



KEFRI *Newsletter*

Issue No. 38

July to September 2021

A Publication of Kenya Forestry Research Institute



Raising *Acacia tortilis*, a drought tolerant tree for adaptation to climate change in drylands of Kenya



Technicians and facilitators that attended the training course which will eventually lead to better service provision and contribution to the attainment of ten percent tree cover anticipated by 2022

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KEFRI Newsletter is a Quarterly Magazine produced by Corporate Affairs and Quality Assurance

Refresher course to improve technicians skills

KEFRI technical staff have undertaken 3-day in house-training to improve their skills and competency. Forestry Research Support Services conducted the training at KEFRI headquarters, Seed Processing Unit-Muguga as well as Forest Products Development Center - Karura, from 21st to 23rd September, 2021.

The hands on training was of great benefit to 11 laboratory technicians, both senior and new cadres, serving at regional and sub-regional centres countrywide.

The course covered: principles and procedures of seed testing; equipment and materials; techniques in handling specimens in laboratory and field. Plant materials analysis - % moisture content, volatile matter, fixed carbon and ash content. Laboratory techniques in pathology, isolation and identification; entomology collection, identification, preservation; soil, water and plant analysis of nitrogen, phosphorus, nitrates, carbon, organic matter, macro and micro nutrients; briquetting technology and calorific value determination, seed oil extraction (solvent, steam distillation, cold) and % yield determination; data analysis and report writing.

Kenya to benefit with wood computing technology from Estonia

Forest industry in Kenya is set to benefit with wood computing technology that instantly determine wood harvested on location.

Timbeter Ltd - Estonian company, demonstrated the technology during President of Estonia, H.E Mrs. Kersti Kaljulaid visit at Kenya Forest Service - Headquarters at Karura, on 18th September 2021, where conservation collaboration framework between the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) and Estonian Government was ratified.

“The collaboration will see the two countries exchange best practices to sustainably manage their natural resources,” said President Kaljulaid.

The new method is commendable if it reduces the process that normally takes many man-hours just by application of artificial intelligence that measures both log diameters and length to instantly determine the amount of wood harvested on location, noted the CS for Environment and Forestry, Keriako Tobiko.

In the arrangement, KEFRI and Gatsby Africa will be providing technologies for species site matching and elite tree germplasm for high productivity and quality products. During her visit, the Estonian President Mrs Kersti Kaljulaid also toured John Michuki Memorial Park where she planted a Meru Oak (*Vitex keniensis*) to commemorate her visit to Kenya that coincided with this year’s World Clean-up Day.



Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid planting a commemorative tree at Hon. John Michuki Memorial Park, Nairobi

The World Clean-up Day is commemorated every third Saturday of September and aims to mobilize citizens across the globe to unite and clean-up the entire world in just one day, enhance combating the global solid waste problem, including marine debris and pollution.

President Kaljulaid lauded Kenya for leading the global community in the ban on the single use plastic bags in 2017, saying that it was a celebrated milestone.

The President urged youths to support environmental conservation initiatives including cleaning-up exercises. She appreciated the Ministry for facilitating her visit to great environmental sites.

Addressing the meeting, CS Tobiko reiterated the importance of creating public awareness with a view to inculcate a positive behaviour change to realize a clean and healthy environment.



Dr. Jane Njuguna presenting KEFRI gift to Estonian President Mrs. Kersti Kaljulaid at John Michuki Memorial Park, Nairobi

“My Ministry, through the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), had embarked on cleaning-up Nairobi River Basin to address concerns of untreated effluent discharge into the rivers, as it has greatly enhanced the quality of water in this green space,” said CS, Tobiko.

The CS further noted that a compromised environment endangers the lives of its citizens as it profoundly curtails opportunity for better standards of living.

The functions were graced by the presence of CS for Defence Dr. Monica Juma, CCF Julius Kamau, she-foresters and national star Tecla Lorupe.

The event was also addressed by the Acting Governor, Nairobi County Ann Kananu, and Director General NEMA, Mamo B. Mamo who called on Kenyans to participate in clear-up exercises in an eandevaour to rid the country of heaps of waste.

Mr. Mamo urged Kenyans to embrace the circular model that demands for segregation of waste at source to realize the Zero Waste.

Costa Rica foster relationship with KEFRI



Costa Rica Ambassador to Kenya, H.E Giovanna Stark during official visit to KEFRI Insect Reference Collection unit

Costa Rica Ambassador to Kenya H.E Giovanna Valverde Stark, paid a courtesy visit to KEFRI on 6th August 2021, to foster beneficial working relationship between the Institute and her Government.

KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo thanked the Ambassador for acknowledging the need for forest restoration and making KEFRI one of her first points of call.

“I am passionate about the environment and excited to learn and familiarize myself with the Institute’s areas of collaboration that could facilitate my country increase its forest cover to 60% by 2030,” said the Ambassador.

