

Project Update: May 2014

This report focuses on awareness creation and sharing of experience on the local and global value of *Cassia fikifiki*. It brought together 38 participants from the project and three adjacent communities. There was parade with participants holding posters on which *Cassia* conservation messages were written.

Value of *Cassia fikifiki* outlined by participants

1. One of the participants indicated that his grandmother used the bark of *C. fikifiki* with other leaves to treat cataract and he continues to use it to date.
2. The bark can be harvested dried and soaked in water or alcoholic drink and the solution is used to treat malaria.
3. An elderly man indicated that the bark can be used to treat problem of the womb to activate conception.
4. The bark soaked in palm wine for an hour or two and drank regularly cures gonorrhoea. Another name discovered for *C. fikifiki* is '**Quiqui**' (Bassa dialect).

The concluding statement was given by the chief elder of the district, Old Man Beh Tiloe who disclosed that a local organisation, Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) has been creating awareness about the value of the forest in the district and communities are gradually turning away from farming in the primary forest to secondary forest. "Now with the intervention of FESSA, we will advise all our citizens to stop cutting down *Cassia fikifiki*", he paused.

Next Activity

Site selection and establishment of *Cassia* and other useful trees garden.

