



KEFRI *Newsletter*

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PS Dr. Chris Kiptoo with KEFRI Director and other staff during a visit to KEFRI Seed Centre, Muguga



PS Dr. Chris Kiptoo (centre) being briefed by KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo (left) on tree breeding trial at the headquarters

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Environment and Forestry PS visit KEFRI

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry will support KEFRI in production of tree seed as a pre-requisite to the achievement of 10% tree cover by 2022.

The Principal Secretary for Environment and Forestry Dr. Chris Kiptoo said at KEFRI headquarters on 9th March, 2020 during his initial familiarization visit.

Dr. Kiptoo noted that though the government has embarked on planting 2 billion trees, lack of adequate seedlings from both public and private sector may hamper the achievement of 10% target by year 2020.

The PS while touring the seed production centre and other research facilities assured his support to facilitate the institute obtain new equipment for research.

“It is crucial for the ministry to support the capacity of relevant bodies, and mobilize alternative resources such as youth group, private entrepreneurship to ensure availability of adequate tree seedlings in all the counties,” said the PS.

The PS noted that KEFRI, which is the only institution mandated to collect and process quality tree seed in the region, should also play a key role of regulating tree nurseries to warrant production of quality planting materials.



PS, Dr. Chris Kiptoo (right) with KEFRI's Board Chairman Dr. Sammy Letema during a visit to KEFRI

In his remark the Chairman of KEFRI Board of Directors Dr. Sammy Letema said: “to hasten collection and processing of quality tree seeds and other germplasm for the national tree planting initiative, KEFRI require 13,500 ha of land countrywide for tree breeding purposes and production of, 54 metric tonnes of tree seeds annually.”



PS, Dr. Kiptoo plant a commemorative tree

KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo further elaborated that KEFRI requires KES 1.8 billions for expansion of its infrastructure countrywide.

“In addition, the institute require extra 500 million for engaging workforce and other services needed for supporting the annual tree planting campaigns, commercialization and biodiversity preservation,” said Dr. Cheboiwo.

International Day of Forests 2020 celebration



The International Day of Forest fete held annually on 21st March was lowly celebrated globally as communities around the world hail glimpses of COVID-19 pandemic.

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 21st March as the International Day of Forests in 2012.

The 2020 celebration with theme ‘Forests and Biodiversity Too Precious to Loose’, involved raising awareness of the importance of all types of forests to people and their vital role in poverty eradication, environmental sustainability and food security.

Sustainable management of all types of forests are at the heart of unlocking challenges of conflict-affected, developing and developed countries, for the benefit of current and future generations.

On each International Day of Forests, countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns.

In Kenya, the celebration reminded us of the importance of conserving our forests, to plant trees, and more importantly to plant the right species in the correct environmental site i.e. species site matching.

Species-site matching, which is selecting either a suitable species or a group of species for growing on a particular site which has defined properties similar to the natural habitat of the choice species.

Species site matching is an important consideration in forest rehabilitation efforts. The selection of tree or shrub species through the use of analogous climates is important as a first step; but this must be amplified by an evaluation of localized factors such as soil, slope, water table levels, and biotic factors such as fire, domestic livestock and wild animals, insects and diseases.

World Wetlands Day



CS Keriako Tobiko watering bamboo seedling to conserve Enapuiyapui swamp.

KEFRI in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and its agencies namely NEMA, KFS, WWF, KWTA, ENSDA, Netfund, Counties of Nakuru and Narok joined hands with the Ogiek community in planting 1,000 indigenous bamboo seedlings around the Enapuiyapui wetland at Kiptunga Forest, Nakuru County.

Enapuiyapui swamp is the source of Molo, Njoro, Mara and Rongai rivers respectively. Day two included a tree planting exercise at Oloongoi, Mariashoni and Timdolel Primary Schools.

The Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry Keriako Tobiko, granted the local community further 1,200 bamboo seedlings to grow on their lands as commemoration of World Wetlands Day 2020. The global event was this year marked on 2nd February, 2020 under the theme ‘Wetlands and Biodiversity’.