The Ambassador had the opportunity to tour research activities at various laboratories, green houses and conference/training facilities.

I acknowledged that information sharing is crucial as land degradation is a universal challenge. I strongly believe that if our two countries work together we will all benefit,” she the Ambassador.

According to U.N. FAO, 51.0% or about 2,605,000 ha of Costa Rica is forested, with 241,000 ha of plantations, of this 23.9% (623,000 ha) is classified as primary forest, the most biodiverse and carbon-dense form of forest. Unchecked logging had in 80's laid waste to two-thirds of tree canopy, leaving tropical rainforests facing an uncertain future. However in 1996, a system of payments for environmental services was introduced to help reduce poverty, especially in poor rural areas. Additionally, policy-makers restricted the number of logging permits and created a national forestry commission to police forest activity. <https://rainforests.mongabay.com>. These measures enabled the country to resurrect forests that now support a thriving eco-tourism industry.

International Day for Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystems

KEFRI Jointly with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and other stakeholders marked the International Day for Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystems at Tudor Creek in Mombasa County, on 26th July, 2021.

The purposes of World Mangrove Day which is an annual event are to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem and to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation and uses.

Chief Administrative Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry Hon. Mohammed Elmi graced the event where a total of 300,000 propagules were planted to restore Tudor Creek.

Hon. Elmi said over 16.7 million Mangrove seedlings have been planted since 2019 when the day was first marked in Kwale County and the second time in Lamu in 2020.

“Mangrove ecosystems has numerous benefits including timber, and the prevention of tsunami winds. It also offers alternative income streams for local communities which promotes conservation and protection of mangroves,” Hon. Elmi said.

The Ministry in conjunction with Eden Restoration project and KFS launched motor boats which will be used for surveillance and protecting the mangroves.

Mangrove is the only tree that grows in saltwater and globally, mangrove forests represent less than 1% of all tropical forests and less than 0.4% of the total forest estate. Mangrove forest is a rare but spectacular and prolific ecosystem, which is usually found along sheltered coastlines in the tropical and sub-tropical regions.

Board Directors: Dr. Anthony Getambu and Ms. Maureen Mwangovya, Senior Deputy Director Research and Development Dr. Jane Njuguna, Regional Director Coast Eco-region Research Programme, Dr. Linus Wekesa, the Deputy Regional Director Dr. Stanley Nadir and other staff from the Coast regional office, Gede participated in the event.

KEFRI showcased technologies on mangrove restoration which included species zonation and pest and diseases affecting Mangrove.

Kenya Commercial Forestry Investment Conference and Expo



Commercial Forestry Investment Conference and Expo will be, for the first time, held in Kenya at KEFRI headquarters from 23rd - 26th November 2021.

The conference aims to provide a platform for exchange of knowledge, experiences and the potential of commercial forestry investment in Kenya.

The theme of the conference is: ‘Commercial Forestry Investment for Wealth Creation, Enhancing Manufacturing, Food Security, Health and attainment of 10% tree cover in Kenya’.

The conference will bring together stakeholders in the commercial forestry sector including; practitioners, researchers, wood processors and investors.

The conference offers stakeholders an opportunity to share knowledge and experiences on the status of commercial forestry sector, challenges and opportunities for investment.

The conference side show event will showcase and exhibit new technologies and opportunities that investors can tap into.

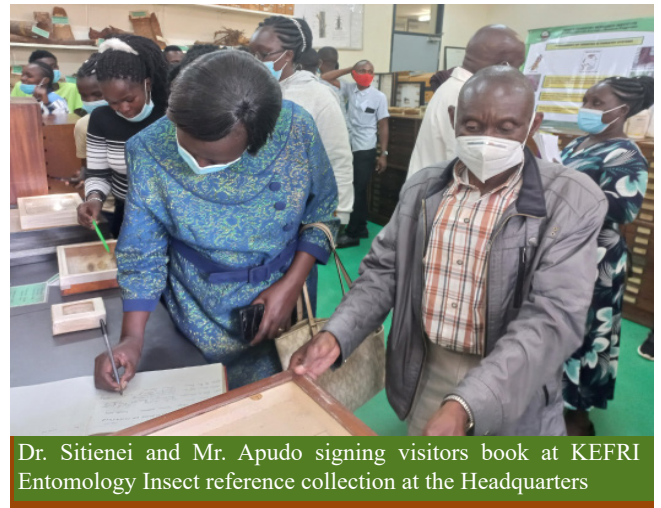
University students visit KEFRI to understand link between forestry theories and practices

KEFRI hosted 31 students from University of Kabianga, in Kericho County. The 3rd and 4th year environmental students were on a study tour to gain first-hand experience in forestry research and facilities available in the country.

