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Carbon Clear Showcase Project: TIST

Case Study: Raphael and Jesca Chinolo, Tanzania

Since 1999, The International Small Group & Tree Planting Program (TIST) has helped Small Groups of subsistence farmers in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and India to reverse the devastating effects of deforestation, drought and famine. TIST provides a communication and administrative structure that addresses education, health (including HIV/AIDS) and nutrition needs for its members.

Carbon Clear supports TIST's activities in Tanzania as we believe that they meet our guidelines for efficiency, additionality and long-term benefit to society. We particularly like the TIST approach because it works on a holistic socio-economic level, with greenhouse gas credits seen as an enabler for other social benefits, rather than an end in itself. To date the Small Groups organised and funded by TIST have planted over 700,000 trees in Tanzania alone.

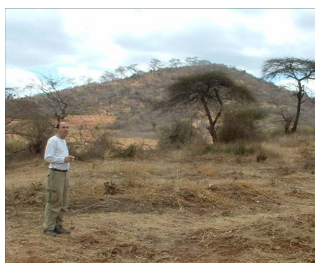
Raphael and Jesca Chinolo live in Chamkoloma village in the Mpwapwa district in central Tanzania. Their village is just off the dry and nearly treeless plains in a beautiful setting where the hills begin to rise gently. However much of this land in and around Chamkoloma has long been too barren to support farming. Four years ago Raphael and Jesca joined TIST to form their Small Group 'Mazingira'. With the farming and Small Group management training that they have received from TIST, their Group has since planted 44 tree groves containing over 2700 trees of 25 different species.

As Raphael walks around his tree groves, he is able to point out multiple nutritious, medicinal or agricultural uses for each of the tree species. For example, *Azadirachta Indica* or Neem, is drought resistant,

provides excellent shade, creates dry season fodder, helps improve the efficiency of nitrogen fixing plants, acts as a natural insect repellent for crops, and can suppress Salmonella Typhosa bacteria. Parts of the Neem tree are also used to treat boils, pimples, eye diseases, hepatitis, leprosy, rheumatism, ringworm, ulcers and malaria. In addition, Neem twigs function as disease-preventing toothbrushes and Neem oil as a powerful spermicide which is used as an inexpensive birth control method.

In addition to tree planting Raphael has also implemented TIST's conservation farming techniques. No matter how weak the rains, he states, he now always gets a bumper crop of maize. He has dug fish ponds, started keeping honey bees and cross-bred crops to create better varieties of vegetable and fruit plants. More recently he has invested the cash incentive tree payments from TIST towards building a small bio-gas reactor. This powers a few electric light bulbs that his family can now use to read by after dark.

Rafael's family have transformed their land, crop yields, food security, income and standard of living. Through this programme they have climbed the first rung of the ladder out of poverty. And their success has inspired other villagers to join in; today Chamkoloma has 21 Small Groups and over 18,279 trees to its credit.



Transforming the landscape into woodland. The first photo shows the view up a hill. The second shows the same hill from the other side, looking down at one of the Mazingira Small Group tree groves.