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ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA

HEALTHY SOIL HEALTHY FOOD & AGROECOLOGY SUCCESS STORIES

Busaino Fruits and Herbs: A green oasis transforming Uganda's agroecology landscape

JINJA CITY, Uganda – For the last ten years, a change has been sweeping across Uganda's agricultural landscape, as heralded by Busaino Fruits and Herbs (BuFruit). Spread over a vast 1004 acres in rural Bugiri and an additional 32 acres in Jinja city, BuFruit is not just an enterprise; it's a revolution.

In a bid to address consumers' soaring demands for nutrient-rich, safe, and affordable food, and to combat the challenges of land degradation, BuFruit has embraced agroecology with zeal. This award-winning enterprise has championed practices such as increased

plant diversity, self-production of livestock feed, and bio-energy. Central to their operations in Jinja is the Agroecological Skills Training Academy (ASTA) which stands as a testament to BuFruit's commitment to

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imparting hands-on agroecological training, especially to student interns at an affordable fee.

But the transformative reach of BuFruit doesn't end with cultivation. At the Jinja Wanyange Eco-Village farm, visitors are treated to an immersive experience, where they can relish Ugandan herbs-infused meals, enjoy traditional music performances, and partake in ecotourism and cultural engagements. The imminent launch of their on-farm community market will further bolster their dedication to selling products birthed exclusively from agroecological conditions.

Addressing land degradation has been a significant focal point for BuFruit. A poignant example is their efforts to reverse the effects of rain and wind erosion on previously degraded land. They planted a combination of tall and short trees, intercropped diverse species, and utilized an Agrosilvo pastoral system to bring biodiversity back to the land. As a result, wildlife, including mushrooms and bees, returned, and the land saw a resurgence of the

white cattle egret, a bird symbolic of the village's name "Wanyange."

However, challenges were aplenty. The extreme heat during the pre-rainy season threatened soil moisture and life. BuFruit's innovative solution was to create micro-climates of tree shades and ever-green valleys, leading to diversified consumer-preferred aromatic products and enhanced livestock quality. By integrating a variety of plants and feeding methods, even the quality of lamb, mutton, chicken, and eggs from the farm saw a significant improvement, meeting the consumers' aromatic taste preferences.

Another challenge was the high labour and fuel wood costs due to its peri-urban location. Solutions like self-fermentation technologies and fast-growing shrubs under the shade of tall trees showcased BuFruit's innovative approach to these challenges.

Furthermore, their efforts have not just been about soil and agriculture. Through initiatives like serving authentic Ugandan food, live music performances, and creating a richly biodiverse landscape, BuFruit has positioned Wanyange village prominently on Jinja's tourism map.

"Seeing is believing," says Patrick Delba Kiirya, the contact person for BuFruit. "We aim to provide physical evidence that loss of soil fertility can be reversed using agroecological approaches."

Indeed, BuFruit's journey is a clarion call highlighting the potential of agroecological practices. With plans in motion, including the soon-to-be-launched agroecological on-farm community market by 2024 and a drive to rejuvenate and mentor 250 micro agroecology farmers, Busaino Fruits & Herbs is poised to redefine the future of agriculture in Uganda.



A secondary school visiting BusHfruits farm.



Banana, Lemon grass, aloeVera growing together fruit & non-fruit trees,grass growing in-between.



Trees providing shades, cooling temperatures on farm, neighbouring Lands.



A mother from local community collects manure prepared on the farm.



Restored Land,sheep grazing under mango, jackfruit trees.Lake Victoria in background.

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WHO IS AFSA?

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