The 3-day day event kicked off with a public baraza that saw the local community enlightened on the importance of preserving and conserving the wetland.

In his remarks, the CS asked the state agencies present to be planting the correct tree species in the right areas and lead by example.

“It was a travesty that the community had been misled to plant Eucalyptus and Cypress around the wetland thus hastening its degradation,” said Tobiko.

The CS tasked KFS to ensure that all the Eucalyptus that had been planted around the wetland be removed following the laid down regulations.

The CS also directed that the proceeds from the sales must be accounted for and used to purchase and plant indigenous seedlings suitable for the the wetland.

The CS further directed gazettement of Enapuiyapui Swamp locally and internationally as a RAMSA site noting the change will safeguard it from encroachment and further degradation. The state agencies in attendance pledged to support the local community in bee keeping and other nature based activities.

Tobiko bans planting of Eucalyptus, Cypress trees around water bodies

<https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/.../3946234-5.../index.html...>

Tuesday, February 4, 2020 0:01

Environment Cabinet Secretary Keriako Tobiko has banned the planting of eucalyptus, cupressus and other exotic trees on riparian land in effort to boost water flow in all its catchment areas.



CS, Keriako Tobiko in an earlier event

Mr Tobiko (*pictured*) said such trees consume a lot of water adding the State preferred indigenous varieties.

He was speaking in Molo, during this year's World Wetlands Day celebrations after he lead the locals in planting more than 5,000 bamboo and indigenous trees.

Tobiko ordered Kenya Forests Service (KFS) and other agencies in his ministry to start the process of uprooting all Eucalyptus, and other exotic trees planted surrounding the Enapuiyapui swamp “with immediate effect.”

“Kenya Forests Service planted Eucalyptus and other controversial trees here. Scientists claim that a single Eucalyptus tree consumes about 100 litres of water a day, surpassing water consumed by an elephant.

A simple arithmetic will make you understand how much water is lost here because of the trees you planted here,” said the CS. “First thing is for KFS in conjunction with the ministry to make sure that all the Eucalyptus trees around this swamp are removed immediately,” he said.

Mr Tobiko said he was aware that the National Environment Management Authority had a similar programme with counties sensitising Kenyans to remove such trees from their rivers and streams and that the government must lead with example.

“Removing these trees is a government policy, so how can you ask Kenyans to remove these trees and then you as a government agency have planted at the centre of the swamp. We must show by an example our conservation efforts as the government,” he said.

KEFRI sets the ground for Rumuruti centre

The bulldozer dug the trench at Sossian on 11th March, 2020 launching the construction of KEFRI Rumuruti sub-regional centre in Rumuruti, Laikipia County.



CHERP Regional Director Dr. Eston Mutitu (left) briefing the Deputy Governor John Mwaniki and other delegates prior to the ground breaking event

The sub-centre, will undertake research and sensitize the locals on the best forestry technologies as part of the current efforts to achieve the 10 percent tree cover.

Laikipia Deputy Governor John Mwaniki said the county is grateful with support from the national government and welcomes partnership with other institutions that will intensify the county's development agendas.

“The County government donated the land for the research facility and its completion will see devolved forest services in the entire county and other amenities such as better roads and water improved in Sossian and Rumuruti wards for better the quality of life of the residents,” said Mwaniki.



Mr. George Otieno and Deputy Governor John Mwaniki during the ground breaking for KEFRI Rumuruti sub-centre

“The centre will benefit the community with research technologies to increase trees and forest cover in Laikipia and its neighbouring counties”.said.

KEFRI Deputy Director for Corporate Service Mr. George Otieno thanked the county government, adding that the centre will focus research on dry lands forestry and commercial tree growing model to empower locals improve their environment and economic positions.

