

NEWSLETTER



January 2016 Issue No. 008

ECHO East Africa Best Practices!!!!

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Upcoming Events:

Best Practices in Pastoralist Areas
Symposium;
1st-3rd March 2016
Nanyuki, Kenya;
For registration please click this [link](#)



Organic Academy Leadership Course
Africa

January - November 2016

For more information, please visit
www.ifoam.bio/academy

Highlands Symposium;
1st -3rd November 2016,
Addis, Ethiopia

DO YOU WISH TO
ANNOUNCE TRAINING?
LET US KNOW AND WE
WILL POST IT ON
www.ECHOcommunity.org
East Africa Blog

NEW YEAR GREETINGS!!!

ECHO East Africa would like to extend New Year Greetings to its network members, partners and stakeholders. ECHO thanks God for the past year blessings as it sought to accomplish the objectives of serving people by providing “Best Practices” of changing their lives in order to fulfill the mission of reducing hunger and improving the lives of the poor!!!

ECHO East Africa calls upon the same cooperation and spirit of working together to greater impact this mission in 2016. May God continue blessing all of you as you contribute to this shared mission!!!



*ECHO East Africa team in a group photo
(Picture above)*

ANNOUNCEMENT

Currently ECHO East Africa continues with the preparations for its 2nd symposium with the theme “Best Practices in Pastoralist Areas” to be held from– 1st -3rd March, 2016 at Sportsman’s Arms Hotel in Nanyuki, Kenya. For registrations and more information please click this [link](#) or visit www.echocommunity.org. Following this event, the next one will be a Highlands Symposium in Addis, Ethiopia from the 1st-3rd November, 2016. Stay connected with ECHO East Africa for more information about this symposium through www.echocommunity.org

ARUA SYMPOSIUM

ECHO EA hosted East Africa Symposium in Arua, Uganda – Working in Areas of Conflict - from 3rd -5th, 2015 followed by a field visit to two farms (the government’s Abi Research Farm and Eden Farm of the Anglican Diocese); the event was blessed with 34 presentations; including morning and afternoon breakout sessions. Most of the themes were centered on information related to causes/sources of conflict, lessons learned and post conflict resolutions strategies to rectify situations so as to boost development in those areas affected by conflicts, be it political, religious or tribal conflicts. The event was an exciting experience for many development workers who are working in areas of conflict. Arua was quite a good setting for the event as it has not only been the scene of much conflict, but it borders other conflict areas like South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). ECHO staff coordinated the event. The evaluations of the participants were uniformly positive. All 62 registered participants were provided with packets of seeds, most of them being cover crops/green manures for soil fertilization. Resources from Best Practices in Areas of Conflict Symposium, 2015 now are available in this [link](#).



Arua symposium participants in group photo (picture above)

ECHO EA AND AgriProFocus SERVES LOCAL DAIRY FARMERS

A Dairy Learning Lab was co-organized by ECHO and AgriProFocus for 25 farmers on 30th November and 1st December at ECHO Impact Center, to establish strategies to solve dairy farmers' challenges in the immediate area around the RIC. This was co-funded by AgriProFocus (SNV-Holland) and ECHO East Africa. The learning lab is for dairy practitioners and professionals who train farmers and processors in the dairy sector. The learning lab aims to share and review among peers the materials and methods they use and to jointly improve on existing practices. AgroProFocus learning labs are normally a two day session on one specific topic. This fourth learning lab, on feeds, animal health and reproduction, at 30th of November – 1st of December was held at ECHO East Africa Impact Centre, the co-organizer together with district livestock extension officer Mr. Julius Nangale. This is an example of how ECHO organizes different kinds of activities to reduce poverty. Another is to and demonstrate a large horticultural garden containing varieties of planting materials and seeds. ECHO also demonstrates appropriate technologies like its new biogas-plant and different simple tools that simplify agricultural tasks such as animal drawn implements and fodder choppers.



