



KEFRI *Newsletter*

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CAS Environment and Forestry Hon. Mohammed Elmi presenting a Certificate of Compliance to the Director KEFRI during the launch of the KEFRI Quarantine facility



CAS Hon. Elmi officialy launching the Quarantine facility for pest control

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KEFRI has unveiled a quarantine facility to counter the spread of invasive pests across the East African region.

The Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry Hon. Mohamed Elmi on 11th December 2020, officially opened the facility at KEFRI Headquarters, Muguga.

“The Quarantine will enhance management of the spread of unwanted organisms into the external environment including forests and farmlands,” said the CAS.

KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo stated that the facility will play a major role in the implementation of classical biological control programs, ensuring vegetative materials and pests introduced in the country are vetted.

“Exotic pests when accidentally or deliberately introduced into a foreign country leave behind their predators and if not checked pose serious economic loss to the host country,” added Dr. Cheboiwo.

The Director further said, taming such pests requires a classical biological control programme which involves the search of predators from the pests' country of origin and introducing them into the country where the invasive pest is causing economic damage.

“The quarantine will impose strict isolation procedures to control pest damage and diseases. Invasive or alien species are those introduced outside their native range and can harm biodiversity, ecosystem services, or human beings,” said Dr. Eston Mutitu, the Regional Director Central Highlands Ecoregion Research Program (CHERP).

Dr. Mutitu also revealed that KEFRI and the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) have signed an agreement on the use of the facility in the study of fall armyworms, a pest ravaging maize and millet in the country.

KEFRI Board of Directors Tours Research and Development Activities in Eastern and Coast Regions

KEFRI Board of Directors paid a courtesy call to Kitui Governor Hon. Charity Ngilu, on 16th October 2020, where they discussed issues on forestry research and development in the region. The Board Chairman, Dr. Sammy Letema informed the Governor that KEFRI aims to produce adequate seeds to enable the country produce 2 billion seedlings required to attain 10 percent forest cover by 2022.

“We are seeking to strengthen collaboration with Kitui County in-line with the advanced dryland forestry research and other developments that KEFRI has already established in the county. The institute will give technical support to youth and other community groups to establish tree nurseries in order to increase the county's forest cover,” said Letema.

“My government welcomes the partnership with KEFRI and other state agencies in raising public awareness on environmental issues and other

measures that will increase the county's forest cover from 7 to 10 percent,” said Hon. Ngilu.

The Governor also stated that her administration with support from the County Commissioner has realised progress after enforcing environmental conservation measures.

The Board later met with the County Commissioner, and expressed interest to provide seeds to community groups to establish tree nurseries.

“KEFRI targets to raise 3 metric tonnes of improved *Melia volkensii* seeds to enhance production of tree seedlings for the 10 percent national tree cover by 2022,” said the Board Chairman, who also encouraged scientists to market KEFRI brand by commercializing and upscaling forestry technologies.

Coast Region

During their tour the Board visited research trial sites, tree nurseries, seed stands and orchards in Gede and Taita Taveta sub regional Centre in Coast Eco-Region Research Programme.

Coast Regional Director Dr. Linus Wekesa reported that KEFRI has partnered with various stakeholders in the Coast region to produce adequate seeds and seedlings for attainment of 10 percent tree cover.



KEFRI Board of Directors tours research facilities

“Among the areas of concentration is promotion of commercial tree species, establishment of bamboo trials in Baolala, production of mangrove seedlings at Mida Creek, promotion of *Melia volkensii* Casuarina, *Gmelina arborea*, *Milicia*, *Tectona* and *Eucalyptus* in Kilifi County,” said Dr. Wekesa

KEFRI participates in tree planting drive for short rains season

KEFRI joined various stakeholders in the national tree planting campaign for short rains season as per the presidential directive to plant 2 billion seedlings by the year 2022 across the 47 counties.

The Institute partnered with the Kenya Police Service in Kiambu County where 19 police stations planted 20 seedlings each.



Dr. Njuguna (Centre), Dr. Njeru, and Police officer Ms. Florence Wanjiru plants a fruit tree at Kiambu Police lines

“Each tree grown in the country is a new opportunity for our land to replenish itself,” said Dr. Njuguna.

