



# KEFRI *Newsletter*

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**KEFRI LAUNCHES NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS RESEARCH PROGRAMME**

KEFRI is ISO 1400:2004 EMS and ISO 9001:2008 Certified

# Launch of the National Forestry Products Programme

By S. Gitonga and S. Mogaka



Prof. Judi Wakhungu assisted by Director KEFRI Dr. Ben Chikamai in watering a tree to mark the opening of NFPRP at KEFRI - Karura

**Cover Photo:** KFS Senior Deputy Director-Finance and Administration Mr. Patrick Nyaga, KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai, CS Environment Prof. Judi Wakhungu and MCA - Karura Ward Mr. Kamau Thuo during the launch of the National Forest Products Programme at KEFRI - Karura centre

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**P**rof. Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, officiated the rebranding of the National Forestry Products Research Programme (NFPRP) at KEFRI Karura Centre on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.

At the same time Prof. Wakhungu launched a booklet entitled “Commercialization of Non-wood Forest Products through Linking to SMEs and Community Groups”. The booklet will guide communities as well as small and medium enterprises in the effective utilization and commercialization of the numerous forests products and natural resources available throughout the country.

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Dr. Chikamai and Prof. Wakhungu being briefed by Mr. Norman Wachira during the visits to KEFRI's forest products lab at Karura

Some of the major highlights of this booklet include products that KEFRI has developed over time, based on countrywide interactions with stakeholders and proprietors, as well as specific cases of products adopted by entrepreneurs already in the market.

According to KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai, forest products play an important role in national socio-economic development through provision of employment; supply of assorted industrial products as well as the support to subsistence needs of many households.

The launch of the programme is a positive step by KEFRI in fulfilling its mandate of conducting research in forestry and allied natural resources and devolving services to the Counties as outlined in its Strategic Plan 2013-2018.

In Kenya 80% of households depend on fuelwood, major subsistence product also relied upon by industries for their energy needs. Globally, forest products support a vibrant industry, economically and socially important for sustainable development. However, these resources are threatened by over-exploitation and global warming due to climate change. Environmental challenges facing our country therefore require a multi-disciplinary approach that includes cooperation among the institutions, communities and entrepreneurs, so that they too fully participate in forest based enterprises for economic development of our nation.

Currently the key challenge facing the wood products sub-sector is unsustainable extraction which exceeds production. Although 30% of all wood fuel is consumed as charcoal, its production and marketing is not adequately regulated thereby leading to environmental degradation. This imbalance is leading to destruction of the environment particularly in community and private forest and wood lands.

The Programme will focus on improving wood based technologies and capacity to diversify into high value products. The Programme addresses forestry challenges through; promotion of forest based value additions, efficient wood conversion, production, and utilization of wood fuel; adoption of alternative forms of renewable energy; integrated utilization of forest products and support to development of small medium enterprises (SMEs) in diverse forest based industries and enterprises. The centre has also been actively involved in disseminating its technologies and training of various stakeholders countrywide.

Prof. Wakhungu who at the same time toured the facilities and exhibition of KEFRI forest products and collaborators' called upon the KEFRI Board to ensure the Programme is fully integrated and implemented in all the Eco-regions so as to enhance livelihood improvement and an economically sound forestry in the country.

## Launch of Water Towers Programme (WaTER)

By B. Namisi



PS Dr. Margaret Mwakima, CS Environment Prof. Judi Wakhungu, Governor Elgeyo Marakwet Alex Tolgos, and H. E. Stephano Dejak Ambassador to the EU during the launch of the WaTER project

The Kenya Government in partnership with the European Union officially launched the Water Towers Protection and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Programme (WaTER) on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2016 in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County.

The 31 million Euro funded project seeks to help eradicate poverty by improving the productivity ecosystems in two of Kenya's five water towers namely Mt. Elgon and Cherengany Hills. The six-year project is a partnership program involving the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources,

Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Kenya Water Towers Agency (KwTA) and the Climate Change Secretariat.

Prior to the launch, KEFRI as an implementer of Component four of the project organized field visits to Kitum cave and Koitobot in Mt. Eglon National Park and Kamasia and Chebara dam in Cherengany. The essence of the visits was to give an opportunity to the EU team to view sites that are already undergoing rehabilitation. KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai, emphasized the role the institute is playing in mapping of the ecosystems in order to ascertain and identify hot spots for intervention.

