

# ECHO EAST AFRICA REGIONAL IMPACT CENTER (RIC) NEWSLETTER



**September 2015 Issue No. 007**

**ECHO East Africa Progress!!!**

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**Upcoming Events:**

**Working in Conflict Areas Symposium;  
3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 in Arua,  
Uganda;**

**Pastoralist Symposium;  
1<sup>st</sup> week of March 2016  
Nanyuki, Kenya;**

**Highlands Symposium;  
1<sup>st</sup> week of November 2016,  
Addis, Ethiopia**

## **NANENANE AGRICULTURE SHOW**

ECHO East Africa has participated in Nanenane Agriculture show held from 1<sup>st</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> August, 2015. During the Agriculture Show, ECHO displayed different varieties of Green manure/ Cover Crops (GM/CC's) which are useful in restoring soil nutrients such as jack bean, lablab, velvet bean and pigeon pea, medicinal plants like moringa, artemisia and tephrosia, agroforestry trees (leuceana and sesbania). ECHO East Africa demonstrated 3 different leafy plants with high protein content (cassava leaves, moringa and chaya) and other nutritious vegetables like amaranth, African nightshade, Ethiopian mustard, spider plant and also medicinal spices for tea, food and juice like rosella, mint, rosemary and parsley. Different simple technologies invented by local people were displayed, networking with ECHO East Africa under the USAID-funded International Design Innovation Network, in order to simplify or reduce labor to carry out agricultural activities.

## **INNOVATION RESOURCES**

ECHO RIC encourages people to come and learn various innovative technologies which ECHO promotes. These have been expanded recently under the USAID-funded International Development Innovation Network (IDIN) project which ECHO implements collaboratively with Massachusetts Institute of Technology and several local NGOs. ECHO welcomes those who had no chance to visit ECHO during Nanenane Agriculture show to visit our office in Ngaramtoni, Arusha.

**Permaculture Design Certificate Course from 5-16 October 2015 in Arusha, Tanzania** For more information and to register for the course please visit foodwatershelter website at: <http://www.foodwatershelter.org.au/english-pdc>

**Organic Academy Leadership Course Africa January - November 2016** For more information, please visit [www.ifoam.bio/academy](http://www.ifoam.bio/academy)

**Creation Care & Farming God's Way training**  
13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2015 and  
1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> of December, 2015  
Kijabe, Kenya  
**Contact:** [adminkenya@careofcreation.org](mailto:adminkenya@careofcreation.org)

**DO YOU WISH TO  
ANNOUNCE A TRAINING?  
LET US KNOW AND WE  
WILL POST IT ON  
[ECHOcommunity.org](http://ECHOcommunity.org)  
East Africa Blog**

### APPRECIATING THE WORK OF STACY READER

ECHO East Africa Staff want to appreciate the work of Stacy Reader (Technical Advisor – Intern) who came from ECHO FL to join our team for six months from April –September 2015. Stacy is very knowledgeable and skilled in different things, e.g., Seedbank management, IT, report writing, Demo plot management and other administrative skills. During the time she spent with ECHO East Africa, our team witnessed her impact in various ways: now working in the Seedbank using 'Passport' software is not hard for EA Staff after her teaching. ECHO East Africa acknowledges with thanks what they have acquired from Stacy! The ECHO East Africa Team wishes Stacy Reader God's blessings in her future career. *THANK YOU, STACY!*



*Left: ECHO East Africa trainer (Venance Mollel) explains to farmers how Jack bean is the GM/CC providing the highest quantity of Nitrogen per hectare at the Nanenane Show. Above: Different displays at the ECHO tent which was set up at the Selian Agricultural Research Institute pavilion.*



*Left: Little Africa orphans play with ECHO water hauling innovations at TASO Fair – Arusha – Aug 2015*

ECHO East Africa now provides a training package called 'Creative Capacity Building' (CCB) developed through IDIN which encourages opportunities for innovative ideas to be

explored, and which can be applied to make simple tools/machines for small farmers and entrepreneurs. For more information you can contact ECHO East Africa Innovation Coordinator, Harold Msanya [hmsanya@echonet.org](mailto:hmsanya@echonet.org)

### ECHO EAST AFRICA NEWSLETTER

ECHO RIC's generates shares information and resources on sustainable agriculture and appropriate technologies in the wider region. ECHO interns, volunteers and advisors are provided mutually advantageous opportunities, both to international and local interns who work to achieve its mission of sharing resources. Through this Newsletter ECHO East Africa seeks to share news and learning opportunities with its network.

