



KEFRI *Newsletter*

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Contents

XMAS GREETINGS

It is with great pleasure we send our heartwarming Christmas wishes to all staff their family, as well as to our stakeholders. May the holidays deliver an abundance of happiness and relaxation. May God's blessings come to you a thousand fold and May this Christmas be the merriest.

Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year 2014.

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KEFRI LAUNCHES RIFT VALLEY RESEARCH PROGRAMME AND SUB-CENTRE



Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Water and Natural Resources Prof. Judi Wakhungu (right) and the Director KEFRI Dr. Ben Chikamai Chikamai (centre) receiving symbolic key during the launching of RVERFRP.

The Minister for Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Prof. Judi Wakhungu, views the Rift Valley as crucial in the country's efforts to increase forest cover. Speaking during the launch of the Rift Valley Eco-Region Forestry Research Programme (RVERFRP) on Friday November 29, 2013 in Marigat, Prof Wakhungu noted that as the biggest Eco-region, the Rift forms the major focus for the expansion of forest cover to 10 per cent as outlined in the Constitution.

The particular importance in this forestry research programme is the unique topographical landscape, giving rise to historically varied forest resources, diverse culture of the people of the Rift Valley relying on forest resources, thus requiring technological advancements in the way they should manage these forest types and the accompanying allied resources to support their socio-economic development and their cultural interests, said Prof Wakhungu.

Further, forests in the Rift Valley are a reservoir of biological diversity stretching from the extensive highlands to the expansive lowlands harbouring large mammals, birds, butterflies and plants species. Important to note are the Mau, Cherangany and Mt Elgon forests which, besides being key water towers, host hundreds of flora and fauna, some of them endemic to these forests.

She also noted that these allied resources require information for their management and development and said that the rebranded RVERFRP, which is under the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), will go a long way in contributing to the development of sound forestry, water and wildlife sectors in the country.

The minister also launched three booklets on forestry published by the institute and officially opened the KEFRI Baringo Sub-Centre in Marigat. The rebranded research programme is part of decentralisation of forestry research services to the regions.

"The three pillar resources in my Ministry namely forestry, water and wildlife occur interchangeably and thus in complementarity. That is why the government combined them into one ministry." Said Prof Wakhungu.

KEFRI Director Dr. Ben E.N. Chikamai stated that the RVERFRP has been developed to consolidate the gains made from KEFRI's previous experience and aspirations of stakeholders while taking cognizance of the challenges encountered in the Rift Valley region.

"Specifically, the programme plans to enhance management of our forestry resources using an integrated multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary approach carrying out the organisation's vision and mission, objectives and initiatives," he said.

One threat the Eco-region has experienced is the invasive species, particularly *Prosopis juliflora* (popularly known as Mathenge). Mathenge was introduced in Tana River (Hola/Bura), Baringo and Turkana Counties in the 1980s for rehabilitation of degraded pastoral lands. The species proved quite adaptable and was widely planted. However, it turned out to be invasive following the El Nino weather phenomenon of 1997/1999, colonising most pasture and farm lands of the affected areas.

Following the resulting outcry, the Government through KEFRI, KFS (Kenya Forest Service) and other partners (especially the Food and Agricultural Organisation) has undertaken various mitigation measures to control and manage the spread of the species.



The Cabinet Secretary Prof. Judi Wakhungu (in hat) is welcomed by Dr. A. Abate from FAO during the field visit at Salabani, Baringo County

These measures include mapping to ascertain the extent of the spread, development of integrated management and control protocols using farmers' field schools with a clear focus on utilisation. Consequently, various enterprises have been developed including production of eco-charcoal by communities using efficient conversion technologies, processing of pods as livestock feed supplements and ranch improvement through prescribed thinning and grass re-seeding of the reclaimed areas. A recent initiative involves using *Prosopis* biomass for generation of electricity through gasification.

Also during the event, Baringo County Deputy Governor, Mr. Mathew Tuitoek, noted that KEFRI contributes a lot in the development of technologies for the utilisation of forest and allied natural resources through its various research programmes.

