



KEFRI *Newsletter*

ISSUE No.11

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2014

A Publication of Kenya Forestry Research Institute



**Ground breaking of KEFRI Migori
Farmers Resource Centre**

GOVERNOR RATIFIES 80MILLION KEFRI MIGORI RESOURCE CENTRE



Governor Migori County H.E. Zacharia Obado (in red tie) laying the foundation stone for KEFRI Migori Farmers Resource Centre. On the left is Hon. Ogutu, Dr. Ben Chikamai (green shirt) and Mr. John Gisemba Deputy Director Administration

His Excellency Zacharia Okoth Obado, the Governor Migori County, laid the foundation stone for the construction of 80 million KEFRI Migori Resource Centre on 14th November 2014. The Governor and KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai also planted *Podocarpus latifolius* and *Ficus sur* trees respectively to mark the ground breaking ceremony and commencement of the construction.

The event was attended by the Migori County Chief Executive Committee Member (CECM) for lands Hon. Elizabeth Ochoye, CECM for Environment and Disaster Management Dr. Polycarp Ating'a, CECM for Education Hon. Michael Ogutu, Chief Officer for Environment Ms. Roseline Otieno, County Secretary Mr. Christopher Lusano, Sub-county Administrator Mr. Adongo, KEFRI Deputy Director Administration Mr. John Gisemba, KEFRI Regional Director for the Lake Victoria Basin Eco-region Research Programme Dr. Robert Nyambati, and representatives of the Architecture, Manyota Construction Limited.

"We welcome this project which is a significant contribution to the Countys' development agenda. Migori County has ample land for development, though its forest and tree cover is ranked low compared to neighbouring Counties, this initiative will enhance tree growing in our County," said the governor.

"My County government through the relevant Ministries will partner with KEFRI and support its initiatives towards increasing tree and forest cover from current 3% to beyond 20% within the

CONTENTS

Governor ratifies 80m KEFRI Migori Resource Centre	2
Turkana Resource Centre	4
Handing Over of Lamu Sub-Centre	6
The Ps visits KEFRI	7
Launch of Green Schools Tree Growing Programme in Eastern Conservancy	8
Training	9
ASK Show	11
KEFRI Choir Presentations	12
End of Year Party 2014	13
New Employees	14
Demise	15

Contributors: Dr. Jackson Mulatya, Mrs Sarah Mogaka, Ms Margaret Njenga, Stephen Gitonga and Eston Situbi

Editors: Dr. Jackson Mulatya, Mrs Sarah Mogaka, Stephen Gitonga and Ms Margaret Njenga

Layout and Design: Charles Nyogot

Printed by: Print Maxim

HAPPY NEW YEAR

region". The County Governor will facilitate KEFRI to disseminate appropriate technologies that will improve the environment, food security as well as the economic wellbeing of the Migori residents. Also, the Governor urged communities to support KEFRI initiatives and embrace relevant forestry technologies to make the County increase production of assorted tree seedlings to rehabilitate degraded hills, increase tree growing on farms, public and private farms.

The Director KEFRI, Dr. Ben Chikamai said the 11 acres piece of land next to the Lichota Agricultural show grounds along Migori-Kihancha road will be developed into a modern Resource Centre with training facility for forestry research and capacity building, office block, laboratories and demonstration site.

He further noted that KEFRI is devolving its services to the Counties and bringing flagship projects closer to the people as prerequisite in the MPT II of Vision 2030.

"In this regard, we are collaborating with both local and international organisations to share research experiences and tackle emerging challenges such as climate change and preservation of the country's biodiversity and degraded lands," he added.

Dr. Chikamai cited dependency on fuel wood as a single source of energy for domestic use, tobacco curing, brick making and fish smoking as some of the activities contributing to deforestation and degradation in the region.

"The Resource Centre, therefore will be a hub for developing forestry technologies and disseminating research findings to Migori region and the adjacent Counties namely: Kisii, Nyamira, Narok and Homabay. The technologies will be evaluated and those with socio-economic impacts recommended for improving livelihoods in the areas of reforestation, conservation, biodiversity, mitigation of climate change, pest and disease management, tree establishment and social forestry," said Dr. Chikamai.