Reclamation of Ondiri Wetlands

On the December 1st 2020, KEFRI jointly with the National Council of AIDs Centre for Aids Council Kikuyu, Gichuru Health Clinic planted tree seedlings at Ondiri Swamp watershed in Kikuyu, Kiambu County to mark the World AIDS Day.

Mr. David Maosa, representing the Center for AIDS Council, sensitized the youth on the sudden rise of HIV& AIDS and COVID-19 pandemics that have affected the socio-economies and health status of many individuals globally.

Mr. Maosa called on the youth to be responsible noting that all actions have consequences. A total of 400 indigenous tree seedlings: *Syzygium cordatum*, *Syzygium guinese*, *Cordia africana* including 200 bamboo species; *Dendrocalas asper*, *Bambusa vulgaris* among others were planted to rehabilitate the wetland.

On 2nd, October 2020, the Presbyterian Church of East Africa - Kikuyu Township in collaboration with KEFRI, Friends of Ondiri Wetland and Kiambu County Government marked the 100 years of the Local Elder’s Ordination in Kenya.

“The church dedicated the one month countrywide celebrations to environment and stewardship under the theme bearing lasting fruits John 15:16, in remembrance of the Ordination of the first 43 African Church Elders in September 1920,” said the Parish Minister Reverend John Calvins.

The National Environment Complaint Committee Dr. John Chumo commended the church for conserving Ondiri swamp, noting the bog is a crucial water reservoir that feeds into several rivers before emptying into Indian Ocean.

“KEFRI donated 200 indigenous species and bamboos to revamp the wetland, which is a potential ecotourism site - with over 78 species of birds, and a wide range of reptiles and marine live recorded, and a reservoir of carbon,” said Dr. Mutitu.



Dr. John Chumo watering Bamboo at Ondiri in presence of Rev. John Calvins, Dr. Eston Mutitu and Kikuyu sub-county assistant commissioner Mr. Alex Mukindia

KEFRI is providing technical support to rehabilitate the wetland and welcomes other partners in this arrangement whereas the county government is providing labour, security and ensuring relevant procedures are implied. So far, 19.9 of 34.5km is fenced and over 3,500 tree seedlings planted within 2.5 km of the wetland.

Rehabilitation of Karima Hill Forest

KEFRI jointly with Nyeri County Government, Kenya Forest Service, Karima CFA, Dedan Kimathi University, Kenya Water Towers Agency and Afrika Green Revolution planted 10,000 indigenous species to rehabilitate Karima hill forest that has been degraded over the years.



KEFRI Board Chairman Dr. Sammy Letema in a tree planting activity to rehabilitate Karima hill forest in Nyeri County

KEFRI Board Chairman, Dr. Sammy Letema thanked the Nyeri County Government for sustaining a 38 percent tree cover, the highest in the country.

“KEFRI is focused on ensuring consistent supply of certified seeds so as to achieve 10 percent tree cover in the country by 2022,” said Letema.

Nyeri CEC for Environment Ms. Beth Karimi revealed that the county planned to plant 1 million trees in one day, to show dedication in rehabilitating and conserving the forests.

“KEFRI adopted Karima hill to restore the native trees that were abundant before arson fire destroyed the vegetation,” said Dr. Jane Njuguna.

A similar tree planting activity was carried out at Gatara Forest station, in Murang'a County.

Tharaka Nithi County

KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo officiated a tree planting activity on 30th October, 2020 at Hon. Francis Nyamu Kangwima's (FNK) Foundation, which promotes youth education and conservation of environment in Tunyai sub-county, Tharaka Nithi County.

The activity saw a total of 200 seedlings planted and impromptu fundraiser held to purchase 30,000 seedlings for the groups. The Foundation's patron Hon. Kangwima stated that the communities face many challenges such as; poverty, environmental degradation and deforestation as a result of destructive use of natural resources and rampant illegal charcoal production.

The Director, encouraged farmers to invest in valuable tree species including fruit trees as an alternative strategy towards improved livelihood and environmental conservation.

Eastern region

KEFRI Dryland Eco-Region Research Programme (DERP) in collaboration with County Government of Kitui and other stakeholders on 6th November, 2020 planted 3,000 tree seedlings at Kitui Central Primary School and distributed 1500 seedlings in Mwingi sub-county.

KEFRI's Deputy Director of Corporate Affairs and Quality Assurance, Dr. Jackson Mulatya (*pictured*) called upon youth to venture into seedlings production, as a potential source of income, particularly during this period the country is planting 2 billion trees to achieve 10 percent tree cover.