Dr. Anne Sitienei and Musa Apudo Gweya from Department of Agro-forestry, Environmental Studies and Integrated Natural Resources Management had led the team on the mission to

expose the students to socio-economic, cultural and geopolitical drivers in forestry sector.

“The field practice focus on exposing the students on hands-on experiences and practical aspects across different ecological zones. At KEFRI, the students are expected to interact with experts in the field of tree seed production, pathology, entomology, biotechnology, forestry products development, field trials in drylands and coastal ecology,” said Apudo.



The students had the opportunity to learn developed forestry technologies in seed production, forest entomology and pathology and tree biotechnology.

Professionals dealing with natural resources management must be conscious of environmental factors such as biology of soil, plants, seeds and pests, understand how they interconnect to form a friendly ecosystem challenges and opportunities to be better informed,” said Mr. Apudo

KEFRI also hosted 40 students from Thika Technical Training Institute who were seeking to expand their knowledge on agriculture and forestry (agroforestry) for environmental conservation.

“The visit has been resourceful to the students for they have learnt agro-forestry practices of and expanded their network with KEFRI staff,” says Ms. Mary Mate, a lecturer accompanying the students.

Capacity building is one of KEFRI's mandate as well as collaborating with universities, which is envisioned to get even better with the launch of KEFRI Graduate School that will facilitate students' forestry research projects for both PhD and Masters levels.

Lets green-up our neighbourhood

KEFRI is proud to partner with East African University in greening the country. This was elaborated on 17th July 2021, during the launch of Green-up Our Neighborhood Programme at the University, based in Kitengela, Kajiado County.

Speaking during the event, CS for Environment and Forestry, Keriako Tobiko pledged his support to enable the University establish a model tree nursery that will produce and supply seedlings in Kajiado County and regions beyond.



CS Keriako Tobiko with delegates during Green-up Our Neighbourhood Programme launch and tree planting at East African University

A team of experts led by the Ministry has been formed to assist in the establishment of tree nursery which will raise indigenous trees.

The CS said his Ministry in collaboration with the university will also unveil environmental sustainability training programs to equip students with knowledge on environment conservation and protection matters.

He said the programme will empower women and youth to establish nurseries, and urged organizations to buy seedlings from the groups as an incentive to engage in tree growing.

“We are planting trees not only for ourselves but our future generations. The most important thing is not planting the saplings but ensuring that they are nurtured to maturity,” said Tobiko.

CS Tobiko further said under the Greening Kenya initiative, his Ministry is partnering with public and private entities, including Non-Governmental Organizations and learning institutions to plant and nurture trees across the county in the on going campaign towards attaining 10% forest and tree cover by 2022.

Tobiko further added that his Ministry will seek to work with 4K clubs across the country to encourage pupil plant and grow trees through adoption.

“The University is committed to champion for environmental conservation through annual tree planting events and other environmental conservation activities,” said .

Isinya Sub County Deputy County Commissioner Justus Musau, called on the residents to take urgent steps to reverse environmental degradation saying the vagaries of climate change are real and having negative impacts on livelihoods, and also called for stringent laws to curb illegal charcoal burning.

The event was culminated with award of certificates to 100 trainers of trainers, dubbed environmental champions, trained by NECC on environmental conservation and protection.

The event under the theme ‘Green up our neighborhood’, was held in partnership with the Equity Bank, Africa Greens Foundation, National Environment Complaints Committee (NECC), the University among others partners.

Also present at the event were NECC Secretary Dr. John Chumo, KEFRI Deputy Director Dr. Jane Njuguna, KFS Commandant Alex Lemakoko, Greens of Africa Foundation CEO Jedidah Wanyeki, heads of departments from the Ministry, officials from Kenya Forest Service, KEFRI, NECC among others.

The CS, in his remarks, challenged professionals to turn to the community for indigenous knowledge which can help boost conservation efforts. “Our elders know many beneficial secrets and knowledge that we need to respect and recognize,” he said.

The Greens of Africa Foundation CEO, Ms. Jedidah Wanyeki, called upon stakeholders in the industry to engage and empower youth in conservation and related environmental initiatives.

KEFRI is happy to be part of this launch and will follow up by monitoring the species. It is also crucial to carry out species site matching in order to ensure maximum survival of the planted trees, remarked Dr. Jane Njuguna.

Dr. Njuguna further urged the students pursuing forestry and environmental courses to apply for attachemnet at KEFRI Graduate School which has been set up to specifically guide students and researchers in their practicum and research programs.

World Bamboo Day Celebrations

KEFRI Board Chairman, Dr. Sammy Letema accompanied by KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo participated in marking World Bamboo Day on 18th September, 2021 at Kibirong wetland, Nandi County.

In his remarks, the chief Guest, PS Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Dr. Chris Kiptoo revealed that Kenya is recognised among the 15 countries supported through the Dutch-Sino East Africa Bamboo Development Programme.

