



KEFRI *Newsletter*

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The King of Sweden, His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf chat with KEFRI Ag. Director, Dr. Jane Njuguna, KEFRI Board Chairman (Rtd.) Gen. Samson Mwachethe and the Kenya Ambassador to Sweden, Angeline Musili, during a visit to KEFRI stand at the 26th IUFRO World Congress 2024 held in Stockholm, Sweden



KEFRI Ag. Director Dr. Jane Njuguna together with IUFRO President John Parrotta, signing the agreement to host IUFRO 2029 World Congress in Nairobi, Kenya

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The IUFRO 26th World Congress

KEFRI scientists joined fellow forest experts at the IUFRO 26th World Congress, Stockholm, Sweden from 23rd to 29th June 2024.

The Congress is a meeting of global experts who meet every five years to share latest forestry research innovations and applied sciences as well as connect with policy makers who are committed to shaping a sustainable future for forest and society.

The Congress commenced with tree planting and opening session moderated as usual by IUFRO Deputy Executive Director, Michael Kleine. COC Chair Fredrik Ingemarson, CSC Chair Elena Paoletti, COC representatives provided advice on how to get the best out of the Congress.

His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf, IUFRO President John Parrotta, and Knutson Wedel, Vice-Chancellor of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, and CIFOR-ICRAF CEO, Eliane Ubalijoro joined a distinguished panel of speakers, for the official opening ceremony.

His Majesty King Gustaf while visiting KEFRI Stand revealed that Sweden has over 70% forest cover, most of it under private ownership and he therefore advised Kenya to increase forest cover to over 30% for sustainable livelihoods.

“Forests are integral to human survival. He sought to know the various types of forests in Kenya and respective tenure rights,” the King said.

In her remarks, CIFOR-ICRAF CEO, Eliane Ubalijoro, emphasized the urgency of sustainable forest management, stating that the actions we take today will determine the fate of our forests in 2050.

The Ambassador of Kenya to Sweden, H.E. Angeline Musili thanked the IUFRO President and the Congress Organizing Committee (COC), for recognizing Kenya to host the 2029 IUFRO Congress which will be held for the first time in Africa.

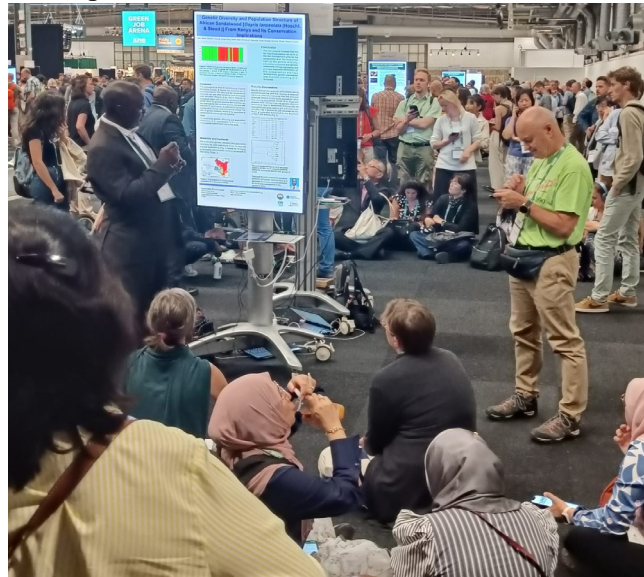


Ambassador Angeline Musili receiving the IUFRO mandate for Kenya to host 2029 Congress

“I would like to thank this great network of forest researchers, managers and policy makers for the honour to host 2029 World Congress in Nairobi with our co-hosts; KEFRI, CIFOR-ICRAF, AFF, KFS, East African partner organizations and development partners,” said Ambassador Musili.

KEFRI Ag. Director Dr. Jane Njuguna in her remarks thanked the 2024 Congress Organizing Committee Chair Dr. Fredrick Ingemarson for his tireless effort and guidance on the journey toward the 2029 IUFRO Congress in Kenya.

KEFRI is involved in research across forestry value chain including seed production, forest health, tree improvement and incubation of nature based products.



KEFRI Scientist, John Ochieng presenting findings on genetic diversity of E. African *Osyris lanceolata* and its conservation implications in Kenya

KEFRI in collaboration with JICA, in the past 3 decades, has been actively involved in dryland research forestry and capacity development and has shared knowledge to over 23 Sub Saharan Countries in East, Central, South and the Horn of Africa. This wide experience makes KEFRI a viable institute among other partners to host the Congress Organization Committee for the IUFRO World Congress 2029, Nairobi Kenya.

Kenya is a passionate participant in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a global movement to revive ecosystems worldwide. Through the AFR100 initiative, Kenya pledged to restore 5.1 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, contributing significantly to Africa's ambitious goal of 100 million hectares. and the achievement of the ambitious 15 Billion Tree Growing Campaign in Kenya will be achieved through consolidated leadership from scientists, forest experts and goodwill of policy makers, donors and development partners.