Dr. Mulatya reminded tree nursery owners to register their nurseries with KEFRI and KFS in adherence to governments regulation for certification of quality seeds and seedlings in the country.

He encouraged the communities living adjacent to the forests to conserve and safeguard the water catchment areas, as has been successful done to several rivers in Maasai Mau.

Kitui County Commissioner Mr. John Odengo commended Kitui County government, KEFRI and KFS for upscaling tree planting in Kitui, Makueni and Machakos counties which are yet to attain the desired 10 percent forest cover.

“Trees are of great benefit to humanity and the environment. I therefore employ school heads and custodians of the grounds where we have planted to ensure these saplings survive,” said the Commissioner.

Garissa County

The Deputy County Commissioner Garissa Mr. Bernard Ole Kipuri launched the county's tree planting campaign where 600 seedlings were planted at KEFRI centre, on 4th November, 2020.



Deputy Commissioner Mr. Kipuri watering a tree seedling at KEFRI Garrisa grounds

“It is our collective responsibility as a community to achieve the 10 percent tree cover target by 2022,” said Ole Kipuri.

Mr. Kipuri encouraged the community to grow trees so as to mitigate climate change and the devastating effects of global warming.

KEFRI's National Forests Product Research Programme(NFPRP) and Dryland Eco-Region Programmes(DERP) Directors Ms. Nellie Oduor and Dr Albert Luvanda respectively, hosted the event together with staff from Garissa centre.

Rift Valley Region



CS, Keriako Tobiko (centre) Chairman KEFRI Board Dr. Letema (right) and KEFRI CEO Dr. Cheboiwo (left) during tree planting at Maasai Mau Forest

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry Keriako Tobiko led state agencies under his ministry in marking the 1st anniversary of the reclamation of the Maasai Mau forest on 31st October, 2020 at Senetwet Maasai Mau Forest (Block 65), Narok County where 110 hectares have been marked for rehabilitation.

“These forests belong to all Kenyans regardless of tribe or gender. We need to view rehabilitation and conservation as a personal initiative in order to leave a clean and healthy environment for future generations,” he said.

The CS called upon the community to jealously safeguard the approximately 45,800 hectares of Maasai Mau forest block, which is managed by the County Government of Narok.

The forest is one of 22 blocks of the Mau Forest Complex and the most threatened by the extensive impact of illegal settlements. It is a major water catchment area as well as an important biodiversity conservation area and hosts the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem UNESCO world heritage site.

In his remarks KEFRI Board Chairman, Dr. Sammy Latema reported scientists have recorded 10 percent successful germination in 7 of 13 blocks that were planted through the aerial seeding dispersal in 2019.

KEFRI donated 6,000 indigenous seedlings which were planted to celebrate the anniversary.

Mt. Kulal, Marsabit County

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, KEFRI, KFS, NMK, NEMA and Marsabit County Government, embarked on rehabilitation of Mt. Kulal, Marsabit County.



Community members in a voluntary tree planting activity to conserve degraded sites in Mt. Kulal forest

Speaking during the tree planting exercise at Gatab Primary School in Marsabit County, on 6th November 2020, the Chief Guest Dr. Sammy Letema, said the National Government in its environmental conservation agenda for Marsabit County, is focused on conserving 18 gazetted water towers including Marsabit forest, Huri Hills and Mt. Kulal.

Mt. Kulal forest is currently managed by the local community through Wazee wa Mazingara and CFA-comprising 26 groups. Government of Kenya and FAO are implementing The Restoration Initiative (TRI) project, which is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to address the challenges of environmental deforestation and degradation of 51,000 ha of community managed forest.

During the exercise 8,235 indigenous trees and 600 grafted fruit tree seedlings were planted.

The project of which FAO is the main implementing agency and KEFRI the Lead Executing Partner, aims at reducing degradation of forest and landscapes, establishing bio-enterprises such as beekeeping, ecotourism in Mount Kulal Biosphere Reserve and the wider Mukogodo forest landscape in Isiolo and Laikipia Counties.

Lake Victoria Basin

Environment and Forestry Principal Secretary Dr. Chris Kiptoo said KEFRI is mandated to provide assorted certified tree seeds to communities, government institutions and non-state organizations.