In his remarks during the launch hosted at Hill School Eldoret, H. E. Stefano Dejak, Ambassador to the European Union (EU) emphasized the importance of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as adopted by world leaders in September 2015. The SDGs focus diverse issues that include alleviating poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change and protecting oceans and forests.

“The EU is committed to this project and partnership with the Kenyan government as we focus on sustaining and improving the environment for future generations while at the same time improving the lives of communities in the affected areas through ecologically and economically sustainable land use systems,” he said.

He urged institutions such as KEFRI and KFS to reach out to communities and train them on alternative income generating activities so as to reduce over reliance on the already degraded forests.

The County Governor highlighted the county’s blueprint on environmental conservation which would involve projects focusing on tree planting, water conservation through construction of dams and a ban on charcoal production while awaiting enactment of a harvesting policy. He also added that the County is looking towards the use of sports as a means of educating the community on environmental conservation.

Prof. Judi Wakhungu, pointed out that the effects of climate change are not only an issue of concern in

Kenya but also globally. She stressed that climate change alone is estimated to cost almost 2% of the country’s GDP thus hampering economic growth. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources has enacted several legislations such as National Climate Change Response Strategy 2010 and the National Climate Change Action Plan 2012 which seek to address climate change.

“Domestic activities are the biggest threat to environmental conservation and therefore there is urgent need to educate communities so as to reduce this degradation,” she said.

The WaTER project is being implemented under four components namely; project management, development of integrated management plans in collaboration with community members, promotion of incentive mechanisms for sustainable land use and the demonstration of technologies addressing the current land use and forest management challenges to guide the enactment of policies.

The 11 Counties targeted within the catchment area include Busia, Bungoma, ElgeyoMarakwet, Nandi, Kakamega, Kisumu, Vihiga, Uasin Gishu, Siaya, Trans-Nzoia and West Pokot. These eco-systems are faced with eminent extinction due to encroachment on the forests by communities residing within the areas, illegal hunting and high levels of poverty.

## Opening of Migori sub-centre

*By R. Mokaya*

KEFRI has opened the Migori sub-regional centre under the Lake Victoria Eco-Region Research Programme (LVERP) to support forestry research and development in the lake basin.

The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR) Prof. Judi Wakhungu on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 officially opened the facility and launched a booklet “A Guideline for Estimating Tree Growing Investment that provides a parameter for estimating returns from tree growing business to extension agents, farmers and forest managers.”

Also present at the event were: The Permanent Secretary State Department of Natural Resources Dr. Margaret Mwakima, Migori County Commissioner, Environment County Executive Chief Officer Ms. Roseline Otieno, and KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai among other dignitaries.

In her statement, the CS commended KEFRI for the unceasing efforts in developing and implementing of forestry technologies and dissemination of appropriate information across various eco-regions countrywide.

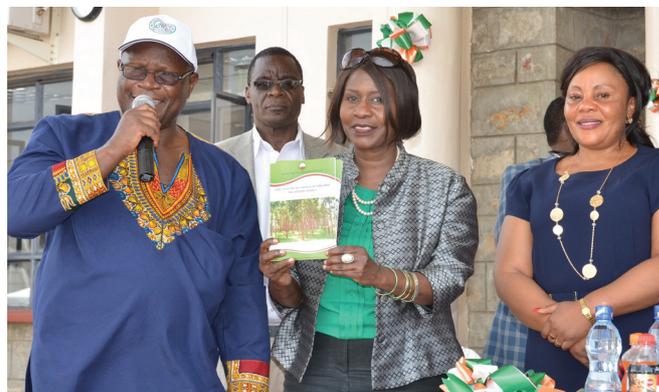
“The opening of this sub-centre is a positive step by KEFRI in fulfilling its mandate of conducting research in forestry and allied natural resources and devolving services to the Counties as outlined in its Strategic Plan 2013-2018,” she stated.

“I urge both the Institute and the adjacent communities to utilize this sub-centre to develop appropriate technologies and advise needed to overcome forestry challenges within the lake basin region,” said Wakhungu.

KEFRI Director Dr. Chikamai specified that the sub-regional center will be developing agro-forestry technologies for soil fertility improvement and land productivity technologies for rehabilitating degraded water catchments, natural forests and hilltops; propagation, management and utilization of bamboo; efficient production of charcoal and biomass to enhance environmental conservation and improved livelihoods amongst other needs identified by local stakeholders. Further, the sub-centre will be a focal point for disseminating information to the residents of South Nyanza.

