

## The CEO's welcome note



*Mbarwa Kivuyo - IFTz Managing Director*

Dear esteemed reader,

**WELCOME TO** the second edition of The Livelihoods Herald! We are excited to bring you another insightful issue that explores vital topics and showcases inspiring initiatives related to sustainable livelihoods.

In this edition, we reflect on agroforestry in the context of climate change. As our planet continues to face the challenges of climate change, it is crucial to explore and understand the efforts being made to adapt to these changes. Agroforestry, promoted by IFTz and her main supporters such as Vi Agroforestry and Bread for the World (BftW), could be among the options to restore the lost glory of the planet.

We also define and briefly discuss the power of using village bylaws to diffuse land conflicts in our project areas. We draw experience from a village where the community won a court case after citing approved

environmental bylaws and regulations set to govern land use plans. This example can be scaled up to reach other neighboring villages in Kondoa, Chemba, Bahi and elsewhere in the country.

At IFTz, we try various technologies to reduce human suffering and improve people's livelihoods. One of the approaches to extend a helping hand to communities is to provide education through correspondence courses. Farmers who want to take courses on leadership and agriculture can register to receive reading materials and graded examinations. While we continue offering the courses using the conventional methods of posting reading materials to our readers, we have recently come up with a better system. We have embarked on a journey towards a digitalized correspondence course approach. You will read more about it in this edition.

We hope that this edition of The Livelihoods Herald serves as a source of inspiration, knowledge, and motivation for all our readers. Our field staff have invested time to bring you the most up-to-date and relevant information about ongoing development activities in our project area. As we strive to build a more sustainable future, it is essential to highlight successful endeavors and encourage further dialogue and collaboration.

Thank you for joining us on this exciting journey. With your continued support, we can make a positive and lasting impact on the lives of our target group. Let's be the source of hope for many men, women, youth and the underrepresented minorities.

For more information, visit our website us at [www.inadesfo.net/tanzania/en](http://www.inadesfo.net/tanzania/en)

Enjoy your reading!

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# Agroforestry in the context of climate change

THE WORLD is witnessing adverse effects of climate change, with desertification and land degradation posing significant challenges, particularly in semi-arid regions. Recently, a mudslide in Hanang', Manyara region, claimed the lives of 65 people, leaving others injured and many went missing. No wonder such a disaster is associated with the effects of climate change.

However, hope lies in a combination of many interventions, including the IFTz-promoted innovative and sustainable practices such as agroforestry. Agroforestry techniques offer a promising solution to turn barren lands into flourishing green belts that not only combat desertification but

also provide numerous environmental, economic, and social benefits.

Agroforestry is an integrated land use management system that combines the cultivation of trees with crops, livestock, and other agricultural practices. By strategically planting trees on semi-arid lands, we can create microclimates that foster the growth of various vegetation, enabling the transition from barrenness to a green oasis.

The success of transforming semi-arid lands into green belts heavily relies on selecting the appropriate tree species. Water scarcity is a common challenge in semi-arid regions, thus the application of rainwater harvesting technologies and micro catchments are

inevitable. Constructing small dams or trenches allows rainwater to be collected and stored, which can then be used to irrigate the trees and associated crops during dry seasons. This method helps to improve soil moisture levels and ensures the survival of plant life in these arid conditions.

Agroforestry techniques emphasize crop diversification and intercropping. By combining trees, crops, and livestock, farmers can maximize productivity and utilize available resources more efficiently. The trees provide shade and windbreaks, reducing evaporation rates and protecting crops from extreme weather conditions. Additionally, intercropping legumes, such as beans or peas, with tree species helps enrich the soil with nitrogen, benefiting both the trees and the associated crops.

Semi-arid lands often suffer from degraded soils, characterized by low fertility and high erosion rates. Employing soil management and conservation practices is vital in agroforestry projects. With the support of Vi Agroforestry, so much has been achieved in Kondoa, Dodoma region. Techniques like mulching, contour plowing, and terracing have helped retain soil moisture, prevent soil erosion, and enrich soils.

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*Intercropping practice is common in semi-arid areas of Kondoa and Chemba districts.*



# Village bylaws help to diffuse land conflicts in Inades-Formation's project areas



A village council & environmental committee at Pongai village in Chemba district

**CONFLICTS ARE** an inevitable part of human interaction, occurring at various levels and in diverse settings. In many cases, the lack of clear guidelines and regulations contributes to the escalation of land conflicts. Land disputes are a common source of conflicts in rural areas, often leading to long-standing tensions among villagers. However, in IFTz project areas, the implementation of village bylaws has proven to be an effective tool in diffusing land conflicts and maintaining harmonious community relations.

