



Inside this Issue

January 2026

- Shs193m paid to over 3700 Farmers in Tree Survival Incentives
- 2500 Nursery Hubs established in 30 Districts
- 100 Parish Coordinators trained

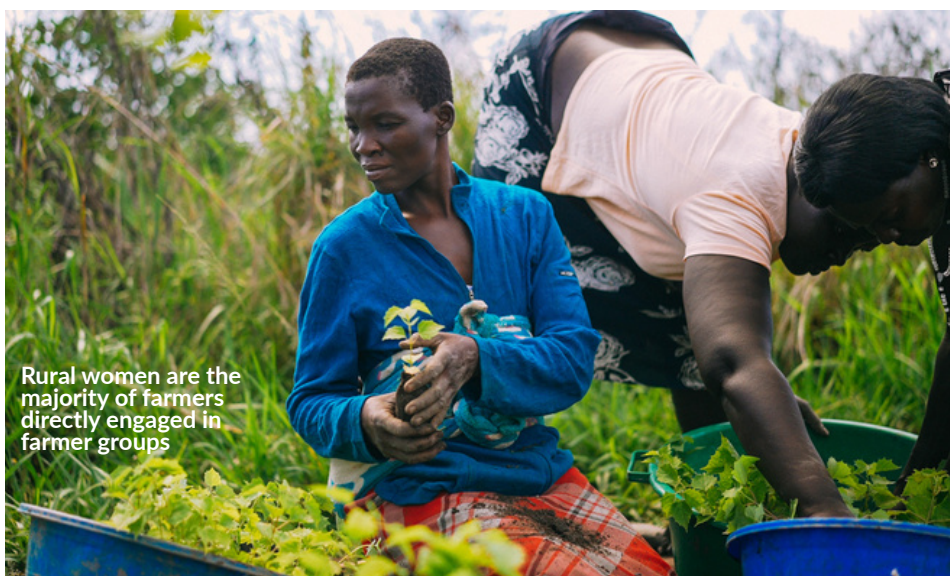
NEW GREEN DAWN

Kijani signs Landmark Carbon Removal Deal with Microsoft-Rubicon Carbon

GULU - Kijani Forestry, a social enterprise in reforestation and sustainable charcoal, has announced a groundbreaking carbon removal agreement with global technology giant Microsoft and Rubicon Carbon, a climate solutions platform. This partnership will channel significant investment into Kijani's agroforestry projects, empowering smallholder farmers and accelerating climate action in the region.

The multi-year contract signifies an essential moment for both climate finance and community development. By purchasing carbon removal credits generated through Kijani's farmer-managed tree plantations, Microsoft and Rubicon Carbon are directly supporting sustainable land use, enhanced livelihoods, and vital ecosystem restoration in Uganda.

Kijani's model focuses on empowering smallholder farmers to plant and manage commercial woodlots and indigenous trees on their own land, integrating them with food crops to enhance soil fertility and resilience. Farmers receive free seedlings, extensive training, and cash payments for tree survival, creating a powerful incentive for long-term forest stewardship. Brian Marrs, Senior Director of Energy & Carbon at Microsoft, said: "Microsoft is committed to becoming carbon negative by 2030.



Rural women are the majority of farmers directly engaged in farmer groups

Our collaboration with Kijani Forestry and Rubicon Carbon is a vital step in that journey, investing in nature-based solutions that not only remove carbon but also foster sustainable economic development in vulnerable communities. We are proud to support Kijani's innovative model in Uganda."

This partnership is set to dramatically increase the number of trees planted across Northern Uganda, creating sustainable income streams for thousands of smallholder farmers and establishing the region as a leader in climate resilience.



This is a Validation - Kijani CEO

This is a defining moment Microsoft and Rubicon Carbon have announced an agreement to deliver 2 million ARR carbon removal credits over the next nine years from our Smallholder Farmer Forestry Project here in Uganda. This is not just a deal. It is validation. It confirms that the world's largest corporate buyer of carbon removals trusts the integrity of our work, the strength of our systems, and the impact created alongside more than 50,000 smallholder farmers.