"One outstanding research programme done in this County is the Mathenge, one of the tree species which is considered a menace by the communities living in the dry areas such as Marigat in Baringo County," he observed, noting that KEFRI has undertaken studies on its sustainable management and utilisation.

He revealed that a power production venture that will use the invasive species as raw material will be launched soon in a deal that will enable Cummins Cogeneration Kenya Ltd to secure 15 acres of land in Marigat to construct the generating plant.

PRESIDENT LAUNCH GREEN SCHOOL TREE PROGRAMME



President Kenyatta planting a tree to mark the launch of Green School Programme.

Green Schools and Commercial Tree Growing Programme for a Green Economy was officially launched by His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta at Michinda Primary School, Nyandarua County on 7th December, 2013. KEFRI participated and demonstrated relevant forest research technologies and assorted products that included:

- Tree seed (both indigenous and exotic)
- Fancy items and furniture made from Bamboo
- Furniture, cake and animal feed made from Prosopis
- Perfume, air freshener and Sandalwood
- Enriched Aloe soap, shampoo and cream
- Essential oil from Eucalyptus
- KEFRI publications

President Kenyatta accompanied by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Prof. Judi Wakhungu, also unveiled the plaque for the park which will now be called the Uhuru Kenyatta Green Schools Gardens. The President noted that wanton destruction of forests has led to forests cover decreasing to only 1.7%. These forests are a habitat for wildlife and play a key role in the provision of water for domestic, industrial and agricultural use.

The Government is applying a raft of interventions to address these shortcomings. These include creation and strengthening of Forest Conservation Committees and Community Forest Associations to instil a sense of ownership on forest conservation. These community-based structures play a watchdog role by whistle blowing whenever threats to forest conservation are detected. The structures will ensure sustainable and participatory forest management.

The President said the government is committed to protecting forests to ensure that a target of four million tourists is realised per annum, five million hectares of agricultural land are irrigated and five million rural households get electricity by the year 2017.

“Our environment and its conservation are the anchor on which our economic activities depend on and must, therefore, be seen against the background of development as enshrined in both Vision 2030 and the Constitution.”



President Kenyatta accompanied by Prof. Judi Wakhungu (left) touring the display staged by the departments and parastatals in the MEWNR.

A comprehensive forest resource assessment on-farm has indicated national tree cover now stands at 7%. “Let us join in tree planting initiatives to mitigate climate change, whose negative impacts globally include increased human diseases, declining agricultural yields and reduced water stream flows,” said the President.

The Green Schools tree planting programme is spearheaded by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and will be rolled out in each County. The programme aims at planting 50 million trees annually to commemorate Kenya’s 50 years of independence and increase the country’s forest cover to 10 percent by the year 2030. It will involve establishing a tree nurseries model and tree gardens in identified schools and community land in the 47 Counties. Institutions under the Ministry and donors will support the programme.

The President and the First Lady Margaret Kenyatta planted *Podocarpus flaxinifolius* and *Olea* trees respectively. KEFRI donated *Bambusa vulgaris* and *Osyris lanceolata* seedlings which were among 50 trees planted by guests and local leaders from Nyandarua and neighboring Counties. It is anticipated this initiative will provide the required wood and non-wood raw materials.



President Kenyatta receiving a value added traditional stool awarded by Prof. Judi Wakhungu (left) on behalf of KEFRI.

KEFRI CELEBRATES 2013 END OF THE YEAR STAFF BONDING PARTY

As is the custom now, this year's staff bonding, awards ceremony and end of year party was an event to remember. Staff from the headquarters, Muguga and Karura centres converged on institute's grounds for the event held on 6th December 2013. Also in attendance were the regional directors from all the six eco-regions, in addition to employees who had won various staff awards from the various centres.

The chief guest was the Director of Policy at the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Dr. Paul Kere, who represented Principal Secretary Richard Lesiyampe. Dr Kere planted a tree to mark 50 years of Kenya's independence, in line with the Government's call to plant 50 million trees in the coming years.



Chief guest Dr. Kere after planting a commemorative tree during the institute's end of year party. From left is KEFRI Director Dr Ben Chikamai and KEFRI board Chairman Prof Daniel Mugendi (centre).

