



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

AGROFORESTRY DEPARTMENT

FONDAZIONE FORESTA FUTURA

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MACCO

1. Introduction

Mazingira Alliance for Community and Conservation (MACCO) is a non-profit organization based in Mang'ula, Kilombero District, Morogoro Region, Tanzania. Our mission focuses on promoting community-based conservation within the Kilombero landscape. Through our interventions, we aim to reduce dependence on forest resources among communities living adjacent to protected areas, thereby enhancing forest cover and restoring wildlife habitats.

MACCO implements its activities through four main thematic areas: agroforestry, environmental education (both in and out of schools), energy-efficient technologies, and establishing environmentally sustainable income-generating activities.

1.1 Project Update: Agroforestry Activities

The organization continues to implement the Agroforestry Project with strong support from Fondazione Foresta Futura. For the 2025/2026 period, the MACCO team successfully established nine tree nurseries across three districts - two in Kilombero (Mwaya and Kisawasawa), one in Kilosa (Msimba), and six in Mlimba (Mngeta, Isago, Mkangawalo, Itongowa, Kidete, Ikule) - where a variety of species were produced. These included species for firewood, timber, fruits, and income-generating crops such as cocoa and oil palm.

A total of **115,000 seedlings were produced in 2025** for distribution to agroforestry farmers in 2026. To promote sustainability, **30% of the seedlings** produced in seven nurseries in Mlimba and Kilosa will be **sold to other farmers in 2026**, creating a **revolving fund** to support seedling production in the following season.

This initiative targets communities living adjacent to protected areas, aiming to reduce their dependence on forest resources. Through the availability of planted trees, households will be able to access firewood within approximately three years and generate income from products such as palm oil and cocoa. This will ultimately reduce pressure on natural forests and contribute to sustainable forest management.

2. Progress and Achievements

2.1 Identification of Cocoa Farmers

In collaboration with local leaders, MACCO identified cocoa farmers from seven villages, with ten farmers selected from each village. In total, 70 (51% women) farmers were engaged in the project under the agroforestry activities.



Photos 1 & 2: The meeting held during the identification of farmers to participate in agroforestry activities in Kidete, Mlimba District.

2.1.1 Capacity Building for Agroforestry Farmers on GAP during the Preparation Stage of Tree Nursery Establishment and Seedling Transplanting

After selecting agroforestry farmers, capacity building was provided to 70 farmers on the establishment and management of tree nurseries prior to transplanting seedlings to their farms. In addition, on-farm training was conducted on proper transplanting techniques and post-transplanting seedling management.

A total of 213 cocoa farmers (77 women, 136 men) attended Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training sessions conducted on their farms. These included 70 new farmers (36 women, 34 men) and 143 existing farmers (41 women, 102 men). During these activities, farmers received practical, field-based training.

The training covered key Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) components, including improved cocoa tree management and harvesting techniques. More specifically, farmers received training on proper species selection, soil moisture improvement (mulching), pest and disease management, appropriate spacing, careful handling of seedlings during transplanting, and overall tree management. All sessions were conducted directly on farmers' fields to enhance practical learning and adoption of improved practices.



Photos 3 & 4: The MACCO team with agroforestry farmers in Itongoa Village during on-farm training.

2.2 Establishment of Tree Nurseries

MACCO established nine tree nurseries as outlined below, along with the number of seedlings produced in each location. Polythene tubes were distributed to each village based on the planned production capacity. Prior to the establishment of the nurseries, farmers were selected and trained on Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) to enable them to effectively manage seedling production for cocoa cultivation.



Photos 5 & 6: Group members during seedling production in Kidete Village (left) and Mkwangawalo Village (right).

Table No. 1: Seedling production for the year 2025 in 9 tree nurseries

Village Name	Seedlings Produced
Mngeta	15,000
Isago	16,000
Mkangawalo	17,000
Itongowa	15,000
Kidete	15,000
Ikule	15,000
Mwaya	7,000
Kisawasawa	7,000
Msimba	8,000
Total	115,000



Photos 7 & 8: Tree nurseries in Isago (left) and Kisawasawa (right) during seedling production.