He further stated that Kenya Forest Service (KFS) role is to license both private and public nurseries and seed merchants in order to ensure supply and distribution of certified seeds and seedlings.



Director KEFRI Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo demonstrating tree planting to a pupil at Muhoroni Success Primary School

Speaking during the seed distribution campaign launch in Kisumu County Dr. Kiptoo said a multi-agency committee co-chaired by the County Commissioner and County Governor will oversee the implementation of the campaign.

The PS decried the poor forest cover in the region urging the multi-agency teams to step up efforts to address the gap. So far, Kisumu County has 0.44%, Siaya 0.42%, Homa Bay 0.26%, Migori 0.62%, Kisii 2.62% and Nyamira 7%.

The campaign will be escalated to cover the entire Nyanza region before being rolled out to other counties nationally.

Mangrove Restoration in Coast Region

KEFRI jointly with communities adjacent to mangrove forests in Kilifi County have begun a restoration exercise to increase forest cover.

Speaking during the mangrove planting exercise at Mida Creek on 22nd October, 2020, KEFRI Deputy Director Corporate Affairs Dr. Jackson Mulatya, said the Institute has sourced 70,000 mangrove seedlings from the community to be planted at the Creek and Mikindani in Mombasa.



Dr. Mulatya alongside KEFRI staff and local communities planting mangrove at Mida creek

“This initiative is aimed at preserving the mangrove forest ecosystem and mitigating effects of climate change. The Creek is habitat to seven of the nine Kenyan mangrove species and will protect the environment and provide many benefits to current and future generations,” said Dr. Mulatya.

“Through community participation programmes such as eco-tourism, tree planting, and other income-generating activities, destruction of mangrove has reduced from 50 to 40 percent,” he added.

The Patron of Bidii na Kazi women group Ms. Arafa Salim Baya, thanked KEFRI for purchasing mangrove seedlings from their nursery, an act that boosted the morale of the group currently struggling due to effects of COVID 19 pandemic.

Dr. Mulatya was accompanied by Coast Regional staff led by Dr. Linus Wekesa, Dr. Robert Nyambati, Dr. Stanley Nadir, Kilifi County officials, Kenya Forest Service, National Museums of Kenya and community groups.

Environmental Clean-up Exercise

KEFRI's Central Highlands Eco-Region Research Programme (CHERP) Regional Director Dr. Eston Mutitu rolled out the Presidential ‘Cleaning Up Kenya Campaign’, an initiative meant to enhance environmental restoration, conservation and management countrywide.



Dr. Mutitu together with staff and local communities in a clean-up exercise along Nderi - Zambezi Road

He led KEFRI staff together with the sub-county officials, ward administrators, business fraternity and local communities in carrying out a clean-up exercise along Nderi - Zambezi Road, on 30th October, 2020.

“As part of our corporate social responsibility, we plan to plant trees along the Zambezi - KARI road, adopt three roundabouts - Thogoto, Gitaru and Kiambaa for beautification and regeneration of the environment,” said Dr. Mutitu.

Likewise, Drylands Eco-region Research Programme (DERP) staff undertook a clean-up exercise along the JICA road, in Kitui. The activity involved sweeping, slashing and collecting debris and waste.

Coast Eco-region Research Programme (CERP) staff in collaboration with KWS and Friends of Arabuko Sokoke Forest marked the 2nd phase of Kenya Safi Clean-up campaign on 27th November, 2020 at Arabuko Sokoke Forest in Gede.

Speaking during the event, CERP Deputy Regional Director, Dr. Stanley Nadir stated that the aim of the exercise is to create awareness on cleanliness and other environmentally acceptable management strategies including waste disposal.



CS, Keriako Tobiko during bamboo planting at St. Pauls University grounds

Venture into Bamboo Farming

On 18th December, 2020 KEFRI jointly with Kiambu County Government, Limuru Highlands, Tigoni Residents, Riara Cianda, Red Hill & Kentmere associations planted 600 giant bamboo at St. Pauls University grounds, Limuru township.

The exercise aims at controlling soil erosion along the riverine and sloppy terrain in the Red Hill area. The Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry Mr. Keriako Tobiko called upon the lead organisations to sensitize and engage local communities in growing bamboo as an alternative plant to manage the fragile environs.