Dr. Kere observed that research and development are key pillars in Kenya's economic and social development. He was happy to note that technologies developed in KEFRI are evaluated and the ones with socio-economic impact disseminated with the aim of improving livelihoods in the areas of reforestation, conservation, biodiversity, mitigation of climate change, pest and diseases management, tree establishment and social forestry.

"The Ministry of Environment is also happy to be associated with these research innovations and assures KEFRI management, staff and stakeholders of the support needed for forestry development by approving the institute's strategic research agenda and projects," he pledged.

Dr. Kere underscored the importance of team building stating that it is crucial in achieving the institute's vision and mission. He said that all staff must work as a team since everyone has a critical role to play. He added that team building also helps to create a conducive working environment by fostering understanding between staff. Ultimately, this reduces unnecessary conflicts in the workplace and enhances mutual understanding.

He noted that the awards ceremony was aimed at rewarding and recognising staff who had excelled in various areas through dedication and exemplary service to the institute.

Stated Dr. Kere: "It is a very significant exercise as it motivates hard working staff to maintain their high level of service while at the same time challenging those that need to put in extra effort."

KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai said that in 2013 the institute continued to record impressive growth both as an institution and in its mandate of pursuing forestry research. He noted that one of the major highlights for the year was the job and workload analysis for staff.

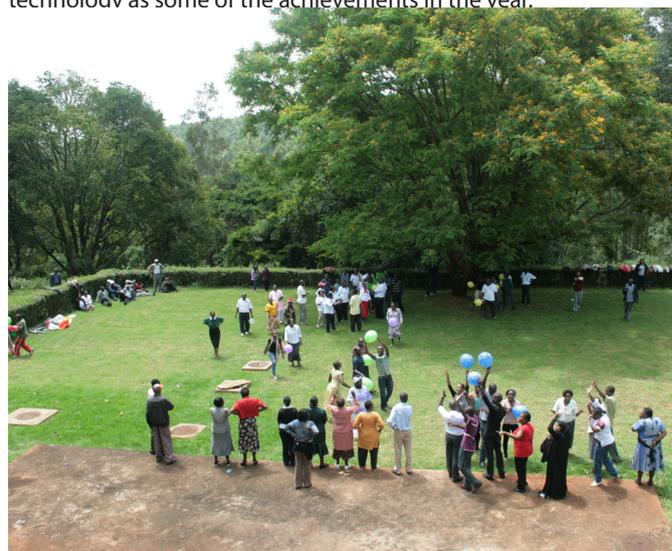
He observed that these two exercises were undertaken to help in formulation of the 5th strategic plan (2013-2018) which is aligned to the second medium term plan of vision 2030. The exercise involved reviewing the organogram, terms of reference for the various cadres, determining the relative worth of various jobs and determining the staff optimisation levels for the next five years.

He said, KEFRI continued to build staff capacity by implementing interventions recommended in the competence needs assessment report of 2010/2011. These measures included conducting various courses and workshops in procurement software, website development and risk management. The institute is also sponsoring 14 doctorate students in forestry related studies.

"Employees are the biggest asset that the institute has. To enhance employees' satisfaction, therefore, KEFRI management provided various incentives including holding four director's open tea forums with staff, awarded promotions to officers in different cadres and acquired a staff medical insurance cover," said Dr. Chikamai.

He also further noted that in 2013 technology development focused on tree improvement, propagation of selected tree species, tree management practices, rehabilitation of degraded areas and tree utilisation.

He listed developing a climate change research strategy for the institute, training on bamboo growing, demonstrating technology on forest rehabilitation and demonstrating use of clean stove technology as some of the achievements in the year.



Staff undertaking team building and bonding exercises at the institute's grounds.

TREE LABELING

As the nation commemorates 50 years of independence, KEFRI has not only supported the initiative to plant 50 million trees but has also embarked on labeling tree species within its grounds. Visitors to the headquarters can now appreciate the range of labelled trees and shrubs. The beautiful setting offers a practical demonstration of what research can offer to increase knowledge on tree varieties suitable for lawns, parks, alongside pathways and how to identify them.