“The establishment of Migori sub-regional centre is in line with the principles of devolved government’s services to the people as enshrined in the country’s Constitution. Migori sub-center therefore will serve four Counties namely; Migori, Homa Bay, Kisii and Nyamira. It will support forestry research and development activities in the Lake Victoria Basin that are coordinated at Maseno Regional centre, similarly to Kakamega sub-regional centre, Ramogi (Siaya County) and Kuja (Homa Bay County) field centres,” said Chikamai.

County Officer for Environment Ms. Roseline Otieno, who represented Migori Governor H.E. Zachary Obado, thanked the institute for opening the centre which she stated will bring the services closer to the people and provide social and economic development at the grassroot.



KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai, Deputy Director Administration Mr. John Gisemba, CS Environment Prof. Judi Wakhungu and PS Margaret Mwakima during the launch of Migori Centre



Main entrance to the Centre

## Fire Safety Training

*By S. Wairungu and M. Esitubi*

Thirty (30) CHERP staff undertook 2-day training on fire safety on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016 to expand their experiences and skills in firefighting.

According to the KEFRI Fire Marshalls Chairman Mr. Simon Wairungu, the training also benefited two KFS staff as well as members of Muguga Community Adjacent Forest group (CFA).

Method of training involved theory where fire test and a practical were conducted. In addition, all the trainees participated in demonstration of extinguishing small fires which were set for the training purpose.

Members of staff are encouraged to report any fire hazard and contact the fire Marshalls in case of any fire breakage. The fire marshalls are responsible for firefighting equipments and safety procedures.

## Commissioning of Kenya-GEP Project



Mr. Hamilton Orata, Prof. Judi Wakhungu, Dr. Margaret Mwakima and Dr. Chikamai at the Ligodho Bio-enterprise during the launch of the project to make charcoal from sugar baggase

KEFRI commissioned the Kenya-Green Economy Partnership (GEP) project at Ligodho pilot site in Ndhiwa, Homa Bay County on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 to carbonize biomass briquettes from sugarcane bagasse. The Cabinet Secretary for Environment Prof. Judi Wakhungu graced the function in the presence of the Principal Secretary, State Department of Natural Resources, Dr. Margaret Mwakima, Deputy Governor - Homa Bay County, H. E. Hamilton Orata, Director KEFRI Dr. Ben Chikamai, Kenya Forest Service Director Mr. Emillio Mugo, Members of County Assembly and county executives, and the communities.

In her speech Prof. Wakhungu revealed that the choice of establishing the pilot sites in Homa Bay County is in line with her Ministry's mandate to promote social economic pillar for a health and clean environment. She added that the project is anticipated to create wealth and overcome challenges of clean and health environment eventually reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the sugar belt regions of Kenya.

“We appreciate the good gesture from KEFRI and the County Government and I promise the ministry's

support to investors in forestry and other related natural resources into improving the environment and livelihood of our dear citizens in the County and beyond,” she said.

Speaking at the same event the Principal Secretary, Dr. Mwakima revealed that the Government is committed in the Medium Term Plan (MPT II) 2013-2017 of Vision 2030 to develop and implement various green economy policies that tackle environmental degradation, climate change, poverty alleviation, infrastructure development and food insecurity while enhancing socio-economic growth and sustainable livelihoods for our people. The same national environmental agenda has been adopted and domesticated by KEFRI's Strategic Plan 2013-2018.

Deputy Governor Mr. Orata invited the Ministry and KEFRI to explore further opportunities existing in the region and expand collaborations in forestry based ventures and enterprises.

Director KEFRI Dr. Chikamai said the Research Programme in the region is to identify existing opportunities in the sugar belt regions and to carry

out research on better ways of increasing tree cover for better environment management and sustainable utilization by the local communities. KEFRI in partnership with development partners aims to transfer technologies as well as to build capacities for youth, women and investors in forestry development.

The project is anticipated to attain high charcoal productivity, enhance a cleaner environment and consequently a faster economic growth sustainable beyond the expiry of the donor funding.



Deputy Governor Homabay County Mr. Hamilton Orata addressing public during the GEP Project launch at Lighodho site

## KEFRI signs MoUs

By S. Gitong and M. Muga

Homa Bay County Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with KEFRI on 16th June, 2016. KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai and Mr. Pharis Ratego (CEC for Energy & Natural resources) signed the agreement that seeks collaboration in environmental conservation, research and exchange of information for the benefit of the community in the lake basin.