The CS who also presented bamboo seedlings to farmers to grow on their farms, said the local community must be involved in environmental matters and encouraged to appreciate bamboo for its environmental benefits.

“Bamboo is a highly sustainable plant for conserving the environment and provision of alternative livelihood,” said Tobiko.

Bamboo for Michuki Memorial Park

On 25th December 2020, KEFRI fraternity led by Dr. Jane Njuguna together with Rescue Ghetto Kids Mission celebrated Christmas at Michuki Memorial Park where they planted Bamboo to restore the park.

In Kenya, bamboo farming is gaining popularity due to high demand for timber and other construction materials, its diverse uses in agriculture and as a food crop for both humans and animals.



Officials of Rescue Ghetto Kids Mission planting Bamboo at Michuki Memorial Park

Bamboo, being a grass has a shorter growth cycle - taking five years to mature, and attaining strength as that of hardwood, unlike woody plants trees species that take decades to mature. Bamboo are low maintenance crops and some varieties grows in drier areas.

Bamboo stem (culm) can be harvested for up to 40 years without replanting as they regenerate. This is a good plant for commercial returns, but also very good for the environment.

KEFRI Signs Performance Contract

The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry Mr. Keriako Tobiko signed Performance Contracts (PC) for 2020/2021 Financial Year with State Corporations under his Ministry. He was accompanied by the Cabinet Administrative Secretary Hon. Mohammed Elmi and Principal Secretary Dr. Chris Kiptoo.



The CS Environment and Forestry signs the KEFRI Performance Contract for 2020/2021 Financial Year with the Board Chairman at Michuki Memorial Park

The Chairman, KEFRI Board of Directors Dr. Sammy Letema, Mr. Kevin Kihara, Dr. Ali Mohammed, Senior Deputy Director, Research and Development Dr. Jane Njuguna and the Deputy Director, Corporate Affairs and Quality Assurance Dr. Jackson Mulatya represented KEFRI during the signing ceremony on 9th December, 2020.

The CS urged the State Corporation Chairmen to ensure that PC activities are accomplished. He further tasked CEO's to improve on performance and ensure quarterly meetings are held to identify gaps, challenges and areas of improvement.

He called for teamwork in undertaking PC activities as they are aligned to the Ministry's performance.

KEFRI and Faina Sign MoA on Seed Acquisition

KEFRI and Faina Innovations Limited on October 1st 2020, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for acquisition of quality tree seeds and promotion of innovative products to address food insecurity and forest degradation in the country.

Faina Innovations is a seed merchant whose mission is to deliver high quality seeds to the Kenyan market in a bid to improve crop productivity.

“This partnership will help address gaps experienced by farmers embracing agroforestry practices, and provide information on access to quality seeds/seedlings,” said the company’s Marketing Manager Mr. Benjamin Mugambi.

In his remarks KEFRI Director Dr. Cheboiwo, lauded the company for coming up with innovative ways of extending agroforestry in Kenya.

“The collaboration also aims at increasing tree cover in the country which is linked to food security, housing and improvement of agribusiness,” said Dr. Cheboiwo

“It is crucial to note that there are thousands of tree species and their germination processes differ. KEFRI has the technical expertise on seed production and is ready to work with all interested parties,” he said.

Enterprise Resource Planning Workshop

A 5-day workshop to re-engineer the Institute business processes kicked off at KEFRI headquarters, on 23rd November 2020.

KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo opened the workshop whose participants were to develop an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system for the institute.

“The system will be developed with backing from experts drawn from Information and Communication Technology Authority (ICTA), a state agency responsible for facilitating the development of the information and communications sectors in Kenya,” said Ms Mary Kerema, a Senior Manager at ICTA.

Ms Kerema said the government has set rapid transition from physical meetings to remote engagements to quickly leverage innovative and diverse software tools that will facilitate community engagements across the country.

“This transition has been relatively simple at KEFRI given that there exists a well-established remote workspace system to support an effective virtual collaboration,” said Kerema.

Gums and Resins Workshop

Acacia Export Processing Zone, held a workshop on strategies of unlocking Gums Arabic potential in Kenya's ASALs counties on October 6th, 2020, at KEFRI Headquarters.

According to Acacia Export Processing Zone (CEO Mr. Sam Nyamboga, the company is currently exporting 15 tonnes of high quality Acacia gum whose parameters are analysed by KEFRI experts.

