



**ISSUE No.10**

# **KEFRI** *Newsletter*

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## **ASK Shows**

Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) shows are one of the pathways for disseminating information and transferring forestry technologies to bridge the gap between technology development and utilization by stakeholders.

The show theme for 2014 was “Enhancing Technology in Agriculture and Industry for Food Security and National Growth”. KEFRI participated in various ASK shows countrywide to disseminate information and showcase forestry technologies to stakeholders and the general public.

## **1. Nairobi International Trade Fair**

The Nairobi International Trade Fair was held from 29th September to 5th October, 2014 at the Jamhuri Park grounds, Nairobi.

The 7-day event is the largest Trade Fair in Kenya and the East African region. The event offers an opportunity for exhibitors to display and market their products and services, creating a platform for people from different countries and backgrounds to interact, network, and exchange ideas.

KEFRI exhibited tree based displays, some with potential for commercialization such as *Osyris lanceolata* and bamboo species.

KEFRI was ranked first in the category of “Best Agricultural Based Statutory Board”. The Institute was awarded a trophy by His Excellency Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, the patron of the ASK. This was a big achievement for the Institute that had progressively eyed this trophy and only came close to winning in 2010 and 2011 when it was ranked 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

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Display of Osyris products at Nairobi International Trade Fair



H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta presenting a trophy to Dr. Jackson Mulatya for KEFRI's excellent performance at the Nairobi International Trade Fair

## 2. Central Kenya National Show - Nyeri

KEFRI Central Highlands Eco-region Research Programme jointly with Forest Products Research Centre participated at Nyeri show from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The Institute show-cased forestry technologies relevant to central Kenya region.

KEFRI stand was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in both the categories of "Best Research and Development" and "Best Innovation and Invention", and 3<sup>rd</sup> in "Best Show Theme Interpretation" and "Best Government Medium Stand" categories.

## 3. Mombasa International Show

KEFRI Coast Eco-region Forestry Research Programme (Gede) participated at Mombasa International show from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2014. The institute displayed several forestry technologies at the Mombasa Show. Displays unique to the coast included: establishment, management and utilization of *Casuarina equisetifolia*, and coconut eco-potting tubes. Strategies being undertaken by Kenya Coastal Development Project (KCDP) to increase forest cover to 10% and rehabilitate key coastal water catchments were also displayed.



KEFRI newly constructed stand at Mkomani ASK showground, Mombasa



Coconut eco-potting tubes



Casuarina poles used for construction

Displays at KEFRI stand Mombasa show

About 3,000 people mainly farmers, researchers, political leaders, students and entrepreneurs visited KEFRI stand which was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the category of "Best stand in Innovation and Invention".

#### 4. Kisumu Regional ASK Show

KEFRI Lake Victoria Basin Eco-region Research Programme (Maseno) exhibited at the Kisumu Agricultural Society of Kenya Regional Show, Mamboleo grounds, from 30<sup>th</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2014. The Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Hon. Felix Koskei officially opened the show. He urged farmers in the region to embrace new farming technologies to complement changes in population, food needs and desires.

KEFRI displayed technologies and products on forestry and allied natural resources for adoption by stakeholders in the Lake Victoria Basin and neighbouring Eco-regions.



Model of multipurpose trees (MPTS) at Kisumu show

The displays included a model of multipurpose trees, both indigenous and exotic species depicting suitable methods for rehabilitating degraded sites, on-farm forestry technologies such as soil fertility improvement and integration of fruit trees on farms.

Major non-wood forest products displayed included; bamboo products, *Mondia whytei*, and bio-diesel oil processed from seeds of *Croton megalocarpus*. Charcoal production technologies using modern kilns and eco-friendly technologies were also displayed. Collaborators also participated by exhibiting medicinal products processed from roots, bark or leaves of various trees and shrubs.

Students, farmers groups and individuals from Community Based Organization and NGO, persons from private and public institutions, as well as institutions of learning, County government and media houses visited the stand.