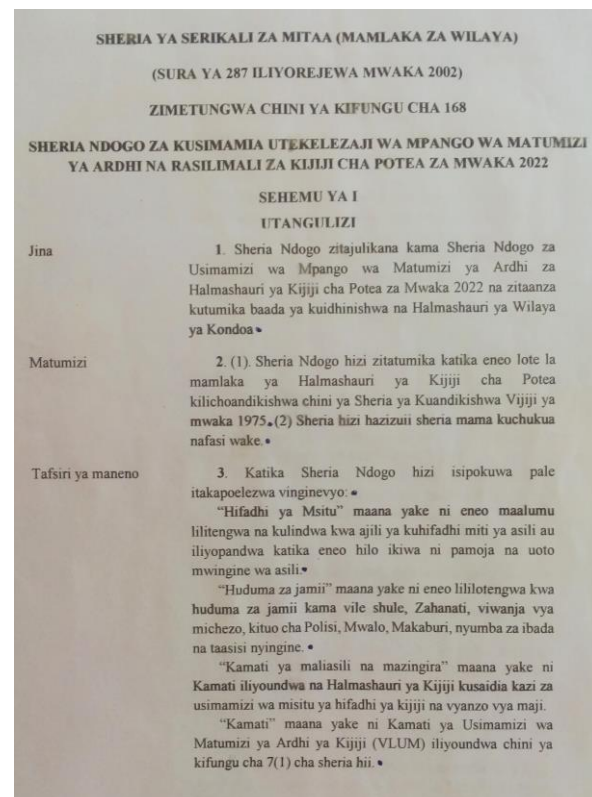
Village bylaws are a set of rules and regulations established by the community members themselves to govern their daily life and address specific issues that may arise. These bylaws are typically created through a participatory and consultative process that engages all villagers [sometimes with minimum external facilitation], ensuring their opinions and concerns are considered.

Village bylaws play a crucial role in preventing and resolving such conflicts by clearly defining land ownership, boundaries, and usage rights. By providing legal recognition to traditional land tenure systems and establishing procedures for dispute resolution, village bylaws offer a structured approach that prevents land-related conflicts from spiraling out of control. With the assistance of IFTz, Potea village in Kondoa district enacted environmental protection bylaws to support the implementation of village's land use plans.

Potea is one of the 10 villages where IFTz is implementing a three-year climate change adaptation project with financial support from Bread for the

World. In this village, the community has recently applied the bylaws to restore their grabbed land without waging any physical war. Due to lack of respect, individuals with financial power decided to invade the village grazing land, turning it into farms for agricultural activities. Since this violated the village land use plans, the village leaders filed a court case at Pahi Division Primary Court to demand for the return of their grazing land.

During the trial, the primary court used existing village land use plans, the village environmental action plan and environmental protection bylaws to arrive at the court judgement. All the evidence clearly proved that individuals who turned the village grazing land into personal farming land violated the law and were ordered to return the land to the village. On the judgement day on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2023, Potea village peacefully restored its grazing land from financially powerful tycoons.



Official environmental bylaws document of Potea.

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## Inades-Formation's Correspondence Course programme: Piloting the shift from analogue to a digital platform

**REVOLUTIONIZING CORRESPONDENCE** Course programme has been an exciting undertaking. With the support of Bread for the World (BftW), the team of Inades-Formation Tanzania (IFTz), is set to launch an innovative digital platform for the delivery of correspondence courses.

This pioneering initiative aims to provide quality education and skill development opportunities to the target group of IFTz. By embracing technology, this project promises to revolutionize the way correspondence courses are accessed and completed, opening doors for countless individuals to enhance their knowledge and skills.

The digital platform is accessible on mobile-based interface (android) and on a web reporting dashboard contains a list of all training materials provided by IFTz. It also integrates a payment system linked to a vendor of IFTz's choice. The web dashboard for reporting purposes allows staff of IFTz to see subscriptions, payment reports, and subscriber's progress on the trainings. It also allows them to add new materials, edit or remove existing training materials.

The traditional correspondence model had its limitations, such as slow delivery and limited interaction between students and instructors. With the support of BftW, the digital platform will enhance the accessibility and effectiveness of the correspondence courses. Unlike traditional correspondence courses, the digital platform will incorporate interactive elements such as discussion forums, live webinars, and video tutorials. This will foster engagement and collaboration

among students, enabling them to connect with peers and instructors, thus creating a vibrant virtual learning community. Also, the assessment of the students will be done via the system hence this will ease the process of marking the assessment sheet of the student and the results will be given out timely.

*Questions for assessment in the system*

The new platform will eliminate the delays associated with traditional correspondence courses. Students will gain instant access to course materials, enabling them to begin their studies immediately. Additionally, submitted assignments and assessments will be processed efficiently, providing timely feedback to students, allowing for dynamic learning progress.

Recognizing the importance of accessibility, the digital platform will be mobile-responsive. This means students can access course materials and participate in discussions using their smartphones or tablets, ensuring that education is available to learners even in remote areas with limited access to computers.

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