World Desertification and Drought Day

KEFRI joined NEMA - the event lead agency, and other stakeholders in marking the World Desertification and Drought Day, at OlKinyei Primary School in Maiyanat Community Conservancy, Dol Dol, Laikipia County. The event was held on 17th June 2024, under the theme 'United for Land, Our Legacy, Our Future'.



CS Hon. Soipan Tuya planting a commemorative tree at Mayianat Land Restoration and Demonstration Trial site in the company of PS Silvia Museiya, Area MP Sarah Korere, PS Ngeno, NEMA Chairman Emilio Mugo and Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu

The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Hon. Soipan Tuya graced the event and planted a commemorative tree at Maiyanat Land Restoration and Demonstration trial site and awarded certificates to groups and individuals who have excelled in environmental conservation initiatives.

“The theme for this year's World, Desertification and Drought Day commemoration, is United for Land, Our Legacy, Our future, and it focuses on stewardship on our natural resources, to ensure the stability and prosperity of billions of people, around the world,” said the CS.

Our Country has in the recent past witnessed the impact of climate change through desertification, drought and flooding, hence the need for immediate action.

“As we commemorate this day, I call upon all of us, to upscale our efforts towards meeting the 15 billion tree growing target by 2032, to stop all unsustainable activities both in gazetted forests and private spaces,” further said the CS.

Stewardship in forest management plays a critical role of advancing healthy lands and soils, which provide almost 95% of our food, home to plants and animals, livelihoods and protection from extreme weather conditions.

“I want to challenge all state agencies under my Ministry - KFS, NEMA, KEFRI to provide technical backstopping required to support all our ecosystem resolution plans. I thank all the partners but also challenge us to be deliberate in implementation of our actions,” said CS Tuya.

The CS also urged development partners to support communities upscale products and best practices along the value chain. Additionally, the CS urged different partners involved in safeguarding forests and woodlands through fencing to leave corridors for wildlife and sustainable forest activities.

The CS also noted that illegal grazing in Kenyan forests has become rampant in recent times, as forest officers have partly delegated forest management to communities. However, moving forward, all forest grazers must register with Community Forest Associations (CFA) to ensure our forests are managed sustainably, further said the CS.

Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu commended the impressive results that KEFRI has achieved in the drylands especially with regard to *Melia volkensii*.

“This is not a new tree to me as I came across it more than two decades when I worked in the drylands of Eastern Kenya region. Laikipia County has all the resources, suitable climate and KEFRI needs to introduce this species in the area,” said Governor Irungu.

KEFRI Ag. Director Dr. Jane Njuguna, represented by Central Highlands Eco-Region Research Programme Director Dr. Eston Mutitu, donated 500 *Melia volkensii* seedlings to the county. KEFRI also set exhibitions to raise awareness on promotion of sustainable practices

World Environment Day



KEFRI Ag. Director Dr. Njuguna explaining soil types and management practices to senior delegates comprising University of Embu VC Prof. Daniel Mugendi, CS Hon. Soipan Tuya, Embu Governor, Hon. Cecily Mbarire, KFS Board Director, Rtd. Gen. Samson Mwathethe, and PS, Festus Ngeno

The World Environment Day is celebrated on 5th of June every year. This year, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Hon. Soipan Tuya and host Embu Governor Hon. Cecily Mbarire led the national celebrations at the University of Embu, Embu County.

The CS joined the local community in planting trees in Kiambuthi Wetlands in line with the theme 'Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience'. The CS also encouraged the community to plant bamboo, fruit trees and indigenous trees as a contribution to the 15B tree growing campaign by 2032.

The CS directed KEFRI to partner with the University of Embu, to advise on species-site matching on the riparian areas in order to restore the wetland areas in Embu County.



Samson Mogire of KEFRI showcasing bamboo development and value addition to SMACHS Founder Charleen Ruto

The 2024 Climate Change Ambassador, Alice Wanjiru, who is also the youngest tree grower was awarded a trophy for her exemplary performance in tree growing. KEFRI pledged to establish a tree nursery in her County and support her other endeavour to grow 5,000 trees. Various other teams were also awarded for their contribution in environmental stewardship.

KEFRI also participated in World Environment Day celebrations at CITAM - Kiserian Children Centre, Kajiado County, where the WJMudolo Foundation launched the 2Billion fruit and energy seed tree growing programme 2030 in Africa.

The Guest Speaker, Mr. Stephen Omogo Barongo from the Ministry of Education Mr. Barongo further said the Ministry is encouraging half of the 23,000 Primary Schools and 7000 Secondary Schools, Universities and TVETs to raise tree seedlings for internal consumption and assist the communities around these schools.

"Our aim is to assist the community around the schools to grow trees as the country implements 15 billion tree growing by 2032. Each learner in Kenya has been given a target of planting 40 trees per year whereas the adults - teaching and non-teaching staff, members of the board are expected to grow 30 trees per year. All planted trees shall be documented to enable monitoring of progress towards achieving the target set by the government," said Mr. Barongo.