#### 5. Nakuru National Agricultural Show

KEFRI Rift Valley Eco-region Research Programme participated at the Nakuru ASK show held from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2014. The institute show-cased technologies for tree growing, forest resource management and sustainable utilization that would enable farmers enhance food security practices in the region, increase trees on their farms as well as combat new and emerging challenges such as climate change, global warming and shifting rainfall patterns.

Tree improvement technologies displayed included; propagation and mass production of commercial plantation trees such as Eucalyptus, Pines and Cypress. A model depicting Mau Forests complex showed forest rehabilitation methods and the best tree species for forest restoration.

Prosopis products including; carvings, floor tiles, charcoal, pods and milled flour for human and animal feeds derived from prosopis were displayed at the show. Products from Prosopis would promote exploitation of the species as a method of controlling its spread.

KEFRI stand at Nakuru Show attracted about 2500 visitors.



Prosopis products

## 6. Kitui ASK Show

KEFRI Dryland Eco-region Research Programme participated in Kitui Agricultural show and Trade Fair held at Ithookwe show ground Kitui, from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2014. The show which was revived after 7 years of closure, attracted 55 exhibitors from within and outside the County.

KEFRI displayed forestry technologies and shared information, experiences and technical advice on the technologies to enhance food security and national growth.

Key displays included; technologies on propagation of *Osyris* and *Melia volkensii* (Mukau), and assorted bamboo products. Non-wood forest products displayed were; aloe, assorted gums and resins, *Tamarindus indica* and *Vitex payos* juices, and food powder from *Adansonia digitata*. Collaborators who have adopted KEFRI technologies on; value addition of non-timber products including processing of jam and juices from indigenous fruit trees, energy saving jikos also participated.

KEFRI stand was ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the categories of “Best Stand Displaying Most Striking Locally Manufactured Products”, “Best Medium Government Stand”, “Best in Research and Development” and “Best stand in Theme Interpretation”. The Institute was awarded trophies for the four categories by H. E. Dr. Julius Malombe, Governor, Kitui County.

## 8. South Kenya Branch Kisii ASK Show

The Kisii show was held from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> July 2014, at the Gusii show grounds. KEFRI was ranked the 1<sup>st</sup> in the category of “Best Medium Government Stand and awarded a trophy by the Kisii County Governor. 1,800 people visited the stand amongst them, the County Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperative Development Hon. Vincent Sagwe.



Aloe products and seedlings



Osyris products and seedlings

Some of the displays at Kitui ASK Show

## Workshops and Conferences



Principal Secretary Department of Environment and Natural Resources Dr. Richard Lesiyampe (centre) speaking to journalists after opening the PFM conference at KEFRI

### PFM Conference

Kenya Forestry Research Institute jointly with Kenya Forest Service (KFS) hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Participatory Forest Management (PFM) at KEFRI headquarters in Muguga, from 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2014.

Miti Mingi Maisha Bora Programme in partnership with other stakeholders sponsored the conference whose objective was to inform PFM implementation under the devolved governance structure in Kenya, taking cognisance of past national and regional experiences, for sustainable forest management and improved livelihoods.

The Principal Secretary (PS) State Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources Dr. Richard Lesiyampe in his opening remarks noted that PFM has overseen development of 98 management plans and 60 management agreements entered into between KFS and Community Forest Associations (CFAs).

The PS noted that adoption of Participatory Forest Management as a means to provide a voice to forest adjacent communities in forest management, decision making, and also ensure forest sustainability has been made possible through review of relevant policy and legal frameworks. As a result of PFM

initiative, Kenya boasts as one of the developing countries where forest sector reforms have ushered in wider stakeholder participation in forest management. Due to PFM implementation, the rate of forest degradation have come down in areas practicing this approach.

Participants of the conference were drawn from all stakeholder segments in forestry sector including; forestry professionals, Community Based Forest Associations, National and County Policy makers, development partners and government institutions.