“The sub-centre will also offer capacity building, training and skills enhancement for the inhabitants to appreciate the importance of forestry as an entrepreneurship and for environmental conservation,” said Dr. Eston Mutitu, the Central Highlands Region Director.

Additionally, Dr Mutitu urged Laikipia residents to adapt non forestry commercial viable plants like aloe vera, growing wild in the region, which produces cosmetics and medical products.

Laikipia landscape hosts two substantial forests - the Ngare Ndare and Mukugodo, that serve as important strongholds for wildlife and livelihoods and help to capture much of the water flowing into Laikipia County.

KEFRI and NETFUND to incubate forest practices

KEFRI will offer technical support to the National Environment Trust Fund (NETFUND) in the ongoing survey of recognizing champion for the Green Innovative Award (GIA) Phase IV 2020.



Mr. Samson Toniak, Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo, Ms. MaryAnne Thande and Dr. Jane Njuguna - (extreme left and right), Dr. Ebby Chagala-Odera, Dr. Jackson Mulatya, Dr. James Ndufa, Mr. Andrew Machora and, Mercy Gichora ratified the agreement

The Director KEFRI Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo and NETFUND acting Director Mr. Samson Toniak on March 9th 2020, at KEFRI headquarters, settled on establishing a taskforce that will facilitate the process of selecting the best GIA candidate.

“KEFRI will incubate the practices that will be derived from individuals, community based organizations, groups, learning institution, counties, small and medium enterprises after the completion of the survey,” said Dr. Cheboiwo.

Additionally, experts from the two institution will formulate strategies to incubate best practices/ technologies contributing to sustainability of desired environmental and positive climate change actions.



Dr. Mercy Gichora, chief research scientist at KEFRI and Mary Anne Thande, Manager Partnership and Linkages NETFUND chat during the collaboration meeting between the two institutions

Eldoret ASK SHOW

The year 2020 has begun on a high note for KEFRI having scooped trophy at the North Rift National Agriculture Society of Kenya (ASK) Show which run from 4th to 7th March 2020 at Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County.

KEFRI staff from Londiani centre and Turbo sub-centre exhibited various forestry technologies as well as products in line with the current show theme ‘promoting innovation and technology in agriculture and trade’.



A demonstration of forestry rehabilitation technologies at KEFRI stand during the Eldoret ASK show

Show goers who visited KEFRI stand had an opportunity to learn about value chain in seed production, sources of certified seeds and seedlings, bamboo value addition, rehabilitation and species site matching, management of pests and diseases.

KEFRI stand was ranked the best in Seed Producing and Marketing; third best in Show Theme Interpretation - Education / Research category, and third best stand in Research and Development.

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperative, Hon. Peter Munya, delivering a speech from the ASK patron and Head of State, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, said the Government is committed to the achievement of 10% forest cover by 2022.

The CS said the Government through agriculture ministry has released KES 200 million for production of fruit trees of which 8,000 avocado seedlings have been distributed so far in the North Rift region aiming to diversify nutrition.

“The President directed state agencies and other corporates to allocate at least 10% of their budget towards tree growing, that is for raising seedlings, and provision of 1.8 billion seedlings required countrywide,” said Hon. Munya.

CS Munya who was accompanied by the Governor for Uasin Gishu County H.E. Hon. Jackson Mandago applauded the exhibitors for displaying technologies and innovation if adopted will to boost agriculture and trade in the region.

Governor Mandago urged citizens to conserve the forests in the North Rift stating they play a major role as source of water catchment, supporting food, security, ecotourism and mitigation of the effects of climate change.

The Governor also encouraged entrepreneurs to consider investing in forests sector noting that the forests in North Rift provides the ideal climate for eco-tourism, high-altitude trainings for sports, camping and cultural rites.



Family members admiring a demonstration of forestry model at KEFRI stand

KEFRI team demonstrated seed production technologies, tree development and forest rehabilitation model, amongst other complimentary methods useful in environment conservation.

