



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

The 2022 ASRA - Action Summit for Regenerative Agriculture has concluded as a resounding success. Attended by more than 130 local farmers, cooperatives, and NGO representatives, the first steps have been taken towards realizing agroforestry's potential in this region of Uganda.



This three day action-summit combined community and network building aspects of a traditional summit with hard skills training in regenerative principles and practical agroforestry.

Event Overview

Day 1 - Introduction to Agroforestry & Regenerative Principles

Day 2 - Practical Design & Community Planting

Day 3 - Reflection and integration - Regenerative Venture Competition

Testimonials

"As regenerative farmers, learning from and supporting each other is the best way to take care of both nature and people"

-Abdu (Butambala Permaculture)

"In the past, I have only planted grains and vegetables on my land, but now I'm also going to plant trees since I've learned how to grow trees and crops together in a way that supports both."

-Kisekka Joseph (Kyengera farmer)





"For smallholders, dynamic agroforestry is the best way to improve land productivity & value, guarantee food security, and promote climate resilience" - Ugandan agroforestry expert Lucky Mukasa

Educational Impact

Through interactive lectures & workshops conducted by agroforestry experts from Tari and Makerere University, participants gained valuable insights into:

Applying scientific and business principles to personal and community contexts

- Business models for regenerative agriculture
- Cash crops vs multifunctional species
- Ecosystem regeneration

Practical skills

- Planting according to ecological design
- Cultivating biodiversity
- Species selection & plant guilds
- Productive intercropping and drought resilience
- Spacing and pruning for maximum productivity

Network building

- Connecting existing regenerative projects
- Laying the groundwork for new projects

ASRA attracted the participation of more than **130** farmers, regenerative project managers, cooperatives, NGO representatives, and agroforestry researchers from throughout Uganda



Regenerative Venture Building

Theory to Action: Attendees participated in a workshop & competition to develop projects that translate insights from the event into real-world regenerative action in their own communities.

Winning project:

Butambala Permaculture Group

Development of a biodiverse regional seed-bank to support farmers in regenerative practices & facilitate independence from international vendors.

- Self-determination & production ownership
- Long-term financial planning
- Climate resilience

For these winners, SINA and Tari will co-establish an agroforestry demonstration site and provide continued training and capacity building.





Impact Opportunities



Nutritional Security for Displaced Populations

As a result of this event, SINA has entered discussions with representatives from UNDP Uganda about the potential of agroforestry programs and training events to **alleviate food insecurity in refugee contexts** in East Africa.

This project is in its very early stages, but in coming months SINA will be working closely with Social Innovation Academy and UNDP to evaluate possibilities for recreating similar events tailored specifically to refugee and forced displacement contexts.

- Scale to eight other SINA locations in Uganda, Zimbabwe & Democratic Republic of Congo



Documentation

Video documentation of the event was produced by filmmakers from Kampala-based Marula Creative Consultancy. The resultant two short films will support SINA in communicating its impact.



The planting portion of the event was also covered by Deutsche Welle as a keystone segment of a larger documentary on Ugandan agroforestry to be exhibited on the DW programme **EcoAfrica**.



Scientific Impact-Mapping

Further scientific impact-mapping of the SINA agroforestry site will be carried out in partnership with Makerere University in order to develop

- Stronger understanding of the ecological, social, & economic impact of agroforestry in this region
- Establish science-based ecological best practices for regional regenerative initiatives

Continued impact mapping will allow SINA to better understand farmers' needs and tailor future training & capacity building events accordingly.

It will also inform ongoing efforts to develop robust long-term financing and business models to help regenerative farmers improve and diversify incomes.



Impact Opportunities cont.

Commercial Agroforestry Training Center

This summit has demonstrated that **"lighthouse" sites and community-based agroforestry training** are extremely effective tools for facilitating the adoption of regenerative practices by farmers.

Through connections made at the event, the opportunity has arisen to purchase a 20 ha. plot near Kampala that could serve as a financially self-sustaining long-term agroforestry training hub.

Such a site would be an invaluable tool not only for farmer capacity-building, but also for developing **context-specific best practices and business models** suited specifically to an agroforestry production-style.

- Value-added processing
- Regenerative buying clubs
- Developing international market niches & branding

Regenerative Union Network: Uganda

This summit has revealed the need for stronger connections between the diverse regenerative initiatives operating throughout Uganda. To address this issue, SINA will facilitate the creation of a **Regenerative Union Network (RUN)**, a sharing platform that will aid diverse regenerative projects, small and large, in connecting and cooperating.

- Accessing & enabling funding
- Co-developing robust & international business models
- Coordinating and documenting efforts for greater impact

Contact

Please feel encouraged to connect with SINA to discuss ASRA, RUN, and other future projects

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Follow us on LinkedIn @ SINA (Social Innovation Academy) for updates and announcements of future projects