Participants who attended the PFM conference

## Carbon Stock Appraisal Workshop

A training workshop for Rapid Forest Carbon Stock Appraisal was held at KEFRI Drylands Eco-region Research Programme, Kitui County from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2014. The objective of the workshop was to strengthen capacity of participants in forest carbon stock assessment and facilitate communities to establish basic data in negotiating with carbon markets.

The Conservation Secretary Ministry of Environment Water and Natural Resources Mr. Gideon Gathaara officially opened the workshop on behalf of the Principal Secretary. In his speech, Mr. Gathaara acknowledged that Climate Change is now recognized as a major threat to efforts of poverty reduction in many African countries, and is also slowing down the achievements of the Millennium and Sustainable Development Goals (MSDGs). He noted that climate change is associated with increased frequency of droughts, bushfires and other related disruptions that affect human health and productive activities such as agriculture and biodiversity.

The workshop which was jointly sponsored by African Forest Forum (AFF), KEFRI and KFS, brought together fifty five (55) professionals derived from Government ministries and parastatals, Institutions of higher learning, Non-governmental and community based organizations.



Mr. Eliakimu Zahabu (right) demonstrating how to use some of the forest measurement tools

KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai in his welcoming remarks informed the participants that KEFRI partners with regional and international organisations dealing with climate change issues in forestry. He also highlighted that KEFRI has developed climate change strategy based on relevant government blue prints such as National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCR), Vision 2030 and national plans to address research based issues on impact of climate change to forestry and response of forestry to climate change. He cited the KEFRI's Dryland Eco-region Research Programme as a good example where the Institute is undertaking activities to help people adapt to climate change.

In his speech, the Executive Secretary of the African Forest Forum (AFF) Prof. Gordwin Kowero stated that the forum has embarked on a number of Pan-African initiatives related to forest and trees. Prof. Kowero emphasized the need to move swiftly to contain the climate change challenges noting that such capacity building sessions will be undertaken in other African states by year 2015.

The training workshop covered the following areas: climate change, carbon markets and trade; carbon trade and financing processes and agreements; carbon project preparation, carbon measurements, reporting and verification; legal framework guiding carbon trade and marketing; local and regional case studies on: REDD+, preparation of Project Idea Note (PIN) and Project Design Document (PDD), carbon accounting on mangroves in Kenya, forest resource assessment in Kenya and Tanzania and status on system for land based emission estimation in Kenya (SLEEK).



Participants taking measurements of tree trunk for carbon appraisal at the KEFRI melia orchard in Kitui

## Tree Seed Collection Course

Tree Seed Collection and Conservation Techniques Training Course, jointly sponsored by KEFRI, Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG), Kew Millennium Seed Bank Partnership (MSBP) and the Global Trees Campaign (GTC) was held at KEFRI headquarters at Muguga from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2014.

The 3-day training course whose aim was to build capacity for tree seed collection attracted eighteen participants drawn from National Museums of Kenya (NMK), KEFRI, Gene Bank of Kenya (GBK), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Citi Entrepreneur Farmers, Brackenhurst Botanic Garden, African Forest, Woodlands, Seed Suppliers and Private Entrepreneurs.

### Global Trees Campaign:

The Global Trees Campaign (GTC) is a joint initiative between Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and Fauna & Flora International (FFI), to safeguard the world's threatened tree species from extinction. Through international network of botanic garden and NGO partners, GTC directly support threatened tree conservation through a combination of *in-situ* and *ex-situ* approaches, develops capacity for saving threatened trees world wide.

## Global Tree Seed Bank

The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Millennium Seed Bank Partnership recently secured funding to establish a Global Tree Seed Bank. This will involve increasing the number of tree seeds held in MSBP and partner seed banks internationally, specifically targeting the rarest threatened and most useful trees, and engaging civil society and the general public in the tree seed collection efforts.