"However, securing the source of Gum Arabic and value addition are two key prospects for future undertakings," said Nyamboga.

KEFRI Director Dr. Cheboiwo stated that the Institute holds substantial data which can help interested parties and partners in the development of Acacia gum in the country.

The plenary discussion focused on strategies to improve sector - identification of potential partners and areas of synergy.

The 3-day workshop drew participants from AgriFI Kenya Challenge Fund, MoE&F, KEFRI, KFS, KEPHIS, KEBS, KEPISA, KOAN, Soil Association, KETROBA and Agriculture Technical Service among others.

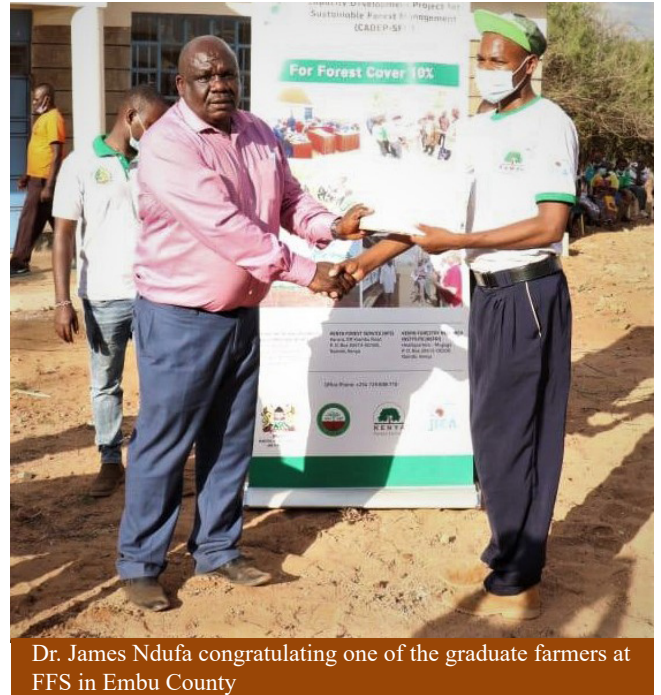
Farmers Graduate in Sustainable Forestry Practices

Dr. James Ndufa, the Ag. Deputy Director Forest Biodiversity and Environment Management (FBEM-KEFRI) lauded the Capacity Development Project for Sustainable Forest Management (CADEP-SFM) project for equipping farmers with the relevant knowledge to practice sustainable agriculture and commercial tree growing.

Dr. Ndufa who officiated the graduation of farmers in Embu and Taita Taveta Counties noted that the farmers through the Farmers Field Schools (FFS) had undertaken research on different tree species and food crops to find out the best performing in their areas.

The graduates or Wakulima wataalamu in both counties undertook a one year training on; tree planting and soil conservation, food crop farming, animal husbandry, and poultry management.

The graduants show cased their skills in various improvised efficient and cost effective farming methods, bee keeping and harvesting, and soil conservation among other income generating ventures.



The CADEP - SFM is a 5-year JICA supported technical cooperation project (June 2016 to June 2021) promoting sustainable forest management in Kenya.

The Kenya-Japan five year project consists of five components, of which KEFRI and KFS implements two specific components in Kitui, Embu, Makueni, Tharaka Nithi -Mbere and Taita Taveta counties to achieve a ten percent tree cover.

KEFRI implements the sustainable forest management and tree breeding research component by conducting research on breeding of drought-tolerant trees in arid and semi-arid areas, extending the use of improved seedlings, and promoting regional cooperation to strengthen resilience to climate change.

Japanese Delegates Visit KEFRI

Mr. Katsuro Saito, the Chief Adviser in charge of Forest Extension under the Capacity Development Project for Sustainable Forest Management (CADEP-SFM) in Kenya, on 8th December 2020, held a strategic discussion with KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo at KEFRI Headquarters.

The Project Manager Mr. Peter Nduati and KEFRI Ag. Deputy Director in Charge of Forest Biodiversity and Environment Management Dr. James Ndufa participated in the discussions that explored development of *Melia volkensii* and other forestry research strategies in the drylands.

“Communities and corporates are inclined to grow *Melia volkensii* for commercial purposes in ASALs, however there are reservations due to scanty information on seeds/seedlings availability and markets for its products,” said Mr. Saito.