Dairy farmers from the nearby area visited four farmers, and discussed systems and constraints with a Dutch specialist from Wageningen University and the ECHO team. (picture above)



David Sharland, presenting a topic during Arua Symposium (Picture above)

INNOVATIVE RESOURCES

ECHO Impact Center encourages people to come and learn various innovative technologies which ECHO promotes under the International Development Innovation Network (IDIN) project. ECHO East Africa has a package for Creative Capacity Building training (CCB) provided in order to open up innovative ideas from community members which can be applied to make simple tools/machines. For more information you can contact ECHO East Africa's Innovation Coordinator Harold Msanya at: hmsanya@echonet.org



Jesse (Innovator) tests his bicycle driven coffee machine (picture above)

CREATIVE CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING

Student Supervisors and Tutors at Arusha Technical College (ATC) were recent participants in a Creative Capacity Building training in order to enhance their daily work of supervising students in designing of project innovations. The training opened them to new ways to lead students to work effectively in solving societal related technological challenges. It helped them to focus on designing projects which solve community problems, rather than focusing so much on their final exams or technologies which end up in the closets.. The hope is for communities not

CONTOUR ESTABLISHMENT TAKES OFF IN ILKURROT AND LENGIJAVE VILLAGES

ECHO collects manure from generous local farmers to establish its tree nursery which will be producing hundreds of thousands of tree seedlings this year onwards. On one such trip to Ilkurot village, a farmer, Lemali Mollel, asked for help from ECHO's Venance Mollel how to measure contours. Two decades ago, the Soil Conservation Agroforestry Project (SCAPA) had measured them for farmers in the village, but the technique has been lost. Venance trained Lemali using a method ECHO has been reintroducing which is a simple water ring which farmers themselves can make and utilize. In turn, Lemali engaged his neighbor to help him to dig contours, and they helped each other to establish them. The next week torrential rains fell in Ilkurot and neighboring Lengijave, flooding fields and homes along several water ways, in some fields removing a foot of topsoil. Villagers were desperate to see their fields flooding and soil washing away. When a village executive secretary, Godson Emmanuel, visited Lemali's fields and saw that two farmers had constructed contours which were full of water and no erosion, he said, "Let us get the village behind reintroducing contours village-wide. We can re-enact village by-laws for all to adhere to." Requests have come from both villages to learn the simple measuring technique; the number of farmers who have agreed voluntarily to establish terraces has reached 49. However, owing to the energy of the village leadership in response to the recent floods, a stronger directive has been enacted whereby any household which does not establish contours in their fields will be fined over \$100. One week before the new bylaw the number of farmers who had measured contours and started to dig ditches which ultimately become terraces was 13. As a result of the village directive that number is rising fast. In the photos below, please

to continue to face same challenges year after year. ECHO East Africa works together with CAMARTEC and TWENDE to encourage community members and development workers with whom they work directly to collaborate with colleges and university students from within the country and outside so that they can share how best they can solve community challenges by designing technologies which accommodate their environment and use resources available in their areas.



ATC Student supervisors pose for a group photo with their CCB facilitators Noela Byabachwezi, Bernard Kiviana and ECHO EA staff Sophia Kasubi

ECHO, CAMARTEC and TWENDE as partner organizations under the IDIN project promote appropriate technologies by jointly facilitating CCB training to community members of Leguruki and nearby villages. The training aimed to open and develop innovative ideas to those community members so as to help them solve challenges in relation to their daily economic activities. In Leguruki there are so many avocados; and among many challenges faced by community members is lack of technology to grind avocado seeds, preventing dogs from eating avocados while in the fields, and an alternative to log beehives. After CCB training they have managed to invent simple technologies such as grinding avocados into powder as an ingredient for tea without caffeine.



A group working on avocado seed grinder presenting their first prototype during a CCB Training at Leguruki

encounter the first farmers in Lengijave village as they view the damage done by the recent rains, and share this training and new technology. As ECHO normally tries to strengthen local NGOs, it has been encouraging a local NGO, RUCONET to come along side to train more farmers in contour measuring skills and to find planting material for planting on the ditches. Farmers are clearly ready to test different ways of measuring and establishing terraces.



Venance Mollel, ECHO EA Trainer helps community members in Ilkurot village to establish terraces.

CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE AND OTHER TECHNIQUES

ECHO East Africa valued component of Conservation Agriculture (CA) as it continues to practice in its demonstration plot by planting varieties of cover crops in monoculture and intercropping of various legumes and cereals under mulching system in order to keep soil moisture and improve soil fertilization. ECHO EA encourage people to come and learn best practices of Conservation Agriculture (CA) in their areas since there are tangible cases of land degradation encompass this region. Many farmers around ECHO RIC come and seek advice on how best they can restore their degraded land. On top of that ECHO East Africa displays its activities by making demonstrations plots showing different techniques including fodder tree planting, vegetable production in small size, Banana plantation technique, planting high proteins varieties including Cassava

ECHO EAST AFRICA NEWS

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 advantages, opportunities, both to international and local interns who work to achieve its mission of sharing resources.

ECHO EAST AFRICA SEED BANK

Seed bank/ Seed activities: ECHO East Africa seedbank has started collecting and introducing of Indigenous seeds/ exotic tree seeds and multiplication of them in ECHO tree nursery. Seedlings are now available in ECHO nursery for planting. Farmers/Development workers/ Community organizations interested in tree planting please come to pick seeds or seedlings both as small packets are already prepared by ECHO seed Bank and seedlings are available in nurseries. Those disposed small tree packets are prepared for network distributions for free. There are some varieties of tree seedlings ECHO EA selling at affordable price. ECHO always welcomes people to come and receive indigenous/exotic tree seeds so that they can plant in their areas. Please remember when you plant a tree; you preserve your environment and left a good inheritance to your grandchildren!!!



This picture shows ECHO's indigenous tree seedlings nursery.

IDDS CHAPTER

An International Development Design Summit (IDDS) chapter is a platform for local innovators established to meet and share successes and challenges which they have faced as they develop their innovations. Among other things they get chances to learn other technologies as well. Two months ago 31 IDDS Chapter members participated in a two day learning event on biogas technology. Biogas technology is regarded as a best way of managing sanitation and animal waste because of its many advantages generated including cooking energy and compost production. Participants were exposed to various types of biogas plants including options that use combination of human and animal waste designed for semi-arid areas, and the cheap option of a tubular plant created by ECHO during October 2015.

leaves, Moringa, Chaya and Sweet potatoes roots and isolation system of plant varieties sensitive to cross pollination and so on. You are welcome to visit and learn best practices for Conservation Agriculture!!!!!!!



Contours with intercropped fodder (trees, grasses and herbaceous legumes), picture above.



IDDS members in a group photo after receiving biogas training at CAMARTEC



IDDS chapter members visited CAMARTEC and ECHO EA to see various options of biogas plants including fixed domes at CAMARTEC and a tubular biogas plant at ECHO RIC

TOGETHER PROJECT-KOTIDO, KARAMOJA, UGANDA

ECHO EA Technical Advisor of the TOGETHER project in Kotido, Karamoja Uganda has reported on the 3rd ECF Pilot Vaccination which occurred in 8 villages of Kacheri subcountry, Kotido, Karamoja from 10th – 15th November, 2015. During this campaign 760 calves were vaccinated, dewormed, and tagged. Several women were involved in the cattle vaccination which commenced from 8:00am each morning. On the 1st day of vaccinations, people attended from the district to inaugurate the event, which gave it importance in the eyes of all present, including young women onlookers. Crops failed this year in much of the subcounty/region. One day during the ECF vaccinations, people had to leave to obtain food assistance from WFP being provided at the village center. Testimonies from cattle keepers on the efficacy of the vaccine were shared during the evening video-shows and mobilizations; calves vaccinated in previous campaigns are larger than their age-mates, and have survived better overall.



Picture above, 3rd vaccination gatherings in Kotido, Karamoja (Picture above)



Men and women gathered for the 3rd vaccination in Kotido, Karamoja, (pictures above)

Do you need a consultation? (For pay or free): ECHO RIC's provides opportunities for other agencies to obtain consultations for free or pay, according to the nature of the request.

Come for a visit!

-Roots & Shoots student clubs continued with their routine schedule of visiting East Africa Impact Center for the purpose of learning. Currently ECHO is preparing for the visit of Roots & Shoots founder, Dr. Jane Goodall in mid-February 2016!

-ECHO RIC receives groups of people, community organizations participants, and single persons seeking for consultation depending on their needs Robert Shimaingo from Zambia consulted ECHO East Africa recently to learn its activities and bring back appropriate technologies and best practices for applications in his country.



Robert is pictured above when he visited one of ECHO's neighbors in Ilkurot village where contours are needed due to soil erosion.

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