Others present at the occasion were Homa Bay County Chief Officer of Energy & Natural Resources Mr. Duncan Osodo, and KEFRI Deputy Director in charge of Forest Products Development Dr. Joseph Githiomi, Meshak Muga (Partnership and Networks), Peter Ogutu, NFPRP Deputy Programme Director Ms. Nelly Oduor and LVBERP Regional Director Dr. Robert Nyambati.

### APC and KEFRI MoU

Africa Plantation Capital (APC), part of the Asian Plantation Company Group also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with KEFRI on 31st May, 2016.

Speaking during media briefing in Nairobi, APC Managing Director Mr. Kostantinos Kioleoglou said the pact which specifically is to scale up technologies and innovations on bamboo production, management and value addition along Kenya's coastline will provide a broad framework for cooperation in natural resources management and conservation.



Mr. Duncan Osodo, Mr. Pharis Ratego, Dr. Chikamai and Mr. Meshack Muga during the signing and exchange of the agreement

KEFRI Deputy Director in charge of Corporate Affairs and Quality Assurance Dr. Jackson Mulatya welcomed the move.

Mr. Paul Ongugo, a senior scientist at KEFRI said there is need to build capacity of farmers on management and propagation of bamboo to improve productivity and linkage to better market.

KEFRI has established 23 bamboo trials countrywide to study performance of different species in different ecological zones. The briefing was attended by environmental media journalist within Nairobi County.

# World Environment Day 2016 Celebrations

By John Otwoma

World Environment Day (WED) was created in 1972 at the United Nations General Assembly held in Stockholm Sweden. It is celebrated every 5th of June and has continued to be an opportunity for educating the public on the importance of the environment, while appreciating the achievements made towards preservation of the same by diverse stakeholders. The United Nations uses this day to encourage worldwide awareness and action for environment as well as serving as people's platform for taking positive action for the environment, galvanizing individual actions into a collective power that generates an exponential positive impact on the planet.

The World Environment day 2016 whose theme "Fight against the Illegal Trade in Wildlife" that goes with a slogan – "Go Wild for Life," was celebrated in Nanyuki Laikipia County on 4th and 5th June, 2016. The theme advocated for biodiversity conservation rebuilding elephant population and wildlife trafficking to be treated as a serious crime both nationally and across borders.

Principal Secretary, State Department of Natural Resources Dr. Margaret Mwakima, representing the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Laikipia County Governor, H.E. Hon Joshua Irungu, Deputy Speaker, Hon. Peter Kimondo Ngari, representatives from United Nations, Director General-NEMA, Prof. Geoffrey Wakhungu, Mr. Agrey Mwacharo representing Director General Kenya Wildlife Services, among others graced the 2-day event.

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS); National Environment Management Authority (NEMA); Kenyatta University Environment Club (KUEC) Kenya Bureau of Standards (KBS); Royal Practical Solutions for Climate Change (RPSCC); Water Resources Management (WRM) and Maiyan Women Group (MWG) showcased their technologies in line with the theme of the day.

The PS stated that wildlife habitat in the country has been transformed over the years to give way to human settlements, cultivation and pasture for livestock leading to about 50 percent loss of wildlife, in and outside the protected areas.



PS Dr. Mwakima planting a tree at the Central Park, Nanyuki town to celebrate World Environment Day 2016.

This is expected to contribute to decline in wildlife population if measures to protect them are not urgently put in place and implemented.

The PS reiterated the need of finding land use models that tackle the underlying causes of change, in order to maintain wildlife habitat in the face of population and economic growth.

She advocated for the existence of closer working relationships between communities living near wildlife sanctuaries since this was going to stop the wanton destruction of the country's wildlife heritage as well as ensure a sustainable future of the diversity. She lauded the burning of Ivory and 1.35 tones of rhino horns by President Uhuru Kenyatta on April 30th, 2016, adding that the action signaled to the world that Kenya was advocating for a total global ban in trade of the endangered species.

On the day before WED, stakeholders visited the following sites to familiarize themselves with experiences in conserving wildlife and the environment in Laikipia County.

- Maiyan Holiday homes-a facility promoting green technology on a 100 acre land and a proposed

## Launch of the National Tree Planting 2016

wildlife sanctuary on a 96 ha secluded land within the precincts, and a variety of conservation initiatives.