2.3 Types of Species Collected This Season

Seeds were collected from local sources and/or supplemented through purchases to ensure diversity and quality. MACCO prioritized indigenous, fruit-bearing, and fast-growing species suitable for both agroforestry systems and timber production.

Some of the key species include:

- *Khaya anthotheca*
- *Cedrela odorata*
- *Theobroma cacao*
- *Azelia quanzensis*
- *Acacia mangium*
- *Dalbergia melanoxylon* (seeds collected and planted but not germinated)



Number of seedlings produced for each species:

Kilombero Nurseries	
Specie Name	No of species
<i>Khaya anthotheca</i>	9,700
<i>Acacia mangium</i>	9,832
<i>Sterculia africana</i>	13,114
<i>Syzigium cumini</i>	11,505
<i>Afzelia quanzensis</i>	3,100
<i>Cedrela odorata</i>	18,750
<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>	1,750
<i>Mangifera indica</i>	3,866
<i>Papaya carica</i>	108
<i>Persea americana</i>	1,120
<i>Citrus sineensis</i>	324
<i>Citrus limon</i>	2,615
<i>Citrus aurantiifolia</i>	95
<i>Citrus tangerina</i>	121
TOTAL	76,000
Mlimba tree nurseries <i>Theobroma cocoa</i>	31,000
Msimba tree nursery <i>Theobroma cocoa</i>	8,000
TOTAL	39,000
GRAND TOTAL	115,000

3. Supportive Supervision of Agroforestry Farmers

In 2025, the MACCO team conducted supportive supervision activities for agroforestry farmers in Mlimba and Kilombero Districts, as well as in Msimba Village, Kilosa District. A total of 200 farmers (47% women) received technical support during these supervision visits.

These activities focused on enhancing farmers' capacity in nursery management, tree planting, and sustainable agroforestry practices.



Photos 11 & 12: Progress of seedlings at Kidete Nursery (left) and Isago Nursery (right).



Photos 13 & 14: Seedling monitoring at Kisawasawa Nursery (left) and Mwaya Nursery (right).

Table No. 2: SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Objective	Indicator	Target	Achieved	% Achievement	Status
Objective 1	Farmers trained on GAP	70	70 (36F, 34M)	100%	✓ Achieved
	Nurseries established	9	9	100%	✓ Achieved
	Cocoa seedlings produced	111,000	115,000	104%	✓ Exceeded
	Farmers trained on GAP	200	213 (61F, 181M)	107%	✓ Exceeded

4.0 Lessons Learned

- **Strong Community Engagement is Critical** – The participatory approach, involving village leaders, extension officers, and farmers from the outset of the project, fostered strong ownership and commitment. This resulted in high participation rates and sustained engagement.
- **Women and Youth are Key Change Agents** – With 51% women representation in nursery groups and 30% youth participation, targeted inclusion created economic opportunities and supported project sustainability. Women and youth demonstrated high motivation and strong adoption of innovations.
- **Practical Training is Most Effective** – On-farm training proved more effective than classroom-based sessions, as farmers learn best by doing and observing real examples within their own context.
- **Collaborative Partnerships Enhance Impact** – Close collaboration with Mlimba, Kilosa, and Kilombero District Extension Officers, village leaders, and other stakeholders strengthened the project’s reach, credibility, and technical quality.

5. Recommendations

Based on the results achieved, it is recommended that the project continue and strengthen the provision of training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) for agroforestry farmers to enhance productivity, improve quality, and ensure the long-term sustainability of tree production, as the community demonstrated strong interest in producing and implementing these practices.

6. Next Steps for the year 2026

MACCO plans to:

- Continue monitoring seed germination and managing nurseries
- Distribute tree seedlings to agroforestry farmers
- Conduct survival rate evaluations for all farmers
- Provide on-farm training to all farmers
- Monitor the sale of seedlings to other farmers