



KEFRI *Newsreel*

ISSUE NO.3

JANUARY - MAY 2012

A Publication of the Kenya Forestry Research Institute



IN THIS ISSUE:

A CUP OF TEA WITH THE DIRECTOR.....	2
KEFRI AND KABARAK SIGN MOU.....	3
SHARING KNOWLEDGE	4
CAPACITY BUILDING FOR DISSEMINATION OFFICERS.....	5
MUGUGA RRC HOLDS SIXTH OPEN DAY	6
OUR ENVIRONMENTAL PROMISE	8
WORKSHOP ON TREE PLANTING.....	8
KEFRI AND CIFOR IN USD 600,000 CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT.....	10

A CUP OF TEA WITH THE DIRECTOR



KEFRI Staff from left: Reuben Shanda, Stephen Gitonga and Dr. Jane Njuguna.

The tea forum hosted by the KEFRI director is held once every quarter of the year. The aim of the forum is to close any communication gaps between staff and the institute's directorate.

Speaking during the last session held on March 30th, 2012 at Muguga Headquarters, KEFRI Director, Dr Ben Chikamai, called on staff to embrace teamwork which is one of the institutes' core values. "The success of the institute and the directorate depends on the support and contribution from each member of staff," he said.

Addressing more than 300 staff and interns, the Director thanked the staff for their moral and financial support that they offered during the untimely death of his daughter Ms Fehmida Khanga, who passed on at a Nairobi hospital early this year.

Dr Chikamai also thanked the staff for giving the same support to the Chief Security Officer, Mr John Mutua, who also lost his son at the same period.

He noted that KEFRI's corporate image had been greatly enhanced after celebrations marking its silver jubilee and ISO Environment Management System certification held at the headquarters in December last year.

At the same time the Director introduced new members of

staff who included Geographical Information Service expert Mr Stephen Kiama and Resource Mobilisation Officer Ms Betty Mwanzia.

Medical Scheme

The deputy director of the Karura Centre, Mrs Nelly Oduor, disclosed that KEFRI is in the process of identifying the most suitable medical insurance scheme for staff. Currently, the KEFRI medical scheme has a membership of 320 with an ex-gratia of KShs 50,000.

Commuter Allowance

The deputy director Finance and Administration, Mr Patrick Omesa, said that payment of commuter allowance will be expedited and asked members of staff to be patient since funds for paying the allowances are being sought from Treasury through the Ministry Of Forestry and Wildlife.

Scheme of service

Mr Omesa also reported that the much awaited KEFRI scheme of service is currently in its finalisation stage and will be released soon to the staff. The document spells out guidelines on the employees' terms and conditions of service.

During the occasion, staff were entertained by the recently reconstituted KEFRI choir which presented two songs focusing on the institute's mandate.

KEFRI AND KABARAK SIGN MOU



Dr. Kigomo (centre) and Prof. Dankit (right) shake hands after signing the MoU while Dr. Nyamai (left) looks on.

KEFRI and the Rift Valley-based Kabarak University have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU). KEFRI Deputy Director of Research and Development Dr Bernard Kigomo and the Vice Chancellor of Kabarak University, Prof Dankit Nassiuma, signed the MOU at the institute's headquarters on 27th February, 2012.

Others Present at the ceremony were KEFRI staff Dr Daniel Nyamai, Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo, Ms Sheila Mbiru and Ms Emily Kitheka while Prof Jackson Kitetu, Prof Jacob Kibor and Mr Eliud Michura represented the university.

During the occasion Dr Kigomo stated that the agreement will foster an already existing cooperation and help forge closer scientific collaboration between the two institutions. Forestry stakeholders in the Rift Valley and other regions are expected to benefit from this cooperation.

Stressing on the need to create similar collaboration programmes Dr Kigomo described the partnership as a step forward in efforts aimed at conserving water catchment areas like the Mau Forest complex.

Water uptake

Prof Nassiuma noted that Kabarak University is strategically located in an area that is ideal for the study. The KEFRI -Londiani centre director, Dr. Cheboiwo, said that KEFRI will establish trial

plots at the Moi University grounds to determine water uptake by various tree species.