Specifically, KEFRI in its implementation of the 5th Strategic Plan 2013-2018 will prioritize development of important tree species to counteract these challenges and work with farmers to enhance soil fertility and land productivity, as well as continue rehabilitating degraded areas of Wire and Guasi hills.

Previously, during the handing over of the site on 30th October 2014, the Deputy Governor H.E. Nelson Mwita Mohanya noted that majority of the Countys' rural residents depends on fuel wood for energy yet many homesteads are bare ground with no single trees on their farms.

"As the demand for fuelwood and construction material and other tree and forest products increases, there is need to widen our approach by adopting research that considers motivation factors to plant more trees on farm and rehabilitate degraded sites," said Mwita.

Migori County is in need of high value commercial trees and improved fruit trees for integration in the small scale parcels



KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai and the Lake Victoria Basin Eco-region Research Programme Dr. Robert Nyambati visiting a progeny trial site at Nyatike in Migori County

of land. Avocadoes, Pawpaw and Mangoes are some of the prosperous fruit trees that can be improved to enhance food security and increase tree cover.

Dr. Wambi, the CECM for Environment and Disaster Management, appealed for introduction of Bamboo along the riverines to support fish industry in the area. "There are ample pieces of land for establishment of satellite tree nursery within the county," he said.

The KEFRI Regional Director; Lake Victoria Basin Eco-region Research Programme Dr. Robert Nyambati noted that the region has diverse land forms that call for a systematic approach to improve the environment and increase tree and forest cover to 10%.

Migori County experiences two bimodal climatic conditions with the higher attitudes and the lower attitudes receiving an average rainfall of 1350-1500 mm per annum and 600 mm respectively. "Both indigenous and exotic tree species are needed for production of fuelwood, soil erosion control and environmental conservation. *Eucalyptus saligna* and *E.camadulensis* in parts of Homa bay, *Grevilea robusta*, *Casuarina*, *Maesopsis eminii* in Migori and Rongo, *Gmelina aborea* in Nyatike, *Makhamia lutea* amongst other indigenous species are some of the commercial trees suitable for the high rainfall area. In addition, *Acacia nilotica* and polyacantha, neem (medicinal), for enrichment planting are some of the earmarked indigenous tree species suitable for integration in rehabilitating degraded hilltop such as Wire and Guasi," said Dr. Nyambati.

KEFRI has established seed orchard and progeny trial site at Nyatike in the region and undertaken community training in establishment and utilization of bamboo in Migori-Gege area, Suba-Kuria and Rangwe in Homabay County.

The Resource Centre demo will display technologies of watershed conservation, bamboo enrichment for riverine conservation and suitable indigenous and exotic trees that can mitigate climate change in the area.

TURKANA RESOURCE CENTRE



Turkana County Deputy Governor Peter Ekai (centre) receiving symbolic key from Director KEFRI for the Farmers Resource Centre in Lodwar. Looking on is Deputy Director Administration Mr. John Gisemba

Turkana County Deputy Governor Hon. Peter Ekai officially opened KEFRI Turkana Resource Centre, Lodwar on 17th October, 2014. The Deputy Governor also launched a booklet entitled, “Rehabilitation of degraded areas surrounding Kakuma Refugee camp”.

Ekai raised alarm over the wanton destruction of the natural resources in the County. He lamented over the unscrupulous businessmen over-exploiting aloe plants at the expense of the community. “We are losing a lot of aloe to unscrupulous traders. The county government is not even benefiting from this plant,” said Ekai.

The Deputy Governor hailed KEFRI for establishing the resource centre at the county and campaigned for more collaboration with the locals to ensure sustainability of tasks. Similarly, he urged his members of the county assembly to work together with KEFRI and Kenya Wildlife Service to fast track a policy on conservation of aloes and other vanishing plants.

