



T.R.E.E. Project

The Rural Environmental Empowerment Initiative

2017 Report

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INTRODUCTION

T.R.E.E Initiative is a non-profit, non-government, volunteer based advocacy organization committed to promoting environmental sustainability (afforestation, agroforestry, biodiversity, environmental social responsibility (ESR), water conservation and management), rural economy revival (food security, pro-poor planning) and economic empowerment (rural livelihood, poverty reduction, gender equality, protection of indigenous people, rights of local communities).

TREE Planting (Afforestation)

T.R.E.E Project is an environmental advocacy program designed by T.R.E.E Initiative as a self-help and long term afforestation and sustainable forest management program to create national awareness on the need to mitigate the negative consequences of climate change caused by indiscriminate deforestation.

The primary focus of T.R.E.E. Project as an advocacy program is to reach out to communities across the country particularly in areas where deforestation has become a major concern as a result of the indiscriminate felling of trees and depletion of forest resources due to the booming business of charcoal production for domestic use, industry and export.

Loss of vegetation and land degradation are fast becoming environmental problems in across the country and this effort is geared towards bringing individuals and communities together to work at putting more trees back on the land. The idea is also to have smart forest communities and encourage climate-smart agriculture by planting more trees for both food and timber.

It is in view of these that T.R.E.E. Project seeks to mitigate the possible negative impacts of climate change as a result of these primary drivers of deforestation through the mass mobilization of communities to plant more trees and artificial forests. The absence of such afforestation advocacy initiative in communities is directly responsible for the increasing indiscriminate deforestation.

T.R.E.E. Project intends to promote the planting of trees by engaging communities, authorities and agencies that can be offer capacity building opportunities, productive partnerships, collaborations and schemes that can create more economic activities to sustain hard working rural dwellers.

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FOOD SECURITY

The primary emphasis of T.R.E.E. Initiative as an advocacy platform is to engage communities as well as collaborate with other critical stakeholders across related sectors on the need to focus efforts pragmatically at ensuring food security nationally.

Going by the fact that food security relates to a situation where and when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life, T.R.E.E. Initiative seeks to conceptualize initiatives, create platforms, implement programs, promote policies and collaborate with agencies and organizations to achieve food security in Nigeria.

It is globally accepted that food production is sensitive to climate. From observations, a year of less rain or too much rainfall, higher or lower temperatures at the wrong time, or extremes, like flooding and heavy storms, can have a significant effect on local crop yields and even poultry or livestock production.

One of the consequences of deforestation is higher temperatures which will have direct impact on farm yields. Changes in rainfall pattern also affect both crop quality and quantity. Ultimately, climate change which is now the resultant effect of several factors could lead to increase in the prices of major crops. For the most vulnerable people particularly in rural communities, lower agricultural output means less income, and this will eventually affect access to food.

T.R.E.E. Initiative to achieve this goal will be exploring opportunities for capacity building arrangements, productive partnerships, collaborations and schemes that can create more awareness about food security.

RURAL LIVELIHOOD

According to the World Bank, and as outlined in its Forest Strategy paper, forests resources are valued from a variety of perspectives and for a variety of purposes. Over 90% of the 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty depend on forests for some part of their livelihoods. Indirectly, forests support the natural environment that nourishes agriculture and the food supplies of nearly half the population of the developing world. In addition to contributing to food security, forest resources also provides commercial opportunities and employment

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The focus and involvement on rural livelihood by T.R.E.E. Initiative is based on available statistics that a sizeable fraction of global population is resident in rural areas. There is a huge rural population, and by this we refer to people living in rural areas.

These rural areas have low population density; the environment in most rural areas is sparsely populated with scattered or unplanned houses and less infrastructures compared to cities and urban areas. It is estimated that almost a fifth of the world's population living in rural areas derives their livelihood from peasant farming. The large number of rural people and their involvement in peasant agriculture and other activities makes planning for rural people, peasants, and their livelihoods important for many reasons.

The capabilities, assets and activities that rural people require for a means of living are termed as rural livelihood. Globally, about 500 million families are said to depend on earnings from their farms for survival.

T.R.E.E. Initiative is open to capacity building arrangements, productive partnerships, collaborations and schemes that can create more economic activities to sustain hard working rural dwellers. The goal here is sustainable development by all means.

T.R.E.E. Project which was Co-founded by 'Ropo Egbeleke and 'Sola Kolawole tends to fill the pragmatic advocacy gap that requires educating and mobilizing these communities on the need to adopt voluntary tree planting as a culture to protect their environment and the linkage between various actors and stakeholders in the rural livelihood and empowerment campaign.



