



KEFRI *Newsletter*

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KEFRI Excels in Performance Contracting Fiscal year 2014-2015

KEFRI is ISO 1400:2004 EMS certified

KEFRI Excels in Performance Contract 2014/15

(By V. Jaoko & S. Mogaka)

Evaluation of Annual Performance Contract for all Public Institutions is done at the end of each financial year. This is a rigorous exercise and accurate and objective evidence for all the activities done within the evaluation period is presented.

Evaluation for the financial year 2014/2015 was done on 31st August, 2015. KEFRI was among those institutions being evaluated.

The evaluation exercise was conducted by the Chairman of KEFRI Board, Prof Daniel Mugendi, Board member Ms. Caroline Oduor, Independent Evaluation Expert Prof. Joshua Ng’elu, Director KEFRI Dr. Ben Chikamai, Senior Deputy Directors Dr. Bernard

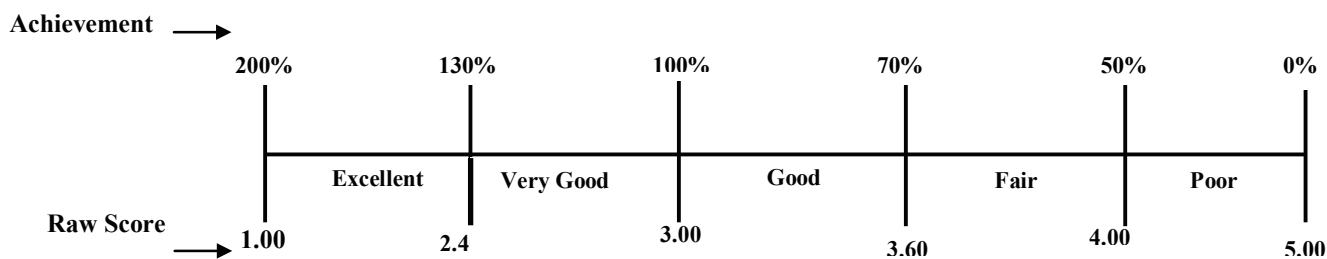
Kigomo and Mr. Patrick Omesa, and KEFRI Performance Contract Secretariat.

Performance Contracting started in 2005, and since then KEFRI has been performing well and graded in the “Very good” category. However, within the fiscal year 2014-2015, the Institute improved the raw score to 2.3577 and achieved over 130%, thus for the first time ranking in “Excellent” category.

The Institute has now been ranked among the top excellent parastatals in Kenya. “It took concerted effort to achieve this feat,” said the Chairman of KEFRI Board Prof. Daniel Mugendi who also congratulated all employees for making this possible.

The PC Secretariat also appeal to all staff to work towards maintaining the same achievement in future.

Gradings Scale for Performance Contract



Top cover photo: KEFRI chairman of Board Prof. Daniel Mugendi handing over the results of performance contract to the Director KEFRI Dr. Ben Chikamai. The event was graced by the presence of Board members, senior KEFRI managers and PC secretariat.

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Director KEFRI, Dr. Ben Chikamai (right) and PC Secretariat members during the presentation of Performance contract at Utalii College, Nairobi

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Exhibition in the ASK Shows

In order to disseminate technologies in forestry and allied natural resources, KEFRI exhibited in Agricultural Society of Kenya shows across the country. The 2015 show theme was “Enhancing Technology in Agriculture and Industry for Food Security and National Growth”.

Nairobi International Trade Fair-2015

(By S. Gitonga & J. Otwoma)

KEFRI participated in the 2015 Nairobi International Trade Fair between 28th September and 4th October at Jamhuri Park grounds. The Trade Fair was officially opened by His Excellency the President Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta.

In his remarks, the President stated that the government is committed in raising Kenya’s tree cover to 10% from the current 7% in order to mitigate effects of climate change as envisaged in the National Action Plan on Climate Change. He urged the public to plant more trees during the short rains.



President Uhuru Kenyatta presenting a trophy to Dr. Ebbey Chagala-Odera on behalf of KEFRI

KEFRI showcased several technologies that included the following: quality tree seeds both exotic and indigenous; tree improvement practices; energy conservation using charcoal briquetting from organic waste; micro-gas fire jikos; agroforestry practices; bamboo propagation and utilization; practices of rehabilitating natural forests; best tree nursery practices; and management of tree diseases and pests.

Value addition to wood and non-wood forest

products such as aloe-fortified soap, sap, cream, shampoo, Gums and gum resins, and assorted products from indigenous fruit trees, including baobab, tamarind and *Vitex payos* were also displayed at KEFRI stand.

Ms. Kamuri Mona, a stakeholder from the Honey and Bee keeping Centre-Ngong, along with Rogers Molanga showcased bee keeping methods in line with forest conservation. The stakeholders also train and provides consultation services on bee keeping and honey processing in a bid to empower youth and women.

KEFRI scooped a trophy for the Best Agricultural Based Statutory Board stand, and certificates for Second best stand displaying Research and Development, and Third best Government Medium stand.

KEFRI stand was visited by about 2,600 show goers who interacted with KEFRI staff and got advisory services on various aspects of forestry and allied natural resources. The visitors were issued with various KEFRI publications.

Kitui

(By D. Munyao)

At the Kitui show held at Ithookwe showground between 23rd to 25th July 2015, KEFRI stand was ranked the best in the following categories; Innovation and Invention, Research and Development, and Show Theme Interpretation. The stand was also ranked second best in; categories of Addressing Climate Change, Display of Locally Manufactured Products, Energy Saving and Conservation, and Medium Government stand.