The County Executive Committee Members (CECM) in charge of Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Hon. Rhoda Liyor, stated that the County will collaborate with stakeholder to increase vegetation cover and arrest environmental degradation in the County. KEFRI needs to train youth groups on the improved charcoal Jiko, prosopis management and utilization, value addition from bamboo and other natural resources.

The Deputy County Commissioner for Loima Mr. Charles Igiha commended the launch of the facility and called on the county residents to embrace research findings from KEFRI and other relevant institutions.

Director's Remarks

KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai said KEFRI Turkana sub-regional Research Centre will implement forestry research and development agenda in the North Rift Valley Eco-region, covering Turkana and West Pokot Counties. Over the years, this centre has developed technologies on conservation and sustainable management of the wood/bush lands, rehabilitation of degraded areas through enclosures, grass reseeding and water harvesting technologies. In addition, the centre has been developing nature based enterprises from woodland resources in particular aloe and gum arabic, control and management of invasive prosopis focus on prosopis utilization, domestication of other commercially viable indigenous tree species in consultation with communities.

“We are committed to availing relevant technologies such as integrating trees in irrigated farming system to ensure resilience of the agriculture system,” said Chikamai.

The opening of the 11 million resource centre will help in capacity building and dissemination of information to the communities so as to improve livelihood as well as the environment.

The launch of Turkana Resources Centre is an opportunity for KEFRI to not only devolve services to the local communities but also disseminate its research findings to stakeholders and empower communities to manage forest resources for their socio-economic development.

Booklet

Soil erosion, deforestation are common phenomenon of land degradation in Turkana County. This degradation is aggravated by overstocking of livestock and increased demand for fuelwood in large settlements. Areas surrounding Kakuma Refugee Camp have suffered most degradation as a result of increased demand for fuelwood and construction poles by refugees. To mitigate further degradation, KEFRI scientists in collaboration with the Japan Overseas Forestry Consultant Association (JOFCA) initiated a project to demonstrate drylands rehabilitation technologies. This activity resulted into development of a guideline entitled "Rehabilitation of degraded areas surrounding Kakuma Refugee camp".



H.E. the Deputy Governor (centre) with his entourage visiting the exhibition to sensitize community on the uses of natural resources available in the region



Turkana County Deputy Governor Peter Ekai launching the booklet on "Rehabilitation of Degraded Areas surrounding Kakuma Refugee camp" at KEFRI Resource Centre in Lodwar. He is assisted by Deputy Director Forest Product Improvement Programme Dr. Jane Njuguna, Hon. Rhoda Loyor and KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai

HANDING OVER OF LAMU SUB-CENTRE



KEFRI Farmers Resource Centre main entrance

Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) put up a forestry facility in Mokowe, Lamu county. The official handing over of the facility took place on 22 October 2014. The project commenced in September 2013 by the contractor Manyota Limited and completed in September 2014. The project cost 48 Million fully funded by the Government of Kenya.

This was the first phase of the project which comprises accommodation facility/hostel block. It consists of two storey structure with 12 ensuite rooms and 3 management offices.

This will help raise KEFRI's profile and the presence felt in the Coastal region. Currently KEFRI has nine (9) Sub centres across the country and is working closely with the county government for the purpose of achieving the 10% forest cover.

The Director KEFRI Dr. Ben Chikamai graced the official handing over of the project.



KEFRI Farmers Resource Centre - Lamu

THE PS VISITS KEFRI



The PS, Dr. Richard Lesiyampe addressing KEFRI staff at the auditorium in Muguga Headquarters

The Principal Secretary (PS), State Department of Environment and Natural Resources Dr. Richard Lesiyampe, visited KEFRI on 14th October 2014. KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai received the PS who was accompanied by Ambassador Julius Kandie, Ephraim Muchiri and Edward Ngugi from the same Ministry and introduced him to KEFRI Senior Managers. The PS interacted with them at a personal level as each briefed him of their duties and responsibilities.

