



# KEFRI *Newsletter*

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H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta, at State House, Nairobi, flagging off tree seed for distribution to public Institutions





H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta with stakeholders during the launch of tree seed distribution to schools and other public institutions

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## **President Uhuru Kenyatta flags off distribution of quality tree seeds**

His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, at State House Nairobi, on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022, flagged off the national tree seed distribution to public institutions for the accelerated achievement and maintenance of over 10% tree cover.

The seed distribution programme targets 4,800 schools countrywide, TVET institutions, colleges and universities, 66 National Correction Service (Prisons), Regional Development Authorities and County government to raise tree seedlings for the accelerated national tree growing campaign.

The President appreciated support that KEFRI has been providing not only to expand its seed production, processing, and distribution infrastructure countrywide, but also to develop innovative technologies such as aerial seeding to accelerate restoration of degraded landscapes.

“I am happy to note that we are already embarking on the ambitious journey of increasing Kenya’s forest cover to at least 30 percent by 2050. We have increased tree seed supply from 10 tonnes

to 160 metric tonnes annually, which will contribute to production of over 2 billion seedlings,” said President Kenyatta.

The President also revealed that Kenya has established a global tree-growing fund - Multi-Partner Trust Fund to accelerate national tree growing campaign, and to support its commitment to combating the challenges arising from climate change.

“The fund seeks to raise USD 45 million to enact a robust innovative forestry finance scheme, strengthen forestry governance, and roll out a robust tree growing campaign that will enable the country grow and plant over 1.2 billion high-quality seedlings, and also to meet climate change action commitments,” President Kenyatta said.

The head of state also unveiled the United Nations Sustainable Tree Growing Fund, and appealed to global and local partners to support Kenya’s efforts to undertake climate action that will ultimately save the country from deforestation, degradation amongst other impacts of changing climate.

The President appreciated the support of development partners including the Government of Japan which has provided USD 2.6 million through United Nation Development Programme.

In his remarks, Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary, Keriako Tobiko disclosed that currently the country’s forest cover is 8.8 percent while the tree cover stands at 12.13 percent thus surpassing the 10 percent target.

KEFRI Director and Senior Deputy Director research and Development Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo and Dr. Jane Njuguna, respectively participated in the launch and briefed the President on the status of seed production, distribution as well as KEFRI App, a guide on tree site matching.

## **New Board Chairman - Prof. Erastus Gatebe**

KEFRI Senior Management hosted the incoming Board Chairman Prof. Erastus Gatebe, on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022, at KEFRI headquarters, Nairobi.



Dr. Sammy Letema handing over policy and governance documents to incoming Board Chairman Prof. Gatebe

Prof. Gatebe takes over from Dr. Sammy Letema whose term as Board Chairman ended on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.

According to the Kenya Gazette Vol. CXXIV - No. 87 of 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022, No. 5379, Uhuru Kenyatta, The President and Commander in Chief of the Defence Forces of the Republic of Kenya, appointed Erastus Gatebe (Prof.) to be the Non-Executive Chairperson of the Kenya Forestry Research Institute for a period of three (3) years, with effect from the 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.

Prof. Gatebe who is a Chief Research Scientist at Kenya Industrial Research & Development Institute (KIRDI) and Professor of Chemistry at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) will lead KEFRI 11<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors.

“I wish to assure the management that during my tenure i will intensify both the image and status of KEFRI as a centre of excellence in research and development,” said Prof. Gatebe.

He also emphasized importance of embracing work ethics, core values, transparency, accountability as the elements that create the backbone of integrity.



Prof. Gatebe is a member of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Clean Cooking under the ministry of Energy. Previously, Prof. Gatebe chaired the Ad hoc Inter-Ministerial Committee drafting Nuclear and Radiation Regulatory Bill which led to the birth of Kenya Nuclear Regulatory Authority and currently, Kenya's representative at IAEA NSGC on a second 3-year term.

He has also served in High Level Program Committee of the IAEA on nuclear security for 2 years. At KIRDI, Prof. oversees industrial research and has published extensively with over 70 publications in peer reviewed journals.