Grevillea, Eucalyptus and Croton are some of the eight tree species that have been identified for this trial. Domestication of herbal plants, which is ongoing in KEFRI regional centres, will also be established on the plots.

"We feel honored by this historic partnership which has started at the beginning of the year. The research collaboration is an important part of Kabarak University's effort in helping students and staff to understand pharmacy and conventional medicine," stated Prof Kitetu, adding that the initiative will also contribute significantly to the understanding and preservation of herbal medicine.

Dr Nyamai described the MoU as the "peak of past years of informal co-operation between the two institutions". In August 2009, KEFRI and Kabarak University hosted the 11th Biometric-SUSAN IBIS Conference. SUSAN-IBS is a network of national biometric groups from sub-Saharan countries who are members of the International Biometric Society.



KEFRI and Kabarak staff pose for a photo after signing of the MOU

SHARING THE KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge is the ability to act on information, the latter which is gained through experience, reasoning, intuition and learning. It can also be said to be the sum of what is known and resides in the intelligence and the competence of people based on experience. It is used to determine what a specific situation means and how to handle it. Knowledge empowers a person to take appropriate action and make informed decisions.

Knowledge management is the ability of an organisation to create, share and use the collective knowledge of its products, processes and people to increase workplace productivity, reduce duplication of activities and benefit an organisation and its clients.

Speaking during a scientific colloquium held at Karura Regional Centre Karura on 29th March, 2012 Ms Sheila Mbilu said that knowledge management in KEFRI is a critical tool used for safe keeping of research findings.



Ms Mbilu explaining how to carry out knowledge management drive.

Strategy

In her topic entitled, "Knowledge Management for KEFRI", Ms Mbilu stated that in this era of information and communication technology, a lot of data and information is generated and recorded all the time, hence causing 'information overload'. Consequently, a knowledge management strategy is needed.

Since inception, KEFRI has generated a lot of information and knowledge which needs to be decoded and consolidated.

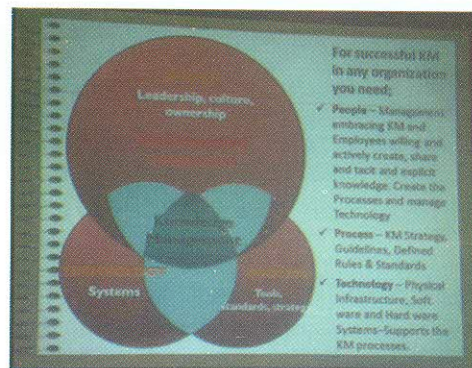
Currently, KEFRI shares its knowledge through:

- Information products (books, pamphlets, manuals and policy briefs)

- Centre Research Advisory Committee and colloquia
- Training, seminars, workshops, field and open days, ASK shows
- Conferences
- Electronic and print media
- Financial reports including budgets, final accounts, procurement plans and payrolls
- Administration/human resource - training reports, staff evaluation, recruitment and project reports

Knowledge application in KEFRI includes:

- Using new research ideas developed from colloquia, open/field days and ASK shows.
- Farmers' uptake and scaling up of technologies.
- Capacity building of stakeholders to develop new and innovative products and services.
- Using previous experiences or lessons learnt from ASK shows to improve performance



A Diagram showing resources needed in knowledge management.