For example, two newsletters are full of important technical information on Conservation Agriculture (CA). Readers can access good newsletters and resources on these three links:

- CFGB CA Newsletter: [Conservation Agriculture Newsletter](#)
- Africa Conservation Tillage Newsletters and resource: <http://www.act-africa.org/library.php?com=5&com2=20&com3=63&com4=30&com5=>
- Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration hub: <http://fmnrhub.com.au/>





*Above: Stacy Reader explains to a group of trainees from across the East African region who work with FIDA about seed saving in front of Seedbank.*

### LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

Recently ECHO RIC established a resource library of books and a desktop computer where visitors can access information from ECHOcommunity.org and its own growing library. For example, you may find useful resources from past symposia. This resource center is equipped with number of books with various themes related to agriculture, appropriate technologies and DVDs for training. ECHO EA encourages people to visit and join memberships online through [www.echocommunity.org](http://www.echocommunity.org)



*Selected reading materials with Agriculture and Appropriate technologies themes in ECHO East Africa Library (Picture above)*

### CELEBRATING MORE VISITORS.

For the past three Months, the number of visitors to the Impact Center has increased tremendously. This greatly enriches our experience and impact. The Center has received more than 432 from different countries all over the world. Good news about ECHO EA passes on from one person/group to another. Please keep sharing information about ECHO East Africa Impact Centre with friends!

ECHO RIC recently collaborated in a training on System of Rice Intensification (SRI) with IRTECO, an organization promoting improved rice production, for farmers of Lake Tatu, Magadini village in Usa River – Arusha, Tanzania. The training objective was to promote increased production of rice through a simpler method. During training the rice farmers mentioned one of the challenges they face is high labor during rice weeding. In order to overcome this challenge, ECHO invited some of the farmers to a CCB training to share ideas and try to invent a simple technology to overcome that challenge.



*Left: A group of rice farmers presented their Rice hand weeder hey invented during a CCB training.*

Frank Mollel is an innovator supported by ECHO EA through IDIN who received 2 Picogrants to innovate a simple manure spreader to help small holder farmers to ease hauling manure to their fields. The prototypes explored needed to be low cost, and able to convert ox-carts to manure spreaders. The prototypes have reduced time consumed in hauling manure and manpower. Frank has been able to test his technologies with farmers who have shown satisfaction. As a result he has begun to receive orders to construct more spreaders for small farmers in Shinyanga and Karatu. Frank managed to secure a micro-grants from IDIN/MIT, and an award from COSTECH (Commission for Science and Technology which is under the Tanzania Ministry of Science and Technology) to develop his technology so that it becomes a business. ECHO EA congratulates him for working hard to achieve the desired goal.



*Pictures of manure spreaders in the field*

### ANNOUNCEMENT

ECHO East Africa continues preparations for the symposia:

**-Best Practices in Areas of Conflict from 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at Christus Center in Arua Uganda.**

**-Pastoralist Symposium from 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016 in Nanyuki, Kenya,**

**-Highlands Agriculture Symposium in Addis, Ethiopia from 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2016.** For more information about these symposia and registering, visit [www.echocommunity.org](http://www.echocommunity.org)



*Above: Venance Mollel, ECHO EA Trainer gives a demo-plot tour to WAMWALILI group from Shinyanga, Tanzania.*

### INTERN TESTIMONY: JIMSON MBWIGA

“ECHO East Africa is an interesting place to learn and work. As an intern for the past one month since I joined ECHO EA, I have learned a lot from crops, trees, seed saving, planting and harvesting. It's a good place for those who are interested in agriculture and appropriate technologies. ECHO East Africa staff are a good team and good people to work with. Their work can be seen in nearby villages; they are working with needy people who have received training through ECHO EA. The impact of ECHO work is encouraging and touching especially for anyone who would like to do community development work that helps in hunger and poverty reduction”.



*ECHO EA Intern (Jimson) helps to establish a garden within the newly expanded plot for seeds & tree production.*

### ECHO EAST AFRICA SEEDBANK

**Seedbank/ Seed activities:** ECHO EA Seedbank for the past three months have experienced a huge number of visitors who visited in order to learn and obtain seeds varieties which are hard to find and important in restoring soil nutrients. As the goal of ECHO EA Seedbank is to provide education on seed saving especially for seeds which are hard- to-find, this uniqueness has attracted so many people to come and learn different activities which are conducted in the Seedbank. The Seedbank have managed to secure links with small scale farmers who are growing hard- to -find seeds like jack bean, lablab, pigeon pea and moringa so that they supplied to the Seedbank in order to maintain the circle of seed distribution by ECHO EA Seedbank to support small scale farmers and development organization workers who are working directly with small holders farmers to have access to those types of seeds. The work of seed regeneration is going on in order to make sure the Seedbank will not run out or not pour out our inventory for redistribution. ECHO EA Seedbank would like to appreciate the work done by its seed suppliers, partner gardeners and network organizations dealing with seeds like AVRDC, SARI and ASA who are collaborating with in serving the needs of small holder farmers. We encourage small holders' farmers, development workers and seeds suppliers to continue cooperation with ECHO Seedbank so as to enhance Sustainable Agriculture Initiatives across East Africa regions and beyond. ECHO East Africa Seedbank welcomes visitors!!!!