KEFRI and ICRAF to Renew Partnership March 3rd 2020, KEFRI headquarters



Dr. Simons presenting a publication to Dr. Cheboiwo during the reviving discussion of the agreement

KEFRI will renew a long existing partnership with International Centre for Research in AgroForestry (ICRAF) aiming to develop commercial forestry and restoration of landscapes in Kenya.

The resolution came out from a deliberation held at KEFRI headquarters, led by Director KEFRI Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo and Executive Director, CIFOR - ICRAF, Dr. Tony Simons.

The parties agreed to establish a technical team to evaluate new areas of collaboration and strategic development. The team will establish goals and areas of agreements zeroing more on joint research on commercialization of forestry, capacity development as well as strategies to mobilize resource from donors and governments.

Dr. Simons stated that many development partners are seeking credible institution in Kenya to facilitate commercialization of forestry resources and achieve green economy strategy which will enable the country attain a higher economic growth rate consistent with the Vision 2030 among other national plans.

“KEFRI’s infrastructure and long experience in research and capacity building will therefore reinforce the collaboration during implementation. This will also bring together scientists to work in specialized areas that include germplasm development, commercialization of forestry to improve the private sector, governance and policy issues,” said Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo.

Dr. Cheboiwo further stated that KEFRI scientists are eager to collaborate, recalling the two institutions worked together in the 80's with farmers, setting up experiments to intervene in ASALs (fragile ecologies) of Machakos, Maseno and in western Kenya.

The ICRAF team comprised of Dr. Jonathan Muriuki who is the ICRAF Representative for the East and Southern Africa region, Ms. Catherine Muthuri, the Regional Coordinator for the same region, and Research Officer Mr. Douglas Bwire.

KEFRI team consisted Senior Deputy Director for Research and Development Dr. Jane Njuguna, Deputy Director Forest Products Improvement Programme Dr. James Kimondo, Deputy Director Socio-economic Policy and Governance Programme Dr. Joram Kagombe, Senior Research Scientist Dr. Joseph Machua and Senior Communication Officer Mr. Stephen Gitonga.

KEFRI and EAWS plan to rehabilitate forests in Kenya

KEFRI and the East Africa Wild Life Society (EAWS) has committed to rehabilitate defined Kenya Water Towers and community based marine forests in the country. The immediate activity targets to rehabilitate 400 ha of degraded Embul forest, 600 ha in Kereita - Aberdares range and four Kayas in Kwale and Kilifi Counties.



Dr. Cheboiwo receiving corporate certificate from Celline Achieng in the presence of Mr. George Otieno and Dr. Jane Njuguna, Senior Deputy Directors - Corporate Service, Research and Development respectively

This is one of the resolutions from a high delegate meeting held at KEFRI headquarters, on March 3rd, 2020 where the EAWS representative also handed over KEFRI's Certificate of Corporate Membership

KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo noted that; "KEFRI has a strong relationship with EAWS having renewed its membership for 18 years and will therefore renew the partnership to define the new goals and areas of accomplishment."

Additionally, Dr. Cheboiwo stated that KEFRI jointly with EAWS has in the past worked together in monitoring and evaluation of participatory forest management, consultancies in illegal timber trade in east Africa Countries, and forums awareness creation on environmental conservation.

The EAWS Head of Programmes Ms. Celline Achieng noted that the two institutions can collaborate in forest resources and associated land need to be carefully managed to meet the social, economic, cultural and spiritual needs of present and future generations.

"For the past six decades, EAWS has been actively engaged in advocacy and ensuring implementation of forestry policies and laws, strengthening involvement of community institutions in decision-making and rehabilitating degraded environments," said Achieng.

"KEFRI is eager to establish linkages and share resources with corporates of similar interests in forest development," said Dr. Jane Njuguna, Senior Deputy Director for Research and Development.

"Currently our major task is production of quality tree seeds and other germplasm to contribute to the achievement of 2 billion trees anticipated to increase the tree cover to 10 percent by 2022," added Dr. Njuguna.

Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism Seminar

KEFRI administration jointly with The National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) held a sensitization seminar to prepare staffs on Counter terrorism and violence extremism attack.

The sensitization which took place at KEFRI headquarters on 31st January, 2020 saw staff instructed on what is terrorism, its status in Kenya.

In his remark, the KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo, who opened the forum asked staff to be vigilant and report any suspicious persons or activities to relevant authorities.

Dr. Cheboiwo assured members of staff that the institute has collaborated with security agencies to ensure our safety, adding that staff based in terrorism prone areas such as Lamu, Malindi, Bura and Garissa are secure.



Part of staff members attending the seminar

Dr. Cheboiwo appealed to the Government to allocate adequate resources to implement the Terrorist Act since this menace affects all humanity.

KEFRI's Human Resource Deputy Director Ms. Evelyn Oroni expressed her concerns on low productivity due to panic and increased absenteeism whenever an attack occurs in these regions.

“The insecurity has affected most employees working in these areas some opting for transfer or resigning whereas deploying new staff to these areas is a challenge,” she said.

The NCTC Senior Liaison Officer, Mr. Masisi Kiilu, who led the facilitators elaborated that taking precaution is saving lives all the time pointing out that one when a life is lost in a terror attack the trickle down affects embrace more than 20 lives in our society.

“Never allow anyone to end your life easily, if you can fight do so, hide in a safe place and remain quiet as possible but attentive to differentiate between attackers and rescuers,” said Mr. Kiilu.

He condemned corruption and laxity among some security personnel, lack of integrity, patriotism and security consciousness as major challenges in the war against terrorism.

Mr. Kiilu advised staff to be wise and choose well, work as a team to demystify perceptions and stereotyping in order to win the war against terrorism.

A Memorial tree for the late Dr. Luke Potter

Gatsby Charitable Foundation has planted a commemorative tree at KEFRI headquarter in memory of their immediate former Africa Programme Director Dr. Luke Potter, who was killed on January 15th, 2019 during the Nairobi Dusit Hotel terror attack.

KEFRI's Deputy Director for Corporate Affairs and Quality Assurance Dr. Jackson Mulatya thanked the Gatsby Africa, Kenya Markets Trust and Msingi for planting the memorial tree noting the tree will proportionate the late Dr. Potter 3-years of selflessness in promoting forestry programmes in Kenya and other East Africa states.



Gatsby Africa's Executive Director, Justin Highstead plants a commemorative tree in honour of those who lost their lives during the Dusit terrorist attack which claimed the life of Luke Potter among other victims

The Executive Director Africa Justin Highstead, who led the Gatsby team planted *Olea capensis* among other tree species planted by delegates including Gatsby Country Director for Kenya Samuel Kareithi, Kenya Forest Service Kiambu County Ecosystem Conservator Mr. Paul Karanja.

Each member also planted a tree seed in the nursery to be transplanted in the forest thereafter in honour of a fallen hero.

“Dr. Potter was instrumental in establishing partnership in commercial forestry programmes in Kenya and helpful in signing a grant to support KEFRI implement research on forest health, tree improvement and tree seed production anchored in the KEFRI Strategic Plan (2018- 2022), ” said Mr. Kareithi.

Dr. Potter will also be remembered for devoting the last ten years of his career in helping the poor and most vulnerable people in the world.

Restoration of Ondiri Swamp

Communities surrounding Kikuyu Township joined KEFRI staff in planting more than 250 indigenous trees to restore Ondiri Swamp in Kiambu county.

The occasion was a response to the clarion call for Kenyans to plant trees for rehabilitating the water towers and other water bodies as resemblance of the Late Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi's conservation efforts.

The clarion call saw KEFRI partner with other stakeholder in planting 250 bamboo and indigenous species around the swamp to protect it from pollution, erosion and encroachment.