He also supervises scientists undertaking postgraduate studies with over 40 postgraduate having successfully completed their studies,

The outgoing Chairman Dr. Sammy Letema, while speaking at the same event, assured the incoming Chairman that he was joining an Institute which understands and executes its mandate effectively, noting that during his tenure, three (3) KEFRI scientists were ranked among the top 1000 scholars countrywide.

KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo welcomed the new Chair and at the same time thanked Dr. Letema for his exemplary leadership and spearheading resource mobilization efforts which has helped the Institute secure funding for expansion of eighteen (18) Seed Centres countrywide.

Dr. Letema has always insisted on research for impact and institutional visibility.

“Despite that there will never be enough funds from government to conduct research, only one percent of Gross Domestic Production (GDP) is allocated to research and therefore scientists have to work hard to get sponsorship and funding from elsewhere,” Dr. Letema further said.

## **KEFRI Board visit seed facilities**

The 10<sup>th</sup> KEFRI Board of Directors led by the Chairman Dr. Sammy Letema on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022, carried out a benchmarking tour to leading seed production facilities in the country.



Board Members visiting Seed processing facilities in Rift Valley and Uasin Gishu counties

The Board members visited Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) Nakuru branch, Kenya Seed Company, and Western Seed Company both in Kitale.

The KEPHIS Nakuru branch hosts the Kenya Chapter of the ISTA Seed Testing laboratory and offers training on various aspects of seed certification. Kenya Seed Company and Western Seed Company are suppliers of certified hybrid maize seeds and other agricultural related products.

The aim of the visit was to gain more knowledge on the inbound and outbound process in production and distribution of quality seeds.

“KEFRI has begun construction of 18 seed facilities spread countrywide with an aim of increasing production of quality tree seeds needed in the achievement of 10% tree cover by 2030,” said Dr. Letema.

Dr. Letema further stated that the seed centres will produce superior germplasm and viable quality tree seeds and avail them to the public. Production will be based on species-site matching and achievement of maximum germination rates.

## Distribution of tree seed and potting bags

KEFRI has embarked on its second phase of distributing seeds and potting bags to GoK Prisons in the coastal region. Six prisons: Hindi in Lamu County; Malindi-Mtangani, Kilifi Medium, Shimo La Tewa - both Borstal and Medium; Kwale, Manyani, Wundanyi and Taita Taveta benefited from over 800kg of tree seed and 500,000 potting bags.

The activity which targets tree growing in public and private institutions including prisons, schools and faith based organisations, is government's initiative to expand tree seedling production in the country.

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, and the Ministry of Education are fast tracking production of seedlings that the country requires to achieve 10% forest and tree cover by 2030.



Messrs Godfrey Waweru (KEFRI) and Peter Kiogora, Farm Manager (Kilifi Medium Prison) inspecting the tree nursery

During the dispatch, held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022, it was observed that majority of Prisons that received seeds in the 1<sup>st</sup> Phase (February to April 2022) recorded a maximum of 99% germination. This was good news that goes a long way to strengthen KEFRI's aspiration of being a premium institution in the supply of quality seed and seedlings.

The seedlings beings raised by various entities including prisons, schools and faith based institutions will contribute to 2 billion required in the country to attain 10% forest cover.

## World Environment Day

Kenya marked the World Environment Day at Dedan Kimathi University, Nyeri County on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

The Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry Keriako Tobiko led the country in celebrating the event under the theme 'Only One Earth'.

The CS in a speech read by Secretary of Administration Mr. Joel Kitili said the theme resonated with the global call to conserve and protect the earth from the triple crisis of climate change, pollution and nature and biodiversity loss.

The CS further highlighted that Kenya supports global efforts to restore the world's biodiversity.

“There is need to reset the relationship between human activities and nature to secure a resilient carbon neutral and positive world,” said the CS.

KEFRI Director was represented by Central Highlands Eco-Region Research Programme (CHERP) Regional Director Dr. Eston Mutitu in the celebrations that incooperated cleaup and tree planting to commemorate the day.

The National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) Director General Mamo B. Mamo emphasized the need to save the earth as time is running out.

“Instead of living in harmony with nature, we have over-exploited the natural resources due to greed,” Mamo said.

