

## HEALTHY SOIL HEALTHY FOOD & AGROECOLOGY SUCCESS STORIES

# A Revolutionary Farming Blueprint: "Plant Every Day to Harvest Every Day"

In the verdant terrains of Kigogozi cell, Kireku parish, nestled within the Busimbi Division of Mityana Municipality in Uganda, a ground-breaking agricultural initiative is flourishing, piloted by the visionary team at the Rural Community in Development (RUCID). This radical agroecological project, which commenced in 2019, is fostering a seismic shift in the domain of sustainable farming, embodying the transformative principle of "Plant every day to harvest every day."

The inception of this project stemmed from a deep-rooted desire to unravel the enigmas surrounding agroecology. RUCID embarked on this journey with pertinent questions reverberating: Can agroecology empower small-scale farmers with consistent food and revenue streams? What is the true potential for productivity in an agroecological setting?

With an unyielding spirit of inquiry, the team initiated an experimental farm unit on a 12 by 35-meter piece of land that once served as an access road. This barren area, marred by compact sub stony soil, transformed dramatically within a year, burgeoning into a lush green oasis teeming with diverse plant life.

With objectives firmly rooted in creating a self-sufficient, high-yield farming ecosystem requiring minimal labour, the intervention adopted an innovative approach. Utilizing organic waste as a fertile medium for plant establishment, a rich tapestry of crops blossomed spontaneously, creating a vibrant mosaic of flora that found uses as food, fodder, medicine, or cash crops.

A kaleidoscope of new crops, including bananas, yams, kale, and green pepper, were introduced, infusing the area with rich nutritional diversity. The revolutionary 365-days green cover method has played a pivotal role in nurturing a self-regulating environment, obviating the

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need for artificial fertilizers and pest control.

The outcomes of this pioneering initiative have been nothing short of remarkable. Daily harvests from the farm have ushered in increased productivity, fostering a balanced diet sourced



The photo above is from when the area was just demarcated for agroecology while the photo below is now.







directly from the farm's diverse yield. A restored soil fertility, coupled with the creation of a self-regulating ecosystem, has significantly reduced labour and input requirements.

This thriving agroecological unit has become a living testament to the success of the initiative, exemplifying increased productivity per unit area and fostering a symbiotic relationship between humans and nature. As one observer noted, "The kales in this agroecological farm unit look healthy with no pests or disease signs; it is a source of healthy food."

As RUCID's agroecological project steers into the future, it stands as a beacon of inspiration and a model for sustainable farming practices. To replicate this success, it is imperative that aspiring agroecologists understand and adopt the 365-day green cover principle, a concept that promises to revolutionize farming systems globally.

RUCID is advocating for policies encouraging the establishment of agroecological pockets on every parcel of land, fostering crop and animal diversity, food, and nutrition security, and demonstrating increased productivity while minimizing labour and input requirements.

This innovative farming blueprint, spearheaded



by RUCID, is not just confined to paper but thrives as a living case study at the RUCID centre. What began as a small demonstration has now blossomed into a vital training tool, gradually expanding its influence to encompass the entire RUCID farm and neighbouring farms. This case study serves as a beacon of inspiration, showcasing the transformative power of sustainable agriculture in nurturing healthy soil, healthy food, and ultimately, a healthy populace.

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