The Global Trees Campaign is a lead implementing partner of the Global Tree Seed Bank project. Kenya has been selected as a country focal for the Global Trees Campaign element of this project. The 3-year project will increase the capacity of both government and private seed collectors through training, prioritise indigenous Kenyan tree species to be brought into seed bank collections, with a focus on threatened species and those with value for livelihoods and ecological restoration, increase the number of indigenous Kenyan tree species held in *ex situ* seed collections, both in-country and duplicated at RBG Kew MSBP, through a coordinated seed collection programme undertaken by a network of government and private partners, undertake activities and research in relation to the use of seeds in tree reintroduction programmes.

The course covered; seed collection techniques and equipments, storage, marketing and entrepreneurship. The participants visited Brackenhurst restoration forest for practicals in tree seed collections techniques and equipment, data collection, labeling, seed storage and transportation.



Tree seed course participants on practical session at Brackenhurst Forest



## Honour for Kenya as KEFRI joins OECD Board

This year's Technical Working Group and Annual Meeting of OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) Forestry Seed Scheme was held in Paris, France from 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September. Mr William Omondi of KEFRI represented Kenya. Mr Omondi presented a paper titled "Effect of climate change on Kenyan seed sources and the forestry sector". He was also elected the Vice-chair of the Annual Meetings.



Mr. William Omondi (left) the vice chair of the annual meetings of OECD

The objective of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme is to encourage production and use of seeds, parts of plants and plants that have been collected, processed and marketed in a manner that ensures their trueness to name and origin.

KEFRI on behalf of the Kenya Government will:

- Spearhead publication of tree seed regulations to operationalize seed certification under the Seeds and Plants Varieties Act and for OECD scheme.
- Create awareness through a stakeholder's workshop on the impact of the scheme and the national seed regulation to the forestry sector.
- Make linkages with national and international stakeholders and member countries for the purpose of opening up markets of seeds certified under the scheme.
- Update and publish all certified seed sources and lots for the purpose of dissemination of their information.

## Tree Seed and Seedling Production Course

KEFRI hosted a one-week course on Tree seed and seedling production at the Headquarters from 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 for tree nursery practitioners.

The training provided a forum for tree nursery practitioners to share experiences and practical skills on seed and seedling production. The training was designed upon realization by KEFRI that poor seed and seedling production methods were responsible for low tree survival and reduced productivity.

The participants learnt and shared experiences on: species selection and identification; seed collection, processing and handling; appropriate nursery practices; entrepreneurship; propagation through seeds and alternative methods. Field visits were made to institutional and community tree nurseries.



Participants doing potting at Greenland Agroforestry nursery - Gakoe



Some of the indigenous tree seeds earmarked for collection and conservation in Kenya

## Quality Management System (ISO 9001:2008)



KEFRI Staff who attended QMS sensitization seminar at Turbo

The government of Kenya has made it mandatory for all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to implement Quality Management System ISO 9001:2008. Other than being a government directive, implementation of this system is of utmost importance and shall enable KEFRI make its operations effective and efficient.

With implementation of Quality Management System (ISO 9001:2008), it is expected that KEFRI will demonstrate commitment to quality and customer satisfaction, as well as continuously improve its operations and corporate image. All activities geared towards implementation of the system in KEFRI are led by the Quality Management Representative (QMR), Dr. Jackson Mulatya.

As a requirement by the ISO 9001:2008 standard, KEFRI has already developed quality manual and quality policy, documented procedures covering all departmental processes including: Research and Development, Human Resources, Administration, Finance, Corporate Affairs, Enterprise, Procurement and ICT.

For better understanding on the requirements of the QMS system and effective implementation, awareness was done in the entire Institute, including Regional Centres and sub-centres. This was conducted by a team of staff who underwent a rigorous Training of trainers (TOT) seminar, enabling them understand all that is required for full implementation of QMS. The process towards achievement of ISO 9001:2008 certification by KEFRI is still on-going.