The Nyeri Diocese Arch-Bishop Anthony Muheria who also graced the event called upon humanity to view nature as a gift from God and that it is our religious and civil duty to protect the environment in order to live in perfect harmony.



## World Desertification and Drought Day

KEFRI joined other stakeholders in marking 2022 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought at Eldume Primary School in Marigat, Baringo South.

The Chief Guest, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry Mr. Keriako Tobiko led the nation in creating awareness of the looming dangers of environmental degradation, climate change, desertification and drought.



CS Keriako Tobiko, JICA Programme Manager Mr. John Ngugi and Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo planting a ceremonial tree

‘Rising up from drought together’, with a focus on early action to prevent disastrous outcomes, is the theme of 2022 Desertification and Drought Day marked on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The global observance of the event took place in Madrid, Spain, according to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

KEFRI demonstrated technologies on production of tree seed, as well as management and utilization of *Prosopis juliflora*, locally known as Mathenge tree.

KEFRI showcased land restoration interventions that included; production of tree seed suitable for arid and semi arid lands, management and restoration of land at Mr. Francis Ole Kipirich farm in Salabani Ilchamus Ward, Baringo County, where technologies of reclaiming degraded land once by invasive Mathenge tree are on trial, utilization of aloe among other viable sustainable technologies to combat drought in the region.

At the same time, the Institute dispatched 800kg of tree seeds to 100 schools in the region under the National Tree seed distribution program - a Government initiative to facilitate institutions of higher learning and Prisons establish tree nurseries and raise 2 billion seedlings required to increase forest and tree cover in the country.

“According to Kenya State of Environment Report of 2019-21, Mathenge tree has invaded 1 million acres of land in 20 counties, and spreading at 15 percent annually,” said Tobiko.

Droughts has been part of human and natural systems, but recent droughts experiences are worse ,and it is largely due to human activities. It point at a precarious future for the world noted the CS.

“Baringo being one of the counties in the drylands is experiencing environmental challenges such as severe drought which has intensified food and water shortages as well as wildfires, rising water levels in the lakes, land degradation and insecurity which is aggravated by invasion of Mathenge tree in recent years,” said Governor Kiptis.

“The Government is soon rolling out National Strategy and Action Plant to regulate *Prosopis* eradication measures,” said the CS.

Some of the measures include; registration of charcoal producer associations as well as land owners in the counties affected by *Prosopis*, bee keeping, and reseeded the landscape with pasture.



Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo leading the CS and local leaders in a joint field research trial where KEFRI and University of Eldoret is testing modern Kilns capable of harvesting tar

## 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Afri-cities Summit, Kisumu

KEFRI participated at the 9<sup>th</sup> Africities Summit held in Kisumu City - Kenya from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022 with an objective to create awareness on forestry research and support to urbanization.



KEFRI staff led by Lake Victoria Basin Eco-region Director Dr. John Otuoma (3<sup>rd</sup> left) interacting with visitors at the stand

The Africities Summit is the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa's (UCLG - Africa) flagship pan-African event that is held every three years in one of the five regions of Africa. The Summit theme: 'The Role of Intermediary Cities of Africa in the Implementation of Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and the African Union Agenda 2063', was premised upon Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11-sustainable cities and communities, which seeks to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, and the need to address challenges that hamper the realization of UN's 2063 Agenda.

The lead partners organizing the Summit, namely United Cities and Local Governments of Africa's (UCLG), World United Nation Habitat, and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Executive Committee of the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the Africities Summit, for the first time organized the intermediary city Summit in Kenya with support from the Council of Governors of Kenya.

The Summit comprised of plenary, group discussions and exhibitions by delegates from various institutions, groups, associations and stakeholders.

KEFRI's Lake Victoria Basin Regional Programme Director Dr. John Otuoma and Mr. Gordon Sigu participated in some of the 180 sessions of the 5-day Summit. The Summit registered 11,000 delegates from 100 countries including 53 African countries compared to 8,300 registered delegates that participated in Marrakesh 2018.