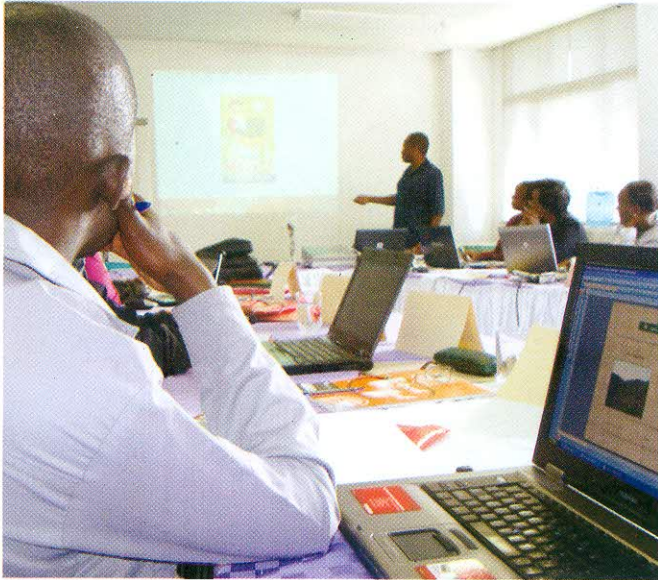
Ms Mbilu cautioned that without effective dissemination, the development impact of knowledge becomes minimal. Therefore, the recipient of the knowledge must be able to understand it well enough to act on it.

She explained: "Captured knowledge can be transferred, referenced and reused in future and is a valuable asset that remains in an organisation even after staff transition".



KEFRI staff attentively listening to knowledge management awareness session.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR DISSEMINATION OFFICERS



DOs during poster production session.

KEFRI Dissemination Officers underwent a one-week training course on writing of extension materials at the head office in Muguga from 13th to 17th February, 2012. The objective of the training was to impart skills for creating, developing and producing effective extension materials in order to enhance service delivery. The 27 participants were drawn from the institute's regional centres including some scientists who are members of respective editorial committees.

The course was a follow up to the communication, public relations, and resource mobilisation workshop conducted in 2008.

"This course aims at helping the dissemination officers and scientists enhance skills in performing their communication responsibilities in their respective centres and programmes as mandated in their operational framework" noted the Deputy Director in charge of the Service Programme, Dr. Ebby Chagala-Odera.

She stated: "A lot of technologies and information has been generated in the 25 years of KEFRI existence. These research findings are vital elements that must be disseminated to various end users for poverty alleviation and improved livelihoods".

Speaking on behalf of the trainers, Director of the International Leadership and Management Centre (ILM-K) Mr Daniel Mututa noted that development and uptake of forestry technologies is key to achieving KEFRI's mandate.

"In order to achieve the environmental objectives stated in Vision 2030, the findings of forestry research must be passed on to the users through effective dissemination strategies," said Mututa.

Reaching the target audience in the simplest way possible and achieving the intended objective is the key to subsequent utilisation of both research technologies and information. Therefore, extension materials have an impact only when they focus on the benefit to the user instead of the source of the product or its features.

Consequently, information on a product should create a desire to the user by disclosing what the product can do for him or her and how it will improve their lives.

Achievement

The course included both theory and practical lessons. Participants were able to define and differentiate between various extension materials, and understand what entails public information and advertisement. In addition, participants were also exposed to the basics of writing and developing good extension materials for various audiences, including those with low literacy levels. Practical sessions focused on publishing.

Products

Using the learned skills each group developed a poster and a brochure using Microsoft Publisher. The participants were optimistic that the skills gained will help them increase the current dissemination rates from 46 percent to 70 percent.



Mr. Charles Nyogot (right) receives a certificate from Dr. Chagala Odera as the trainer Mr. Mututa (centre) looks on.

MUGUGA RRC HOLDS SIXTH OPEN DAY

The KEFRI Muguga Regional Research Centre held its sixth public exhibition on Thursday 10th March, 2012 at the grounds of KEFRI headquarters. The event generated considerable interest from farmers, representatives from the government and private sectors, media and students from local schools.

Visitors passing through various exhibitions learned more on forestry research and allied products. Senior scientists and technical staff hosted the displays and demonstrations. The event was a great success with stands providing information on forestry technologies developed through research and science.

Among the technologies on display were seed handling and processing, tree improvement, processing, value addition and marketing of wood and non-wood products and services.



KEFRI collaborators display some of their processed products using KEFRI technologies.

Apart from receiving publications from KEFRI and collaborators, attendants were also treated to various interactive video documentaries on nursery technologies, and private sector researchers working with local communities in conserving the environment.