"The crux of T.R.E.E. Project is embedded in the social entrepreneurship idea of mobilizing communities to volunteer to plant trees to improve livelihood in vulnerable communities as a result of indiscriminate deforestation. Despite the fact that trees create an ecosystem to provide shelter and food for birds and other animals, absorb carbon dioxide and potentially harmful gasses, the ever-increasing demand of farmland, fuel wood and charcoal production has accelerated the depletion of forests. Forest resources play a large role in income generation and household food security in Nigeria, with forestry products providing sustenance and revenue for millions of people in the country. However, thousands of hectares of forests are lost annually due to deforestation.

In Nigeria, deforestation continues to be a complex environmental menace that jeopardizes people's livelihood, threatens biodiversity and intensifies global warming as well as escalating the regular conflict between farmers and Fulani herders due to rise in competition for forest resources. Forests are vital assets to humanity but their full potential will only be realized if we halt indiscriminate deforestation. Nigeria's government needs to take actions that will tackle deforestation through new policies and laws, enforcement of existing laws, halt corruption and create economic opportunities for local communities. Current attempts to address deforestation have been stalled due to lack of sustainable collaboration between stakeholders and policy makers.

T.R.E.E. Project which I Co-founded tends to fill the advocacy gap that requires educating these communities on the need to adopt voluntary tree planting as a culture to protect their environment and the linkage between various actors and stakeholders in the rural livelihood empowerment campaign"

► Ropo Egbeleke (CO-FOUNDER, T.R.E.E. Project, Nigeria.)

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"The primary thrust of T.R.E.E. Project is afforestation and agroforestry in regions where this is applicable. We are practically promoting this concept particularly around very vulnerable communities across the country. We are equally concentrating our advocacy energy at creating enough buzz within the private sector on the need for Environmental Social Responsibility (ESR). It is my own view for instance, that key private sector players, particularly multinationals in Africa need to make ESR a major component of their systems and corporate annual commitment.

Climate Change is real, and so are the several debilitating implications which are getting clearer daily. The quest for massive profits by big businesses and haphazard urbanization by developers is killing our environment silently and gradually. We are losing our forests and other forest resources faster now than anytime in human history. It is an environmental emergency that needs to be clinically addressed. We seriously have to mitigate the ugly outcomes.

An initiative like T.R.E.E. Project which I co-founded and promote with some of the brilliant minds in *Agronomy, Forestry and Earth Observation* is addressing this challenge of deforestation from afar.

We are approaching this afforestation and revegetation campaign with everything at our disposal academically, technologically, culturally and socio-economically. We are equally engaging the media extensively to give a voice to this efforts globally. It is a lifetime commitment and we are all in this for the long haul.

► Sola Kolawole mntip rtp (CO-FOUNDER, T.R.E.E. Project, Nigeria.)

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VISIT TO FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF NIGERIA (FRIN)



After months of research and strategic planning, the first step that T.R.E.E. Project took in 2017 in furtherance of its consultation with stakeholders in the environment and forest sector was to pay a scheduled technical visit to Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) on Monday 23rd October, 2017.

Highlight of the elaborate session was to discuss areas of collaboration and partnership with the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) which incidentally is the foremost forest research institution promoting afforestation and sustainable forest management across Nigeria.



Dr. Adeshola O. Adepoju, the Executive Director at Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) wholeheartedly received the Founders of T.R.E.E. Project, the duo of 'Sola Kolawole and 'Ropo Egbeleke.

The collaboration with FRIN based on the interactions during the visit will be all encompassing covering capacity building, focus groups, forest regeneration, and all other components of an MOU which will be signed later. Others include but are not limited to provision of free tree seedlings and technical support to smart forest communities.

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SYMBOLIC FLAG OFF AT AJOROSUN LOCAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AREA (LCDA), IBADAN, OYO STATE.