According to Mr. Francis Gachathi, a long serving KEFRI plant taxonomist and head of the labelling activity, more than 10,000 tree species currently stand in all KEFRI compounds. A total of 388 individual trees and shrubs classified into 185 species have been recorded at the headquarters. Majority were coded and labelled with a plaque indicating both common and botanical names. The compound now offers a conducive environment for study tours, a relaxing atmosphere and a haven for safeguarding rare and endangered plants. These trees also act as a seed bank for propagation material.

Commemorative trees

Some of these trees were planted by distinguished people to mark a commemorative event or to enhance the beauty of KEFRI grounds. Former President Hon. Mwai Kibaki planted *Pordocarpus flaxinifolius* in 2005 to mark the official opening of KEFRI head office.

According to Mr. Gachathi, who is a Principal Scientist, planting ceremonial trees has been a KEFRI tradition since its inception, symbolising the essence of environment conservation and co-operation between KEFRI and its stakeholders and used by visiting college students for tree identification learning.

Way forward

Tree labelling will cascade to regional centres with the aim of improving the institute's image, create awareness on the value of trees and increase visitors' knowledge on tree related issues.



TOP: *Brachylaena huillensis*, an endangered tree, is one of the many species and shrubs that has been coded and labelled at the KEFRI headquarters, Muguga.

LEFT: This *Pordocarpus* tree was planted by former President Hon. Mwai Kibaki.

FOREST MANAGEMENT COURSE FOR MUGUGA STAKEHOLDERS

Sustainable management of forest resources lies mainly with communities living next to these forests. Such communities may be a threat to forests through encroachment, uncontrolled logging and engagement in agricultural activities.



Course participants undergoing Participatory Forest Management course at Muguga.

In light of the foregoing, Muguga Ecosystem Research Community Forest Association (MERCFA) conducted a three-day Participatory Forest Management (PFM) course at KEFRI headquarters in Muguga from 8th to 10th October, 2013. PFM advocates for effective participation by stakeholders as embraced by the Forest Act 2005 and also by the Constitution Article 69d.

Course participants were drawn from KEFRI, Kenya Forest Service, area administration, and Muguga community forest association (CFA) members from Kerwa, Nderi, Kikuyu, Thigio and Karai-Nachu villages.

Trainers included staff from KEFRI, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Forest Working Group and Nature Kenya. Participants were trained on participatory management of forests, establishment of farm forestry, rehabilitation of degraded areas in both forests and farmlands, use of energy saving jikos, community policing and startup of income generating activities.

To implement the above activities, it was noted that it is necessary to form a participatory forest management plan for Muguga forest as it will help in defining the roles of stakeholders and cost-benefit sharing of available forest resources.

Centre Director of the KEFRI Central Highlands Eco-region Research Programme, Mr. Elly Mwanza, assured participants that the centre will continue to support the management of Muguga forest.

KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai commended the CFA for their continued efforts in minimising destruction of the forest. He promised that the CFA members will be considered during establishment of the Plantation for Livelihood Improvement Scheme through allocation of plots in the establishment of plantations, getting priority on casual jobs when available and consideration on disposal of windfalls and dead wood in line with the KEFRI regulations and as part of KEFRI's corporate social responsibility.

CITI ENTREPRENEURS TRAINING PROGRAMME

CITI Entrepreneurs Training Programme is one of the projects under the auspices of the Seeds for Life Programme (SfLP) which has many other plant and seed conservation projects. The SfLP is a partnership between five main plants genetic resource conservation institutions. These include Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Kenya Agricultural Research Institute, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, the National Museums of Kenya and the Royal Botanic Gardens (Kew).

The CITI Entrepreneurs Training Programme was designed to help young entrepreneurs discover market opportunities and develop business relationships that will be critical to the successful establishment of novel on-farm, plant-based enterprises and to sustain subsequent businesses.

Participants of the workshop held from 3rd November to 3rd December, 2013 at KEFRI were drawn from the farming community in Tharaka South and Mbeere Districts in Eastern Kenya, and Siaya District in Western Kenya. The selection was based on those who have working business knowledge through their normal farming activities as well as possession of basic literacy and numeracy skills.