Global leaders are choosing Kijani because of the discipline, transparency, and relentless effort each of you brings every day. We are entering a new chapter — one defined by scale, credibility, and global recognition. Thank you for building something the world believes in. Let's keep going.
Quinn Neely
Chief Executive Officer
Kijani Forestry Limited

2026 Targets

- 👉 30million Trees Planted
- 👉 25,000 Bags of Biochar
- 👉 5,000 Hectares Restored



From Smoke to Soil

Kijani is Turning Waste into Wealth



Every dry season, smoke rises across Northern Uganda as crop residue is set alight. Sorghum stalks, maize stalks, and simsim stems are fired to clear fields for the next planting. While this practice may seem efficient, it gradually undermines the soil. Nutrients are lost, soil organic matter declines, and communities are left breathing in smoke.

Kijani's latest innovation is on-field biochar production using flame-curtain kilns - a conical pit one meter deep in which crop residue is burnt into biochar. This method greatly reduces harmful emissions and produces a stable form of carbon that greatly fertilizes the soil. Biochar strengthens soil structure, improves water retention during dry periods, and helps crops access nutrients more effectively.

For farmers facing declining soil fertility and unpredictable rainfall, these improvements translate into more resilient gardens and better harvests.

What was once treated as waste becomes a resource that supports both productivity and environmental protection. In the coming months, Kijani will expand biochar production and use out of Gulu District into Nwoya and Omoro Districts.

Beside Kijani's innovative agroforestry approach for sustainable wood-fuel and Timber production, Kijani Biochar is now addressing the open burning problem and restoring soil fertility. Kijani Biochar is taking yet another step toward cleaner air, healthier land, and stronger rural livelihoods.



Kijani pays over Shs190m to farmers for keeping trees alive

Up to 3,700 smallholder farmers have so far been paid a total of sh193.9m in Annual Tree Survival Incentives in Acholi and Lango Sub-Regions. The incentive payment is the first of three income streams a Kijani farmer earns.

The second income stream comes from the harvest of sustainable wood-fuel for green charcoal and timber. Long-term earnings from Carbon Credits kick in from year 10 onwards for the next 40 years.

Starting 2025, Kijani rolled out a plan to incentivize farmers' tree growing efforts by paying an Annual Tree Survival Incentive for verified trees at the end of each growing year. The incentive encourages farmers to protect trees from wildfires and roaming livestock.

Kijani's 65,000 farmers spread across 27 districts in Acholi, Bunyoro, Karamoja Lango and Teso Sub-Regions are regularly updated on Tree Survival Incentive payments through radio adverts and phone calls to farmers groups. The farmers in turn reach out to Kijani through tool free line (0800-254-254).

Kijani works with farmer groups averaging 15-20 farmers each.

Michael Tebere, the Director for Government and Partner Relations in Kijani Forestry says, "Our Annual Tree Incentive Payments is an innovative way of motivating farmers to take up innovative agroforestry and join the new Green Economy. It is our way of integrating purpose in people for the planet and for profit."

Protecting their Gains

In a bid to ensure farmers protect their woodlots from wildfire, Kijani Forestry has partnered with 8 radio stations in the greater Northern Region to disseminate information on fire protection.

The message running on the airwaves in Acholi, Lango and Teso Sub Regions encourages farmers to make keep woodlots clear of dry grass besides maintaining a wide enough fire-line.

To receive the incentive payment, a farmer must have kept their woodlots safe from wildfire and roaming livestock.



Editorial Team

Editor/Layout
David Labeja
Manager Communication
and Public Relations

Advisory/Proofreader
Michael Tebere
Director Government and
Partner Relations

Executive Editor
Quinn Neely
Chief Executive Officer

Contact us
Plot 75/79, Jomo Kenyatta Road
P.O Box, 1259, Gulu
Email: news@kijaniforestry.com

2,500 Nursery Hubs so far established for 2026 target of 30m Trees

Kijani Forestry has so far established 2,592 Community Nursery Hubs across 18 districts to facilitate the planting of 30million trees, the target for 2026. Last year's target was 20 million trees.