The Director stated that KEFRI scientists and project counterparts implementing component 4 of the CADEP project, will collate available information on *Melia volkensii* and its market opportunities in the country.

Farmers in Kitui, Makueni, Machakos, Taita Taveta and Tharaka Nithi Counties have adopted *Melia* growing following intensive research and enhanced training.

The Director on the same day also met with Mr. Tadashi Shimizu, a JICA expert joining CADEP project as an advisor on natural resources and climate change.

Dr. Cheboiwo welcomed the team, noting that 37 years of KEFRI and JICA’s collaboration has enabled the accomplishment of great research achievements and promotion of sustainable forest management in the drylands of Kenya.

JICA Kenya office were represented by Mr. Tomoyuki Yasuda Senior Representative, Mr. John Ngugi the Chief Regional Programme Manager on Environment and Climate Change, and Ms. Yuki Honjo, the Regional project Coordinator.

Experts Draft Forestry Incentives and Benefit Sharing Rules

Participatory Forest Management experts have drafted guidelines on equitable benefit sharing of forest resources during a workshop held at KEFRI-Kitui between 7th and 11th December 2020.



Mr. Daniel Mbithi and other participants attending the workshop

Workshop participants included representatives from KEFRI, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), KFS, National Alliance of Community Forest Association (NACOFA), Muguga CFA, Museve-Kavonge (MUSEKAVO) CFA, and Arabuko Sokoke Forest Adjacent Dwellers Association (ASFADA).

The Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests Mr. Daniel Mbithi, noted that although the Forest Conservation and Management Act 2016 article 71 provides for benefit sharing of forest resources, there lacks a policy to guide equitable sharing of these resources.

“These guidelines will enable forest adjacent communities and other stakeholders safeguard forests and the environment while contributing to community livelihood,” said Mr. Mbithi.

“FAO is supporting the development of forestry policies that will make the PFM process more engaging and inclusive, bearing in mind that forest resource sharing has remained indefinable,” said Mr. Meshack Muga, FAO project coordinator.

Mr. Paul Ongugo - a Principal scientist at KEFRI, thanked the team for developing the document which will be subjected to public participation among other steps before approval by Cabinet.

KEFRI Pension Scheme Annual General Meeting



The Chairman Board of Trustee, Mr. Paul Tuwei accompanied by KEFRI Board Chairman Dr. Sammy Letema and Ag. Deputy Director Forest Biodiversity and Environment Management Dr. James Ndufa addressing staff during the AGM

Dr. Sammy Letema, KEFRI Board of Directors Chairman while addressing the Retirement Benefit Scheme Annual General Meeting on 8th October 2020, stated that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, which has negatively affected pensioners both in private and public sectors, KEFRI Pension Scheme has sustainably remitted staff contributions to Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA).

Dr. Letema also urged staff to embrace Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) to improve their pension scheme.

“KEFRI Pension performance has been steady with contribution being remitted on time and Ksh. 224 million was paid to staff who retired in the fiscal year that ended June 2020,” said Dr. Letema.

The Chairman further stated that the Board is focused on ensuring smooth transition of staff from public service to retirement, implementation of succession plan, the proposed Post-Retirement Medical Fund, and investment in modern systems to strengthen efficiency of the secretariat.

The Chairman Board of Trustees, Mr. Paul Tuwei in his statement reported that despite ravages of COVID-19 pandemic, the scheme assets as per the year under review was KSh 279 billion compared to KES 264 billion last year, an increase attributed to Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC).

The Scheme recorded a net investment income of Kes.212 million in a similar period and a remittance of a total Kes.191 million being both the employee and the employer’s contributions,” said Mr. Tuwei.

In addition, he informed staff that the thirteen-year Strategic Plan (2017-2030) enacted in 2017 was at the end of stabilization phase, however the high rate of staff retirement may have financial implications in future.

According to the AGM Report the last financial year membership dropped to 759 from 810 due to retirement among other natural attritions.

Mr. Tuwei whose term in office is ending, advised staff against using lump sum pension proceeds for development urging them to engage in ventures that have sustainable returns.

KEFRI Board of Trustees also attended the AGM together with Service Providers; Scheme Administrators (Minet Kenya Financial Services), Fund Managers, (Sanlam Investment East Africa), Scheme Custodians (Standard Chartered Bank), Independent Auditor (Kamau and Company Ltd), Certified Public Accountants Kenya, and Absa Bank formerly Barclays Bank, Retirement Benefits Authority-(RBA) and the Regulator.