The sessions deliberated on issues pertaining to ; place of intermediary cities in social and cultural transformation in Africa, population dynamics, structural transformation, response to COVID 19 pandemic, blue economy, using innovation/innovative approaches to address climate change and digital dived challenges, application of new technology in urbanizing rural areas, universal health and waste management.

KEFRI was among 164 exhibitors that showcased products and services at the Kisumu Summit. KEFRI promoted bamboo as a high promise crop for soil erosion control, carbon sequestration, construction, clean and healthy environment, locally made bamboo products and technologies for conversion into high energy briquettes.

The delegates agreed that conquering the climate Agenda is an unanimous African Affair. Galvanizing the energy of youth in Africa to confront issues of policies that transform lives, leadership and sustainable development goals (SDG's).

Ms Fatimetou Abdel Malick, the Region of Nouakchott representative was elected the new President of UCLG Africa until the next general assembly due in 2025.

The Summit enabled KEFRI expand its network with various parties and individuals with similar interest in forestry and urbanization.





## Africa Public Service Day Celebrations 2022

KEFRI participated at the Africa Public Service Day celebration held at Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), Nairobi, 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022.



The celebrations, which comprised of symposium and exhibitions dubbed Kenya House 2022, attracted over 100 Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) who showcased to the public their technologies and innovations gained over ten years.

Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes Cabinet Secretary Ms. Margaret Kobia in a speech read by CAS Rachael Chebesh stated that the celebrations were held under the theme ‘Celebrating Public Service Transformation: Ten Year Journey and Beyond’.

“The Government of Kenya has deliberate efforts to transform the Public Service for effective and efficient service delivery,” said the CS.

The CS further said that the 3-day celebrations is to showcase the government reforms in the public service sector, transformation in the infrastructure sector and many other achievements worth celebrating.

KEFRI staff also attended the symposium where the Director of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Dr. Pacifica Ogola elaborated the country's achievement in conservation and climate change initiatives.

Dr. Ogola focused on the role of public service and the national strategies for alleviating climate change impact.

“The role of research in enhancing environmental conservation where bridging science and policy gap was highlighted as key impetus to enhance development,” said Dr. Ogola.

Likewise, the panelists discussed the role of multi-stakeholder approach in environmental conservation and green house gases inventory, carbon credit and the operating framework in managing environment waste.

In addition, monitoring of climate change involving private entities, enforcing regulations, awareness creation, mobilization of climate finance to undertake adaptive and mitigation initiatives were deliberated.

It also emerged that NEMA is spearheading adoption of circular economy, elimination of plastics, whereas KEFRI is working closely with partners, communities, and development partners in managing woody invasive species including *Prosopis juliflora* (Mathenge), *Cestrum aurantiacum* and *Lantana camara* (Sage).

“Both levels of Government have to integrate policies and regulations, which will be more agile, tech-savvy, data driven and eccentric, for instance adopt 24/7 economy, use of ICT- work online to reduce time and other resources spent on going to and from work, reduce mechanical and electrical waste, and finally conduct energy efficient audit,” said the CAS in the same Ministry Ms Mary Kimonye.

Lastly, monitoring of climate change, involving private entities, enforcing regulations, awareness creation, mobilization of climate finance to undertake adaptive and mitigation initiatives were deliberated.



## World Forestry Congress in Seoul, South Korea

Lack of a national tree seed bank to conserve forest germplasm especially the threatened tree species and inadequate funds to fully equip the tree seed centres is some of the challenges that Kenya face hindering attainment of the minimum threshold of 10% national forest cover.

The CS for Environment and Forestry Keriako Tobiko said in a statement delivered on his behalf by KEFRI, Deputy Director, Dr. Jane Njuguna (*inset picture*) at the XV World Forestry Congress held in Seoul, South Korea, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

The Congress brought together global forest stakeholders to review and analyze key challenges facing the sector and interventions. It focused on defining the role of forests in the 2030 Agenda and other major agreements such as the Global Forest Goals, Paris Agreement, and post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and identification of key measures needed for the forest sector to adjust to the new reality and help it 'build back better'.

The CS lobbied partners and collaborators to support tree seed and seedling production initiatives as well as invest in research and development.