KEFRI technicians David Meroka and Allan Wafula (in white coats) demonstrating seed drying techniques for quality to trainees.

The training aimed at equipping participants with a variety of skills to conduct and interpret market assessments and value chain analyses, to negotiate successful supply contracts and to source microfinance start-up funding. These skills are supposed to add to the participants understanding of the context in which business is conducted and also lead them to identify new plant-based business opportunities that can deliver fast moving products such as quality tree seed and "plant-ready" seedlings.

The programme develops cross-sectoral business skills and supports development of entrepreneurial life skills through group work and training on problem-solving.

The training focused on technical and entrepreneurial aspects of seed and seedling production, nursery management, development of farm-based value-adding strategies on forest-based products and wood-based fancy items.

PARTNERSHIPS TO FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE



The PS Dr. Richard Lesiyampe (centre second row in dark suit and red striped tie), in a group photo with participants after he officially opened the regional course.

The Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources Dr. Richard Lesiyampe, says climate change remains the number one looming crisis globally with grave impact on the social, economic and even political stability of many nations.

Speaking during the official opening of the fifth regional training course on "Mitigating Climate Change in Africa through Social Forestry" at the KEFRI headquarters in Muguga, Kiambu County on October 22nd, 2013. Dr. Lesiyampe said that Climate change presents significant threat to the achievements of many developmental goals, especially those related to elimination of poverty and hunger, and promotion of environmental sustainability.

"Therefore, tackling challenges associated with climate change is complex and requires coordinated global efforts," he noted, adding that Africa is facing increased environmental challenges due to the scourge, a problem that can only be tackled through regional partnerships.

He observed that sub-Saharan Africa's dependence on forests for many goods and services continues to exert pressure on a resource that would have protected the continent against the impact of climate change. One way of increasing our tree resource base is to grow trees on farmlands under social forestry practices.

Stated Dr. Lesiyampe, "Such an approach will offer a basis for self-reliance in the much-needed domestic wood, provide alternative income generating activities through development of cottage industries and reduce pressure on the remaining natural forests as farmers will turn to farms for their wood requirements and economic needs".

This year's five-week regional course attracted 24 participants from 17 countries from both East and Southern Africa namely Botswana, Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Somaliland, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The PS challenged the country's research institutions to focus their activities towards identifying indigenous trees that can thrive under a changing climate and are compatible with our farming systems.

Speaking during the event, Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kenya office, Mr Hideo Eguchi, noted that the forestry sector plays a crucial role in the livelihoods of many communities and in the economic development of many countries.

"Forests provide energy, food, timber and non-timber forest products which are key contributors to wealth and health at the household, community, national, sub-regional, regional and even global level," said Mr. Eguchi.



Course participants enjoying food and drinks during the closing ceremony of the regional course.

In order to help mitigate the effects of climate change, he said that KEFRI and JICA are currently working on the development of drought tolerant trees in semi-arid lands and hoped that farmers will be able to access the newly developed species by 2017.

THE GURU OF MUKAU



Melia volkensii (Mukau) plantation

A beneficiary of KEFRI technologies, Mr Jonathan Kituku Mung'ala, a farmer in Kibwezi District has established a plantation of *Melia volkensii*, a valuable fast growing indigenous treespecies locally called Mukau. Kituku adopted technologiesof tree breeding and management from KEFRI in 2005.

In 2008 his devotion and commitment to service earned him Order of the Golden Warrior (OGW) awarded by retired President Mwai Kibaki for his classic work in tree planting and environmental conservation. His plantation has over 17,000 trees. He has diversified on-farm tree enterprise with food crops such as maize, cowpeas and soya. He also plants hoticultural fruits: Mangoe on commercial basis.

"I developed interest in tree planting in the 1990s while working with the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) in Western Kenya after i saw farmers being paid for timber harvested on their farms," recalls Kituku. This inspired me and i resigned from KPLC in 1994, purchased a piece of land in my ancestral homeland in Kibwezi and ventured into farming".