“The international recognition led the Government of Kenya to declare bamboo its 16th cash crop and a critical component in the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 to 2030,” said Dr. Kiptoo.

In Kenya, bamboo is estimated to occupy over 133,273 hectares, whereas Food and Agriculture Organization in 2012 estimated that bamboo covered over 30 million hectares of land across the world with more than 1.5 billion people dependent on the production and consumption of over 10,000 documented bamboo products.



Drs. Letema (centre), Cheboiwo, David Langat (extreme left), Ms. Joyce Okumu and Rox Othim during the bamboo planting event in Nandi County

Dr. Cheboiwo urged farmers to seek technical advice and purchase seedlings from qualified sources to boost bamboo growing in the country.

“KEFRI has since 1986 screened 22 bamboo species from Asia and Africa with 12 species found suitable for different agro-ecological zones in Kenya,” said Dr. Cheboiwo.

The Government has also facilitated the establishment of 637 hectares of bamboo plantation, 45 nurseries with the capacity to raise 600,000 seedlings per year and formation of Bamboo Association of Kenya to support bamboo growers.

Tree seedling production practices

As the country grapples with actions to achieve 10% tree cover by 2022, it's high time for tree nursery practitioners to observe several measures.

Seed sowing is recommended between August and September for highland areas. It's expected that these seedlings will be approximately 30cm high and ready for planting during the long rains between April and June.

For the dryland areas, seedling raising in the nurseries should commence from February to March depending on species types.



Drought tolerant *Acacia tortilis* seedlings at KEFRI Kitui tree nursery where they are raised enmass for planting in drylands

The seedlings should be maintained through, transplanting, pruning and hardening up in readiness for planting in the months of November and December.

Some of the factors to ensure production of quality tree seedlings include the following:

1. Suitable location/site with reliable supply of water, fencing and shade for protecting the seedlings from strong winds, sunlight and from livestock.
2. Quality tree seeds and any other planting materials such as cuttings, good soil media including appropriate mixture of manure, sand and gravel - if needed, and potting bags.
3. Skilled nursery attendants, nursery tools to enhance seedlings management, and transplanting to suitable sites and /or markets.

KEFRI is raising seedlings for valuable tree species including *Melia volkensii*, known locally as Mukau, *Acacia tortilis* and *Terminalia brownii* as some of the indigenous multipurpose tree species endemic in the ASALs of Kenya.

Buy KEFRI's certified Seeds and Quality Seedlings from our nearest Centre



Mr. Idan Salvy, leading members of KEFRI Board Audit Committee at the Plantech nursery in Naivasha, where the firm is using cutting edge technology in production of healthy planting material, including tree seedlings

KEFRI Empower the Board Audit Committee

The Audit Committee members of KEFRI Board has attended a 5-day Capacity Building Training Workshop in Naivasha. The training purpose was to empower the Board Directors with skills and knowledge to enhance their capability in executing their mandate as a Committee.

Capacity building for the Board members is a legal requirement as enshrined in the Mwongozo Code of Governance for State Corporations (2015)

The Chairman of KEFRI Board of Directors, Dr. Sammy Letema officially opened the workshop, noting that the Board will ensure its members are inducted and their skills and knowledge are continually developed to enhance effectiveness in service delivery.

KEFRI Director and the Senior Deputy Director Dr. Cheboiwo and Dr. Jane Njuguna respectively, also participated in the workshop.

Board visit Plantech Firm

The Audit Committee members visited Plantech Kenya Ltd to familiarize themselves with the technology the company utilize in production of fruit trees seedlings. The company produces different types of seedlings for sale ranging from vegetables, herbs, cut flowers and trees.

“The company which is situated in Naivasha, Nakuru County, owns one of the largest automated nursery in Africa today and is renowned for being at the forefront of knowledge-based propagation of seedlings,” says Idan Salvy, the Sales and Marketing Director.

The company is also raising fast-growing exotics tree species of Cypress, Eucalyptus and Cider through vegetative propagation.

The Board appreciated the innovative and systematic approach that the company use in production of seedlings, application of various potting materials for planting the seedlings, and the greenhouses which are well ventilated with modern heating and irrigation systems.

New charcoal production technology to save forests

Generally, charcoal production is done through a method called pyrolysis of biomass (thermal decay of biomass occurring at low temperatures and slow heating rates in the absence of oxygen), also called carbonization.

Traditional earth kiln is the most common used method where wood is arranged on the ground, covered with



Modern charcoal producing kiln

leaves and soil then lit under controlled vents for about 2 to 3 days. However there are other methods, which are quicker and environmental friendly.

KEFRI has been testing and training charcoal producers to adopt sustainable charcoal production using metal improved technologies such as Kasamase and other metal kilns, that produce quality and quantity charcoal within 6-10 hours, compared to the traditional earth kiln.

