

A MANUAL FOR TREE NURSERY MANAGEMENT

(A Practical Guide on Tree Nursery Practices)

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PREFACE

This nursery manual was written to guide the development and management of both public and private tree nurseries. The manual provides practical guidelines for nursery workers, extensionists and farmers. We are confident that it will be a useful reference material for those who have no past practical knowledge of raising tree seedlings.

The idea of writing this manual was conceived by researchers in the Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management Project (PSFM) at the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) in response to an omission pointed out during the mid-term review of the Kenya Forestry Development Programme of the Forest Department (FD). It was realised that while there exists a technical order on nursery, this was at best available to the trained foresters. However the nursery supervisor had no reference while he/she is the person carrying out the actual work. The manual contains information obtained from experience over a number of years that allowed close interaction between the researchers and extension agents. Vigorous field participation in discussions have greatly assisted in making this manual as practical as any field person could require. The authors have been in charge of research nurseries in a number of stations and are currently running one at Muguga. Wide hands on experience have contributed greatly in making this manual a handy reference for all nursery workers. Among the topics covered are the nursery establishment, tending and handling of seedlings, as well as stressing the importance of maintaining the nursery records.

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