However, hardly did he know that tree growing in such a fragile ecosystem would be a challenge. Some of the tree species he planted initially withered due to the harsh climatic conditions. It was while he sought advice from KEFRI on a suitable tree species that he learnt about *Melia volkensii*. This is the tree that has made him become a guru of Mukau.

Training

Kituku is a dedicated trainer of Mukau tree husbandry. Currently, he operates a tree nursery where he raises assorted seedlings for sale and for on-farm planting. He uses his tree nursery and plantations for training other farmers particularly on seed collection. He has trained more than 25 individual farmers and 23 groups including Sombeza-Aga Khan Foundation in Mariakani, DOKAS from Kitui South and WELBA from Malindi.

He has partnered with experts working with local communities in initiating tree planting projects to supplement agriculture.

From Mombasa's South Coast to Malindi, Eastern and Central pockets of tree plantations are springing up and farmers hope these will soon translate into green villages.

Mukau stands out as a high quality timber comparable to Camphor and Meru Oak, both highly prized hardwood species in the montane forests of Kenya. The timber is used to make traditional log hives and the wood is easy to work on and shape. The timber is also suitable for making acoustic drums, containers, mortars, door and window frames, door shutters, rafters and poles. Its wood is durable, termite and decay resistant.



Mr. Kituku at his tree nursery where he raises tree seedlings and trains other farmers.



Mukau timber

JACARANDA

From the Central Highlands to the Rift Valley, *Jacaranda mimosifolia* bloomed from October to December with its brilliant shade and beautiful purple flowers making a spectacular and unforgettable sight.

Jacaranda, also known as Brazilian rose-wood, thrives in many tropical and sub-tropical countries. It propagates easily in sandy soil through cuttings, grafting and seeds. It is drought tolerant, can either be semi-evergreen or deciduous and grows to an average of 60 feet. In Kenya, it was introduced by White Settlers in the beginning of 21st Century and planted widely in the driveways and alongside streets in major towns.



Foliage of Jacaranda purple blossoms along a driveway near Nyeri town.

Due to the good canopy and purple blossoms, it is one of the lovely tree varieties for gardens, parks and pathways. In India, Jacaranda blooming season is extended because one tree will start flowering once the adjacent one has finished.

Uses

In Kenya the tree is used mostly for aesthetics and firewood. However, in Columbia the tree is also used for medicinal purposes. This knowledge is not well known by Kenyan herbalists to tap its value.



One of Jacaranda trees in full blossom along the driveway in Nakuru town.

However, unpruned branches may be hazardous as they usually break while the leaves and flowers may cause a lot of litter when they drop.

VISITS



The Vice-President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Mr. Hiroshi Kato (centre), when he made an official visit to KEFRI on 1st October, 2013. He was accompanied by the Director of the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation of the University of Malaysia Dr. Charles Vairappan (second left). From the right is KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai, KEFRI scientist Stephen Omondi, and Mr. Makoto Osawa (left), Chief Advisor, Project of Development of Drought Tolerant Trees for Adaptation to Climate Change in Drylands of Kenya. Mr. Kato acknowledged Kenya's 50 years of cooperation between Japan and Kenya especially in the fields of human resource development and knowledge sharing. He said these were also some of the main areas of partnership between JICA and KEFRI and hoped that the two institutions will continue to collaborate in forestry research.



The Director KEFRI Dr. Ben Chikamai highlighting key issues in the KEFRI Profile to JICA Vice President, Mr. Hiroshi Kato.

RESEARCHERS FIND GOLD ON TREES



It was all smile for this farmer in Nyandarwa for getting free tree seedlings from KFS.

Tree farming can be one of the most profitable activities in areas with mineral deposits. According to Dr. Mel Lintern, a geochemist from Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, nuggets of gold were discovered in the leaves, twigs and bark of some eucalyptus trees in Australia and elsewhere in the world.

The journal, Nature Communications, published that researchers from Australia using synchrotron - a vast machine that uses X-rays to probe matter in remarkable - details found gold deposits in the foliage and soils surrounding the plants.