Considering that majority of households in Kenya use fuelwood for cooking and heating, the modern charcoal production method can reduce the number of trees cut each year, thus contributing to the attainment of minimum 10% tree cover target envisioned 2022.

Probing host plants for E.A. Sandalwood

KEFRI scientists are studying functional relationship of diverse host plants in an effort to domesticate and save East African Sandalwood (*Osyris lanceolata*) from extinction.

Sandalwood is a wild semi-parasitic shrub that grows at an altitude of between 800-2550m above the sea level. It derives its nutritional requirements from other plants, using modified roots 'haustoria' which penetrate host plants and draw nutrition (water and inorganic nutrients) from them.

The tree is endangered due to its fragrance wood (the second-most expensive wood in the world), used in extraction of aromatic oil for perfumes among many other cosmetic and pharmaceutical products.

Wild-harvested Sandalwood mostly from Kenya is illegally poached and smuggled mostly to India as an ingredient in the multimillion-dollar cosmetic, perfumery and flavor industries. Overexploitation to extract essential oils threatens the species survival in the wild. The mode of harvesting aggravates this threat as it involves uprooting.



Ms. Lucy Muthoni, a technician at KEFRI, collecting data on Sandalwood performance under different hosts

KEFRI scientists have developed protocols on domestication of *O. lanceolata* thus offering great potential for conservation of the remaining natural populations and ensuring availability of its products on sustainable basis. Conservation of E.A Sandalwood will also be aggravated by introduction of Asian Sandalwoods on a commercial scale.

KEFRI has entered in agreement with several private organizations including Subati Group that are eager to cultivate and process Sandalwood products in the country.



Juvenile Sandalwood seedlings ready for hosting

AI-CD/CADEP Conference for Horn of Africa

KEFRI in partnership with JICA and African Initiative for Combating Desertification (AI-CD) Secretariat held the final project conference, virtually on Wednesday 25th August 2021 hosted at KEFRI headquarters.

Dr. Cheboiwo reiterated the conference aim was to evaluate project gains as well as chart a way forward for Horn of Africa towards climate change mitigation and adaptation.

“The main goal of the Conference was to appraise the impact of the AI-CD project in combating desertification and making communities resilient to climate change in Horn of Africa as well as propose way forward, as the project comes to conclusion in 2022,” said Dr Cheboiwo in his opening remarks.

This project has been sharing experiences, progress and achievements made, as well challenges experienced and opportunities experienced AICD in HoA countries from 2016 to 2021.

During the Conference the Focal Points from participating Horn of Africa countries gave updates on networking, knowledge sharing and access to finance. International Technical and Financial Partners shared their current strategy on financing in a post COVID-19 era, as well as perspectives and priority fields they finance.



Ms. Josephine Wanjiku (*Pictured: source JICA*) and Dr. Michael Mukolwe, who are members of the AI-CD Regional Hub for HoA in Kenya, presented the region accomplishments and highlighted regional forums and technical training workshops, publication of guidelines and brochures, and the creation of a web page for information sharing as some of key achievements realized.

Marking International Youth Day, 2021

Borrowing from Bruce Compton who once said, The youth are the future It is important that we pass down to them the importance of good practices ethics and quality of management....

Ellyanne Wanjiku Githae, an EcoWarrior Award Winner, led 4K Club Students to mark the International Youth Day at John Michuki Memorial Park on 12th September, 2021.



EllyAnne Githae, (Right) with 4K club kids at KEFRI tree nursery and demonstration site at Hon. John Michuki Memorial Park

EllyAnne, the Africa's Youngest Climate Change Ambassador and founder of Children with Nature, led 4K Club kids to celebrate the Youth Day at Hon. John Michuki Memorial Park, Nairobi.

The kids who have never used farming tools like jembe, panga, slasher, hoe, rake in their entire life had an opportunity to prepare a vegetable garden for the first time.

It was all excitement and more so the reason why 4K Clubs - which stands for Kuungana - Kufanya, Kusaidia Kenya - a clarion call to help the country become food secure are so important in schools. The Ministry of Agriculture approved plans to revive the once popular 4K Club across the country early this year.

According to Dr. Jane Njuguna, who attended the function, KEFRI in partnership with Kenya Forest Service, Mo&EF, Vintz Plastics Limited, Cheryl Pipia Aruna Varsani and Children With Nature participated in the event.

KEFRI jointly with Fruity School Africa and other stakeholders focus on enabling schools grow indigenous vegetables and fruits. the use of KEFRI App, a versatile mobile tool that provide tree growers with: Tree species-to-site matching; location of tree nurseries on an e-commerce platform; and capture tree planting activities on real-time basis; will be highly useful.