Partners

The exhibitions and demonstrations showed tremendous improvements in service delivery compared to the past events. The open day gave the public and our scientists an opportunity for open discussions with stakeholders, clients and prospective clients.

Partners who participated in this year's open day included the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Kabete Dairy Processors, HIV awareness Community Group, Kihuru Nursery and



Mr. Kungu Kibunja (second right) engaged with farmers interested in bamboo propagation.

Feedback from the participants indicated that all visitors found the event to be both interesting and informative. The Biofix and the Prosopis products were particularly popular with the students. Likewise, the energy saving Jiko from Njunge Engineering Works generated much interest.

Generally, the day's event was interactive allowing the public to speak to scientists, entrepreneurs and other collaborators who were available to provide answers mainly on issues of forestry research and development.



KEFRI technologist Mr. Gathura Mwangi explaining tree improvement technologies.



Poles from Eucalyptus were some of the products on display.



Charcoal briquettes carbonised from various materials.

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL PROMISE

KEFRI was awarded the International Standard Organisation's (ISO) 14001:2004 Environmental Management System Certification (EMS) in June 2011.



The ISO certificate

The Environmental Policy Statement reads as follows:

The Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) recognises that a clean environment is crucial to the well-being of the society. KEFRI shall therefore ensure that:

- The development of forestry research technologies, dissemination and provision of forest products and services at all KEFRI centres are undertaken without adverse impacts to the environment.
- The requirements of relevant environmental legislations and regulations to which KEFRI subscribes to and which relate to KEFRI's environmental aspects are met or exceeded.
- Steps are taken to continually prevent pollution through minimising waste production, ensure safe handling and disposal of such waste.
- Based on this policy, environmental objectives and targets shall be reviewed annually to ensure that they are in tandem with emerging environmental concerns for the purpose of continual improvement.
- This policy is implemented, maintained and communicated to all staff, contracted service providers and availed to the general public.

WORKSHOP ON TREE PLANTING HELD

Infonet Bio-vision in collaboration with KEFRI held a four-day workshop at the institute's in Muguga from 20th to 24th February, 2012.

KEFRI Director Dr Ben Chikamai officially opened the workshop whose theme focused on enhancing tree planting. Thirty seven Bio-Vision field officers from various counties participated in the event.

In his presentation Dr Chikamai highlighted the key forestry research activities undertaken by KEFRI. He expounded on the technologies that KEFRI has developed and implemented towards achievement of Vision 2030.

"In order to attain the 10 percent forest cover there is need to plant trees that are of good quality," Dr Chikamai stated. He noted that KEFRI collaborates with Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and many other public institutions and non-governmental organisations to disseminate research findings and implement reforestation initiatives.



Bio-vision training course.

Lessons learnt

The participants covered several topics ranging from tree seed technologies, nursery management, tree planting, basic tree improvement methods and research in forest products. In addition, participants made excursions to Kenya Forestry Seed Center where issues of handling and collection of seeds, storage, testing and characteristics of seeds were explained.

Participants also visited natural forest plantations for genetic composition of plants, Eucalyptus and Warbugia

demonstration plots, and both the Forest Products Research Centre and the Tree Bio-technology Programme Trust based in Karura. They also visited a tree nursery in Kangemi where they learnt practical lessons in nursery management.

Info-Bio Vision works closely with farmers, local communities and other stakeholders in providing information on various practices and methods in forestry. Its role is instrumental in supporting tree planting, an initiative that complements KEFRI's efforts in training communities in bamboo technologies



Women attend to seedlings in a conventional tree nursery.



Course participants and farmers in a tree planting demonstration.



A modern tree nursery.

KEFRI AND CIFOR IN USD 600,000 CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT

KEFRI and the Indonesia-based Centre for International Forestry Research have launched a USD 600,000 (Kshs 50 million) project aimed at alleviating the effects of climate change for communities living in the Mt Elgon region on the Kenya – Uganda border. The Rockefeller Foundation funded project is titled, “Adaptation of people to climate change in East Africa: Ecosystem services, risk reduction and human well-being” and is expected to last 45 months.

