solutions to enhance productivity while conserving resources. His approach serves as an inspiration for other farmers to adopt similar innovations tailored to their local conditions.

Looking forward

Activities for July - December 2025 include:

- Conducting a project baseline survey;
- Supporting 'Cohort A' farmers in out-planting verification and remapping exercise, and conducting a 6-month seedling survival survey;
- Supporting 'Cohort B' farmers in forming their group, and training on agroforestry interventions;
- Continuing with seedling distribution and out-planting for the new farmer cohort;
- Continuing with nursery management;
- Developing a second tree nursery site;
- Delivering environmental education sessions for traditional leaders, youth and women;
- Conducting a community social event on the environmental education program.

Stay up-to-date

-  Visit the [project page](#)
-  Explore the [interactive map](#)
-  Check out the project [photo album](#)
-  Look out for the annual project report in 2026