COVID 19 Vaccine for all staff

Following the Government call upon all civil servants to get vaccinated against Covid 19 and return to work, KEFRI Management in conjunction with the Ministry of Health officials administered approximately 800 dose of AstraZeneca to staff at KEFRI headquarters on 27th August, 2021 and 4th September 2021.

KEFRI clinician and nursing staff Dr. Joshua Kyalo and Sister Catherine Gitonga respectively facilitated the administration of the vaccine that benefited KFS officials, teachers from neighbouring schools and adjacent community members also benefited with the vaccine as part of KEFRI corporate social responsibility.



MoH Ms. Jane Mathenge administering COVID 19 vaccine to Mrs Catherine Gitonga, a nurse at KEFRI headquarters

“The vaccine may cause minor side effects such as a sore arm or mild fever. This is a sign that the vaccine is working,” says MoH nurse Ms. Vera Mayore, who administered the 2nd batch of COVID-19 vaccines.

The MoH-Kenya strictly requires only the qualified and duly registered clinician or nursing staff to administer the vaccine to ensure the maintenance of cold chain system and the potency of the vaccines, in accordance to the World Health Organization requirement.

The second dose will be administered in November 2021. Meanwhile all staff are urged to adhere to instructions from the government about managing the pandemic. Protect yourself and others by keeping a safe distance from one another, cover your mouth and nose with a mask whenever in a public place, clean hands often and disinfect frequently touched surfaces. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow or tissue.

Road safety mainstreaming

KEFRI Road Safety Committee members, acting on behalf of Director KEFRI, have embarked on sensitizing stakeholders on road safety skills.

The initiative is being implemented following direction from the Government through National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA), to mainstream road safety in all Ministry Departments and Agencies (MDAs) operations.

“KEFRI management has customized road safety policy, and is distributing materials including brochures and reflective stickers to sensitize staff and stakeholders on road safety issues. The initiative is anticipated to reduce the risk of road traffic accidents, as well as the severity and consequences of the accidents, in case they occur,” said committee chairman, Mr. Zakayo Kurui.



Mr. Kurui handing brochures to Club Welfare Chairperson Ms. Agnes Sitawa at KEFRI - Soweto playing grounds

The Road Safety team has sensitized Boda Boda riders at Nderi market (picture below) and youth who normally provide transport services to KEFRI staff and stakeholders.

The youth at Soweto - KALRO, Muguga Centre are members of Utafiti Football Club and Boda Boda operators. The Football club Patron Mr. Morris Mwangi, thanked KEFRI for the information, which he termed is crucial in saving lives.



Forest Society of Kenya dialogue

KEFRI hosted the Forest Society of Kenya annual national forestry dialogue on 29th Sep. 2021, at the headquarters -Muguga.

The Chief Administrative Secretary, MoE&F, Hon. Mohamed Elmi opened the national dialogue conference, citing professionalism as key standard that Society members should use to entrench forestry practices.



CAS, Hon. Elmi, Mr. Wamugunda and Dr. Cheboiwo during the opening session for the FSK's national forestry dialogue

Forestry Society of Kenya (FSK) is a membership organization of professional foresters in Kenya. It was registered in 1979 to provide a forum for professional foresters to contribute to national development and environmental conservation issues.

The Society has a duty to serve and protect the public interest while advancing sustainable management of forest resources for the benefit of the current and future generations.

On 22nd September, 2021 the Society's newly elected committee members, paid a courtesy visit to Director KEFRI where they discussed several issues related to forestry development in Kenya.

The Committee also sought KEFRI's support to FSK activities, including annual dialogue forum scheduled on 29th September 2021, at KEFRI headquarters.

The FSK executive leadership comprise of Chairman Mr. Benjamin Wamugunda, Vice Chairman, Mr. Noor Hussein, Treasurer, Ms. Anne Mbora, Chairman - Finance Committee Mr. Paul Opanga, Journal Editor Dr. M.T.E Mbuvi (who is also KEFRI Deputy Director in charge of Forest Research Support Services) and Secretary Ms. Mercy Njane.

KEFRI and JIFPRO sign MoA

Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Center (JIFPRO) and KEFRI signed a Project Agreement on 23rd August, 2021 to collaborate in a study long rooted seedlings in ASALs of Kenya.



Mr. Takahara and Dr. Cheboiwo signing the M-StAR agreement at KEFRI headquarters on behalf of the two Institutions

The agreement was signed between KEFRI and JIFPRO Directors, Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo and Mr. Shigeru Takahara respectively, at KEFRI Hqts.

The 9-month project will study suitability of M-StAR long rooted seedlings techniques as means of raising selected dry land species.

The project is informed by the fact that plant growth rate in ASAL areas is stunted by lack of water. Mr. Takahara stated that, although the surface level water evaporates quickly, there are still water remnants deep beneath the surface and the long rooted seedlings normally reach the water, enhancing their survival in fragile ecosystems.