Thereafter, the PS addressed over 400 members of staff drawn from Headquarters, Central Highlands Eco-region Research Programme-Muguga and National Forest Products Research Centre-Karura. This was after the Director KEFRI made a brief introduction of the Institute where he enumerated the support by the Ministry to the Institute's operations (finance, operations, policies and advocacy). The PS appreciated KEFRI as one of 26 Parastatal agencies in his Ministry noting that it plays a key responsibility of providing technologies and information in the forest sector and other relevant sectors thus contributing to national development.

Dr. Lesiyampe reiterated that most national developments are spurred by research achievements and innovations and promised to provide any necessary support to achieving this service delivery. "The Ministry is supportive of technology development in many disciplines as indicated in the KEFRI's vision, mandate

and thematic research programmes in the approved Strategic Plan 2013- 2018," he said.

The PS challenged KEFRI to up the game and provide quality results with socio-economic and environmental impact. He further urged the Institute to discharge its responsibility in the face of the new constitution and strive to provide quality products and services as stated in our service delivery charter. "Let the scientists and technologists be effective and efficient in developing methods to provide quality products and consumables for industry, livelihood growth and environmental conservation for national good," said the PS.

He urged the staff to familiarize themselves with Chapter 6 and 13 of the Constitution which highlights expectations of public servants, and develop their career for them to be effective workforce. He asked the management to recruit, promote and procure goods and services transparently as stipulated in the government policies.

Lastly, he urged KEFRI fraternity to take care of their health and avoid issues that could compromise their health and always remember our core business. He extolled all to practice Respect, Recognition and Appreciation for good team work and cohesive KEFRI family.

LAUNCH OF GREEN SCHOOLS TREE GROWING PROGRAMME IN EASTERN CONSERVANCY



Team leader Mr. Kabugi and Hon. Kathuri handing over some nursery equipments to Yururu Primary School Management Committee

Tharaka Nithi

At Tharaka Nithi County the exercise commenced by planting of trees along Kwa Mutonga River and the nursery site on 13th November 2014. The Deputy Governor of Tharaka Nithi officiated the event which was organized jointly by the County Government, Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO).

Several departments including Environment, Lands, Education and Agriculture from the county were represented. Dignitaries present from the County were the Deputy Governor, County

Commissioner, Representative of PS Environment and Natural Resources, Chief Officers, CEC Environment and MCAs.

The rolling out of “The Green Schools Tree Growing and Commercialization Programme” was carried out in selected schools in the Embu, Tharaka Nithi and Meru Counties between 10th and 15th November 2014.

The activity was carried out by team from National Government dispatched by the Principal Secretary in State Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Mr. Hewson Kabugi lead the team comprising Dr. Jackson Mulatya, Jackline Wekesa, Annemary Kathambi and Rachael Mutonye.

Programme objectives

The objectives of the Green Schools programme is to integrate tree growing in schools in Kenya with the aim to achieve 10% tree cover as stipulated in our Constitution and Vision 2030, establish water harvesting from school roofs for domestic use and watering at the tree nursery, and provision of energy saving modern Jikos to schools for energy conservation. This programme was initiated through the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and His Excellency the President Uhuru Kenyatta, the patron, launched the programme at Michinda Primary on 7th December, 2013.

Embu County

The team in liaison with the Forest Conservation Committee (FCC) for Eastern Conservancy and the administration met the Deputy County Commissioner Runyenjes Constituency. The team thereafter visited Kaveti Primary school where the Head teacher and teachers were taken through the tenets of green schools programme. The school has been selected amongst 51 Green schools to benefit during the first phase of implementation. The school has space to grow close to 3,000 trees as boundary planting and woodlot. The school will require support in establishing a tree nursery as well as water harvesting methods. A feeding programme for the nursery pupils has been started and hence introduction of energy saving jikos is crucial.

Dr. Jackson Mulatya Deputy Director Corporate Affairs - KEFRI delivered the speech on behalf of the PS. He highlighted the historical initiation of the programme, the aim and period of implementation. The responsibility of programme implementation is with KFS assisted by Ministry of Education and County governments.