During the event, the WJ Mudolo patron Mr. Duncan Otieno Mudolo led participants in planting 400 tree seedlings at the school's orchard while over 700 seedlings were distributed to neighbouring schools.

The Foundation jointly with Kenya Airways, Bleriot SAF aims to grow energy tree seedlings for production of jetfuels as some of the carbon offsetting initiatives.

Third Country Regional Training Course on Forestry



KEFRI Ag. Director Dr. Jane Njuguna presenting Ms. Milka Jane from Tanzania to receive certificate of completion from Mr. Mutari and Ms. Ose

The first on-demand Third Country Regional Training Course for Sub-Saharan African Countries brought in 10 participants from 7 countries to a 3-week training in Kenya that ended on 6th June 2024. The participants were drawn from; Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and the host country Kenya.

KEFRI in partnership with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) organized the course and field activities in Kitui and other sites where a wide knowledge of research and field practices in forestry and agriculture was shared.

“I understand the training objectives were met through interactive sessions with facilitators, field exposure at institutional and farm levels,” said Mr. Evans Mutari, representing the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry.

JICA Chief Representative in Kenya, Mr. Kenji Hayashi noted that the course aims to impart skills to the participants to become better managers in forestry, environment, climate change, and agriculture and disaster management in Africa.

“KEFRI aspires to strengthen global partnerships in environmental matters, as part of the Institute’s national role is to produce assorted quality tree seed and seedlings to facilitate our country grow 15 billion trees to achieve 30% tree cover target by 2032,” Dr. Njuguna said.

The Project ‘Strengthening Forestry Sector Development and Community Resilience to Climate Change through Sustainable Forestry Management and Landscape Restoration’ (SFS-CORECC) Chief Advisor Mr. Katsuro Saito, was accompanied by the Project Formulation Advisor, Climate Change Ms. Tae Ose from JICA Kenya Office.

“JICA being the sponsor of this pilot training course is keen to receiving recommendations and way forward, to improve such future undertakings,” said Mr. Saito.

The Ag. Director KEFRI, Dr. Njuguna encouraged the participants to become Ambassadors of forestry research in their respective countries.

Field Visit

The participants visited field sites in Kitui, Kibwezi and Machakos to get exposure to research in the drylands.

KEFRI Dryland Eco-region Research Programme (DERP) Director Dr. Albert Luvanda, while welcoming the participants in Kitui said, the programme focus on research to: improve indigenous dryland tree species; propagation of difficult to raise tree species as measures to support agricultural productivity and climate action. The programme also transfer technologies through model farms which reflect similar characteristics of other dryland areas in the region.

“KEFRI together with JICA has established an expansive research to improve *Melia volkensii* and *Acacia tortilis*, and prioritizing community resilience in the face of climate challenges,” said Dr. Luvanda.

During the visit participants also interacted with researchers testing Multi-Stage Adjustable Root Container (M-STAR), a cutting-edge technology for enabling seedlings establish a long root prior to transplanting in the field.

This study which is a joint effort between KEFRI and Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Centre (JIFPRO) has shown that seedlings raised in such containers have higher performance index both in the nursery and field due to access of moisture and nutrients at deeper soil levels.



Ms. Wanjau (second left) demonstrating M-STAR technology trial at KEFRI Kitui tree nursery

Adoption of forestry technologies at Farm level

Assistant Regional Director of KEFRI-Kibwezi Dr. Michael Okeyo, highlighted development of commercial forestry in the drylands, with a demonstration of *Melia* cultivation at Jonathan Kituku's farm, in Kibwezi, Makueni County.

Mr. Kituku, a KEFRI beneficiary, showcased success of *Melia volkensii* farming on his 200-acre farm. The farm generates income through diversified activities including: sale of seed and seedling sales; *Melia* timber; hay; fruits; and advisory services - farmer to farmer training.

Melia volkensii's rapid growth, drought resistance, and high-quality, termite-resistant timber make it a suitable species for dryland regions Mr. Rodgers Kaleve, a farmer trained by KEFRI is practicing integrated farming.

Similarly a neighbor, Mr. Kaleve exemplifies success with a *Melia* plantation, fruit trees and poultry rearing on his 5-acre land. Mr. and Titus Nyunzu's demonstrated riverbank restoration and soil erosion control through planting of bamboo plant.

Lesson learnt from the two farmers underscores the practical applications of sustainable agroforestry practices promoted by KEFRI.

KALRO

Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) Katumani in Machakos County, hosted the participants in dryland agriculture for community and climate resilience through activities at; Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) & Agricultural Mechanization Research Institute (AMRI) demonstration plots, horticulture seedling nursery, the mechanization workshop, oil crops demo plots, and the Aflasafe processing plant.

“Many farmers suffer post-harvest losses due to aflatoxin that attacks most grains. Aflatoxin is carcinogenic causing liver cancer. KARLO has developed Aflasafe, a natural Bio-agent product that protects crops from aflatoxins,” said Dr. Kizito Kwena, a Senior Research Scientist.



