



Conference Key Highlights and Way forward



Key Highlights Session I

- Commercial Forestry provides a clear potential investment opportunity to respond to Kenya's climate change commitments and support the delivery of Kenya's national agenda including the BIG 4 agenda, National Strategy to achieve 10% tree cover.
- The Government through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry is committed to supporting commercial forestry together with other stakeholders by mobilizing over 2 billion good quality seedlings for Kenya's re-forestation efforts

Key Highlights

- Sustainable green growth opportunities within commercial forestry have the potential to engage the youth, build their capacity to establish and strengthen innovative youth start-ups and viable business and entrepreneurship models
- There is need to leverage on technology by provision of ICT support tools and user friendly innovative digital solutions for tree growers such as the KEFRI App that can monitor survival and track growth to support commercial forestry

Key Highlights

- Scaling up of commercial forestry in Kenya will require multi stakeholder efforts and involvement of all the players including development partners, private sector, community and financial institutions to provide technical information, capacity building and access to resources and tailor make financial products to support commercial forestry.
- Strengthen the interlinkages between timber and non-timber forestry products as well as circular economy within the framework of sustainable commercial forestry

Session II: Tree Seed & Forest Plantation Management

- Majority of trees are propagated from seeds therefore seeds are critical in production of seedlings
- The success of government policies on afforestation and especially, attaining 10% tree cover depends on supply of sufficient quality seed

Session II: Tree Seed & Forest Plantation Management

Strategies to increase quality tree seed production include:

- Intensifying genetic improvement of indigenous and exotic tree species
- Identify and register private seed sources
- Train owners of private sources and register them as suppliers
- Quality assurance through certification
- Proposed Forest Tree Seed Certification Unit at KEFRI
- Develop technologies to backstop tree seed certification and use,
- Register forest tree seed merchants and sources,

Session III: Forest Product Processing Value Addition and Technologies

- Efficiency in processing and utilization of forest products is still a challenge, there is need to increase recovery, reduce emissions to conserve the forests
- There is need to create and enhance market linkages for forest producers
- There is need to protect local manufacturers from cheap/sub-standard imports
- There is a challenge with adherence to set standards which has compromised durability of products in the market
- There is lack of business incubation facilities and mechanisms

Session IV: Regional Trade for Key Forest products and bamboo value chain and investment financing models for forestry sector

- Massive timber resource already growing in Uganda with a lot of demand across in Kenya
- Value addition and primary processing of sawn timber products are key in increasing value of saw logs

Session IV: Regional Trade for Key Forest products and bamboo value chain and investment financing models for forestry sector

- Low levels of value addition in the sector due to high cost of capital and technical capacity in the value chain
- Restrictive tax regimes in the commercial forestry sector in Kenya
- Heavy reliance on imported wood products
- Quality differentiation of wood products not assured
- Chain of custody as unsustainably harvested timber finds way to the Kenyan market

Session VI: Commercial Forestry Investment Forum

Dialogue

- The private sector has a key role in co-financing of commercial forestry to propel the sector in Kenya
- Species site matching, quality germplasm, plant quality, silviculture are key areas to support the sector
- High-quality tree seedlings influenced the returns from commercial forestry investment

Session VI: Commercial Forestry Investment Forum

Dialogue

- There is also need of efficient harvesting and haulage technologies
- Remote sensing technologies may be used to identify location of wood and the volume of trees including carbon volume of trees
- National strategies and policies encouraging PPP models e.g., leasing agreement on public plantations on strict terms

Key Messages

- Capacity building, Policy and financial support to innovators in commercial forestry such as solar drying facilities of tree seeds
- Forest certification to promote sustainability in the sector through proper chain of custody

Key Messages

- Benchmark innovative public plantation management models such as Leasehold as used in Uganda
- Need for adoption of innovative and efficient production, harvesting and processing technologies across the value chains
- Capacity building of youth, women and other affirmative action groups in the forestry sector across the forestry value chain including seeds and seedling production

Way forward

- The need to hold the conference and expo bi-annually to assess the status and progress of the sector
- Establishment and operationalization of the Kenya Commercial Forestry Innovation and Investment centre to continue the discussion on improving commercial forestry in Kenya by **June 2022**.
- Develop a strategy for the centre **by March 2022**.
- Create platform for continuous engagement with stakeholders from both public and private investors including youth and women interested in commercial forestry by **January 2022**.
- Engage with stakeholders on better markets and prices of FTP and NTFPs-on going

Way forward

- Maintain the momentum of the commercial forestry engagement by holding quarterly meetings and webinars on key and emerging issues on sustainable commercial forestry.
- Design resource mobilization mechanisms among stakeholders for harnessing resources to support commercial forestry investment in Kenya e.g bankable forest products, incentives, proposals –**immediate**
- Prepare commercial forestry conference proceedings and share widely by **March 2022**.
- Maintain data base of the actors in commercial forestry sector-**immediate**



THANKS

