



The 1st Kenya Commercial Forestry Investment Conference and Expo

#CommercialForestry4Wealth

CONFERENCE AND EXPO THEME:

“Commercial Forestry Investment for Wealth Creation, Enhancing Manufacturing, Food security, Health and Attainment of 10% Tree Cover in Kenya”



Date:

21st – 24th September 2021

Venue:

KEFRI Headquarters, Muguga



Kenya Commercial Forestry
Investment Conference

The Conference/Expo has been organized

in line with

Ministry of Health COVID 19 protocols

Covid Protocols Observed -



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<https://www.facebook.com/kefri.or>

1. Potential for Commercial Forestry in Kenya

The Kenyan population is projected to increase from the current 47.6 million (KNBS, 2019) to over 80 million people in 2050 (The World Bank, 2010; Population pyramid, 2020). This increase will translate into increased demand for forestry products to support other sectors of the economy such as construction (timber), and energy (fuel wood and charcoal). Currently, Kenya has an annual wood deficit of approximately 10.3 million m³ (GoK, 2013). Industrialization and urbanization due to population growth will increase demand of wood products to approximately 66 million m³ by 2030 thus tripling the wood deficit in the country (Gatsby Africa, 2019). The country is only able to meet 70% of its demand through sustainable supply and this has caused small and medium-sized enterprises to operate below capacity. The deficit is met through formal and informal imports as well as unsustainable extraction from public natural forests in the country.

Commercial forestry has the potential to bridge the wood deficit in the country and increase forest cover. However, commercial forestry in public forests will not be able to meet the growing demand of wood products in the country. This is due to limited geographical area of gazetted forest land and poor forest plantation management. There is thus need to extend commercial forestry to private, community lands as well as arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) that constitute over 80% of the total land area in Kenya. Further, trees on farms and private forests have not experienced the accelerated decline of forest cover registered in public plantations, bushlands, and indigenous closed forests. This demonstrates the private sector efficiency in the management of trees and forests that can provide an opportunity to leverage on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). This can provide access to private sector financial capital as well as benefits from the transfer of technological and operational efficiencies from the private sector into public forest management.

In view of this, the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) and its partners, plan to hold the 1st Kenya Commercial Forestry Investment Conference scheduled for 21st -24th September 2021 that will bring together stakeholders in the forestry sector from Kenya and the region (producers, traders, processors/manufacturers, financial institutions, researchers, policy makers, academia, among others) to share ideas and experiences on ways to improve the performance of commercial forestry in Kenya. Improving the performance of the sector will not only contribute to reducing the wood supply deficit in the country but also create jobs along the value chain, raise incomes, increase tax revenues as well as contribute to the achievement of the Government's Big 4 agenda through boosting manufacturing and affordable housing.

2. Kenya Commercial Forestry Investment Conference and Expo

The Conference and Expo is an opportunity for stakeholders in the commercial forestry sector in Kenya and the region, to showcase and exhibit commercial forestry technologies and opportunities that investors can tap into. The forum will bring together professionals, researchers, wood processors, investors, and other key players in the commercial forestry sector to take stock of the status of the industry, challenges, and opportunities available. It will also provide a platform that will act as a springboard for the future development and financing of commercial forestry in the country and region.

3. Partners organizing the conference and Expo

The conference and Expo is being organized by a multi-institutional team from both private and public sectors that encompasses Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), National Research Fund (NRF), Council of Governors (COG), Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Base Titanium Ltd, Kenya Climate Innovation Centre (KCIC), GATSBY Africa, We-Effect-Global, Family Bank, Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), Ukulima Sacco, Asili Sacco, Better Globe Ltd, Komaza Ltd, Kakuzi Ltd, One Acre Fund and Forest Society of Kenya (FSK).

4. Justification

Kenya's Vision 2030 implemented through Medium-Term Plans outline the importance of leveraging on resources and results through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs). They play a critical role in linking industry with academia; value chain actors through initiatives that enhance cooperation between the public and private sector. This implementation strategy has potential to connect expertise in forestry research with enterprises and industries in the commercial forestry sector through provision of technologies and innovations to develop products and services in return for funding, equipment supports and practice platforms.

The conference will be a springboard to upscaling commercial forestry in the country that will contribute to the country's attainment of 10% tree cover, improved livelihoods, and competitive forest enterprise.

The PPP model will provide the required resources to enhance commercial forestry in Kenya.

5. Objectives

The objectives of the conference are to provide:

1. A platform to national, regional, and international practitioners, researchers, professionals, and investors to share knowledge, experiences, innovation, and opportunities in the commercial forestry sector.
2. An opportunity to exhibit and showcase technologies, products, services, and investment opportunities in the commercial forestry sector.
3. A platform for discussion and sharing of innovations.
4. An avenue for stakeholders to take stock of the status of the commercial forestry sector development and opportunities.
5. Opportunity for financing and investment linkages.
6. Policy recommendations to promote commercial forestry in Kenya.