Participants visiting Aflasafe processing plant

Participants also visited the Green Shade Community group in Kimutwa, Machakos County, to learn about Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) technologies such as cone gardens, space maximization, and bio-pesticides for sustainable pest control, aimed at reducing climate-related risks. The team also observed various irrigation methods and participated in a tree planting ceremony. Pasture for land rehabilitation and sustainable livelihoods in drylands, using range grass varieties harvesting techniques and storage, were explained at KALRO - Kiboko.

Kenyan Team technical study tour of Japan



L-R: Dr. Njuguna, Messrs Tarus and Lemarkoko, PS. Gitonga during country presentations at JICA Headquarters, Japan

The PS, Mr. Gitonga Mugambi, Ag. KEFRI Director Dr. Jane Njuguna, Chief Conservator of Forests Mr. Alex Lemarkoko, Ag. Conservation Secretary, Mr. George Tarus, Chief Advisor, SFS-CORECC Project, Mr. Katsuro Saito undertook a technical study tour in Japan and shared experiences in forestry development in Kenya and Japan.

The delegates learnt that forest in Japan cover two thirds of land mass, of which 40% (>10m ha) is special type of forestry whose history goes beyond 400 years. Japan also experienced similar challenges that our country Kenya is facing today.

Majority of buildings are wooden and there is a vibrant market of wood and wooden products. The Country exclusively produces Maruta - logs grown from selected Japanese cedar (clones). Bamboo forms a great part of Japanese art and culture.

The delegate also visited Space science and development, that include remote sensing, satellites to detect real time and seasonal changes in the carbon cycle, logging, accumulation and impacts of greenhouses and unmanned aerial vehicles (drones).

The study tour also included Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI), with 110 years of research in forests, tree breeding and timber industry. Forestry Tree Breeding Centre (FTBC) is the only forestry tree gene bank in Japan.

FTBC through JICA in the past three decades has supported Kenya in developing drought tolerant tree species for the drylands of East Africa, focusing on *Melia volkensii* and *Acacia tortilis*.

“The tour was an eye opener and encouraging for us and we believe attainment of the 15Billion Tree Growing is viable,” said Dr. Njuguna.

Embassy of Japan engage local press to promote forestry project activities in Kenya

KEFRI in collaboration with JICA has embarked on creating awareness to the media on Japanese supported environmental restoration efforts in the Kenya drylands, specifically highlighting progress in developing *Melia volkensii* and *Acacia tortilis*.

The Director/Second Secretary Japan Information & Culture Centre, Embassy of Japan Mr. Kanasu Naoto together with Second Secretary Economic Affairs and Economic Cooperation Section Mr. Nishimura Masaya, and KEFRI Deputy Director in charge of Forest Biodiversity Climate Change and Environmental Management Dr. James Ndufa, led thirteen journalists from leading Kenyan media houses, in a tour to both research and onfarm adoption activities in Kitui County.



Press visiting tree nursery at Mutomo in Kitui South where the youth are learning tree nursery entrepreneurship



Mr. Jacob Mwanduka, a farmer in Mutomo, Kitui South, has embraced improved *Melia* and is promoting it in schools and onfarm for climate change resilience as well as carbon footprint

The media tour, included field visits to: Mukau (*Melia volkensii*), *Acacia* and Baobab (*Adansonia digitata*) research trials and farming sites in Kitui Central and South where JICA KEFRI and KFS are jointly upscaling valuable dryland tree species.

Eco-region Research Consultative Meeting

The annual Eco-regional Research Consultative Committee meeting is one of the most important days in the calendar of KEFRI scientists. The process commenced in 2002 and involves interaction between external stakeholders and scientists who converge to review develop joint research activities to enhance adoption of forestry technologies.

Central Highlands Eco-region held its meeting where Eight (8) presentations derived from 46 scientists within the region and mainly covering forestry and related natural resources; tree productivity (breeding and silviculture) in Cenral highlands, tree productivity, agroforestry and commercial forestry; tree seed production and forest health; biodiversity and environmental conservation; forest restoration adaptation and mitigation to climate change; utilization of forest resources for improved livelihoods and socio economic development were deliberated.

Addressing the CHERP at the headquarters, KEFRI Ag. Director Dr. Jane Njuguna commended scientists and key stakeholder from 14 counties within Central region for sharing achievements and proposals for future research activities in the Central highlands.

"KEFRI has a responsibility of developing forestry technologies and innovations - as stated in the 7th Strategic Plan, collecting and distributing 100MT of quality tree seed to support the 15billion National Tree Growing and Landscapes Restoration Program among other national and international obligations," Dr. Njuguna said.

"Scientists within the Central region aims to conserve and domesticate East Africa Sandalwood which is a threatened species, continue with pretesting the India variety as well as introduction of *Melia volkensii* in semi-arid regions of Kajiado, Laikipia and Kiambu Counties," said Dr. Eston

RVERP Londiani held its ERCC on 25th April 2024. Kenya Forest Service Chairman Board of Directors, Mr. Titus Korir graced the meeting and expressed the importance of engagement, feedback and further workshops that spur consolidated environment conservation and economic growth. The Lake Victoria Ecoregion Research Programme held its meeting at Maseno.