There is need to enhance KEFRI's capacity to produce and distribute quality germplasm, specifically of endangered as well as commercial species, to unlock support for tree based value chains.

To supplement the country's deficit in wood products, CS Tobiko said, the national strategy for achieving and maintaining 10% forest cover in the country estimated that Kenya needs to grow two billion trees annually.

This he said will also include woodlots for the purpose commercial tree growing, conservation of forest genetic resources, watersheds and riparian conservation and rehabilitation among others.



On African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFRI 100) - a country-led effort to bring 100 million hectares of land in Africa into restoration by 2030, CS Tobiko said, Kenya targets to restore 5.1 million hectares of degraded forested and agricultural landscapes by 2030, as well as accelerate restoration targets towards net zero by 2050.

“There is also need to employ modern technologies to enhance germination of indigenous species, mass seedling production and use of innovations and technology such as species to site matching, aerial seeding using airplanes and drones, mobile applications for monitoring and evaluation of success rate among others,” CS said.

Chief Conservator Ministry of Environment & Forestry Mr. Alfred Gichu was among the delegate who presented a keynote address.

Mr. Gichu appealed to states and donors to scale up finance to enhance restoration of degraded forested and agricultural landscapes, especially in Sub Saharan countries where negative effects of climate change is experienced .

“Stakeholders and local communities’ engagement will also bolster tree growing and restorative activities including participatory forest management and payment for ecosystem services,” Mr. Gichu stated.

## Colloquium

### *'Visibility and Impact for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scientists'*

The Chairman of KEFRI's 10<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Dr. Sammy Letema launched a monthly National Scientific Colloquium at headquarters on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.



Dr. Letema presenting his research findings to KEFRI staff

Dr. Letema commended KEFRI scientific fraternity for publishing research finding thus raising the Institute's visibility. He further pointed out that 61% of KEFRI scientists have published at least a paper while 36% are actively ranked in H-index measure by the Google Scholar as well as Scopus.

The H-index is an author-level metric for evaluating the cumulative impact of an author's scholarly output and performance; measures quantity with quality by comparing publications to citations. The H-index corrects for the disproportionate weight of highly cited publications or publications that have not yet been cited.

Academic institutions use High Impact Journal ratings where scores between 3 and 5 rate new assistant professors, scores between 8 and 12 are used for the position of tenured associate professor, and between 15 and 20 scores for a full Professor.

“There are fewer publications in Scopus than in Google scholar and I urged scientists to move away from the science of doing (routine data collection) or science of thinking (addressing a problem and analysis) to science of deep thinking (creativity, patent and innovation) that enhance research visibility and impact,” Dr. Letema said.

Use H-Index to calculate your scientific footprint.

### *'Role of forestry research in trade and socio-economic development in Kenya in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'*

KEFRI Director Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 presented the findings which were based on a recent study on transboundary timber trade in East Africa region.

In his study, Dr. Cheboiwo points out that “Kenya is deficient in wood supply thus the leading importer of timber and other manufactured forest products in East Africa estimated to cost 24.1 billion annually.”

Research should therefore focus; on diversification of improved products, and enhanced efficiency in secondary processing, investment, as well as market and trade.

Further, he said “The future of our country in terms of market and trade of forest products should focus on strengthening key segments, with greater potential, in value chain including SMEs.



“Researchers must understand and apply effective tools and methodology to acquire data that eventually would enable standardization of forest products across board. For timber business to be viable, there is need for the country to undertake prospective measures including integrated forestry model, capacity building, and packaging of forest products to attract financier be it donors or banks,” he concluded.

Dr. Cheboiwo has over 37 years' experience in forestry research, specializing in forest and environmental economics; marketing and trade in forest products.



***‘Pathological basis for species site matching; the case for indigenous tree species in restoration and commercial forestry in Kenya’***

KEFRI Senior Deputy Director for Research and Development, Dr. Jane Njuguna made the presentation on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 at KEFRI headquarters.

Dr. Njuguna who has over 35 years’ experience in forestry research, specializing in; forest pathology, forest health and forest biotechnology, associates human - tree state and environmental site factors - like water temperature and lighting as critical components for disease development for they increase immunity or predisposition.