- Naatum Women Group engaged in planting and processing of Aloe as an alternative source of income besides pastoralism that perennially puts them in conflict with wildlife.
- Oljogi Wildlife Conservancy that serves a wildlife migratory corridor between Aberdares ranges and Mt. Kenya and a home to several wildlife species consisting of the big five, a rescue center and an orphanage of tamed rhinos and elephants
- Twala Cultural Center that caters for tourist en route to Naibunga community which has two group ranches, Munishoi and Iipolei. The center has a conference facility, a kitchen and cottages that are managed by women from that community.

## Muguga Community Marks World Environment Day

By S. Kamonde

**M**uguga Forest Management Team and its stakeholders observed World Environment Day 2016 by conducting a clean-up exercise at Muguga forest on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

Volunteers from public and private institutions participated in the cleanup exercise which involved collection of solid waste and sensitization on waste handling.

Central Highlands Eco-region Research Programme (CHERP) Regional Director Mr. Elly Mwanza and his Deputy Mr. Joram Kagombe, Deputy Director Social Economics and Governance Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo represented Director KEFRI in the event.

Representatives from KFS, KEPHIS, Kikuyu, Kabete and Limuru sub-Counties, Human Rights Information Forum (HRIF), Nderi Youth Group, Nderi Uzima, Nderi Inuka Group of Persons Living with Disabilities (PLWDs), Nderi Jua Kali, Nderi Motorbike Operators, Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), Provincial Administration also joined in the clean up exercise.



CS Prof. Wakhungu addressing public during the launch of National Tree Planting at Laikipia

**O**ver 150 million seedlings from the Kenya Forest Service and partner institutions, private sector, individuals and communities are ready for planting during this long rainy season.

Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Prof. Judi Wakhungu stated during the launch of the long rains national tree planting exercise at Nyambogichi Primary School in Laikipia County.

The launch themed “For a Green Economy, Wakenya Tupande Miti” was organized by Kenya Forestry Service in conjunction with Laikipia County Government which highlighted its strategy to plant 40 million trees and 2 million fruit trees within a 4- year period.

Prof. Wakhungu urged the county governments to fast track devolvement of forestry functions, singling out Taita-Taveta as the only county that has recently finalized the plans for the transition of forestry functions 4 years after devolution.

The CS Prof. Wakhungu said complying with the obligation and finalization of the plans will enable her ministry to enhance forestry development in the country. “This plan will provide a road map for implementing devolved forestry functions by the 47 counties and are expected to be endorsed by governors and the director of forest services,” she stated.

Likewise, this process will deepen the much needed understanding at the two levels of government and their respective obligations in the sector. The national government in line with the constitution and existing policy guidelines will provide technical support as well as capacity development immediately the plans are sanctioned,” the CS said.

In addition, a strong team of professionals in the Ecosystem conservator’s office would be retained in each county to support them in areas of planning and budgeting, forest advisory services, forest enterprise and trade, forest management and enforcement of forestry laws.

Laikipia Governor H.E. Hon Joshua Irungu revealed that the event was a culmination of the tree-planting week in Laikipia County, which kicked off on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2016. His county has planted 15,000 tree seedlings in parts of Solio,Umande, Nanyuki

and Rumuruti of the targeted 10 million seedlings. Implementation of the tree-planting project is led by Laikipia County Development Authority (LCDA) in collaboration with KFS and KEFRI among other partner institutions. More than 5000 seedlings were planted at the Nyambogichi site.

Director KEFRI Dr. Chikamai stated that on behalf of KEFRI he is glad to participate in the national launch of tree planting for the Western regime as well as support KFS which uptakes most of the technologies developed by KEFRI to improve trees and forestry development in the country.

During the ceremony the CS also witnessed the signing of the Transition Implementing Plan for devolved forestry functions for Laikipia County.



(Top L-R): Environment Cabinet Secretary Prof. Judi Wakhungu planting a Cedar tree and KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai planting an Olea tree. (Below): Laikipai County Governor Joshua Irungu chatting with KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai and signing of the Transition Implementing Plan for devolving forestry function in Laikipia County between Governor Irungu and KFS Director Mr. Emilio Mugo

# Forest Products Centre Open Day

(By R. Shanda & S. Mogire)

The National Forest Products Research Programme Director Dr. James Kimondo called upon the public to embrace KEFRI technologies to add value forest products. Dr. Kimondo was speaking during the annual forest product Open day held at Karura Centre on 20<sup>th</sup>, May 2016.