**If it is not documented, it was not done...!**

## Workshop on Trans-Boundary Timber Commodity Chain

Timber professionals and stakeholders from five East and Central Africa countries held a workshop on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 at KEFRI headquarters. The objective of the workshop was to discuss the output of the study “The Socio-Economic Importance of Cross Border Timber Trade in East and Central Africa”. The workshop was sponsored by EU-FAO FLEGT.

Dr. Joshua K. Cheboiwo, spearheaded the study which focussed on forest products niches and price dynamics to inform smallholder investments in tree commodity trade. The study was conducted between 2009 and 2013.



EU-FAO FLEGT Workshop participants with Director KEFRI

Findings from the study indicates that timber trade has grown to a booming business in EAC region adding value to the economy, as well as bringing competition in the region. Between 2009 and 2013 the business generated Kshs. 15.5 billion in the Northern Corridor from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to Kenya and Southern Corridor from Iringa to Kenya through Lunga Lunga and Namanga to Mombasa and Nairobi.

In his remarks, the Director KEFRI, Dr. Chikamai informed participants that, KEFRI is playing a key role in forestry and trade so that tree farming is recognized in East Africa. However, he noted that most timber is exported to foreign countries circumventing East Africa region from benefiting fully in the timber trade. “Inter-regional trade, governance will enable us support each other and benefit our countries,” he added.

Participants concurred that illegal logging and weak enforcement of legal frameworks, lack of standardization, corruption, language barrier, and brokerage are some of the challenges in timber trade and contributes to deforestation within the region. The participants resolved to collaborate with law enforcers and judiciary to authenticate the source of timber to avoid illegality and to standardize the measurement units across the countries.

## Participatory Natural Resources Management Course



Participants learning seedlings germination techniques at the Kenya Forestry Seed Centre-Muguga

Due to rapid population growth demand for trees, forest products and services continue to increase leading to deforestation and environmental degradation. Such emerging challenges necessitate frameworks for improving and sustaining Participatory Natural Resource Management (PNRM) within which institutions and local people operate. One strategy for achieving sustainable development, management, conservation and utilization of natural resources is through building capacity of institutions involved in natural resource management.

KEFRI initiated a two week training programme entitled; Participatory Natural Resource Management (PNRM) Course, to build capacity for its partners. The course was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014 at the KEFRI Headquarters.

The training curriculum took into consideration emerging natural resource issues highlighted in Kenya Vision 2030, Kenya Constitution and strategic

objectives of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

The training provided an opportunity for participants to enhance understanding on guiding principles and implementation process of Participatory Natural Resource Management (PNRM) built on ecological and socio-economic pillars. The training also provided an opportunity for sharing experiences and lessons from successful cases and interactively integrating implications of these lessons to local actions through development of action plans.

The participants included; staff from KEFRI and partner institutions such as government agencies, civil society, private sector, farmers and other interested groups. The training drew resource persons from KEFRI, KFS, civil society, selected farmers and private sector.

## PFM Experiences of Muguga Ecosystem Research Community Forest Association (MERCFA)



Muguga CFA members learn PFM process at Sokoke CFA

Thirteen members of Muguga Ecosystem Research Community Forest Association (MERCFA) made a 5-day visit to coast region from 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014. Participants were drawn from tree nursery and bee-keeping groups from 5 villages adjacent to Muguga forest. The trip was sponsored by the Green Zones Development Support Project (GZDSP) through the Ecosystem Conservator- Kiambu office. The MERCFA is currently being mentored by KEFRI.

The objective of the visit was to enable the CFA members gain experiences on formulation of Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMP) as they prepare to develop one as required by the Forests Act 2005.

The CFA members were accompanied for the trip by 11 Kenya Forest Service (KFS) officers who included Head of Conservancy (HOC) Central Highlands.

The group visited the Ecosystem Conservator Kilifi County and the forester in-charge of Sokoke forest station. The forester gave the team a brief on Arabuko Sokoke forest CFA who pioneered in piloting PFM process in Kenya. The brief highlighted; steps in PFMP development, involvement of stakeholders, and implementation of the PFM process at group and individual farm level. The group learnt that over 80% of information in the PFM guide manual is from Arabuko Sokoke case study.