The key highlights in the presentation included cautioning communities or groups involved in tree planting to adopt the guidelines for tree species-site matching as the country moves towards achieving 30 percent tree and forest cover by 2050.

“To avoid transmission of tree pathogens and diseases, tree growers must apply tree-site matching guidelines while rehabilitating degraded landscapes or establishing commercial forest plantations,” said Dr, Njuguna.

The ‘Tree Doctor’, as she is referred to, further stated that the increasing dry weather condition experienced across the country has led to resurgence of canker and die back tree diseases and pathogens which include; *Dothustoma blight*, *Botryosphaeria* and *Teratosphaeria gauchensis* in East Africa highlands, attacking Pines, Cypress, *Grevillea robusta* and *Melia volkensii*.

“However despite these diseases threatening exotic tree species, indigenous trees such as *Milicia exelsa*, *Melia volkensii* seem more tolerant to tree die back disease,” Dr. Njuguna said.

She concluded by saying pathology is a crucial component in management of diseases affecting both human and plants.

***‘Status of Tree Seed Development in Kenya: KEFRI case study 1989 - 2022’***

Mr. William Omondi, a Principal Scientist specialising in tree seed science. presented his findings virtually at KEFRI headquarters, on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022.



Key extract from his presentation, indicate Mr. Omondi has diverse knowledge in seed development stretching over 4 decades. During his service to KEFRI, William conducted research in both crop and tree seed which resulted into development of policies as well as contribution to KEFRI’s improved tree seed production of 1 tonne in 1990 to current 38 tonnes per annum in 2022.

“Kenya has great potential to accelerate achievement of tree and forest cover if seed distribution is decentralised and research institutions facilitated to produce enormous tree seedlings of superior germplasm,” said Omondi.

Through his leadership, KEFRI strengthened Tree Seed Centre at Muguga by implementing activities that improved seed testing laboratories, seed processing and storage facilities, and an increase of seed centres from six to eighteen countrywide.

“KEFRI is facilitating the eco-region programmes to share information and best practices on seed production and certification. Likewise, the eco-regions are expected to conserve genetic resources, produce and distribute quality tree seed and seedlings to achieve 30% tree cover by 2050,” Mr. Omondi said.

## CRACs/Pre-CRACs Meeting

KEFRI Central Highlands Eco-region Research Programme (CHERP) held her Centre Research Advisory Committee Meeting (CRAC) on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 in Muguga to review past year's research projects and receive projected research activities for the Fiscal Year 2022/2023.

KEFRI Director, Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo in his remarks to scientific staff from Muguga, Nyeri, and Rumuruti urged them to develop proposals with relevance to KEFRI's Strategic Plan, national aspirations/policies and emerging global trends such as; urbanization, carbon footprint and climate change action.

The Director also recognized the role stakeholders play in contributing to demand driven research activities as ascribed in the Institute's mandate.

Stakeholders from both public and private institution, farmers and entrepreneur's including FAO-UN, CEC for Water, Irrigation and Natural Resources in Kiambu County, Mr. David Kuria, Dedan Kimathi Foundation CEO, Ms. Evelyn Kimathi, Greens of Africa Foundation, Ms Jedidah Wanyeki, Ossho Chemicals, Chairman Muguga CFA Mr. Simon Kamonde, Friends of Ondiri Swamp among other representatives attended the CHERP meeting.

"Similar meetings had been convened in Coast eco-region, Dryland eco-region, Rift Valley, Lake Victoria Basin and Karura-National Research Programme where feedback from stakeholders will contribute greatly towards auditing the accomplished projects in the last two years as well as planning for the upcoming year," said Dr. Cheboiwo.

Previously, each eco-region had held their Pre-CRAC and main CRAC meetings to review progress, challenges and experiences during implementation of research projects and to set new research proposals.

## Tree Planting

KEFRI-Kitui Regional Research Programme Director, Dr. Albert Luvanda, speaking during a tree planting activity at Ndumoni Primary School in Kitui County, on June 15<sup>th</sup>, said *Melia volkensii* (local name - Mukau) is a fast-growing tree species suitable for Arid and Semi Arid lands

"Mukau is found in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Tanzania, and whose average height ranges between 6 - 20 metres, is a drought tolerant termite resistant species that produces high value timber," said Dr. Luvanda.

