

NEWSLETTER

ENHANCING GRASSROOT RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

CAMPAIGN TO CREATE AWARENESS ON CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE, ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

ORRA in partnership with NaTA are carrying out campaigns to create awareness on climate change resilience, adaptation and mitigation under the theme; "Reactivating the indigenous knowledge/practices and amplifying the local voices in the climate change action." For the last three months, we have been working with Hoima oil host communities.

EXPERIENCE SHARING AMONG THE FOCUSED GROUPS

Climate change is real and grassroots people are aware of the changes in weather patterns. Some people are more informed and are adapting faster than their fellows, we have organized sessions for experience sharing among them to facilitate learning amongst themselves. Now some of our grassroots people have started identifying and plan to plant crops that are resistant to drought, pests and diseases. For example cassava, millet and some vegetables like egg plants amidst the fluctuating weather patterns.

In one of our meetings on October 6, we noted that the grassroots people are now changing their ways of living. It was also noted that people are now scared of hunger and therefore when they harvest crops, they store more in their food stores. They are also becoming very calculative in the amount of food they prepare for their family members to avoid wastage. Those that have understood the problem are now forming functional savings as well as farming groups. They are also doing eco-friendly activities such as beekeeping and agroforestry.



MEASURES WE ARE TAKING TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

On 26, October, ORRA in partnership with Nature Talk Africa conducted a training on making charcoal briquettes among the women and youth of Nyahaira. This is aimed at reducing over dependence on wood fuel which causes destruction of forest. By doing this we are reducing on the level of carbon emission. We are committed to train more grassroots people on use of charcoal briquettes.

CHALLENGES FACED BY GRASSROOT WOMEN AND YOUTH WHILE ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

However much they are trying hard to adapt, they lack financial support, capacity to predict the rain season yet their farming entirely depend on the natural rains. Gone are the days they used natural indicators like the movement of butterflies, the croaking of the frogs, lightning and thunderstorms to predict the onset of rains or sunshine. They are now failing to know when to plant their crops. Majority are also living their lives without financial management plans, farm plans and food storage knowledge. They don't have alternative sources of income apart from agriculture. More capacity building and financial support need to be prioritized.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE THE RESILIENCE OF GRASSROOT PEOPLE AMIDST THE CHANGING CLIMATE.

The initiatives to support the grassroots people with finances such as PDM must be well monitored to ensure that funds are well spent for the benefit of these people. More hands-on skilling is required to not only empower them but also provide alternative sources of income.

Government, NGOs and all stakeholders must be more intentional in collaboration in terms of capacity building of grassroots people to be climate change resilient, lobby for money and make financial access easy for them to adapt. They should also establish indigenous resistant crop seed banks for different communities to store the seeds they people have identified to be doing well in their localities.



MEASURES WE HAVE TAKEN TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE.

In addition, on 27, ORRA in partnership with Nature Talk Africa (NaTA) distributed and participated in planting of over 1,000 trees in Kyakaboga Resettlement camp. These included natural tree species like mahogany, and others like pine trees. We also distributed and planted fruit trees like avocado and passion fruit.

UPDATES ON THE COURT ISSUE FILED IN 2014

On 27th October, ORRA in partnership with AFIEGO had their scheduled court hearing relating to adequate compensation of some of their members following the compulsory acquisition of their land by Government. However due to the unforeseen fires that erupted at the High Court earlier. Our case among others were affected. Court adjourned the matter to 4th December this year. Dear friends stand with us we continue to fight for justice.



Climate strike, need for clean energy.

STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT.

Following interactions with the grassroots people of the oil host communities in Hoima and Kikuube districts, we developed a community communique calling on African Heads of States to stop the use and promotion of genetically modified organism (GMOs) species prior to the African Climate Summit that was held in Nairobi, Kenya 2023. This was following concerns people raised in line with food insecurity, loss of biodiversity, increased outbreak of pests and diseases, loss of soil fertility among others.



Their recommendations were clearly outlined as followed:

- Pass strong resolutions to immediately ban the use and promotion of GMOs in Africa.
- Pass strong resolutions to promote indigenous species of plant seeds and animals in Africa.
- Pass resolutions to increase budget allocation for agriculture with focus on research in preservation and conservation of indigenous species of plants and animals in Africa.
- Pass resolutions to integrate indigenous agriculture practices in education curriculum in some relevant subjects like agriculture and biology

PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Planting trees and distributing more to the grassroot communities.



Experience sharing among the grass root communities



Training on sustainable agriculture



Training the grassroot communities on the use of clean energy.



Climate strike