NFPRP Karura held its ERRC where PS Gitonga Mugambi, Conservation Secretary Mr. George Tarus among other official attended and contributed extensively on matters of forestry research findings and projections.

The consultative meeting has provide an opportunity for KEFRI to address concerns of stakeholders that include collaborators, and partners to identify review progress of research interventions, manage expectations and potential risks early on.

DERP held the annual consultative meeting meeting on 30th April, 2024. Coast region held its annual thereafter with both internal and external stakeholders contributing extensively on matters of forestry in each of the respective region.



KEFRI Board of Directors and Senior Management planting trees at Coast Eco-region Research Programme, Kilifi County

Feedback from stakeholder derived from public and private institutions, farmers bussiness community has been gotten from the interactions held in all the Ecoregions and the National Programme - Karura.

KEFRI hold its Ninth Colloquium

Ambassador Prof. Michael K. Koech, Department of Environmental Sciences and Education (ENSED), Kenyatta University, presented his findings entitled: The Environment, Climate Change & Circular Economy in Kenya.

In his presentation, held virtual at KEFRI Headquarters on 19th June 2024, Prof. Koech (*Inset*) who is on his second sabbatical study at KEFRI conducted Survey at Chepsir and Londiani



to review implementaion of KEFRI 6th Strategic Goal 2018-2022, and 7th Strategic Plan 2022 -2027 and community adaptation to climate change.

“The result has shown that the Institute accomplished set environmental targets and contributed to forest policy development, as well matters of climate change and circular economy,” said Prof. Koech.

Standing out is the development of KEFRI App, a species-site guide to tree growing, that facilitates monitoring and recording by digitization of data on tree planting. The tool is enabling calculation of increase in forested areas and track contribution to the national minimum tree cover of 10 percent.

Prof. Koech identified inadequate land for research and development, few seed processing and storage facilities, and COVID-19 pandemic disruption as hindrances that slowed down implementation of the planned activities.

The presentation followed a Tacit Knowledge Sharing Session (TKSS) that Prof. Koech also shared with KEFRI Scientific staff on 27th March, 2024.

ASK National Show Machakos and Kakamega ASK Show

The Institute participated at the national Agricultural Show in Machakos National Show from 5th to 8th June, 2024 and Kakamega ASK National show 12th to 15th June 2024.

The Institute exhibited various technologies and innovations in reference to the show theme, ‘Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for economic growth’ and posted excellent performance at both shows as follows:

The best stand in Research and Development KEFRI, Seed Production and Marketing (Government), Demonstrating the Application of Environmental Quality Standards, Organization/ Association in Community Projects/Service, Theme Interpretation (Education and Research).

The Institute was also ranked number two in Innovation and Invention as well as in Non-Agricultural Based Statutory Board category.

Machakos Governor Her Excellency Hon. Wavinya Ndeti and Kakamega Governor His Excellency Hon. Fernandes Barasa presented the trophies and certificates to Ms. Damaris Munyao and Mr. Francis Osiya respectively, on behalf of the Institute.

Africa Public Service Day, 2024

At the same period, KEFRI was awarded a trophy for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience category during the 2024 Africa Public Service Day celebrations held at Kenya School of Government.

The award recognizes KEFRI for developing Jazamiti App which is a digital tool for guiding tree species to site matching, documenting number of trees planted by individuals or institutions and tracking tree planting activities as the country grows 15Billion trees to restore 5.1 million ha of degraded lands and achieve the 30% tree and forest cover by 2032.

Tree planting April to June 2024

KEFRI supported a presidential directive to cabinet secretaries, senior government officials and chief executive officers of state agencies to actively participate in the 15 billion tree growing campaign during the April to June long rains season. The Institute participated in the initiative by leveraging on partnerships and collaborations, providing seeds and seedlings, and advisory services on best practices to grow trees.

The Ag. Director, Dr. Jane Njuguna participated in the tree planting activity which the CS Hon. Soipan Tuya led the CEO of Sports Kenya Pius Metto and Kenya Academy of Sports Dr. Doreen Odhiambo in 10,000 seedlings at Moi International Sports Complex (MISC) and Ulinzi Sports botanical garden. KEFRI donated 100 assorted indigenous and demonstrated the use of soil auger hole digging technique. Similarly, the Ag. Director KEFRI also joined hands with the Attorney General Justin Muturi, State Law Office, Department of Justice staff and the community in planting 6,000 trees at Kona Baridi, Ngong Forest on 10th June 2024.

Central Highlands Eco-Region Research Programme (CHERP) led by KEFRI Deputy Director Forest Biodiversity Climate Change and Environmental Management. (FBCCEM) - Dr. James Ndufa and the Regional Director CHERP Dr. Eston Mutitu, joined hands with staff and the community in planting 10,000 tree at Osupuko Primary School Ngong, Kajiado County. This activity was sponsored by GA insurance.