The project will conduct a comparative workshop on M-StAR long rooted seedlings & conventional seedlings in Nairobi, Kenya.

At the same time, Dr. Cheboiwo signed an MoA with Sustainable Environmental Management Centre (SEMC), a multi-disciplined environmental service provider offering research and analysis, training and capacity building, cross-sectional and longitudinal studies, and evaluation services and program support.

The SEMC Executive Director, Mr. Gideon Muendo said that The collaboration will enable the parties use indigenous and scientific knowledge for environmental sustainability.

Dr. Cheboiwo lauded the partnerships stating KEFRI welcomes collaborators from diverse backgrounds in research and capacity building.

Farewell to Ms. Honjo Yuki, JICA expert

We appreciate the long term support the MoEF, KEFRI and KFS and other stakeholders have enjoyed through technical and infrastructural support from the Government of Japan through Jica.

KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo remarked, during a farewell party held at KEFRI headquarters, on 23rd October, 2021 in honour of JICA expert, Ms. Honjo Yuki. Ms. Honjo was the Coordinator of JICA-Capacity Development Project for Sustainable Forest Management in Kenya (CADEP-SFM, 2016-2021).

Dr. Jane Njuguna described Ms Honjo as a person of great intellect and humility and through her hard work and dedication has touched the lives of many.



Ms. Honjo biting a farewell cake fed by Dr. Jane Njuguna

Several speakers that included invited staff and other Japanese experts wished Ms. Honjo God's blessings as she goes back to Japan for higher assignments. She will always be remembered for her firmness and smile that made work easy.

The CADEP project has been of assistance to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya Forest Service (KFS), and KEFRI, in formulating forest policies, implementing REDD⁺ Readiness activities, conducting research on breeding of drought-tolerant trees, extending the use of improved seedlings, and promoting regional cooperation to strengthen resilience to climate change, so that the project can contribute to advancing sustainable forest management in Kenya.

Implement reviewed Human Resource Instruments

KEFRI Senior Deputy Director for Corporate Services Mr. George Otieno (*inset*) officially opened the sensitization seminar for implementation of new Human Resource instruments at KEFRI Headquarters, on 26th July, 2021



The instruments comprises: Grading and organization structure; Staff establishment; Career progression and guidelines; HR policies and procedure manual were approved by State Corporation Advisory Committee (SCAC) and adopted by KEFRI Board of Directors for implementation w.e.f 1st July 2021.

"The grading structure are compressed to 12 tier from initially 15 tier, affecting both administrative and technical levels in order to improve efficiency and order," said Dr. James Kimondo.

KEFRI Deputy Director for Human Resource Management Ms. Evelyn Oroni said in the conversion, the management will consider seniority and no staff will be disadvantaged.

All departments will now cascade the structure and other requirements accordingly. But i urged all staff to interact with the new Human Resource Policies and Procedure Manual for it has integrated several new benefits, including job enrichment programmes, performance appraisal, counselling, rewards, allowance such as computer grant to enable staff work online, leave and hardship allowances, medical, child adoption, 'trainings' and bereavements," said Ms. Oroni.

Ms. Oroni also stated that according to Public Service Commission, terminal leave pending retirement has been reduced to 1 month from previous 3 months. Annual leave which was scheduled in a calendar year shall be taken in a financial year - staff in hardship areas ripping higher benefits.

Retirement Planning Seminar

KEFRI Deputy Director in charge of Forest Products improvement (FPI) Dr. James Kimondo on behalf of Director KEFRI Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo, officially opened the retirement planning seminar for staff at the Headquarters, 28th July 2021.

Dr. Kimondo urged staff to save and invest for the future, noting that its one of the measures to have financial inflow during retirement.

The Fund Manager representative Mr. Mathew Mue, from Sanlam Investment EA, also urged staff to minimise expenses and prioritize on embracing Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC). Others presenters who addressed the staff were from Pension Trust Secretariate and Administrator from Minet Kenya.

KEFRI Pension Board new Trustees

The KEFRI Pension Board of Trustees held a handing over ceremony to bid farewell to the outgoing Chairman and Deputy Chairperson Mr. Paul Tuwei and Mrs. Mary Gitahi respectively and usher the new team.



The newly elected Chairman Dr. Muthike (left) receiving Pension policy document from the outgoing Chairman Mr. Paul Tuwei

The outgoing Chairman Mr. Paul Tuwei served the Pension Scheme for 9 years as a Trustee, 3 of which he served as the Chairman of the Board.

likewise the outgoing Deputy Chairperson Mrs. Mary Gitahi served the Institute's Pension Scheme for 6 years. The two served with dedication and were passionate about assisting the retirees and their children.

The Board Trustees congratulated and appreciated both the outgoing and incoming leadership. Dr. George Muthike is the incumbent Chairman while Sarah Mogaka is the Deputy Chairperson.