The Deputy Governor stated the County is conscious of incidences where permanent rivers have dried in the last season and attributed it to wanton tree cutting and diversion of water upper stream by private developers not minding population downstream. To mitigate the problems, the county has set aside funds and measures in place to plant trees and increase tree cover to 30%.



Some members of the Eastern Conservancy Team planting trees

TRAINING

Secondly, the team launched the programme at Kaunti Primary in Mara Sub County in support of the local administration, schools parents, teachers, pupils and KFS staff. The school has 30 acres with potential of planting trees in more than 20 acres for various benefits. The school plans to establish a tree nursery. The Principal assured the team of their willingness to plant trees having been selected as the first school in the county. Some members of the Eastern Conservancy Team planting trees.

Meru County

The programme was launched at Yururu Primary School in South Imenti constituency on 13th November, 2014. The function was attended by the area Member of Parliament Hon. Kathuri Murungi, Deputy County Commissioner, Assistant County Commissioner, Chiefs and local leaders, MCA representative, Education officers, teachers and pupils of the schools. About 30 Ceremonial trees were planted and the school has already planted 1000 tree seedlings.

Mr. Hewson Kabugi read the message of the Cabinet Secretary while Hon Kathuri appreciated the selection of Yururu School and expressed commitment in supporting the implementation of the programme in his constituency, describing as a progressive approach towards increasing tree cover and engaging the youth at an early age.

In addition, Hon. Kathuri presented pencils and sharpeners, nursery equipment including two wheelbarrows, jembes, soil sieves, watering cans, jembes, pangas and rakes to the school committee as a contribution from the Ministry.

JUNIPERUS PROCERA

***Juniperus procera* (commonly known as African juniper, African pencil-cedar, East African juniper, East African-cedar, and Kenya-cedar), is a dominant coniferous tree occurring only in south of the equator and native to mountainous areas in Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. The evergreen tree grows up to 40m high usually with a straight bole. Bark is grey/brown, cracking and peeling in long narrow strips. Leaves are prickly, scale-like and closely overlapping on the branchlets. Mature seed bearing cones are purple blue and fleshy, round and about 8mm across containing 2-3 triangular seeds. Male cones are smaller and yellow with pollen.**



A well preserved *Juniperus procera* tree growing in a natural habitat

The tree is valued for its termite resistant and decay-resistant wood, which is used for fence posts, shingles on roofs, house construction, furniture, cabinet making, and the manufacture of pencils.



Board members and KEFRI staff who attended the training

Corporate Governance Course

A Corporate Governance Course was held at our Dryland Eco-Region Research Programme on 17th to 18th November 2014. 6 Board members attended the 2 day training together with 3 KEFRI staff. It was a very interactive course which was beneficial to the members. The topics covered were as follows: overview of Corporate Governance, the effective Board, constitutional and public finance management Act, Board meetings and strategic asset Board, Board evaluation, implementation of public service values and chapter 5 of the constitution on Forests.

The Board members were able to visit the nursery and seed laboratory at the centre and appraised themselves on what the researchers do at the centre. It was an exposure of what research is all about and an eye opener. They were able to make some observations and comments which would assist the researchers improve.

It was proposed that KEFRI should strive to spearhead technologies such as climate change to enhance the research in dryland area. Publish information on the research undertaken on the new technologies of linking of products to commercialization. Scientists should engage proactively with the County Government for impact as per article 10 of the Kenyan constitution.

Performance Management Training

KEFRI has an obligation to generate improved technologies for sustainable management, conservation and development of forests. For this reason, Performance Management Training was carried out with the purpose of building the capacity of the Institute's senior managers. The Institute strives to have a performance evaluation process that is objective and free of bias.

The training was carried out at Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Organization (KARLO) Thika station. This was done in two groups; the first group attended the training from 5th to 7th November while the second group was from 24th to 26th November 2014.

