



Guidance for Mobilization Photos

Purpose

It is important during mobilization that prospective participants have a good understanding of what a Forest Garden is and what the program entails before committing to participate in the four-year project and converting their land to a Forest Garden. To help farmers visualize and better understand the program, we have put together a collection of photos for each country.

These are to accompany the Mobilization Module, to help technicians emphasize the key takeaways and help participants grasp what technicians are talking about. They can also be used during other trainings where relevant, to help participants understand and visualize some of the Forest Garden concepts, activities, expectations, and potential products. As much as possible, the pictures depict actual examples of Forest Gardens and project activities for each program country, or in the case of Kenya for both Homa Bay and Ikinu.

Printing

Each slide for your country or project can be printed on vinyl as a poster. They should be printed out at a size large enough for attendees to see clearly, but small enough to roll or fold up and carry around. **It is recommended to print the posters on vinyl at roughly 3x4 feet, or about 1x1.3 meters.**

Talking Points

Each poster is meant to depict important elements of the Forest Garden Program. These are to be used as visual aids to help farmers understand any number of things related to forest gardens, project activities, techniques, potential products, etc. They will also help manage expectations by clarifying what is expected of farmers over the course of the project and what they can expect to receive from TREES. Below are some talking points that can help guide the conversations around each poster, but technicians should use these to stimulate discussion on any number of program elements, both during mobilization or where helpful during training. Note that there are some slight variations among the poster sets for each country but the general setup is as follows:

What you can produce in your Forest Garden:

To accompany *Activity 1: Dream Field* in the Mobilization Meeting Facilitation Guide

- At the end of the Dream Field activity, after farmers have had the chance to share what they could produce in their 'dream' Forest Gardens, technicians can show this poster. Encourage farmers to identify which of the items they chose, and which they might not

have thought of. Some of the products on the posters, depending on the country, include:

- Fruits, vegetables, nuts, timber, posts, fuel wood, livestock, fodder, seedlings, compost, honey, medicine, and handicrafts.
- *Ask participants what else they could potentially produce that has not been brought up yet?*

What makes up a Forest Garden:

To accompany *Activity 2: Forest Garden System Design* in the Mobilization Meeting facilitation Guide:

- The pictures on this poster describe some of the primary elements that make up a Forest Garden. It is broken up into three columns:
 - The column of photos on the left represent some **agroforestry technologies**, including a living fence or green wall, permagarden, and alley cropping.
 - The middle column generally represents different **techniques and concepts** that can be incorporated into Forest Gardens including:
 - *Diverse layers* – like fertilizer plants and roots; ground covers; vines and climbers; vegetables and herbs; shrubs; medium (subcanopy) trees and tall (canopy) trees. By thinking about land as having vertical and temporal, as well as horizontal space, farmers can diversify, stagger and maximize production throughout the year.
 - *Soil and water conservation* – various techniques are possible to incorporate into Forest Gardens, to reduce erosion and enhance soil moisture. These can include contour trenches and bunds (*fanya juu*), which is taught in the program where relevant, as well as terraces, check dams, micro catchments, and more.
 - *Composting* and nutrient cycling, is something you will learn early on in the program. This allows farmers to turn forest garden residue into fertilizer that feeds more production.
 - *Integrated Pest Management (IPM)* –various techniques will be taught for managing pests and disease forest gardens, limiting reliance on expensive and harmful pesticides.
 - The column on the right gives a few examples of the various **types of trees** that are often planted in forest gardens, including fruit trees, timber trees, nut trees, fodder trees, trees for posts or fertilizer, etc.
NOTE: *These are just a few examples, so feel free to mention other relevant examples of technologies, techniques, concepts or trees that can be incorporated into Forest Gardens in your project area. Ask participants to name examples that they are aware of.*

What you do in the program:

To accompany *Activity 2: Forest Garden System Design* in the Mobilization Meeting Facilitation Guide

- This poster depicts some of the training modules and activities that farmers will engage in during the program. This can be shown when discussing the modules, and includes (depending slightly by country) things like:
 - *Forest Garden design* – where farmers will visualize and create designs for their Forest Gardens, which they will use as blue prints when establishing them
 - *Nursery establishment* – farmers will learn to establish and care for nurseries and seed beds for trees and vegetables, and will learn the best practices for planting the seedlings they raise into their Forest Gardens
 - *Grafting* – farmers can learn to produce and grow high-value fruit varieties through grafting
 - *Maintenance and care* – farmers will manage the different components of their Forest Gardens as they grow and mature. TREES technicians will provide on-going technical support during training events and through on-site mentoring throughout the program.

What you give to the program:

To accompany *Activity 3: Roles and Expectations* in the Mobilization Meeting Facilitation Guide

- It is your choice to participate in the Forest Garden program. If you do choose to, we hope that you will participate fully in the trainings, engage with the lessons, practice what you learn, and share your skills and knowledge with others. Some of the things you will be asked to contribute include:
 1. *Land* – you will be expected to convert your land to a Forest Garden, based on the designs you create and using the skills and knowledge you gain during training
 2. *Time* – you will be expected to participate in several training events throughout the year, over the course of four years. You will also spend time incorporating the various lessons you learn into your Forest Garden
 3. *Labor* – it requires quite a bit of work to raise and plant trees, and to establish the various elements of your Forest Garden

What you get from the program:

To accompany *Activity 3: Roles and Expectations* in the Mobilization Meeting Facilitation Guide

- TREES will provide you with the knowledge, skills, on-going technical support, and basic materials necessary to establish a Forest Garden. This generally includes:
 1. *Seeds* – including tree seeds, sacks, and some vegetable seeds needed to start your Forest Gardens
 2. *Nursery equipment* – during the first year farmers will receive the basic materials needed to raise and plant trees, including for example watering cans and wheel barrows. Other basic materials can be provided in subsequent years to ensure farmers have the necessary tools to maintain their forest gardens.

3. *Knowledge and Skills* – TREES will provide extensive training (3-4 per year) and mentoring to farmers over the course of the four-year program

Graduation

To accompany *Activity 3: Roles and Expectations* in the Mobilization Meeting Facilitation Guide

- After covering program criteria and expectations, technicians can show the final poster, which participants graduating from the Forest Garden program and receiving certificates and gifts that recognize their efforts and success.