6. Conference Sub-themes and Topics

The Kenya Commercial Forestry Investment Conference will have nine (9) sub-themes. A call for abstracts was done where papers were submitted and consequently reviewed for presentation during the conference. This was followed by identification of keynote speakers and presenters in each of the sub-themes. In addition, registration is on-going for exhibitors to display their products and technologies. The themes were developed in line with the objectives of the conference. The sub-themes are as follows:

No.	Sub-Theme	Topics
1.	Policy, Legislation and Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies, legislations, and institutional frameworks governing commercial forestry sector. • Governance in commercial forestry in Kenya and the region • Incentives for commercial forestry development • Policy dialogue
2.	Tree Seed Production, Distribution and Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of tree seed sources in Kenya • Regulation of tree seed vendors for quality control • Role of private sector in provision of tree seed • Tree Seed Certification • Tree seed education and awareness
3.	Commercial Plantation Management and Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends of plantation forestry in Kenya • Appropriate plantation forest management • Appropriate silvicultural practices • Integrated harvesting of forest plantation to increase production. • Opportunities for market-oriented plantation forests
4.	Bamboo Production, Processing and Utilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of bamboo industry • Integration and application of Bamboo technologies • Opportunities in the bamboo value chain
5.	Trade in Forest Products (Timber, Poles, Charcoal and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of regional trade in forest products • Demand and supply of timber products in the region • Regional flow of timber products (Exports and imports) • Challenges and barriers facing regional trade in forest products • Markets and trade in forestry products
6.	Forest Products Processing, Value Addition and Technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability of Wooden Power Transmission Poles • New Fronts in Utilization of Agricultural Wastes for Bio-Energy Resources • Effects of the Moratorium in the Forestry sector • Opportunities in Non-timber Forest Products for SME sector
7.	Forest Investment and Financing Models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative land access mechanisms for investment in forestry • Development of forestry specific financial access streams • Investment and financing mechanisms for forest-related enterprises
8.	Education to support commercial forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the current education system to support commercial forestry • The future of Forestry and Forest Products training • Professional courses for commercial forestry in Kenya • The role of KEFRI graduate school training in the forestry sector
9.	Forest Expo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Posters o Digital media 	<i>Showcasing:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry Technologies • Products • Training opportunities • Financing opportunities • Seeds • Success stories
10	Commercial Forestry Investment Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment forum • Launching of the Commercial Forestry Investment Centre

7. Conference Structure

The conference will be both online and physical and will be structured as follows:

1. The main conference where select research papers will be presented followed by question-and-answer sessions.
2. Policy dialogues on specific topical issues on commercial forestry.
3. Expo/ Exhibition where various innovations, technologies, products, and services in commercial forestry will be showcased to members of the public. This will also provide marketing opportunities as the public and the innovators interact.
4. An investment forum that will provide an opportunity for networking on order to create a platform for different investors in commercial forestry including banks and financial institutions, forest-based businesses, and producer associations among others to interact, discuss and share their experiences and to enhance commercial forestry development in Kenya.

8. Registration Details

Registration cost:

The cost of registration is KES 4,000 for local students, KES 9,000 for OTHER Kenyan and East Africa participants. Charges for foreign participants is USD 150. The fees will cover cost of refreshments, meals, and conference materials. Payment shall be made by cheque, cash deposit, Swift transfer or MPESA to: KEFRI Commercial Forestry Investment Account No: 102000035970 Kikuyu Branch, Swift Code: FABLKENA or MPESA Pay Bill no: 222111, Account no: 102000035970.

Accommodation:

Participants wishing to reside within the conference venue can book and reserve their accommodation by sending an email to enterprise@kefri.org and commercialconference2020@kefri.org. Alternative accommodation can be arranged individually or in consultation with the Secretariat.

Transport:

Return transport will be provided at no extra cost for participants who may wish to commute to the Conference venue daily by KEFRI bus from Nairobi Central Business District (CBD). A pick-up and drop-off schedule will be provided.

9. Funding Partners

Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), National Research Fund (NRF), Council of Governors (COG), Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Base Titanium Ltd, Kenya Climate Innovation Centre (KCIC), GATSBY Africa, We-Effect-Global, Family Bank, Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), Ukulima Sacco, Asili Sacco, Better Globe Ltd, Komaza Ltd, Kakuzi Ltd, One Acre Fund and Forest Society of Kenya (FSK).

The organizers are open to more support for the Conference and Expo.

References

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- KNBS. (2019). 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census. Nairobi: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.
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Contact information

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Physical location:

KEFRI Head office is approximately 25km west of Nairobi city, along the Nairobi-Nakuru highway.