Career Route Consultants conducted the training which covered the following areas:

- 1) Performance Management process
- 2) Setting performance targets
- 3) Performance appraisal process
- 4) Balanced scorecard as a performance Management tool
- 5) Developing a performance appraisal tool based on the Balanced Scorecard
- 6) Rewarding performance
- 7) Talent Management



KEFRI staff who attended the course

Plant Nematology Training Course



Participants pose for a photo during the course

A four day course on Plant Nematology was held at KEFRI Headquarters -Muguga from 6th -9th October 2014. Participants included KEFRI technicians, technologists and technical officers from Dudutech Company.

Course Content

The course covered the following topics; the biology of nematodes, nematode handling techniques in laboratory and field, inspection of hygiene conditions in the nursery, soil sampling for nematode extraction and nematode identification techniques.

Biology of Nematodes:

Nematodes are round parasitic worms (Phylum Nematoda) that live in diverse habitat i.e. fresh water, saline water, soil, plants and animals. They are also associated with diseases such as elephantiasis and river blindness on human being and dying of young plant seedlings.

Observations by KEFRI scientists discovered parasitic nematodes were the cause of massive death of *Melia volkensii* seedlings in Tiva Nursery in Kitui during acclimatization stage. Despite high germination rate, the seedlings turns yellow, wilts, withers and may ultimately die. Preliminary assessment indicated very high occurrence of parasitic nematodes *Aphelenhoide abesseyi* and *Aphelenchoide fragarie* in the fleshy roots of *Melia* subsequently initiating root-rot.

Some of the common damages caused by plant parasitic nematodes include: puncturing the root cells, enzyme secretion that modify root cells forming galls, reduction of root surface area through heavy damage and transfer of other pathogens such as bacteria, fungi and viruses to the host.

Plant parasitic nematodes can be sole pathogens or may interact with other plant pathogens to cause diseases. They frequently form disease complexes with wilt inducing and root-rot fungi. Early infection by *Meloidogyne* spp., *Pratylenchus* and *Rotylenchus* increase the incidence and severity of *Fusarium* and *Pythium* spp wilt in a number of plants in the nursery, a disease commonly known as dumping off.

The course was officiated by the Deputy Director Technical Support Services Dr. Ebby Chagala-Odera, Participants from Dudutech expressed their gratitude to the Regional Director Central Highlands Eco-region Research Programme Mr. Ely Mwanza, Coordinator of Laboratory Services Ms. Sarah Wakesho, Research Scientist Mr Stephen Omondi and Technical Officer Milton O. Esitubi for their presentations which had a significance in the flower and horticultural industries.

ASK SHOW

Kabarnet Show

The Rift Valley Eco-region Research Programme in collaboration with the National Forest Products Research Centre-Karura participated at Kabarnet show from 14th to 18th October 2014. The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture Hon. Felix Koskei officially opened the show. KEFRI exhibited the following products; Aloe, bamboo, indigenous fruits, mondia and laminated fancy items. Various forestry technologies relevant to Rift Valley and its surroundings were showcased. Carbonization of wood using drum and metal kilns, publications and relevant posters were also displayed.

Achievements

KEFRI stand was ranked number 1 in the best stand that demonstrated Environmental Standards, and awarded a trophy by the Chief Guest Hon. Phyllis Kandie, the Cabinet Secretary for East Africa Affairs, Commerce and Tourism. Other achievements were 2nd position in Research and Development and 2nd position in Innovation and Invention.

KEFRI stand received 1000 visitors amongst them the governor of Baringo County, His Excellency Benjamin Cheboi who hailed the good working relationship between KEFRI and the County government.



Hon. Phyllis Kandie (right) and Hon. Felix Koskei handing over a trophy to KEFRI staff Mr. Reuben Shanda as Governor Benjamin Cheboi (partly hidden) looks on

KEFRI CHOIR PRESENTATIONS

KEFRI Choir attended the Permanent Presidential Music Commission (PPMC) music presentations on 6th to 11th December 2014. Thereafter, the choir participated in the Jamuhuri Day celebrations at Nyayo Stadium on 12th December 2014. The choir sang in a mass choir during the celebrations officiated by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta.