KEFRI Nyeri team together with Ms Joycelyn N. Minenge from the State Department for Diaspora Affairs planted 3,000 assorted tree seedlings at Kangaita forest block in Kirinyaga County. Likewise, the team joined PS - Aurelia Rono in planting 8,000 trees in Chuka Forest and 2,000 agroforestry tree seedlings to farmers.

KEFRI CHERP and the Nyeri team on 20th May 2024 participated in planting 10,000 assorted indigenous seedlings to restore Bairunyi forest block, Chogoria in Tharaka Nithi County. The Head of Public Service Hon. Felix Koskei together with CS Hon. Soipan Tuya, PS Gitonga Mugambi, Director General of Kenya Wildlife Service Erustus Kanga, the area MP Hon. Kareke Mbiuki, KFS and the community participated in the exercise to restore the forest earlier ravaged by fire.

On 10th May 2024, the Ag. Director KEFRI, Dr. Jane Njuguna, teamed up with the PS State Department for Diaspora Affairs Ms. Roseline Njogu in distributing 200,000 seedlings; 30,000 in Karigini Wetland and 170,000 in Kangaita Forest block.

While addressing the public at St. Triza Kutus Girls High School which benefited from 11,500 seedlings, PS. Njogu stressed the significance of trees in long-term climate change mitigation.

KEFRI Rumuruti team jointly with KFS, NEMA, CFA and community on 21st June planted 5,000 tree seedlings at Kirisia Forest, in Samburu County. This follows an earlier exercise where PS, Forestry Mr Gitonga Mugambi and DD- FPED Dr. George Muthike led in planting 20,000 to restore the same forest.

Rift Valley Eco-Region Research Programme (RVERP)

Participated in the national tree planting campaign held at Itare Dam site in Kuresoi, Nakuru County, on 21st June 2024. The Chief Guest, CS Ministry of Water, Sanitation & Irrigation, Zachary Njeru led the planting of 30,000 tree seedlings of the total 100,000 target for the catchment. Another 3,000 including fruit trees were distributed to farmers and local schools. KEFRI also donated 500 seedlings including ceremonials, bamboo & indigenous trees.

KEFRI Londiani team on 10th May, 2024, planted trees at Mt. Blanket in Londiani forest Zone jointly with CS Ministry of Energy and Petroleum Hon. Davis Chirchir, KFS, Elgeyo Marakwet County CEC, REREC, KFC and Nuclear Energy body. Tree planting also took place at Kipkabus forest Keiyo South. On 18th May 2024, the team donated and planted 2,000 seedlings together with students, teachers and local administration, at Kioo Secondary School in Kuresoi North Constituency.

The Programme On 19th June 2024, donated 2,000 tree seedlings and jointly with the Sub-County Commissioner - Kipkelion and Highlands University planted the assorted seedlings at the University. The team also joined the Kericho County Government in planting 50 ceremonial trees to mark World Environment Day. Due to low soil moisture, 4,500 seedlings were shelved for planting with adequate rainfall.

KEFRI Turbo marked WED celebrations by planting 1,000 seedlings including 50 Bamboo seedlings at Chepmwochoch Primary School, Moiben Uasin Gishu County. Seven thousand seedlings were distributed to farmers and students for on-farm planting. The team also trained the community in Likuyani sub-county on conservation of wetlands. Sixty bamboo seedlings and assorted 10 indigenous trees species were planted at Lumino dam watershed, which will also serve as a demonstration site. On 24th May 2024, the team participated in planting 400 assorted tree seedlings at Elgeyo Forest in Elgeyo Marakwet County. On 30th May 2024, the team joined hands with CS Ministry of Cooperatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMESs) Hon. Simon Chelugui in planting 10,000 trees in Timboroa, Uasin Gishu County. Chepkumia forest in Nandi County benefited with 25,000 trees where PS ICT Prof. Edward Waswa and Governor Nandi County attended. Cengalo forest in Sochoi Uasin Gishu was restored with 10,000 seedlings.

Baringo team marked WED by donating and planting 500 assorted tree seedlings at Kimalel cultural grounds. The team also joined Narasha forest adjacent communities in tree planting graced by CS MECC&F Hon. Soipan Tuya, PS Energy Alex Wachira, CCF Alex Lemarkoko, and MP. Hon. Musa Sirma and other state officers.

The CS commended KEFRI and KFS for the efforts towards raising seedling for the 15B tree growing programme. However the CS urged KFS to work together with community in forest conservation.

Dryland Eco-Region Research Programme (DERP) Kitui on 16th May 2024 participated in a tree planting activity led by CS, Environment, Climate Change & Forestry Hon. Soipan Tuya and her counterpart CS Tourism & Wildlife Hon. Dr. Alfred Mutua, PS Gitonga Mugambi and Kitui Deputy Governor Hon. Augustine Kanani among other officials, in planting over 13,000 tree seedlings at Mumoni Forest in Mwingi North, Kitui County. The community benefited from 9,000 seedlings to plant on their farms. Dr. George Muthike also led in tree planting also at Kamathetu, Kasee in Mwingi Kitui County.