Among other objectives, the project will assess past, current and future vulnerability of communities to climate change in relation to their utilisation of forests and trees. In addition to KEFRI, other project partners include the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) based in Gigiri and Makerere University in Uganda.



A farmer points at the remains of tree saplings withered due to drought.

The Director of Forest Conservation Mr Hewson Kabugi has said that the draft Forest Conservation and Management Bill, 2012 and the draft Forest Policy 2012 are ready and will soon be presented to all stakeholders for their contribution. s

Mr Kabugi said that the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife has planned a three-month period for public participation with the aim of streamlining both the draft Forest Bill and Policy.

“These two new documents have been drafted with the aim of realigning the forestry sector with the new Constitution, especially in the areas of Devolution and Bill of Rights,” he stated, adding that the drafts will also address emerging concerns particularly regarding climate change and global warming.

He noted that the draft policy embraces various concepts including participatory management of natural resources,

sustainable management of forest resources and other ecosystems and, recognition of water towers as critical parts of the environment.

“In order to curb rising emission levels in the country, the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife has also established a REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) coordination office which will be responsible for ensuring full implementation of the national REDD plan,” said Mr Kabugi, adding that the ministry is also working on a REDD strategy.



A farmer in Central Kenya next to a withering fruit tree.

Addressing stakeholders during the launch, KEFRI director Dr Ben Chikamai explained that the research project will also conduct historical, current and future analysis of the effect of climate change on agricultural livelihoods.

“Overall, the project seeks to inform rural stakeholders and policy makers in East Africa on the sustainability of different local and national climate change adaptation policies,” he explained.



Erosion due to excessive rainfall in Kenya lowlands.

Commitment to Service Delivery

NO.	SERVICES/GOODS	REQUIREMENTS TO OBTAIN SERVICES/GOODS	COST	TIMELINE
1	Develop forest technologies	Research based on stakeholder needs	Depends on the technology	Nature of research
2	Disseminate forest technologies	Communication to stakeholders	Depends on format or channel of communication	Quarterly
3	Supply of high quality tree seeds	By order	As per tree seed catalogue	Depends on availability
4	Supply of high quality tree seedlings	By order	As per tree seedlings catalogue	Depends on availability
5	Training in forestry	On request	Nature of training	Immediate
6	Wood, plant and soil analysis	On request	As per analytical catalogue	Immediate
7	Provision of timber and non-timber products	By order	As per catalogue	Immediate
8	Advice on landscaping, tree establishment and management	On request	Depends on service required	Immediate
9	Provision of training and conference facilities	On request	Depends on nature and duration of course	Within 4 days
10	Attachment of students	Application from learning institutions	Refundable KShs 500 deposit and personal insurance cover	Within 4 days
11	Picnic sites for recreation and video/photo shooting	On request	As per catalogue	Immediate
12	Consultancy in forestry	Call for consultancy	Nature of consultancy	Immediate

We value and welcome feedback and comments to enable us serve you better.

Complaints, compliments and suggestions should be sent to:

The Director
 Kenya Forestry Research Institute
 P. O. Box 20412-00200 Nairobi, Kenya.
 Tel. 0722157414, 0724259781/2
 Email: director@kefri.org

The Commission Secretary/Chief Executive Officer,
 Commission on Administrative Justice, 6th Floor
 Prime Minister's Building, Nairobi.
 P.O. Box 20414-00200, Nairobi
 Tel: +254020 2270000
 Email: certificationpc@ombudsman.go.ke
 Web: www.ombudsman.go.ke



Flooded Sabaki river delta



Editors: Stephen Mwangi, Stephen Gitonga and John Otwoma

Layout and Design: Charles Nyogot

Published by: Kenya Forestry Research Institute - *Headquarters Muguga off Nairobi Nakuru highway*

P.O.Box 20412 - 00200 Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 724 157 414, +254 722 259 781/2, +254 734 251 888

Email: director@kefri.org website: www.kefri.org