The centre jointly with partner institutions, and collaborators exhibited wood and non-wood forest products and value addition technologies to improve quality and quantity of tree products.

Over the years, the centre has developed products and technologies which are as follows:

Demonstration of wood preservation using sap displacement method, timber seasoning using kiln and air drying, multipurpose grooving machine, testing strength of timber, timber grading using Kenya Bureau of Standard (KEBS) for Special Structural (SS), General Structural (GS) and Rejects.

At the timber and bamboo processing workshop, visitors were taken through the process of converting logs into timber, cross-cutting, planing and the types of machines used to perform these activities. On-farm timber sawing using modified chain saw for production of quality timber, value addition to waste timber to produce fancy items through lamination was demonstrated. Identification of wood using both Macro and Microscopic features was demonstrated and its purpose explained at the wood anatomy unit

Enterprise section displayed and sold assorted certified quality tree seeds, laminated wood products like coffee table, trays, sugar dishes and fruit bowls. Integrated Pest Management represented by Pathology and Entomology sections displayed mitigation and management of forest /tree pests and diseases.

The centre also displayed Aloe fortified products, indigenous fruit products (jam and juice from both Boabab and Tamarindus), mondia stems and powder, gums and gum resins, frankincense, myrrh and hagar and respective essential oils. These non-wood products contribute to sustainable livelihoods and have high potential for export.

Technologies on efficient charcoal production that included; drum kilns and Cassamance. Briquetting technologies using different binders and feed stocks were demonstrated.

Partner institutions, i.e. Kenya Forest Service and Tree-Biotechnology displayed tree seedlings, assorted forest products, propagation of bamboo and Eucalyptus were explain.

Collaborators including; Green Africa Foundation displayed valued added juices, dried mango powder and crisps. Elekea Company displayed boabab products while Coopers Kenya showcased animal health products and grafted mango seedlings; and Green Char and Old Mutual displayed charcoal and financial products and services respectively.

The open day was advertised through print and electronic media as well as social media, posters, banners and letters of invitation. Extension methods used were one on one interaction, demonstration supported by posters and publications.

It is anticipated that with the uptake of these technologies, communities and entrepreneurs can expand nature based enterprises, thus contributing to poverty alleviation and forest conservation at a wide scale.



Assorted Aloe products from KEFRI displayed during the Open day



Ms Celestine Kibor from Green Char Company displaying charcoal briquettes made from plant biomass

# Presentation of Special Seedlings to Kalimani Earth Dam - Kitui

S. Gitonga and B. Kigwa

The Initiative for Green Kenya hosted His Excellency Tatsushi Terada, Ambassador of Japan, KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikami, senior national and county government officers and the community of Matinyani in planting *Melia volkensii* (Mukau) to stabilize Kalimani earth dam in Matinyani, Kitui County, on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

KEFRI/JICA Drought Tolerant and Adaptation to Climate Change Project donated 350 seedlings of Mukau.

The day's-activity comprised of unveiling the sign board, inspecting the rehabilitation activity, tree planting, and speeches by distinguished guests.



Ambassador Terada shaking hands with Ms. Mulwa after unveiling the newly designed projects' signboard near KwaMona centre along Kitui -Thika Road

Initiative for Green Kenya (IGK) is a multi-sectoral NGO working mainly in Kitui, Makeni, Kajiado and Baringo County in the fields of water sanitation, health, education, capacity building and environmental conservation.

“The NGO received a grant amounting to USD 101,159 (approx. Kshs 9.1 Million) from the Government of Japan through Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) to rehabilitate Kalimani earth dam, construct water withdrawal systems, fencing and planting seedling to stabilize the dam, thus improving the access to clean water,” said the CEO Mrs. Edith Mulwa.

The Government of Japan has been providing such funding to local non-profit organizations through the GGP since 1989.

“Kalimani dam was excavated manually in the 1980s, but the dam silted up and breached in 2005. Though there was moderate rainfall during the rainy seasons, ever since the dam breached, it was unable to hold enough water and most of it flowed out. Therefore, during the dry season, people in the community had to walk long distances to seasonal rivers where they had to scoop a hole through the sand to scoop water,” according to Martha Mulwa.