Workshop

Meteorological information workshop was held on 17th May 2024 at Marie Gardens Hotel in Kitui County. The Guest of Honour, Kitui County CEC - Environment Mr. Richard Mwendandu and the Kenya Meteorology Department Director, Dr. David Gikungu read the keynote address.

Mr. Kigwa, a scientist at KEFRI addressed the dignitaries highlighting the role of trees and forests in ameliorating weather conditions. He also brought out the role of KEFRI in provision of quality seeds, seedlings and advisory services.

KEFRI Garissa

KEFRI staff Amina Malim, attended a fundraiser Dinner to facilitate Tana River riverbank stabilization by growing bamboo. Garissa Township MP Hon. Major Dekow Barrow conducted the funding where IFTAR, UN-WFP and Kenya Red Cross organized the Dinner.

Lake Victoria Basin Eco-region Research Programme (LVBERP)

Maseno team joined partners and stakeholders in marking the World Environmental Day by donating 500 and planting tree seedlings at Kacok/Nyamasaria former dump site, in Kisumu County.

NEMA Kisumu Regional Director, Dr. Mathew Owili, graced the event. The team also planted trees at Sio Siteko, in Busia County, where Regional Commissioner Mr. Samson Irungu presided the event, Kibiri forest, in Vihiga County, where PSs': forestry, Gitonga Mugambi; Health, Hon. Hillary Kimutai; and National Treasury, Dr. Chris Kiptoo attended.

KEFRI Maseno team on 24th May 2024, joined the PS Environment Eng. Festus Ng'eno and Vihiga Governor Wilber Otichilo in planting 10,000 assorted tree seedlings at Maragoli Hills.

The team together with Kakamega County Government, KFS, NEMA and Muleshe CFA planted 2,000 indigenous seedlings at Senyende Forest Block on 22nd May 2024. Western Region NEMA Director - Mr. Anthony Saisi graced the exercise where; *Prunus africana*, *Croton macrostachyus*, *C. megalocarpus*, *Bridelia micrantha* and *Zanthoxylum gillettii* were planted.



ARD Kakamega Dr. Leila Akinyi led her colleagues in planting trees at Kakamega Law Court jointly with Judiciary of Kenya

KEFRI Ramogi jointly with sub-county Education officials and local leaders also participated in tree planting at Ngege Kachacha Mixed Secondary School, Ragana Primary and Secondary Schools in Suna East where 400 trees were planted, and in Jusa Secondary School which was affected by flooding following the heavy rains that hit the country in April/May.

KEFRI Migori team, led by Assistant Regional Director Dr. Beryn Otieno on 17th May 2024 trained 80 tree nursery operators from Homa Bay County on tree nursery establishment and management. KEFRI Migori donated 500 seedlings of assorted species to restore Gembe Hills, where CS transport Hon. Murkomen and HE Gladys Wanga presided.

On 25th April 2024, KEFRI Migori team together with the Kisii Environment and Land Court (ELC)-Judiciary of Kenya, planted trees at Kisii Township. Homa Bay County aims to; empower the different groups of communities with skill to produce and grow tree seedlings; and fulfil its set target towards the 15 Billion national tree growing campaign.

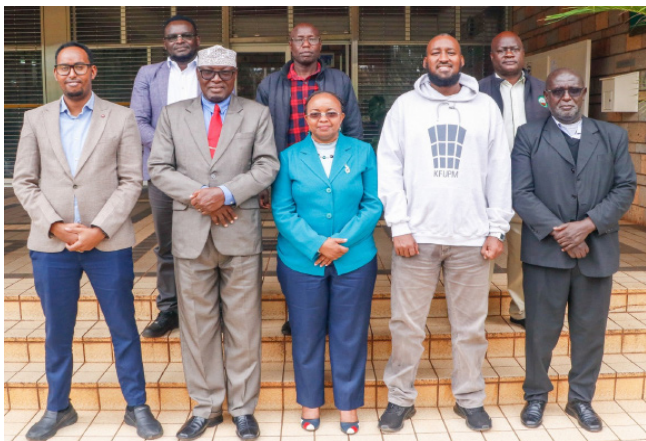


Coast Eco-region Research Programme (CERP)

The Programme participated in tree planting at Lake Kenyatta in Lamu and Mzizima Primary School in Mida, Kilifi County. The Centre also held its annual Open Day on 17th April in collaboration with partners - KFS, KWS, COBEC, Gede CFAs, and Milda Creek Conservation groups. The event was attended by 103 participants.

National Forest Products Research Programme (NFPRP): Karura team participated in planting 1,000 assorted tree seedlings at Komarock Canal. The Area MCA in collaboration with Magenta Ventures contributed the seedlings which the Nairobi County Director for Environment, Nairobi County Council Green Army, KEFRI, Community members and Representatives from surrounding schools planted.

Jubbaland Minister Visit KEFRI



Jubbaland's Southern Region Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Aidid Suleiman Hashi (*Photo: second left*), on 9th April 2024, led a delegation to KEFRI, to spearhead discussions on collaborative efforts to restore degraded landscapes in Jubbaland.