The mass choir sang the best song which was composed by the KEFRI choirmaster to the Head of State and other Head of African States guests among other dignitaries.



KEFRI Choir visit to PPMC headquarters immediately after 2014 Jamhuri Celebrations

Corporate Social Responsibility

After the performance during the Jamuhuri day, PPMC invited KEFRI Choir among the 18 Government Ministries, Parastals and County Governments choirs to participate in its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities in Mombasa. While in Mombasa the choirs presented Christmas carols and also presented gifts to the less privileged in the society at Miji wa Salama home for elderly at Makande, Little Sisters Elderly home at Tudor and Wema children home at Kisauni, all in Mombasa county. They also visited Mama Hellena Nyumba ya Watoto in Ukunda, Kwale County.

KEFRI Choir members contributed Ksh.6,500 towards the kit for purchasing gifts to the less privileged to celebrate Christmas and New year festive.

The choir thanks the Director and the Deputy Director Corporate Affairs and Quality Assurance for the opportunity accorded to them to join other national choir members from various government institutions in this noble CSR activities and publicizing KEFRI during these events.



Choir Members visiting the elderly at Miji wa Salama Home in Makande, Mombasa County



Choir members presenting gifts to Wema Centre Childrens Home in Kisauni, Mombasa County



The choir entertaining children at Mama Hellena Nyumba ya Watoto in Ukunda, Kwale County

END OF YEAR PARTY 2014



The Chief Guest Mr. Hewson Kabugi addressing KEFRI staff during the party

KEFRI held its end of year party and staff award ceremony on Friday 5th December 2014 at the Headquarters in Muguga. This was the fifth event since the current Chief Executive Officer took office. It brings together staff from three Centres; Central Highlands, Forest Products, KEFRI Headquarters and representatives from other Eco-regions.

In his opening remarks, the Director started by welcoming all to the party. He then reiterated that following the launch of 5th Strategic Plan 2013-2018, KEFRI top managers had attended a one week seminar on Performance Appraisal and balance scorecard.

He praised the staff for exemplary performance during the exhibitions at the ASK shows. The Institute was awarded several trophies at various Eco-regions. The Director further urged staff to observe the 1/3 rule on basic salary.

“We are on the verge of introducing staff appraisal for the lower cadre, in bid to help them in merit and promotions,” the Director announced.

The Chief Guest Mr. Hewson Kabugi representing the Principal Secretary, State Department of Environment and Natural Resources, conveyed the PS’s Christmas greetings and well wishes to all the staff. Mr Kabugi said that the PS had staff welfare at heart. In his own remarks, he had the following three lessons of life to share with those present;

- i) Never allow anyone to underrate your capacity
- ii) Continuously aim high
- iii) Never give up on what one have chosen to pursue - be persistent
- iv) Focus on your similarities which are 99%; being unique is the only difference between all human beings.

During the event, staff who had excelled in their roles and responsibilities in various categories were awarded for their exemplary performance. The Regional Directors from the Centres that had performed exemplary in the ASK shows of 2014 also received awards.

The Dryland Eco-region Research Programme received awards for the following categories at the Kitui ASK Show:

- First in the category of “the Best in Theme Interpretation”
- First in the category of “the Best Stand in Research & Development”
- First in the category of “the Best Medium Government Stand”
- First in the category of “Most Striking Locally Manufactured Products”

The Coast Eco-region Research Programme received an award for the following category at the Mombasa International Trade Fair:

- Third in the category of “Innovation and Invention”

The Rift Valley Eco-region Research Programme received an award for the following category at the Kabarnet Show:

- First in the category of “the Best Stand in Environmental Application”

The Central Highlands Eco-region Research Programme jointly with Karura Forest Products Centre received an award for the following categories at the Nyeri County ASK show:

- 2nd in the category of “the Best Stand in Research & Development”
- 2nd in the category of “the Best Stand in Innovation and Invention”
- 3rd in the category of “the Best in Theme Interpretation”
- 3rd in the category of “the Best Government Medium Stand”

The Central Highlands Eco-region Research Programme jointly with Karura Forest Products Centre and Corporate Affairs received an award for the following category at the Nairobi International Trade Fair:

- First in the category of “the Best Agricultural Based Statutory Board”

The staff and guests were given luncheon with KEFRI choir and Kayamba roots entertaining all.