Chief Moruf Ogunjumo Adewale (Baale of Adeleye, Ajorosun LCDA), Repo Egbeleke, Hon. Yinka Adeyemi (Chairman, Ajorosun LCDA), Sola Kolawole and Chief Sulaimon Akinsola Oladepo (Baale Aja-Olorungbiji) and Dr. Mrs. Sola Ogunwande during the Symbolic Flag Off Ceremony of the T.R.E.E. Project at the Local Council Development Area, Olodo, Ibadan, Oyo State

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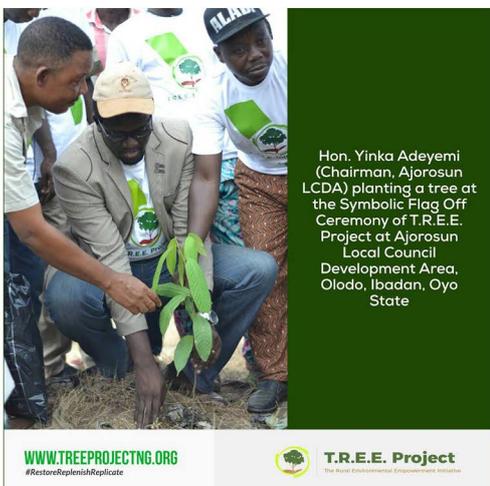


T.R.E.E. Project
The Rural Environmental Enhancement Initiative

After months of preparation, T.R.E.E. Project was symbolically flagged off on Thursday 16th November, 2017.

The goal of T.R.E.E. Project Symbolic Flag-off is to create awareness, to support communities and mobilize the populace to take a stand against deforestation and the depletion of forest resources.

The symbolic flag-off ceremony took place at the premise of an Old Maternity Centre built by the then Western Region Government at Olodo, Ajorosun LCDA, Ibadan in Oyo State.



Hon. Yinka Adeyemi (Chairman, Ajorosun LCDA) planting a tree at the Symbolic Flag Off Ceremony of T.R.E.E. Project at Ajorosun Local Council Development Area, Olodo, Ibadan, Oyo State

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The host Council Chairman, Hon. Yinka Adeyemi alongside the representative of the Oba of Olodo, Baale Aja-Olorungbiji Community, Chief Sulaimon Akinsola Oladepo, Baale Adeleye Village, Chief Moruf Ogunjumo Adewale Adeleye, farmers representatives and some other dignitaries were present at the event.

T.R.E.E. Project team consisting of 'Sola Kolawole, 'Ropo Egbeleke and Dr. 'Sola Ogunwande took turn to engage the participants at the ceremony. It was an interesting and engaging outing.

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COLLABORATIVE ADVOCACY PARTNERSHIP MEETING WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENT, OYO STATE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT.



Mayowa Adigun, Special Assistant to the Governor, Bureau of Statistics, 'Sola Kolawole Co-Founder T.R.E.E. Project with Chief Isaac Ishola, Honourable Commissioner for Environment and 'Ropo Egbeleke Co-Founder T.R.E.E. Project present a T.R.E.E. Shirt to the Commissioner after a pre-collaboration consultative meeting to promote afforestation and agroforestry advocacy at the Oyo State Ministry of Environment, Agodi, Ibadan.

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The Rural Environmental Empowerment Initiative

T.R.E.E. Project in pursuit of its commitment to promoting afforestation and sustainable re-vegetation as tools to mitigate the negative consequences of climate change caused by massive indiscriminate deforestation also met with the leadership of the Oyo State Ministry of Environment to exchange views on the terms of engagement between T.R.E.E. Project and the Ministry and other Stakeholders.

The interaction explored the possibility of sustainable productive collaboration with the Oyo State Ministry of Environment to fast-track the effort of the Initiative to create awareness on the dangers of deforestation and to extensively promote afforestation, agroforestry and forest conservation across the State effectively.



'Sola Kolawole and 'Ropo Egbeleke of T.R.E.E. Project at a pre-collaboration consultative meeting to promote afforestation and agroforestry advocacy at the Oyo State Ministry of Environment, Agodi, Ibadan.

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 **T.R.E.E. Project**
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The pre-collaboration consultative session to promote afforestation, re-vegetation and agroforestry was held with the Honourable Commissioner for Environment, Chief Isaac Ishola, the Special Assistant to the Oyo State Governor, Bureau of Statistics, Mayowa Adigun, T.R.E.E. Project Founders, 'Sola Kolawole and 'Ropo Egbeleke at the premise of the Oyo State Ministry of Environment at Agodi in Ibadan, Oyo State.

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ASSESSMENT VISIT TO IJEBU NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT, IJEBU-IGBO, OGUN STATE.



Executive Chairman, Ijebu North Local Government, Ijebu-Igbo, Ogun State. Hon. Adebayo Adekoya welcomes 'Ropo Egbeleke and 'Sola Kolawole of T.R.E.E Project during a field assessment visit to the local council ahead of the flag off of the afforestation and revegetation projects in communities around the local government area.