The group also visited Gede CFA tree nursery, Kipepeo (Butterfly) farm and a honey processing project which were models for income generating activities for livelihood improvement. At the South Coast the group visited Kwale County Ecosystem Conservator who introduced them to the county activities and also to the area forester. One of the sites visited at Kwale included the Shimba Hills Community Forest Association (SHIKOFA). Objective of this visit was to learn the process of initiation and management of income generating activities. The CFA-Mikoko pamoja women group also introduced MERCFA members to an eco-tourism activity. The women group also grows mangrove from which they sell carbon.

Lessons learnt from the visit will go a long way in assisting MERCFA members improve the state of Muguga eco-system and adjacent community livelihood. MERCFA members thank Green Zones Development Support Project (GZDSP) for sponsoring the tour.



CFA members at Kaya Kinondo Forest Eco-tourism site where they learnt eco-tourism development approaches



MERCFA members admiring fish farming aquarium which is an alternative income generating activity

## Knowledge Management Focal Point Course



Knowledge Management focal points pose for a group photo after the training

Training and induction of Knowledge Management Focal Points was carried out from 7th to 9th July 2014 at KEFRI headquarters. Senior Deputy Director Research and Development Dr. Bernard Kigomo officially opened the course. "KEFRI has managed its information to some extent but there is room for improvement, citing prerequisite for a systematic approach, integrated and coordinated manner of Knowledge Management and information dissemination for wider dissemination and impact," remarked Dr. Kigomo.

The knowledge management team leader Ms. Sheila Mbiru, informed the focal points that an audit report towards development of a knowledge management strategy had been undertaken. Among the objectives of the audit was to determine status of information and knowledge access through sharing among employees and research management team, gauging the level of staff capacity and competency in information, evaluating stakeholder awareness and perception of KEFRI information and knowledge on products and services, and identification of barriers and challenges.

During the training, participants were informed that a pilot activity on Knowledge Management (KM) was done at Karura Forest Products Research Centre. During the training, both technical and non-technical teams made presentations and shared experiences about KM with the rest of participants.

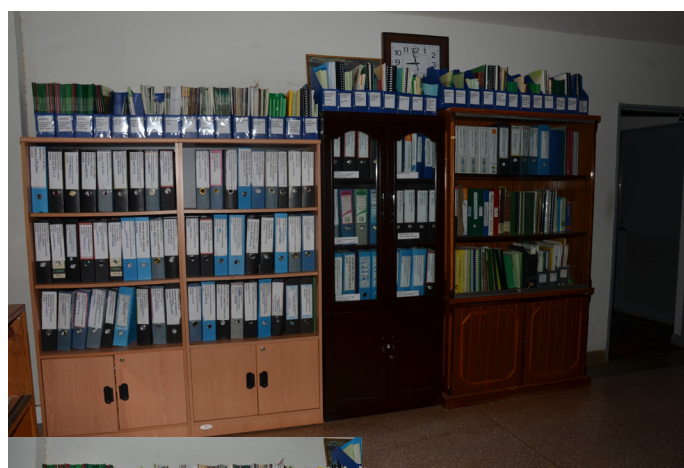
The training was informed that it was important to synchronize KM vision of achieving excellence in information and knowledge management for sustainable forestry research and development with the vision of the Institute.

The broad objective of the KM is to enhance efficiency in knowledge creation, capturing, storage, processing, access, sharing and application for sustainable forestry research and development.

Director KEFRI Dr. Ben Chikamai who officially closed the training informed participants that KEFRI is a knowledge based institution whose mandate relates to knowledge generation, dissemination of information and products to its stakeholders. He urged participants to embrace KM which is a key component in forest research and development as entrenched in the KEFRI's 5th Strategic Plan 2013-2018. "Lack of proper framework and policy on KM may have caused other players to rob KEFRI technologies and claim ownership".