Dr. Mulatya with Dr. Mutitu and other staff plant trees for rehabilitating the Ondiri swamp

The Deputy Director for Corporate Affairs and Quality Assurance Dr. Jackson Mulatya, speaking during the event, encouraged locals to protect the swamp, saying a society can only change when its people start applying their potential, rather than relying on outsiders assistance.

Dr. Jackson Mulatya stated that KEFRI, whose mandate is to conduct research and provide information and technologies for sustainable development of forestry and allied natural resources for socio-economic development embarked on rehabilitating the swamp seven months ago where initially more than 250 tree seedlings were planted.

“We must not allow the late President Moi's effort go to waste. Let us labor in protecting our water catchment areas and set a good example to our children and future generations, keeping in mind that mother-nature is unforgiving,” Dr. Mulatya said.

According to government hydrologists, the swamp, which initially occupied 30 ha and 10 km deep is threatened by encroachment, pollution among other factors aggravated by climate change.

“Recent indicators show the swamp whose water is mainly used for domestic and irrigation purposes has a PH of 5.4. The swamp is contaminated with fluoride, chloride and other metals from pesticides and effluents,” said KEFRI Regional Director for Central Highlands Dr. Eston Mutitu,

Dr. Mutitu thanked the communities and volunteers from KFS, Friends of Ondiri, Nyumba Kumi officials and farmers adjacent the swamp. Noting that all will benefit from the ongoing rehabilitation of the so called ‘Old Swamp’.

Guideline for Eucalyptus growing in Kenya

Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry, Keriako Tobiko paid a courtesy call to KEFRI Headquarters in Muguga on 13th February, 2020.



CS. Keriako Tobiko assessing the draft Eucalyptus Guide at KEFRI headquarters (photo source MoE&F)

During the visit, the CS was updated on the progress of the booklet on Eucalyptus Growing in Kenya.

The CS stated that Eucalyptus which was first introduced into the country by the colonialists to drain swampy areas for farming, has now proved to be a double edged sword.

“Though Eucalyptus are fast growing and have commercial benefits to farmers they at the same time pose a great risk to the environment especially when grown in riparian areas,” said Tobiko.

“The booklet should therefore clearly state where to and not to grow Eucalyptus and why, as well as give alternatives to those who have already grown the trees”, said the CS.

The Chairman of, KEFRI Board Dr. Sammy Letema stated that species site matching will be included in the booklet to avoid occurrences of misleading information.

During the visit KEFRIs’ Deputy Director for Research and Development Dr. Jane Njuguna showcased a site matching application dubbed ‘Green pap’. Which is currently being developed by KEFRI in collaboration with counterparts at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

“The application once complete will enable farmers buy seeds and seedlings from accredited nurseries and apply site match in order to increase viability of the trees planted,” says Dr. Njuguna.

Nyeri County launch tree planting exercise

The Cabinet Secretary nominee for the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives Ms. Betty Maina launched the tree planting campaign for Nyeri County on 8th January, 2020.



CS Betty Maina (right), Dr. Caroline Karugu and KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo (Centre) during the event

The event was graced by the presence of Nyeri Deputy Governor Dr. Caroline Karugu, KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo, Director of Corporate Service for Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC) Ms. Wangari Githii and other collaborators.

The CS Betty Maina, who shortly served as PS in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry before the nomination, lauded Nyeri County Government for leading with 38.2% in the Country tree cover.

The CS however challenged the community to sustain the forest cover and continue leading by example. She urged schools to be part of ‘Adopt a tree initiative,’ in a bid to ensure the country attains the target of 10% tree cover by 2022.

The CS however challenged the community to sustain the forest cover and continue leading by example. She urged schools to be part of ‘Adopt a tree initiative,’ in a bid to ensure the country attains the target of 10% tree cover by 2022.

“KEFRI will provide technical support to schools and community groups in the exercise to grow trees and conserve the environment,” said Dr. Cheboiwo.

“The tree planting activity is REREC and KEFRI corporate social responsibility measure to produce and distribute seedlings to communities.