*Above: Banana passion fruit, a newly acquired accession of the Seedbank; Left: Farmers observe varieties of seeds and categories in ECHO East Africa's Seedbank.*



### TOGETHER PROJECT (UGANDA)

ECHO East Africa partners in Uganda with MAP International and Church World Service to promote several food security initiatives. Among these are the work of Newcastle disease vaccinations (ND), East Coast Fever Vaccinations (ECF), Farmer/Pastoral Managed Natural



## CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE (CA) PROMOTION; ECHO EA & OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

ECHO EA is pioneering the promotion of CA agriculture in Arusha (Tanzania) by spreading the news about it to the various stakeholders dealing with agriculture. Since the establishment of Arusha Conservation Agriculture Forum (ACAF), there is a great success of sharing information and ideas on how best CA can be improved to save lives of people through best practices of CA. One week ago, members of ACAF including new members joined had a meeting at AVRDC in Arusha, Tanzania and among other agenda were to visit a plot of Green Manure/Cover Crops (GM/CC, s) useful in conservation agriculture.



*Above: ACAF Members visited a Green Manure/Cover Crops plot at AVRDC jointly established by ECHO and MCC's Neil Miller.*

## TESTIMONY FROM THE FIELD.

### *A family sees the benefits of Home gardening and fruits tree training*

The family of Tuluay Masay of Kambi ya Simba village in Mbulumbulu have benefited after receiving training on home gardening and fruit trees from ECHO EA trainer, Happy Martin. Immediately, after training they started to implement the knowledge received in their homesteads. Now they have gardens with a mixture of varieties of vegetables, fruit trees and moringa. Previously they used to buy vegetables in nearby small markets at a costs of Tshs. 1,000/= . It was very expensive, the vegetables they bought from the market were unhealthy due to sprayed chemical pesticides, and

Regeneration -F/PMNR and Conservation Agriculture (CA). Robert Okumu, ECHO's Technical Advisor in Karamoja recently reported:

- a) Nine Community vaccinators and 3 Community Based Staff attended a one day refresher training on identification of sick birds, common diseases of poultry, poultry vaccination against Newcastle disease, poultry husbandry especially management of free range rural poultry, feed requirements and provision. Over 800 poultry were vaccinated recently by 14 vaccinators in 7 villages.
- b) No deaths have been reported but only good news of healthy calves in most community meetings by the TOGETHER program or the Local government staff at district and Sub-county levels. Communities have expressed interest for the vaccines to be availed for cost-recovery basis.



*Above: Mr. Pius Sawa of GALVmed-Nairobi recently visited and shot a documentary on the impact of the ECF vaccinations in reducing mortality of calves which previously was around 50% and now reduced to less than 5%.*

- c) Communities have been sensitized through public meetings and practical training on FMNR, a cheap option to regenerate trees that were once slashed with only living stumps buried underground. ECHO moderated a one day reflection meeting with District Stakeholders, the FMNR District task force and the FMNR National coordinator for World Vision.
- d) ECHO monitored several group gardens for adults and youths which are being introduced in the program. The general status of the fields is poor due to poor rains. Some of the groundnut gardens are fair especially for those groups who planted early. The demo plots with cover crops established by some farmers have provided better yields than those without cover crops to cover soil.



*Left: A village sensitization meeting in Kogole East on Public health, FMNR, Newcastle disease and ECF immunization. A 3<sup>rd</sup> annual pilot ECF immunization will occur in November 2015.*

**Do you need a consultation?** Whether for pay or free, ECHO East Africa provides opportunities for other agencies to obtain consultations for free or pay, according to the nature of the request. Please contact Erwin Kinsey at [ekinsey@echonet.org](mailto:ekinsey@echonet.org)

sometimes they were not available. Maria, a daughter in the family said, “Even if my mother is late from the field, I can start to prepare food, because we have everything in the garden”. Now they are very delighted and express thanks to ECHO East Africa Impact Centre for enabling them to create a way to reduce hunger and poverty in their family. They have reduced costs for food and have plenty of vegetables to eat.



*Above: Maria and her neighbor appreciate their Kitchen garden.*

**Edited by: Erwin Kinsey  
Charles (Bonny) Bonaventure, Sophia  
Kasubi and Rose Dusabeyezu**



*Group of FIDA International Trainees and Staff in a group photo with East Africa Director Erwin Kinsey and Technical Advisor Charles Bonaventure (Bonny)*

### **VISITORS TO ECHO EAST AFRICA IMPACT CENTER**

One day recently, a training on vegetable gardening and seed saving was given to trainees from FIDA International.

On another day, the World Renew Staff from East African countries, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and Congo joined their colleagues from America and Canada to obtain a one-day learning visit on GM/CCs, CA, and Kitchen gardens.

ECHO East Africa frequently receives visitors from nearby Roots & Shoots Student Clubs who visit the Impact Center for the purpose of learning about environmental conservation and sustainable agriculture.



*Roots & Shoots Club from Mringa Secondary School visit ECHO RIC.*