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Hon. Adebayo Adekoya , Executive Chairman, Ijebu North Local Government, Ijebu-Igbo, endorses T.R.E.E Project

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T.R.E.E. Project
The Social Environmental Empowerment Initiative

In continuation of T.R.E.E. Initiative afforestation advocacy drive, a series of tree planting programs and climate change mitigation workshops will be held for stakeholders in some selected communities across the country in 2018.

The Executive Chairman, Ijebu North Local Government, Ijebu-Igbo, Ogun State Hon. Adebayo Adekoya also played host to the T.R.E.E. Project team comprising 'Ropo Egbeleke and 'Sola Kolawole during a scheduled field assessment visit to the local council ahead of the flag-of the afforestation and revegetation initiative in communities around Ijebu North Local Government Area in 2018.

This region is peopled by the Ijebus, who live in the following major towns: Ijebu Igbo, Ago-Iwoye, Oru, Awa, Ilaporu, etc. There are several markets in the town but the most popular of them all is Station Market. With a population of over 300, 000 that covers a total area 967 km², several indigenes of the town engage in timber business so there are many sawmills in the town.

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ASSESSMENT VISIT TO IJEBU NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AREA (LCDA), ORU, OGUN STATE.



'Ropo Egbeleke of T.R.E.E. Project, Hon. Saheed Banjo (Secretary - Ijebu North Central LCDA), Hon. Adesola Adefisan (Executive Chairman - Ijebu North Central LCDA), Hon. Bayo Ogunbamowo (Vice Chairman - Ijebu North Central LCDA) and 'Sola Kolawole of T.R.E.E. Project during the onsite visit to Ijebu North Central LCDA, Oru, Ogun State ahead of the flag-off of the TREE Planting advocacy program in communities within the LCDA.

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T.R.E.E. Project
The Rural Environmental Empowerment Initiative

T.R.E.E. Project was at Ijebu North Central Local Council Development Area (LCDA) in continuation of her afforestation advocacy plan.

T.R.E.E. Project team was received at Ijebu North Central LCDA at Ijebu-Oru, Ogun State by the Executive Chairman, Hon. Adesola Adefisan.

T.R.E.E. Project team comprising 'Ropo Egbeleke and 'Sola Kolawole during the scheduled field assessment visit also met with key officials of the LCDA.



'Ropo Egbeleke of T.R.E.E. Project buttressing a point while 'Sola Kolawole, Hon. Adesola Adefisan, the Executive Chairman - Ijebu North Central LCDA, Hon. Bayo Ogunbamowo, the Vice Chairman - Ijebu North Central LCDA and Hon. Saheed Banjo the LCDA Secretary listens during the onsite visit to Ijebu North Central LCDA, Oru, Ogun State ahead of the flag-off of the TREE Planting advocacy program in communities within the LCDA.

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The visit was in anticipation of the flag-off of the afforestation initiative and set up of Climate Change focus groups in communities such as Oru, Awa, Ilaporu, Aparaki, Mamu/Ehin-Etiri and others around Ijebu North Central LCDA in 2018

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ASSESSMENT VISIT TO AGO IWOYE LOCAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AREA (LCDA), AGO IWOYE, OGUN STATE.



'Sola Kolawole of T.R.E.E. Project with Hon. Ayodele Bush Ademosu FCA, the Executive Chairman, Ago Iwoye Local Council Development Area, Ago Iwoye, Ogun State and 'Ropo Egbeleke of T.R.E.E. Project during the assessment visit and tour of villages within the LCDA ahead of the flag-off of the TREE Planting advocacy program in the area.

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 **T.R.E.E. Project**
The Social Environmental Engagement Initiative

T.R.E.E. Project was at Ago Iwoye Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Ago Iwoye, Ogun State in continuation of her afforestation advocacy plan.

T.R.E.E. Project team was received at Ago Iwoye Local Council Development Area (LCDA) by the Executive Chairman, Hon. Ayodele Bush Ademosu FCA.

T.R.E.E. Project team comprising 'Ropo Egbeleke and 'Sola Kolawole during the scheduled field assessment visit also met with key officials of the LCDA.