Generally, plants carry nutrients and water from their roots. Literally, they take smaller dissolved elements through the vascular system into the foliage. Since gold is likely to be toxic to the plant, it is moved to the leaves and branches where it is then released or shed to the ground.

This discovery suggests that plants may be used in finding elements buried underground or those in difficult-to-reach places. This technique could also be used to find minerals such as copper, iron and lead in any part of the world.

In Kenya, gold extraction is a popular business in parts of Kakamega and Taita Taveta Counties. Eucalyptus trees can, therefore, be used to detect the untapped gold deposits buried more than 30m (100ft) below. And, according to this research, only 500 trees growing over a gold deposit are required to extract adequate particles to make a gold ring. "Thought for the quarter years"

KEFRI HOSTS SECURITY MEETING

The "Nyumba Kumi" Strategy meeting for Kikuyu Location was held at KEFRI head office on 30th October, 2013. Over 150 community members from Sigona and Kikuyu townships participated in the forum which was officially opened by the KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai.

The participants included landlord and landladies, house agents, village elders, community policing members from Kikuyu Location. Kikuyu Senior Chief 1, Mr. Geoffrey Mutura, said the purpose of the meeting was to sensitise the participants on the President's directive on "Nyumba Kumi Strategy". He proposed the formation of groups of 10 to 20 households which are manageable. Other proposals in the strategy include selection of household elders and data collection of residents of each household.

Dr. Chikamai praised the Nyumba Kumi strategy saying it is important for the community members to know each other and update the information with the area administration.

Issues

Currently, KEFRI management is working with the administration in implementing community policing in the area.

The participants were contented with the strategy but raised concern with those tenants who may not be willing to reveal their identity. They were advised to work within their limit and report to the authorities any difficulties that may arise while executing this exercise.

Way Forward

Implementation of this strategy has already kicked off with appointment of community policing leaders who are spearheading formation of household groups.



Senior Chief George Mbugua (Centre) addressing the meeting with Dr. Chikamai-KEFRI Director (left) and Assistant Chief Muigai (right)

KEFRI CHOIR



The choir group which entertained guests at Baringo centre.

Within the second quarter of 2013/2014, KEFRI choir continued to raise the institute's profile by entertaining at several key events. On 12th December, 2013 the choir joined other choirs in entertaining President Uhuru Kenyatta, heads of States from Africa and thousands of Kenyans who turned up at Safaricom Kasarani stadium in Nairobi to commemorate Kenya's 50 years of independence.

On 29th November, 2013 the choir was in Marigat, Baringo County entertaining visitors during the launch of the Rift valley Eco-region Forest Research Programme and official opening of the KEFRI Baringo research facility. The chief guest was Prof. Judi Wakhungu, the Cabinet secretary for Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

The choir looks forward to entertaining guests at State House-Mombasa during the ongoing celebrations to mark Kenya's Jubilee that continues until June 2014.

NEW EMPLOYEES



Mr. Eric Asava Magada
Senior Internal Auditor.

Joined KEFRI on 23rd September 2013. Eric holds a Bachelor degree in Commerce and CPA(K). He has 6-year work experience and lately worked for Kenya Copyright Board.



Mr. Victor Jaoko Ochieng
Quality Assurance officer.

Joined KEFRI on 1st October, 2013. Victor holds a Master of Science degree in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Botswana. He has 5-year work experience and previously worked for SGS.



KEFRI Principal Research Scientist and Training Manager of the Social Forestry Training Centre, Mr. Michael Mukolwe, displays the United Nations award in recognition of KEFRI's special contribution to South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Mr. Mukolwe received the award on behalf of KEFRI Director, Dr. Ben Chikamai, at the United Nations Global South-South Development Expo 2013 held from 28th October-1st November 2013 in Nairobi.

DEMISE



Mr. Charles Omulo Agiso

Born 31st December 1955 and passed on 26th November 2013. Charles joined KEFRI on 1st November 1994. Until his death he served in Administration, Security section. His body was laid to rest on 14th December 2013 at Osinde village, Kajulu east location, Kisumu County.
May his soul rest in eternal peace.



Flowering Jacaranda tree



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