

Ateker Transformation and Sustainability Initiatives (ATSI)

Ateker Transformation and Sustainability Initiatives (ATSI) is a company limited by guarantee. It was incorporated in September 2020. ATSI is located in Soroti City (West), with major operations in Soroti, Amuria and Katakwi Districts of Teso Sub region. The company establishment was premised on basic understanding that Uganda's population is steadily growing and exerting immense pressure on economic, social, political and ecologic resources; consequently the poverty levels are high, natural resources base is reducing, social cohesion is generally reducing and cultural heritage is being lost, therefore the general increase in population is affecting human welfare holistically. To address the various issues related to; social, economic, political and ecological development; building community resilience and natural resources management for human dignity calls for pragmatic efforts that embrace; Research & Innovations, Sustainable productivity, promotion of human and resource rights as well as ecological integrity.

ATSI was born out the need to rethink the farming environment by focusing on the health and productivity of the producer, consumer and the production system, address knowledge gaps that perpetuate low agricultural productivity and more emphatically reconnect the way farming is done to nature based processes so as to create resilience. Therefore, ATSI more boldly works on advancing Agroecology, promoting traditional knowledge in farming as well as creating an environment for socio-cultural and economic empowerment

ATSI is run and managed by a team of competent professionals with expertise in Agricultural Research and Agribusiness Development. The two disciplines of agriculture research and agribusiness are run through a collaborative, client driven, and overly adaptive and responsive processes. The competence and approach to agricultural research for development work places ATSI at the crucial position of steering the most desired path to community transformation and sustainability and certainly the team is more emboldened by the desire to promote sustainable transformative development in whatever they lay their hands on.

Vision

ATSI envisions; *Sustainably Productive and Resilient Community*

Mission

Committed to create resilient and healthy societies by promoting conservation and use of natural resources, engage in collaborative client driven research and enhance context based innovations and technologies development and advancement

Core values

- Transparency and accountability
- Responsibility and governance
- Respect and Honesty
- Empathy and sacrifice
- Equity, rights and social justice
- Impact and direction

What we do

ATSI work center around the following themes

- 1. Resilient and Sustainable livelihoods;** this embraces, Economic empowerment, Food and nutrition security, Climate change adaptation and mitigation, water hygiene and sanitation
- 2. Research and innovations;** We promote Innovation platforms, Farmer research networks, adaptive and applied technologies for development and Technology development and promotion.
- 3. Advocacy, Lobby and good governance;** our work in this area embraces, human and natural resource rights, participatory vulnerability and risks analysis and management, gender equity and empowerment and responsive governance
- 4. Knowledge generation and management.** This involves, training and development, wide-scale consultancy services to private and government entities

Projects implemented so far

| Project name | Project focus | Areas served | Status |
|---|--|---|---------------------|
| Utilisation of locally available resources for increased productivity of Cereal-legume cropping system in Eastern Uganda | Develop local bioinoculants/biostimulants for finger millet, Groundnuts and sorghum production | Soroti | Closed |
| Harnessing small grain cereals and legume cropping systems to enhance food security and ecosystem resilience among smallholder farmers in the drylands of Uganda | Conduct On-farm trial and evaluation of sorghum multi-stress lines Conduct Stakeholders mapping and engagement for agroecology transisition Develop community seed access model Develop soil fertility and striga management packages | Soroti, Amuria and Bukedea | Closed |
| Building resilient Agroecological small grain cereal system in eastern Uganda. | Out scaling agroecology approach for management of soil fertility and striga weed Pilot labour saving technologies for inclusive small grain cereals productivity Pilot agroecolgical marketing models for small grain cereals seeds, grain and biofertilisers | Amuria Ngora Pallisa | Running (2022-2024) |
| Co-creating knowledge to enhance food security and ecosystem resilience in small grain cereals and legume cropping systems among smallholder farmers in the drylands of Eastern Uganda. | Enhancing community access to improved seeds of sorghum for food and income security Developing community-based soil fertility management approaches | Soroti Amuria Katakwi | Running (2022-2024) |
| Optimising the use of Bioinoculants; Their role in sorghum production and protection in Uganda and Tanzania. | Assess farmers management of organic nutrient resources for sorghum productivity Assess microbial functional performance of farm-made bioinoculants for sorghum growth Determine effect of farm-made bioinoculants for management of sorghum stem borers | Soroti (Ug) Pallisa (Ug) Singida (Tz) | Running (2023-2025) |
| Inclusive Learning, Co-creation and Sharing of knowledge on Transitioning to Agroecology catalyzed by access to markets | Co-create agroecology market models for economically viable agroecology transitions Foster market development for agroecology products | Soroti Bukedea Ngora | Running (2024-2025) |
| Harnessing the potential of locally-made bio-inoculants for improving the productivity of cereal-legume system of Teso sub region | Build capacity for farm-made bioinoculants production Support infrastructure development for production and utilization of farm-made bioinoculants Enhance University-community outreach through student on-farm research | Soroti | Closed |



Figure 1: Engaging Farmers in participatory evaluation of soil fertility options for finger millet production in Pallisa



Figure 2: Community members engage in farm resource flow mapping



Figure 3: Building Capacity of students (interns) in farm resource flow mapping



Figure 4: Moses Orono (Awaliwal Soroti) assessing maturity of sorghum seed