Even before the dam breached, there were problems such as contamination by cattle waste causing water borne diseases and children drowning in the dam. So far, the vast amount of silt has been excavated to 9½ meter depth and the embankment rehabilitated, making the site ready for planting tree seedlings and grass to control further siltation. The dam located in 1.2ha has been fenced to make it safe and has two water withdrawal systems. It is anticipated to benefit approximately 5,000 residents and 1,200 cattle.

The special tree seedlings were donated by the “Project on Development of Drought Tolerant Trees for Adaptation to Climate Change in Dry lands of Kenya”, which is a joint project between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and KEFRI were planted around the earth dam.

The main objectives of planting the seedlings are; to reduce the amount of soils and sands flowing into the dam (siltation) so as to retain high capacity and quality of water. Secondly, to create shades around the dam so as to reduce water loss due to evaporation. *Melia* grows to an average of 2 meters in 6 months and its timber is termite resistant.

Ambassador Terada appreciated JICA/KEFRI project for donating the special seedling to Kalimani dam emphasized that it is the first GGP project to collaborate with the JICA/KEFRI project.

The Ambassador also congratulated both the Initiative for Green Kenya for the good progress in the implementation of the GGP project and the community for planting the seedlings. In addition, he recognized the Project on Development of Drought Tolerant Trees for Adaptation to Climate Change in Dry Lands of Kenya” amongst other technical cooperation projects that are implemented in Kitui supported by the Government of Japan.

“It is important for the Government of Japan to find ways to collaborate with the necessary institutions and people to enhance the activities that we are doing in Kenya,” said the Ambassador.

He promised that the Embassy will continue providing their full support to make this project fruitful.

The Ambassador revealed that the 6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) scheduled in Nairobi on 27th and 28th August, 2016 will be the first time the conference will be held outside Japan.

The 1-year project commenced on 30th September, 2015 and will end by September 2016.

KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai in his remark praised the 30 years of collaboration between KEFRI with Government of Japan through JICA/KEFRI projects, terming it a successful venture that has improved environment and livelihoods of many communities residing in the drylands.

Currently, JICA/KEFRI Project is propagating *Acacia tortilis* and *Melia Volkensii*, being some of the dryland tree species with potential of mitigating climate change and improving livelihoods.

Dr. Chikamai called upon the community to embrace KEFRI technologies especially for rehabilitating riverine and other water reservoirs.

Dr. Chikamai urged the project leaders and the community to also consider planting grass around the dam, specifically bamboo, which is fast growing and effective in controlling soil erosion.

“It is worth visiting Mlima and Kathyani dams in Makueni and Kibwezi Counties respectively. where KEFRI has helped in rehabilitating riverrines and dams using grass, trees and shrubs,” said Chikamai.



Ms. Martha Mulwa, Ambassador Tetsushi Terada, Director KEFRI Dr. Chikamai and the County Administrator Mr. Antony Muthui representing H.E. Dr. Julius Malombe on arrival at the Kalimani dam

Others who addressed the gathering were the Hon. Anthony Muthui, Member of County Assembly Matinyani Ward, Administrator of Matinyani Ward and Dr. Muusya Mwinzi, the County Chief Officer in Charge of Environment in Kitui County.

## Trainings and Seminars

### National Cohesion and Values (By S. Gitonga)

KEFRI in collaboration with the Directorate of National Cohesion and National Values, on 7th June, 2016 sensitized staff at the headquarters on the importance of embracing national cohesion and integration.

The Chief Cohesion Officer Mr. Kihui Mugo presented topics on concepts, facets and levels of cohesion. He appealed to staff to embrace harmony and cohesion withinself, at the family level, places of work and other institutional levels to improve political and economic cohesion.

The government aims at nurturing solidarity—togetherness and harmony amongst its citizens, instill a unified approach to internal affairs and confronting external threats (insecurity) as well as commitment to national ideals and development.

He urged staff to promote national cohesion through; Patriotism, Protecting Kenya’s constitution and upholding human rights and value systems of families, democracy, and international obligations and to bolster security.

KEFRI Deputy Director for Corporate Affairs Dr. Jackson Mulatya said embracing national cohesion and integration will facilitate the institution to operate efficiently in service delivery and customer satisfaction.

## Anti-Terrorism Seminar *(By S. Gitonga)*

During the Director's tea forum held on 31<sup>st</sup> June, 2016, Major Dengereko Halfani and Inspector Esther Njoki from Anti-Terrorism Police Unit - National Counter Terrorism Centre advised KEFRI staff to be extra vigilant and report any terrorist threats they may encounter.