Ms Sheila Mbiru knowledge management team leader presenting audit report to focal point representatives



Well arranged files and documents



## Meetings

### ASILI SACCO AGM



KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai addressing staff during Asili AGM. He was accompanied by Mr. Laban Mathu (centre) and Mathias Oliech

KEFRI members of Asili SACCO held their Annual General Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at the KEFRI head office Muguga. The meeting began with a word of prayer and a moment of silence in remembrance of the late Mr. Benson Obunaka who until his death was the Chairman Asili SACCO.

The AGM main agenda was to educate members and issue promotional material mainly t-shirts. Mr. Laban Mathu chaired the meeting and introduced his colleagues in the Asili board. ASILI Board members present at the meeting were; Messrs. Mathias Oliech (Asili CEO), Stacus Orondo (KEFRI), Evans Kigonde and Tom Odidi (Kenya Forest Service), Raphael Bukachi (Kenya Wildlife Service), Daniel Mbutia (Kenyatta Hospital) and David Anguenyi from Department of Mines, Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

The KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai welcomed members to the meeting and requested all to contribute effectively while taking into consideration deliberations of the AGM. He encouraged members to increase savings in SACCO, as they give loans with minimum interest.

In rejoinder Mr. Oliech stated that Asili SACCO advocates for an open door policy. "Corporate Social Responsibility is part of any corporate thus giving back to the community and the less fortunate should be encouraged," he said.

He cited absconding loan servicing as delinquency and termed such members as the greatest enemy of Asili SACCO. "Asili SACCO has registered with Credit Reference Bureaus and any defaulter now risks being secluded from accessing loan in any of the financial institutions countrywide for five years," he warned.

"As we embrace ATMs and other Electronic Money Transfer, let's be cautious of cyber-crime which is rising globally", he added.

To culminate the meeting, each member of Asili SACCO both at KEFRI head office and KFS Muguga station were issued with a T-Shirt. The same will be issued to all members of Asili countrywide.

#### Director's Tea Forum

KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai during the director's tea forum held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014 led the staff in observing a moment of silence in honour of Prof. Kingiri Senelwa who until his death was a member of KEFRI 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Management and head, Research and Development Committee.

KEFRI Staff present during the tea forum interacted with the Directorate on various issues of staff welfare and job productivity. Dr. Chikamai reiterated that the KEFRI Board of Management is keen to improve the working conditions of its staff.

## **Demise**

**KEFRI fraternity mourns the loss of the following members:**



The late Prof. Senelwa

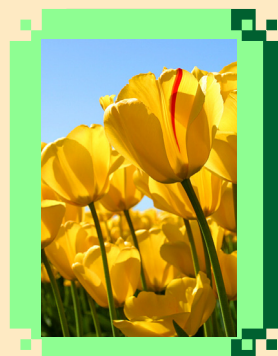
**Prof. Kingiri Albert Senelwa** passed on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014. Until his death he was working with the University of Eldoret and also served as a KEFRI Board Member (Chairman Research and Development Committee). The late Prof. Kingiri worked briefly in KEFRI as Assistant Research Officer in 1988. His body was laid to rest on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 at Cheptulu Vihiga County.



The late Enos Situbi

**Enos Matura Situbi** passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. Until his death, Enos worked at KEFRI Rift Valley Eco-region Research Programme - Londiani. Previously he worked at KEFRI headquarters.

His body was laid to rest on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at Ivona village, Lugari, Kakamega County.



**Maurice Oswago Nyamai** passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. Until his death he worked as a driver at Ramogi Sub-centre. He had previously served at Kuja River Sub-centre and Lake Victoria Eco-region, Maseno.

His body was interred on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 at Kambura Sub-Location, Ndhiwa Sub County, Homabay County.

**May the Lord rest their souls in eternal peace.**



A KEFRI tree climber at Kisumu ASK show, demonstrating equipment and skills used in seed harvesting



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