The nurseries, established on land owned by a farmer in each group, is co-established and managed by Kijani's Parish Coordinators and the farmers themselves. "We provide technical know-how and inputs like tree seeds, potting bags and watering cans. The farmers provide land and building materials for the nursery structures. In this way our farmers learn innovative agroforestry approaches and take ownership of the trees they grow," says Sam Obur, Manager of Plantation Development at Kijani.

Kijani plants and grows indigenous and adapted tree species. Woodfuel species include *Acacia polyacantha* (White Thorn), *Albizia lebbek* (East Indian Walnut), *Terminalia glaucescens* (Velvet Leaf) and *Markamia lutea* (Nile Tulip). Timber species include *Gmelina arborea* (White Teak), *Khaya anthotheca* (Mahogany), *Maesopsis eminii* (Musizi) and *Melia azedarach* (Giant Lira).

More than 6.7m bags have so far been potted for raising seedlings of the different wood-fuel and timber tree varieties. Farmer group members participate in all Nursery Hub processes, thus contributing their labor as equity. This innovation makes tree planting and growing affordable to smallholder farmers.



An intern Student carries a load of seedlings ahead of planting



A farmer in Paicho transplants a tree she received from the nursery

At Kijani, producing strong and healthy seedlings starts with proper site selection. A nursery site must have a permanent water source that does not interfere with community use, be easily accessible, gently sloping, well-drained, and exposed to full sunlight. Clear land-use agreements must be secured before establishment.

Constructing the beds

During nursery construction, beds are aligned east-west on well-drained ground. Standard transplant beds measure 10m x 1m, partitioned every 2 meters. Shade structures are constructed using 75cm and 100cm poles to ensure proper slope and protection. All nurseries must be separate from private facilities.

For potting, soil is dug to a depth of 10cm (one hoe blade deep), preferably from under vegetation, then sieved to remove undecomposed materials.

Potting is done strictly within nursery hub boundaries. Each pot is filled $\frac{3}{4}$ with slightly moist soil and firmly pressed, then the remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ is lightly firmed to ensure the soil fills the pot completely to the brim with no gap.

The Seedbeds

Seedbeds measuring 5m x 1m are prepared and sterilized by burning dry grass one day before sowing. Tree Seeds must be stored off the floor, protected from direct sunlight and moisture, and sown within one week of receipt.

After the right species-specific pretreatment, seeds are sown on raised beds, lightly covered with sand or sieved soil, and watered immediately.

The Pricking and Planting process

During pricking, we ensure pots are weeded and shaded. The seedbeds and pots are properly watered beforehand.

From Nursery to Garden: Tree Planting the Kijani Way

The Transplanting Process

Seedlings with two true leaves are transplanted during cool hours of the day using clean water containers and are watered immediately after planting.

The Kijani Practice

Routine care includes watering twice daily (except after heavy rains), regular weeding, hygiene maintenance, sorting by size and species, culling unhealthy seedlings, root pruning when necessary, and gradual hardening off by reducing shade and watering frequency.

Before distribution, seedlings are graded and properly watered 6-12 hours before transportation.

Seedlings are transported upright, and held by the pot, never by the stem. Seedlings are distributed only to present farmers and accurate records of the number and species planted are kept. Strong nursery management ensures high survival.

Kijani staff trained in Local Government Engagement and Reporting



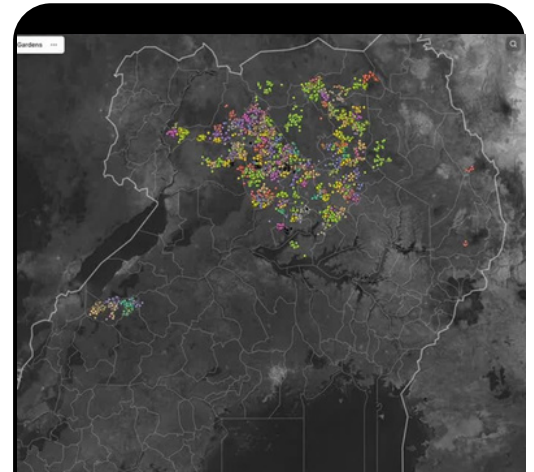
-The Department of Government and Partner Relations in Kijani Forestry set the tone for local government engagement and reporting in a 2-day training workshop with its field-based staff. The workshop brought together a total of 60 staff, including Regional and Area Coordinators, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Staff, as well as Call Centre Operators.

