

Abakunda Ikawa Rushashi Agroforestry Project, in Partnership with This Side Up Coffee, 2021-2022 Season Report

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Inputs:

9 kg *Calliandra calothyrsus* seeds
(approximately 14,000 seeds)
1 kg *Alnus acuminata* (approx. 800,000 seeds)
10 kg *Mucuna puriens*

Engagement:

10 Farm Field Schools and approximately 150 farmer were engaged on the project



Outputs:

Calliandra calothyrsus and *Mucuna puriens* seeds direct-sown in November and December. Over 15,000 *Alnus acuminata* seedlings remain in the nursery. They were not out-planted in fields due to late germination and dry conditions, but can be easily planted early in the current rainy season.

Impact:

A random sampling of 5mx5m plots on the Bulima pilot site reveals the following:

Sample	<i>Coffea arabica</i>	<i>Polsycias fulva</i>	<i>Caliandra calothyrsus</i>	<i>Mucuna puriens</i>
1	11	1	5	3
2	6	1	3	2
3	8	1	2	6
4	11	1	2	0
5	9	1	3	2
6	9	1	0	3
7	6	1	4	2
8	7	1	2	1
9	7	1	2	1
10	8	1	3	1

We have come a long way from the standard coffee monoculture. As trees grow and the canopy continues to close, this will be a dynamic and biodiverse coffee- agroforestry system. In most cases the ratio of agroforestry to coffee plants exceeds 1:2. The ground cover and nitrogen fixation provided by *Mucuna puriens* will be particularly important.

Recommendations for Further Action:



A massive out-planting of *Alnus acuminata* should take place as quickly as possible, now that the rains of have reliably returned.

Renew efforts at planting a wider of variety of indigenous/forest trees. This is often somewhat dependent on availability through the national seed bank in Huye.

Direct seed seeding seems to be a more efficient and economical way of propagating *Calliandra* than sowing in sacks.

Survival rates for both direct sowing and transplanting from tree sack, however, seem low.

Efforts should be made in the upcoming season to extend the system beyond the pilot site.