Dr. Luvanda who was represented by KEFRI scientist Mr. Bernard Kigwa, said KEFRI is promoting improved Mukau germplasm for commercial forestry and environmental conservation in Kitui, Embu, Makueni, Machakos, Tharaka-Nithi, Taita Taveta, Isiolo, Samburu and Kwale and other counties in the drylands.



During the event held to celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> World Environment Day anniversary, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) led in planting around 350 indigenous tree seedlings sourced from KEFRI tree nurseries. The species included; *Olea africana*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Croton megalocarpus* and *Senna siamea*.

KEFRI - Kibwezi in collaboration with Makueni County Government, Kenya Forest Service, Equity Bank and community in Msongaleni - Makueni County on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022, planted 3100 tree seedlings to conserve Thange river catchment.



KEFRI - Lodwar at the same period held a joint meeting in collaboration with Turkana University College (TUC) Rural Electrification & Renewable Energy Corporation Kenya (REREC) on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 to spearhead planting of 2,000 seedlings at Turkana University. The University in collaboration with stakeholders intends to plant over 5000 trees within the year.



Stephen Ndung'u (KEFRI staff) preparing seedlings at Muguga Forest Estate prior to arrival of Maastricht Alumni

KEFRI-CHERP in collaboration with Maastricht School of Management (Netherlands) Alumni Kenya Chapter, Kenya Forest Service, Muguga Community Forest Association (CFA) and local administration planted 400 indigenous tree seedlings at KEFRI Muguga Forest Estate, in Kiambu County, on April 2, 2022.

KEFRI Director Dr. Cheboiwo and the Alumni Chapter Africa coordinator in Kenya Mr. Gilbert Kandie, led the corporate social responsibility exercise to mark Maastricht School of Management's 70 years anniversary.

"Tree planting is no more an individual country's issue but global efforts that humanity has to

undertake. We are living in the same planet and whatever happens to one country affects the other, lets conserve the environment," said Dr. Cheboiwo.



Herman Kooyman, Manager Maastricht School of Management, addressing the volunteers after the tree planting at Muguga Forest

Efforts to conserve Muguga forest intensified as Muguga Ecosystem Research Community Forest Association (MERCFA) Chairman Mr. Simon Kamonde led stakeholders in collecting garbage and planting indigenous trees at Nguriunditu Primary School, Kiambu County, to mark the World Environment Day 2022.

The officer in-charge of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) volunteer in Kenya Mr. Tomohisa Shirakawa and who was also on official duty to view progress of Mr. Genji Shin-a Japanese volunteer attached to MERCFA, graced the event and planted *Teclea simplicifolia* tree highly valued for medicinal use.



Mr. Shirakawa planting a ceremonial tree at Nguriunditu Primary School to mark World Environment Day 2022

"I appreciate sincerely the Muguga Community and stakeholders for their commitment and efforts to planting indigenous trees as an initiative towards improving the environment and livelihoods," said Shirakawa.

## KEFRI participates at Machakos & Nakuru ASK show

KEFRI disseminates forestry technologies and research findings through various platforms that includes open days, field days, mainstream and social media, scientific forums, exhibitions in Agricultural Society of Kenya shows.

The Dryland Eco-Region Research Programme participated in the South Eastern Kenya National ASK show held in Machakos from June 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> 2022. The theme of the show was: “Promoting Innovation and Technology in Agriculture and Trade”.



KEFRI staff displayed products and technologies on; seed production, bamboo propagation and products, energy saving, and non-timber products. raising of tree seedlings using Multi Stage Adjustable Rolling (M-Star) that applies coco peat as planting medium.

“Seedlings grown in the M-StAR containers are much healthier and have a higher survival rate in field than those grown in the conventional pots,” said Mr. Bernard Kigwa

Visitors were encouraged to conserve and grow suitable drylands trees: *Terminalia brownii*, *Acacia tortilis*, *Senna sapindus*, *S. siamea*, *Melia volkensii*, *Osyris lanceolata*, *Vitex payos*, *Delonix regia*, *Dalbergia melanoxylon*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Azandrachta indica* (Neem) amongst many others.