To sum it up the Director Dr. Chikamai wished all a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year 2015.

NEW EMPLOYEES

New Employees as from 1st October 2014



Zaituni Chelangat
Senior Personal Secretary
CEO's Office

Holds BBM (HR Option) from Masinde Muliro University, HND in HR and Diploma in Secretarial studies. Has nine (9) years work experience from various organizations as a Personal Secretary. Before joining KEFRI she was working with Murang'a University.



Calvins L. Olesunguna
Accounts Assistant II
Baringo Forestry Research Sub-Centre

Has CPA Part I&II and working experience of four years. Previously worked at National Irrigation Board-Perkerra Scheme as an Accountant.



Peter Gachie Kimani
Research Scientist II (Agroforestry)
Central Highlands Eco-region Research
Programme – Muguga

Holds M.Sc. in Forestry from Moi University. Has twenty (20) years working experience. Before joining KEFRI he lectured in various Institutions including Egerton University.



Nancy Cherotich Bor
Assistant Research Scientist (Biometrics)
Headquarters

Holds a B.Sc. in Mathematics and (Applied Statistics University of Eldoret. She has been an intern in the Biometrics for one (1) year.



Jovita Akiki Omina
Senior Personal Secretary
Senior Deputy Director's Office (F&A)

Holds a Bachelor of Business & Office Management degree from JKUAT and Diploma in Business Management (KSPS). She has eighteen (18) years work experience from various organizations. Prior to joining KEFRI she was working at the main Interior State Department of Coordination as a Personal Secretary.



Celestine K. Ingutia
Research Scientist II (Biometrician)
Headquarters

Holds a M.Sc. in Applied Statistics from Maseno University. Has seven (7) years work experience from various organization both public and private sector.



Kevin Mwema
Assistant Research Scientist (ARO)
Agroforestry Coast Eco-region Research
Programme – Gede

Hold a B.Sc. degree in Agroforestry & Rural Development from Moi University. Has three (3) years working experience from various organizations.



Isaac Benson Odhiambo
Supply Chain Officer III
Headquarters

Holds a BBA (Purchasing & Supply Chain Management) from St. Paul University. Before joining KEFRI he was a Procurement Officer at KPLC.



Patrick Mutungi Muthoni
Technologist (Horticulturist)
Central Highlands Eco Region Research
Programme – Muguga

Holds a Diploma in Horticulture from Egerton University. Has six (6) years working experience at Land Development Agribusiness & Marketing – Lamu.



Vincent Yegon
Chemical Engineer
Karura Forest Products

Holds M.Sc. in Chemical Engineering from Moi University. Has work experience of nine (9) years from various organizations. Before joining KEFRI he was a lecturer at Eldoret Polytechnic Department of Chemical Technology.

DEMISE

KEFRI Management and the entire staff console the families of the following members of staff who passed on during the reporting period.



The late Kagechu Mungai

Jackson Kagechu Mungai which occurred on 30th November, 2014. Until his sudden death, Mr. Kagechu worked at Central Highland Eco-region Programme-Muguga. He was buried at Kamuguga village, Kikuyu, Kiambu County on Friday, 5th December, 2014.



The Late James Mwaniki

James Mwaniki passed on 5th December 2014. He joined KEFRI in October 1989 as a seed collector. He was later relocated to Administration Security section where he worked until his death. He was buried at Nguriunditu village, Kikuyu, Kiambu County on Thursday, 10th December, 2014.

May the Lord rest their souls in eternal peace.

2014 END OF YEAR PARTY PICTORIAL