The first activity was held at Maseno University in Vihiga County and will also entrench Kilifi, Uasin Gishu, and Turkana,” further said Dr. Cheboiwo.

Nyeri County with the highest forest cover of 38.03 percent in the country has targeted to increase the same to 42 per cent in the next four years.

“The Deputy County Governor Dr. Caroline Karugu further stated that five water services providers will create tree nurseries for tree planting progression until the 42 percent tree cover ambitious target is realised.

Dr. Karugu said his office is committed to giving the necessary environmental policy direction to ensure biodiversity and nature is accorded the highest level of protection in Nyeri County and for the country to meet its target of 10% tree cover by the year 2022.

According to KEFRI Assistant Research Director in Nyeri, Mr. Muriithi Ndungu, 1000 tree seedlings were planted to rehabilitate Gatumbiro, Kirima and Tetu hills with REREC donating 5,000 seedlings.

KEFRI Centres receives vehicles to facilitate seed collection

The Chairman of KEFRI Board of Directors Dr. Sammy Letema flagged off four Toyota Double cabin pickups that will support Centres and Sub-centres in seed production activities.



Dr. Letema flagging off vehicles

The vehicles which are destined for Nyeri Centre, Kakamega, Migori and Gede will serve to improve service delivery and ensure the Institute achieves its Performance Contract (PC) target of collecting 54 metric tonnes of seeds for the financial year 2019/2020.

KEFRI signs 16th Cycle Performance Contracting

The Chairman of KEFRI Board of Directors Dr. Sammy Letema signed the Performance Contract 2019/2020 with the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry Mr. Keriako Tobiko.



CS Keriako Tobiko presenting the PC to Dr. Letema

Dr. Ali Mohammed, a KEFRI board member and Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo accompanied the Chairman at the event held at Kenya International Convention Centre.

The (CS) was impressed with KEFRI's Performance as per the mid-year report presented. The CS however urged KEFRI to ensure that all targets supporting the Big Four Agenda are achieved by the end of the financial year.

KEFRI supports Beyond Zero campaign



KEFRI staff led by Dr. Jane 4th left after participating in the race

KEFRI staff were among 15,000 participants who gathered at the Nyayo Stadium to support the Beyond Zero Half Marathon 2020.

Senior Deputy Director for Research and Development Dr. Jane Njuguna led the KEFRI team in 10 km race whose intent was to raise funds for Maternal Health care.

First Lady Margaret Kenyatta flagged off the 21km and 10km category race aiming to raise Sh250 million for hosting five Medical Safaris across the country.

Beyond Zero Half Marathon is an annual event organised by Her Excellency First Lady Mrs. Margaret Kenyatta to celebrate women all over the world.

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta also attended the event which was launched in order to improve maternal and child healthcare, eliminate preventable maternal and child deaths by 2023.

KEFRI therefore supports the initiative which aims at zero maternal deaths, zero child death, a healthy lifestyle for the elderly, zero new HIV infections and zero child marriages in Kenya.

Kipsinende Principals visit KEFRI

Mr. Joseph Mibey, accompanied by Mrs. Rosemary Soi, both Principals at Kipsinende and Kimasian Technical and Vocational College (KTVC) respectively, in Kericho County, paid a courtesy call to KEFRI following an earlier engagement to proliferate tree activities at both colleges



Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo presenting an MoU to Mr. Joseph Mibey in presence of KEFRI's Resource Mobilization and Partnership Officer Charles Koech (left) and Mrs. Rosemary Soi

KEFRI and Kipsinende therefore agreed under the MoU to establish seed orchards at the college and train students on bamboo production, river bank rehabilitation among other forestry activities.

Both Kipsinende and Kimasian are Public Sub-County TVET Colleges, located in Kipkelion West and East Constituency respectively in Kericho County, offer diploma, certificate, craft and artisan courses.

KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo noted that our Country require skilled technicians and contractors for designing and installing equipments in forestry and energy sector like energy saving jikos, solar PV and solar water heating systems.