Rift Valley Ecoregion Research Programme exhibited at the Nakuru National show from 29<sup>th</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2022. The show attracted around 200 exhibitors, an increase from 140 in 2019, before COVID -19 pandemic.

The main objectives of the exhibition are:

- To disseminate information on developed forestry technologies
- To create awareness and publicity
- To create awareness of the existing valuable natural resources

The ASK shows give KEFRI scientists and other experts an opportunity to market brand, reach and interact with diverse stakeholders not limited to farmers, entrepreneurs, academicians, professionals and groups with similar interest in

## Agrosavia S.A.S Company Colombia visit KEFRI

The Director KEFRI, Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo held a consultative meeting with the Director Agrosavia S.A.S Company from Colombia, Mr. Jorge Mario, at KEFRI headquarters.

During the meeting the directors discussed avenues for development of Bamboo and its utilization in the construction industry, information exchange, training and capacity building amongst potential areas of collaboration.

Agrosavia undertakes livestock and crop based research in Colombia.

“KEFRI welcomes the partnership and would be happy to import Bamboo species from Colombia to test their viability in Kenya,” Dr. Cheboiwo stated.

Agrosavia Directors Rodrigo Martinez, Sebastien Escojan, KEFRI Senior Deputy Director Research and Development Dr. Jane Njuguna and other senior staff also attended the meeting.



## CHERP hold a party for retiring staff

Isn't it indeed great to work until one reaches the required retirement age?. The official retirement age for civil servants in Kenya is 60 years old, being a revision from 55 years in 2009.

In that regards, CHERP jointly with KEFRI Technical Staff Welfare (KETSWE) organised a farewell party on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to honour five officers; Luka Gibera, Beatrice Ndakwe, Jane Nyang'eya, Margaret Omenda and Gilbert Okose who are exiting service.

The Regional Director Dr. Eston Mutitu commended the staff for serving the nation with dedication and wished them a long life and happy moments during retirement.

“The party is meant to appreciate the unwavering commitment of the staff, some of whom have already proceeded on retirement while others will leave service by 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, on their service delivery,” Dr. Mutitu stated.



Staff photo after offering token of appreciation to Luka Gibera (4th left) who has served KEFRI as a Laboratory technologist

Dr. Mutitu also commended KETSWE for the cordial relationship and its philosophy aimed to strengthen cohesion among its members and their families.

“Now it’s time to move on in retirement and do what you want to do outside formal employment,” Dr. Mutitu further said.

On behalf of KEFRI management and entire fraternity, we will miss your skilled service delivery, guidance and support in the office and other engagements.

### The following staff exited from KEFRI service

	Name	P/No.	Exit date	Exit Type
1	John Anyianda	6807	1 <sup>st</sup> January, 2022	Early Retirement
2	Gervas Nyaguti Otieno	5895	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	Early Retirement
3	Francis Njenga Mwaura	5467	1 <sup>st</sup> February, 2022	Retirement
4	Daniel Mwangi Ngatia	6608	14 <sup>th</sup> February, 2022	Resignation
5	Charles Kesi Mukare	5974	19 <sup>th</sup> February, 2022	Retirement
6	John Otwoma Omurana	5981	26 <sup>th</sup> February, 2022	Retirement
7	Gladys Adongo Samo	5787	26 <sup>th</sup> March, 2022	Retirement
8	Richard Omondi Abiri	6877	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Dismissal
9.	Rowland J. Mubiru	6959	8 <sup>th</sup> April, 2022	Dismissal
10.	Milka Odero Nyandika	6716	8 <sup>th</sup> April, 2022	Dismissal
11.	Seth O. Nyakongo	6228	8 <sup>th</sup> April, 2022	Dismissal
12.	Agnes Wii Gatu	6671	29 <sup>th</sup> April, 2022	Death



**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI**  
 DEPARTMENT OF WATER, IRRIGATION, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

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**JUNE 6TH, 2022**  
 FROM 9 AM

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