The visit aimed at forging a relationship between Jubbaland and KEFRI in order to facilitate capacity building and environmental conservation. Both parties envision a sustainable future through strategic partnerships and actionable plans," said Dr. Njuguna.

KEFRI Review Collaboration with KCCIC

Kenya Climate Change Innovation Center (KCCIC) Director Ernest Chitechi and KEFRI Ag. Dr. Jane Njuguna held a follow-up meeting to review progress in areas of collaboration since the two institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in February 2021.

During the review meeting, the delegates zeroed in on capacity building, aspects of Commercial Forestry and Nature Based Solutions. Mr. Chitechi requested KEFRI for technical support on viable enterprises. "KEFRI is ready to build joint activities and disseminate information that is beneficial to both institutions through KEFRI Graduate School," Dr. Njuguna said.

KEFRI and Highlands University signs Memorandum of Understanding

On 28th May 2024, the Ag. Vice Chancellor Highlands University Dr. Daniel Ngeno hosted KEFRI delegate led by the Director Dr. Jane Njuguna in signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate on environmental conservation.

"This partnership aims to enhance environmental conservation and education in the region, specifically focusing on capacity building, research, training development of environmental studies curriculum and demonstrations forest technology at the University's 93-acre Kipkelion farm," said Dr. Ngeno

The VC further indicated that the university has an interest in undertaking joint research to identify socio-cultural use of trees and forests within the region. Supporting this suggestion, Dr. Njuguna said, "Our first assignment is to undertake joint research to collect data on the spiritual use of different tree species by different communities."

Dr. Njuguna in her remarks said that as part of the initiative to support Kenya's 15 billion tree growing programme, KEFRI would donate 2,000 tree seedlings at Kipkelion Campus for planting on 5th June 2024.



L-R: Highland University Director of Collaboration, Linkages and Resource Mobilization Rev. David Maritim and VC Dr. Ngeno exchange MoU with Dr. Njuguna in the company of KEFRI SDD - Corporate Services Mr. George Otieno and KEFRI Rift Valley Eco Region Programme Director Dr. David Langat

MoU KEFRI and Narok County Government

KEFRI Board Director Mr. Ntoros ole Senteu, led a KEFRI delegation to pay a courtesy call to the Narok County CEC for Lands, Ms. Vivian Sereti and County Commissioner Mr. Kipkech Lotiatia. The visit held on 27th May 2024 was a follow up to earlier discussions held between KEFRI and Narok County Government seeking land for research activities.



KEFRI Board Director Ntoros Ole Senteu, Senior Deputy Director Corporate Service and Rift Valley Eco-region Director Dr. David Langat with Narok County Commissioner during the courtesy call

“The land will be used to establish research demo plots for promoting identified tree species adaptable to Narok County and its environs,” Senior Deputy Director of Corporate Services Mr. George Otieno said.

61st Madaraka Day Celebration

KEFRI Choir entertained Guest and the public with both environmental and national songs during the 2024 Madaraka day celebrations at Emining, Baringo County.

Madaraka Day is a national holiday that is celebrated every 1 June in every year in the Republic of Kenya. It commemorates the Country's historic journey to self-rule: 1961 after being a British colony since 1920.

Road Safety Mainstreaming

KEFRI Road Safety Committee within the quarter mainstreamed Road Safety Measures to stakeholders, namely; neighboring Primary Schools: Kandengwa, Utafiti, Nguriunditu and Uthiru Girls Secondary School.

This follows a Government directive that both private and corporate sectors in Kenya mainstream road safety measures as per the Road Safety Policy, 2023.

Under the Annual Performance Contract, KEFRI undertake road safety mainstreaming to ensure a Safe System within its scope. by creating awareness to various stakeholders majorly roads users; as each is responsible for, and must contribute to eradicating (NTSA estimate fatalities 3,000 and 10,000 with serious injuries annually).

Pension/Staff movement



Newly engaged drivers completed the induction at the Headquarters to join service at Centers and Sub-centres



Roxventta Othim from KEFRI Baringo and Chief Conservator of Forests, Alex Lemarkoko, planting a tree at Narasha Forest in Uasin Gishu County



CS, MECC&F, Hon. Soipan Tuya (Right), planting a tree with assistance of KEFRI team led by CHERP Regional Director Dr. Eston Mutitu



Machakos Governor Hon. Wavinya Ndeti awards trophies and certificates to Ms. Damaris Munyao and Rahab Wanjau on behalf of the Regional Director - Kitui during the Machakos ASK Show 2024



Kakamega Governor Hon. Fernandes Barasa presents trophies and certificates to Mr. Francis Osiya on behalf of the Assistant Regional Director at Kakamega National ASK Show 2024



KEFRI won the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience award for demonstrating Jazamiti App during the Africa Public Service Day celebrations held at Kenya School of Government



KEFRI Choir entertaining Guest and public during Madaraka celebrations held at Baringo County

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