“Integrating tree activities in the college will contribute to the county’s aggressive tree planting campaign which has so far ranking at 23 percent,” Mibey said.

Kericho County County with the help of public and private institutions, multinational tea estates, private companies and individuals target to increase forest cover to 60 percent by 2022.

Tribute to the Late President Moi

The Director KEFRI, Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo consoled the family of the former President of Kenya, the Late Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi at Kabarnet Gardens.

Moi died at The Nairobi Hospital on the early morning of 4th February 2020, at the age of 95, in the presence of family. However, during Moi’s memorial service on 9 February 2020 at his Kabarnet Gardens home in Nairobi, his son, Raymond Moi, claimed that he died aged at least 105 years old.

The Director on his own behalf and entire KEFRI fraternity conveyed his condolences by signing the Condolence Book at Kabarnet Gardens home in Nairobi, and in viewing the body of Late Moi ‘Lying in State’ at the Parliament Building.



Dr. Cheboiwo signing condolence book at Moi's Kabarnet Gardens

President Uhuru Kenyatta eulogized the late President Daniel Arap Moi as a true environmentalist whose credentials are second to none.

Dr. Cheboiwo also said the former president was a man of the people and an environmentalist.

Moi initiated ‘Kata moja panda mbili’ tree planting philosophy and forest cover has expanded onfarm as many people were encouraged to plant trees as part of the environmental conservation.

The late President Moi will also be remembered for his efforts to construct gabions to control soil erosion, spearheading tree planting campaigns and aggression in re-forestation programs.

Staff movement from January to March 2020

Name	P/No.	Date of Exit	Mode of Exit
Humphrey Mwithiga Kanja	5661	01/01/2020	Retirement
Francis Muema Kimonyi	6824	01/01/2020	Retirement
George Samuel Okoth	5876	01/01/2020	Retirement
Dominic Oluoch Omullo	6636	01/01/2020	Retirement
Julius Khasolo Ndege	5988	01/01/2020	Retirement
Phylis Adhiambo Okayo	5851	01/01/2020	Retirement
Jeremiah Kipkirui Kenik	6270	01/01/2020	Retirement
Heros Mumbe Amolo	5606	01/01/2020	Retirement
Hakima Mohammed Muhume	6138	01/01/2020	Retirement
Joshua Oginga Oyal	6734	01/01/2020	Retirement
Boniface Soli Ngeli	6255	01/01/2020	Retirement
James Mwanzia	6722	01/01/2020	Retirement
Changawa Katoli Safari	5969	01/01/2020	Retirement
John Gicheru Mungai	6041	01/01/2020	Retirement
Margaret Nyakinywa Ngatia	5251	01/01/2020	Retirement
Madina Badaso Galgalo	6225	01/01/2020	Retirement
Johnstone Juma Ngazi	6901	01/01/2020	Retirement
John Francis Ototo Nyabwanga	6583	01/01/2020	Retirement
Edward Samoei Kimeto	6432	01/01/2020	Retirement
Nelson Macheke Kwova	6559	01/01/2020	Retirement
Rusula Juma Ndege	5920	01/01/2020	Retirement
Annah Jepkoech Tuwei	6083	01/01/2020	Retirement
John Owino Warinda	6572	01/01/2020	Retirement
Philip John Makhoha	5544	01/01/2020	Retirement
Josephine Mwikali	6220	01/01/2020	Retirement
Charles Ndege Ongweya	5751	21/01/2020	Retirement
Fredrick E. Keya	5820	02/03/2020	Retirement
Ely Jonnah Mukhoma Mwanza	5367	20/03/2020	Retirement
Michael Kiongo Gathura	5060	24/03/2020	Retirement
Jared Onsoti Rangeria	7128	29/02/2020	Resignation
George Kinyuthi Kimani	5652	18/02/2020	Death



CS Keriako Tobiko planting a commemorative tree during his visit to review progress of Eucalyptus guideline

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