The duo said intelligency reports revealed that public institutions, shopping malls, hotels and other vulnerable facilities have been prime targets for terror attacks.

"Terrorism is faceless and cannot be attributed to a specific race, colour, religion or ethnicity," said Dengereko. Therefore each citizen has a crucial role to play in preventing and foiling terrorist plans in the country and globally.

The duo assured staff that the Government is committed to countering terrorism and ensuring security to all of its citizens. The citizens are urged to volunteer information about the link and supporters of terrorism as well as cyber crimes.

They advised staff and security managers to take precaution and remain vigilant at all times, report suspicious persons, objects or activities, and in case of an explosion, exit the scene using safe exits and keep off until it is cleared. For more details contact: *Website: counterterrorism.go.ke, Email: info@nctc.or.ke, Tel: 723 786 260, 727 531 042/3, 735 516 652*



Secretarial Course participants posing for a group photo

## Secretarial Management Training Course

*(By M. Njenga)*

Three of KEFRI's Secretarial staff namely; Margaret Njenga, Mary Mudaki and Hellen Nyarindo attended a 4-week Secretarial Management Training Course at the Kenya School of Government Mombasa branch from 29<sup>th</sup> March to 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016.

The course, attended by 15 participants from national and County Governments, aimed at refreshing skills on office management and customer relationship for effective service delivery.

Other relevant topics covered were; managing HIV/AIDs at work place; financial management and public service reforms all geared towards achieving Vision 2030.

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## Proposed Pension Scheme Seminars

*Mr. D. Nzitu and Dr. M. Gichora*

The KEFRI Staff Retirement Benefit Scheme Board of Trustees approved an in-house members' pre-retirement sensitization seminar programme for the financial year 2016/2017.

All staff are encouraged to attend the appropriate group seminars which will take place in headquarters and all eco-regions.

Among the proposed topics are:

- Annuities and income draw down
- Personal financial planning

The programme will last half a day for senior management and all day for middle management and junior level staff.

The program will be conducted by selected facilitators whereas interactive sessions with motivational speakers and testimonies of life in retirement by retired officers will be included.

All the members are advised to attend this seminar. The full training programme will be spread over time as shown in the following table:

## Tentative Pension Scheme Seminars 2016/2017

Financial Year	Quarter	Centre	Remarks	Duration
2016/17	Q1	Headquarters	Senior staff	Half day
		Muguga&Karura	Middle & Junior Level Staff (different sessions)	Full day
		Nyeri	All staff combined	Full day
2016/17	Q1	Kitui (Garissa &Bura)	Senior & Middle staff	Full day
			Junior Level Staff	Full day
		Kibwezi	All staff Combined	Full day
		Gede (Lamu)	Senior & Middle staff	Full day
			Junior Level Staff	Full day
		Q2	Londiani	Senior & Middle staff
	Junior Level Staff			Full day
	Turbo		All staff Combined.	Full day
	Marigat		All staff Combined.	Full day
	Q3	Lodwar	All staff Combined	Full day
			Maseno	Senior & Middle staff
			Junior Level Staff	Full day
		Kakamega	All staff Combined	Full day
		Migori	All staff Combined.	Full day
	Kuja River	All staff Combined.	Full day	
Ramogi	All staff Combined.	Full day		

### Scheme membership withdrawals: April - June 2016

The scheme bid farewell to 5 officers in the quarter with details as follows.

P/No.	Name	Date of Exit	Reason for Exit
6935	Argwings Esendi Kalwali	10/04/2016	Retirement
5804	Rose Onchari Sibia	13/05/2016	Resignation
5349	Stacus Abongo Orondo	25/05/2016	Retirement
5333	Jackson Kinyanjui Waithaka	04/06/2016	Retirement
5670	George Taiti Wachira	27/06/2016	Retirement

### Winding up of DB Scheme

The last 2 members of the Defined Benefit Scheme went on retirement in the quarter. As such, the DB scheme has now wound up. The Board of Trustees will engage an Actuarial to evaluate the financial cost of risk and uncertainty towards DB scheme and any surplus will be shared between the sponsor and members on a 50-50 basis.



**KEFRI staff Mr. Samson Mogire showcasing assortment of bamboo and value added wood products to the CS Prof. Judi Wakhungu (right) and delegates headed by Director KEFRI Dr. Chikamai during the rebranding of NFPRP KEFRI-Karura**



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