



CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND AGRICULTURE INNOVATIONS

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A PROCEEDING REPORT FOR THE LAUNCH OF COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN IN HOIMA DISTRICT.



March 14th 2023

Hoima District

INTRODUCTION

On 14th march 2023, with support from Lush charity port fund, CERAI organised a tree planting campaign in Hoima district with oil affected communities to plant trees as one of the efforts to reduce and trap emissions produced by oil companies. The activity was attended by youth from different villages in Hoima district, government leaders and religious leaders and our community based monitors. The activity kicked off from 9am in the morning with youth picking the trees to be planted in kyakwaya village Hoima district.

Over three years, CERAI has been working with EACOP affected communities to stop oil activities in Albertine Graben. A lot of success has been achieved due to our efforts with partners to stop oil activities in Albertine Graben including some of the banks pulling out from financing EACOP and the EU resolution of September 2022. However more challenges

still exist since the government of Uganda continue to forcefully acquire land from citizens for oil activities and a lot of human rights violation is increasing day by day.

ACTIVITY PROCEEDINGS

The activity begun at 9am with brief remarks from chairman local council one Kabwoya village in Hoima district. The chairman appreciated CERAI for the good work being done to restore the lost green economy in their communities. He further requested CERAI to establish nursery beds in their communities where people will be going to pick tree seedlings for planting at their homes .In addition the chairman said that they have faced a lot of challenges that have come along with Oil activities especially EACOP. He said that some of the people haven't been compensated, some were stopped from using their land, hunger levels increasing and the rate of school dropout increased since the begining of oil and gas project in Hoima district.

The chairman promised to work with CERAI and requested youth to be on forefront as far as tree planting is concerned in Hoima district and across the country.



CERAI Executive Director being interviewed during tree planting exercise

REMARKS FROM CEO CERAI

Gerald Barekye who is the executive Director of CERAI welcomed youth participants who turned up for the tree planting activity. He said that CERAI got some support from Lush Charity pot to support environmental restoration projects in oil affected districts .Gerald promised to work together with the youth and other leaders in Hoima to stop oil activities that

have come along with a lot of negative impacts in the area. Gerald said that he will send their request to charity pot to see if they can support the idea of establishing Tree nursery beds at all subcounties in Hoima district where people will be going to pick tree seedlings for planting.



Media published the story on one of the Televisions in western Uganda about the activity

CHALLENGES SHARED BY PARTICIPANTS DURING THE EVENT.

- The threats from the government. When journalists write stories, some government officials consider their stories as bad or anti-government. Government officials call them and threaten them.
- Increasing destruction of forests including Bugoma forest that was given out to Hoima sugar limited.
- Access to oil and gas fields like Kingfisher and Tilenga oil fields is restricted.
- Oil and gas companies have bureaucratic processes and it is hard to get information.
- Some radio stations lack designated programmes on oil and gas.
- When companies Organise field visits to areas of oil and gas extraction, they tend to push out journalists who critically report on oil and gas.
- During field visits, companies engage in public relations and they don't allow journalists to get stories.

COMMUNITY REQUESTS

- Tree Nursery beds to be established at community levels where members can go and access free tree seedlings

- More financial support to mobilise and organise youth environmental clubs in oil affected districts
- Continuous radio talk shows to spread awareness about negative impacts of EACOP to the surrounding communities.
- Dissemination of IEC materials like fliers, t-shirts, etc with information on environmental conservation to keep communities awake.

CONCLUSION

The event was concluded with remarks from Ainamani Amon who is the CERAI community based monitor in Hoima district. Amon promised to keep mobilising youth to fully participate in environmental restoration campaign and join the stop EACOP campaign.