KEFRI Pension Scheme hold AGM 2020/2021

KEFRI Defined Contribution Retirement Benefits Scheme is holding its Annual General meeting for staff in the headquarters, Karura and Central Highlands, on 30th September 2021.



KEFRI staff Zablon Musumba and Milton Situbi listening to the presentation

The meeting that was attended by staff in the headquarters, Karura and Central Highlands Eco-region Research Programme.

“The sponsor (KEFRI) submitted Kshs 191m to the Scheme and disbursed Kshs 275 million to retirees by close of fiscal year 2020/2021. At the same year, membership decreased to 749 from 759 due to exit, but also absolved 60 members newly recruited staff,” said the Chairman Dr. Sammy Letema.



In his statement, delivered by KEFRI Deputy Director, Forest Research Support Service, Dr. Tito Mbuvi (*picture above*), stated that new recruit transferred Kshs 322 million from their scheme thus boosting KEFRI pension scheme. Despite the COVID pandemic effects, the Scheme grew by 14.2% reaching 3 billion from 2.7b.

Webinar

Open webinar on 'Investment Opportunities in Commercial Forestry in Kenya

Held September 23rd 2021 from 10:00 am.

Presenter: Dr. Eston Mutitu

It is a build-up session towards the Kenya Commercial Forestry Investment Conference and Expo that will be held from 23rd to 26th November, 2021.

Provide a national and international platform to share knowledge, experiences and opportunities in commercial forestry sector in Kenya and within the region.

Provide an avenue for stakeholders and development partners to exhibit and showcase current technologies in the commercial forestry sector in Kenya.

Provide a platform for discussions and exchange of ideas and innovative thinking among stakeholders on the future of commercial forestry sector.

Provide recommendations for promotion of commercial forestry in Kenya.

'Commercial Forestry Investment for Wealth Creation, Enhancing Manufacturing, Food Security, Health and attainment of 10% tree cover in Kenya'.

Kenya National Landscape Restoration Scaling Virtual Conference

CIFOR / ICRAF

Held from 9th to 16th July, 2021.

Topic: Interactive sessions on how to accelerate the momentum of landscape restoration in Kenya following Implementation Action Plan 2021-2025

Speakers: Inspiring speakers in environment, forestry conservation and agriculture

Supported by; European Commission Global Ever Greening Alliance World Resources Institute, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Regreening Africa, Council of Governors, Kenya Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

Demise

KEFRI Board of Directors and the Management extends deepest sympathy to the family of the following;

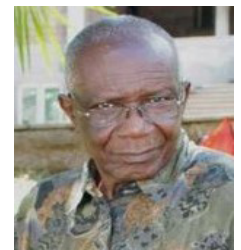
Mr. Kevin Kariuki Kihara, which occurred on 15th August, 2021 at Aga Khan Hospital, Nairobi.

The Late Kihara joined KEFRI Board in June, 2016, and served as the Chairman of Finance and Administration Committee and thereafter Research and Development Committee. His body was interred on 24th August, 2021.



Dr. Jeff Adhaya Odera (Founding KEFRI CEO)

KEFRI fraternity joined Odera family in Gem Nyabeda, Siaya County on Saturday, 31st July 2021 during the burial of the late Dr. Jeff Adhaya Odera.



The late Dr. Odera was eulogized as a dedicated scientist who valued standards and education. Odera mentored many in forestry research while serving in the East African Agriculture and Forestry Research Organization, Forest Department as Conservator (1968-1973), Deputy Director KARI (1981-86), Director KEFRI (1986-1995).

Salina Chesang

Who passed on Saturday, August 14th, 2021 in Baringo County. Until her death, Salina served as a technician at KEFRI Baringo Forestry Research Sub-Centre (Marigat).

Salina was a dedicated servant who will be remembered for her passionate desire to improve local livelihoods through demonstrating KEFRI technologies on value addition to resources found on Kenya's semi-arid and arid ecosystems, including Aloe as well as *Prosopis juliflora*.



May God Rest their Souls in Eternal Live



CAS for Environment Hon. Elmi with participants who attended Forest Society of Kenya forestry dialogue conference at KEFRI headquarters



Dr. Cheboiwo presenting a certificate of appreciation to Ms. Honjio Yuki, an outgoing JICA expert



Dr. Cheboiwo exchanging MoU with SEMC Executive Director Mr. Gideon Muendo



PS for Environment and Forestry Dr. Chris Kiptoo visiting KEFRI exhibition stand during the Bamboo International Day, marked at Kibrong watershed



Mr. Ben Mutua, Transport Manager - KEFRI, sensitizing youth at KARI-Soweto on road safety strategies



PS, Environment and Forestry Dr. Chris Kiptoo (5th from left) with delegates during his visit to KEFRI Kitui on 11th September, 2021

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