



CSCNR launches fruit tree plantation amid community call for resumption of gas flaring in Paloch Oil Field.

Melut, Upper Nile State – 10 June 2026, the Civil Society Coalition on Natural Resources, in collaboration with Norwegian People Aid (NPA), launched a plantation of 100 fruit trees at Laglag Nursery and Primary School, with participation from county authorities, school teachers, community leaders, youth and women's groups.

The launch aimed to increase knowledge and community awareness of environmental protection and climate change resilience.

Voices from the Ground

During the event, the Acting Executive Director of Melut County, **Mr Monywaar Padiet**, appreciated the role played by the coalition and its partner, NPA in raising awareness of environmental protection and the impact of climate change. He also raised concern over the sudden cessation of gas flaring in the Paloch oil field.

“As we gather to participate in the launch of the tree planting initiative, today is a special day for the agriculture, forestry, and health sectors in Melut County. Do you know why it is special? It is because we want to preserve our environment. In Melut, we are suffering from environmental problems resulting from petroleum activities and, more recently, methane gas (CH₄), which used to be flared in OBC. Now, flaring has ceased and is no longer taking place. Therefore, the gas disperses and its effects reach us, just as when you throw a stone into a river and the ripples spread far and wide”.

“We are working in collaboration with UNYDA, who always support us in environmental protection, and we thank them. They are coming to raise awareness, train us, and further inform us that if the oil company does not protect your environment, you can plant trees to protect yourselves. That is why we have come to plant trees in your school”.



My message to the school administration is to protect these trees. My second message is to the students: the trees planted today should not be removed – listen to me carefully – because they help your environment and also protect against diseases. I urge the school administration to ensure the trees planted are properly fenced.

The Chairperson of the Civil Society Coalition on Natural Resources, Mr Charles Judo, in his remarks, said that today UNYDA, in collaboration with NPA and county authorities, is launching a tree plantation at Laglag Nursery and Primary School. Tree planting is part of environmental protection and climate change adaptation; we are trying to adapt ourselves to the environment in which we live. For students, it is necessary to live in a favourable environment. Therefore, we aim to raise community awareness of environmental protection and climate change adaptation, noting that the target beneficiaries are key public institutions, including schools, churches, mosques, and hospitals.

He urged students and school administrations to take ownership of and conserve the fruit trees being planted in their schools. He also asked school administrations to form school protection and hygiene clubs, where students will be guided and given basic information on the protection and daily watering of the fruit trees being planted.

The Deputy Director of County Education Ustaz Bayak Teng in his speech welcome the gathering and thanks and appreciated the students and school administration of Laglag school for well preparation and organization of the event and urged students to help preserve the environment through continuous tree plantation and protection. He further supported the idea of forming Environmental and Hygiene club to help in preserving trees in schools

Training 37 participants on environmental protection and climate change resilience.

On the same day, 37 participants received training to enhance their knowledge and skills in environmental protection and climate change resilience. Stakeholders were mobilised from county authorities, police, community leaders, teachers, Community Development Committee, youth, and women's groups. Participants in the workshop demonstrated a broad understanding of



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the science of climate change, its causes, environmental protection skills, and the manifestations of climate change in South Sudan. Key recommendations included:

- Strengthening the capacity of the government and communities in Melut County and South Sudan as a whole to adapt to climate change.
- Improving networking and coordination among stakeholders.
- Engaging in the construction of climate-resilient infrastructure, such as roads, dykes, and dredging of tributaries, to protect communities and create safe areas for humanitarian delivery.
- Establishing climate-smart agriculture, irrigation systems, and a climate early warning system to prepare people before a flood occurs.
- Equipping meteorological stations and building the capacity of their staff to provide early warning of impending drought or flood events.

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