KEFRI Inducts New Employees

The Chairman Human Resource Committee KEFRI Board of Directors, Dr. Ali Mohamed (*inset*) while officially opening a 3-day induction programme at KEFRI Headquarters on December, 1st 2020, stated that induction is currently a mandatory process in the Public Service as it acquaints new employees to the Code of Conduct and Ethics for Public Officers.



"I urge you to not only familiarize yourselves with the Institutes mandate, core values as well as the organizational structure but also Public Service policies and regulations," said Dr. Mohamed.

The Chairman Research and Development Committee KEFRI Board of Directors, Mr. Kevin Kihara advised the new staff to embrace team work in their delivery of KEFRI's mandate.



Mr. Kevin Kihara addressing new staff accompanied by KEFRI CEO Dr. Cheboiwo and HRM Deputy Director Ms. Evelyn

"Respect each other, and focus on adoption and application of new technologies, delivery of efficient services, innovation and sacrifice to enable our country achieve the set agenda in article 69 (a) and (b) of the constitution," said Mr. Kihara.

KEFRI Director Dr. Cheboiwo, urged the new staff to exercise diligence, accountability and integrity in their daily activities.

Dr. Cheboiwo reported that the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry has tasked KEFRI to produce 160MT of quality tree seeds by June 2021, and all staff must support this directive.

"Production of quality tree seeds is critical for our country to achieve the national 10 percent tree cover, and KEFRI anticipates to receive funding from National Treasury to expand seed production facilities countrywide," Dr. Cheboiwo stated.

The Director also praised outgoing staff for laying a firm foundation and urged the new staff to establish good rapport with their mentors as it improves individual and corporate performance.



KEFRI management and new employees at the induction workshop

Senior Deputy Director Corporate Services Mr. George Otieno, stated that this particular recruitment is the highest since the Institute's inception.

He urged the new recruits to engage with their mentors in order to intergrate fully into the Institutes' system.

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YOUR HEALTH MATTERS



1. Wash Hands



2. Wear Mask



3. Sanitize Hands



4. Social Distance

CALL 719 OR DIAL *719# IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS

Government to Engage Multisectoral Approach to Counter Road Carnage

The National Transport and Safety Authority is engaging ministries departments and agencies to mainstream road safety in their programmes/projects in a bid to reduce road accidents. Recent road safety data from the agency indicates 91 percent of traffic crashes are attributed to human related factors including reckless driving, speeding, intoxication or lack of protective gear like helmets.

Road Safety is a Shared Responsibility.



Staff Movement from July to December 2020

Name	P/No.	Date of Exit	Mode of Exit
Samuel Onyango Osumba	6237	17/07/2020	Retirement
Augusta Wanjiku Kabunyi	6129	28/07/2020	Retirement
Eunice Waithera Njiru	6890	07/08/2020	Retirement
Abigaël Lihavi Esese	5831	17/07/2020	Retirement
John Mathenge Ngunjiri	5811	03/09/2020	Retirement
Moses Elima Lukibisi	5474	10/10/2020	Retirement
Willies Omondi Mbogo	6376	14/10/2020	Retirement
Mary Ngina Njoroge	5298	01/11/2020	Retirement
George Gendi Otonde	6547	01/11/2020	Retirement
John Nyandiko	6208	01/11/2020	Retirement
Florence Wanjiru Muigai	6061	11/11/2020	Retirement
Stephen Mweresa Malova	6531	19/11/2020	Retirement
Ebby Mmbone Chagala	5390	06/12/2020	Retirement
Wilson Chora Ogol	6762	12/12/2020	Retirement
Geoffrey Gikonyo Gichui	6482	12/12/2020	Retirement
Stephen Kirimi Kirera	5328	17/12/2020	Retirement
Jossy Jack Wekesa	5579	20/12/2020	Retirement
Masline Akinyi Nyoga	6931	28/12/2020	Retirement
Grace Mursi	5888	31/08/2020	Death
Stephen Kariuki Mungai	6013	13/11/2020	Death
Helen Nyarindo	6522	05/12/2020	Death



Communities living adjacent to Embogut forest, Elgeyo Marakwet plant trees to rehabilitate the forest

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