The visit was in anticipation of the flag-off of the afforestation initiative and set up of Climate Change focus groups in communities surrounding Ago Iwoye Local Council Development Area (LCDA) in 2018



'Ropo Egbeleke of T.R.E.E. Project with Hon. Ayodele Bush Ademosu FCA, the Executive Chairman, Ago Iwoye Local Council Development Area, Ago Iwoye, Ogun State and 'Sola Kolawole of T.R.E.E. Project exchanging views outside the Ago Iwoye LCDA Secretariat Annex during the assessment visit and tour of villages within the LCDA ahead of the flag-off of the TREE Planting advocacy program in the area.

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ASSESSMENT VISIT TO IJEBU IGBO WEST LOCAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AREA (LCDA), OJOWA, IJEBU IGBO, OGUN STATE



Secretary to the LCDA, Hon. (Alh) R.O. Odusina, T.R.E.E. Project Program Consultant in Holland, David Okwor, Head of Local Govt. Administration, Mr. A. A. Adenopo, Executive Chairman, Ijebu Igbo West LCDA, Hon. Adekambi Adegoke, the LCDA Vice Chairman, Hon. (Alh) Mukaila Animashaun, the LCDA Treasurer, Mr. O. E. Sobowale, 'Ropo Egbeleke Co-Founder T.R.E.E. Project, Director - General Services & Administration, Mrs. R. I. Olugbebi and 'Sola Kolawole, Co-Founder, T.R.E.E. Project during a scheduled assessment field visit to Ijebu Igbo West LCDA at Ojowa, Ogun State ahead of the flag-off of the afforestation initiative and set up of Climate Change focus groups in communities across the LCDA in 2018.

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T.R.E.E. Project
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In the last week of 2017, T.R.E.E. Project visited Ijebu Igbo West Local Council Development Area (LCDA) in Ogun State Nigeria in continuation of her afforestation advocacy implementation plan.

T.R.E.E. Project team was received at Ijebu Igbo West LCDA at Ojowa, Ogun State by the Executive Chairman, Hon. Adekambi Adegoke alongside the Council Vice Chairman, Hon. Mukaila Animashaun and the Secretary to the Local Council, Hon. R.O. Odusina.

T.R.E.E. Project team comprising 'Ropo Egbeleke, 'Sola Kolawole and David Okwor during the scheduled field assessment visit also met with key officials of the LCDA. This visit was in anticipation of the flag-off of the afforestation initiative and set up of Climate Change focus groups in communities across the LCDA in 2018.

The house to house advocacy campaign in the communities is scheduled to commence in February 2018 while the massive planting will start at the peak of the 2018 rain season across the community. Ijebu Igbo West LCDA was part of Ijebu North Local Government before it became an independent LCDA.



Executive Chairman, Ijebu Igbo West LCDA, Hon. Adekambi Adegoke here receives a complimentary T.R.E.E. Project T-shirt from 'Ropo Egbeleke and 'Sola Kolawole in his office during a scheduled assessment field visit to the LCDA Secretariat at Ojowa, Ogun State ahead of the flag-off of the afforestation initiative and set up of Climate Change focus groups in communities across the LCDA in 2018.

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TREE PROJECT FINANCIALS

Expenditure Details
(OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2017)

150,000.00	- Documentations and Registration
250,000.00	- Web Design, Hosting and Management (3 Months)
100,000.00	- Mobile Internet Router and Subscription (3 Months)
100,000.00	- Prints, Graphics and Photography
350,000.00	- Production of Materials (T-Shirts, Signs and Banners)
395,000.00	- Transportation
255,000.00	- Hotel Accommodation
100,000.00	- Meals, Airtime and Other Consumables
1,700,000.00	- Total

A total of N480, 000 was received as cash donation from several friends of T.R.E.E. Initiative between October and December 2017.

The balance of N1, 220,000.00 is the total amount contributed by the Founders of T.R.E.E. Initiative and outstanding bills for some of the vendors who provided services and materials for the Initiative during the period under review.

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CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

▶ JAN. – MAR. 2018 (Q1)

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Week 1						
Week 2				Strategy Session (11th Jan.)	Strategy Session (12th Jan.)	
Week 3						
Week 4					T.R.E.E Planting Program (26th Jan.)	
Week 5				Climate Change Workshop (2nd Feb.)		
Week 6			T.R.E.E Planting Program (7th Feb.)			
Week 7						
Week 8		Climate Change Workshop (20th Feb.)		T.R.E.E Planting Program (22nd Feb.)		
Week 9						
Week 10			T.R.E.E Planting Program (7th Mar.)			
Week 11	Climate Change Workshop (12th Mar.)					
Week 12			T.R.E.E Planting Program (21st Mar.)			
Week 13						