Speaking during evaluation of the training, Regional Coordinators said; "We learnt of critical engagements that we in the private sector have to undertake with District officials. Key ones are Inception Meetings, Sector Working Group Meetings, Council and Committee Meetings, all of which are critical in our partnership"

Michael Tebere, The Director Government and Partner Relations said the objective of the workshop is to align Kijani's annual calendar of activities to the local government engagement and reporting calendar.

"Our intention is to ensure regular reporting of farmer tree planting and growing through the Districts to the Ministry's Water and Environment Information System (WEIS). Data for over 50,000 farmers across 21 districts is ready to be uploaded onto the WEIS," said Tebere.

The department intends to cascade the training to Branch Coordinators and Parish Coordinators in the course of the year to enable similar engagement and reporting at Sub-County Levels as well.



Growing Together: The Kijani Story

In the heart of Northern Uganda, a green revolution is taking root. What began as a bold vision to reforest the land and restore livelihoods has blossomed into one of the largest and most transparent tree-planting enterprises in the country.

Our reach is best understood through the hands that tend the trees. Today, Kijani Forestry is proud to partner with over 65,000 smallholder farmers across five Sub-Regions of Northern Uganda: Acholi, Bunyoro, Karamoja, Lango and Teso. These aren't just participants; they are the architects of a greener future for Uganda.

By organizing into community-based Farmer Groups, our partner-farmers have moved from subsistence agriculture into a new *Green Economy*.

Since our journey began in 2018, we have achieved milestones that once seemed impossible:

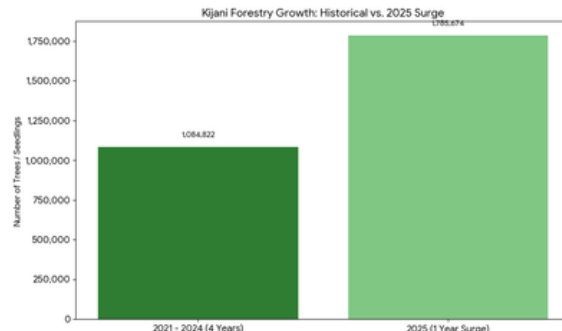
- 17 million+ Trees Planted and growing with smallholder farmers:
- 1,000 hectares of degraded land restored into thriving biodiverse forestland.
- 8 million Indigenous Tree Seeds collected and distributed through our central seedbank.
- 3,745 Nursery Hubs established with farmers in communities across 5 Sub-Regions in Northern Uganda.
- 200 Farmers piloting the revolutionary On-Field Biochar Production-and-Use Model for soil conservation.
- Over 700 interns recruited from communities and trained as Parish Coordinators to work with farmers.
- Over Shs190m paid in Annual Tree Survival Incentives to farmers so far.
- Signing of farmer contracts ongoing to guarantee offtake of wood fuel and timber as well as long-term Carbon Credits payments.
- A tollfree call center (0800-254-254) available Monday to Friday (9:00am -5:00pm) providing client access.

The Oyam District Surge

A story of Success for farmers

Data from our partner district of Oyam has demonstrated that farmers can outdo themselves in tree planting.

Between 2021 and 2024, our community in Oyam laid a solid foundation, planting a remarkable 1,084,822 trees. But in the year 2025, a staggering 1,785,674 seedlings are now finding homes in the soils of member's farms. Kijani works with families organized into 76 active groups in the district. The groups choose names that reflect their hope and resilience, such as *Note en teko* (Unity is Strength), *Obanga ber* (God is Good), and *Bed iworo* (have respect).



One example is the *Atek iyen* Farmers Group in Oyoro Village. This group alone has successfully planted over 30,400 trees, demonstrating what a community with a shared green vision can do.

Other groups like *Obanga amio* and *Mara ber* are not far behind, proving that our Nursery Hub model is working exactly as intended—putting the power of restoration directly into the hands of the people.