Kitui County Governor, Dr. Julius Malombe, presenting a trophy to KEFRI-Kitui staff for exemplary performance at Kitui ASK show

Central Region Nyeri show

(By S.Gitonga & F. Mwanzi)



Deputy President Hon. William Ruto (left) presenting trophy to Mr. Joram Kagombe for KEFRI being the best stand in R&D at Central region show - Nyeri

The Institute represented by Central Highlands Eco-region Research Programme (CHERP) and Forest Products Research Centre (FPRC) participated in the Central Kenya Region A.S.K. Show between 8th and 12th September 2015 at Kabiru-ini grounds, Nyeri County. During the official opening, the Deputy President His Excellency Hon. William Ruto urged the public to utilize modern farming tools to increase agricultural production. He further said the improved infrastructure would make farmers access access markets hence better their livelihoods.

KEFRI display comprised of; quality tree seed (indigenous and exotic), seedlings of useful tree species specific to the region, value addition to wood and non-wood forest products, soil fertility improvement technologies, technology for on-farm timber sawing. These technologies if adopted would contribute to enhancing food security and national growth.

KEFRI was awarded a trophy for the Best stand in Research and Development. Among those who visited the KEFRI stand were Prof. P. N. Kioni, the Vice Chancellor Dedan Kimathi University of Technology accompanied by the Deputy VC Prof. Paul M. Wambua and Prof. G. K. Muthaka. Prof. Kioni was impressed by technologies displayed and

hinted the two institutions would strengthen the Memorandum of Understanding to cover collaborative research and attachment of students.

Mombasa International show

(By Muema)

Coast Eco-region Research Programme (CERRP) participated in the Mombasa International show between 26th and 30th August, 2015. Exhibits by KEFRI included; quality tree seeds, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), soil management, fruit products, timber and bamboo products techniques, briquettes, timber harvesting on-farm and sawing using modified chain saw, model of natural forest, woodlots and nursery techniques respectively. KEFRI emerged 2nd best in category of Parastatal/Board stand.

Kisumu and Kisii

By S. Gitonga and Oketch

Lake Victoria Basin Eco-region Research Programme – Maseno supported by Kakamega sub-eco region centre exhibited at the Kisumu Agricultural Society of Kenya Regional Show from 29th July to 2nd August, 2015.

KEFRI stand was ranked 3rd in the Innovation and Invention category.

At the ASK Southern Kenya Branch-Kisii, KEFRI stand was ranked 1st in Research and Development, 3rd in the Innovation and Invention category.

Nakuru

(By S. Gitonga and S. Nyambane)

KEFRI also participated at the Nakuru Agricultural Society of Kenya Regional show from 29th June to 4th July 2015. The Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Mrs. Sicily Kariuki accompanied by show officials opened the show and visited also the KEFRI stand.

For the first time KEFRI displayed in the newly constructed stand and made impact where around 600 farmers visited the stand and learnt about tree development.

KEFRI receives from EU 5 Million Euros

(By S. Gitonga and Betsi Namisi)



The Director KEFRI, Dr. Ben Chikamai (centre) displays the grant contract

The Director KEFRI Dr. Ben Chikamai signed a grant contract of 5 Million Euro with the European Union (EU) Delegation Office in Kenya headed by Dr. Hjordis Ogendo, The EU Head of Social Affairs and Environment. This funding is part of a 31 Million Euro grant to the Kenya government for rehabilitating and conserving of Cherangany and Mt Elgon water towers. Under the program entitled *Water Towers Protection and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation (WaTER) Programme*.

The grant will support technologies development and information dissemination to inform design of community-level actions, policy and implementation of the programme. The grant signing ceremony was held at KEFRI headquarters on 16th September, 2015 and attended by representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Authorities; National Treasury; Kenya Water Towers Agency and the EU.

The main goal of the programme is to increase forest cover, improve quality and quantity of ecosystem services and enhance environmental forest benefits to rural communities. "This programme supports one of Kenya's flagship agendas of rehabilitating, conserving and management of key water towers. On behalf of the EU, we are very excited to implement this project together with KEFRI, where areas of rehabilitation, conservation and enhancing livelihoods for women, youth and persons with disabilities are priority for us," said Dr. Ogendo.

Dr. Chikamai assured EU that KEFRI is eager to roll out the programme and has the required expertise. The programme will be implemented in collaboration with other key institutions namely; Kenya Water Towers Agency, Kenya Forest Service and Climate Change Secretariat.



The delegates made a familiarization tour at KEFRI Headquarters at the demonstration plot

Threats

Cheranganyi and Mt. Elgon forests form the five water towers inclusive of Mt. Kenya, Mau complex and the Aberdares. Common vegetation found in the two highland mountain forests include Savannah woodlands, alpine, elfin woodland, bamboo forests, Elgon teak, and high montane conifer, moorland or heathland plantations.

These forests are threatened by deforestation, encroachment and conversion to other land use systems, over-exploitation of wood and non-wood forest products. This undermines carbon sinks function and initiatives to mitigate the negative effects of climate change.

Conferences and Trainings

XIV World Forestry Congress sets out vision for future of forests

(By M. Gichora and M. Muga)

The XIV World Forestry Congress under the theme “Forests and People Investing in a Sustainable Future,” was held in Durban, South Africa from 7th to 11th September, 2015. The Congress supported by FAO marked the first time it was held in Africa since its inception in 1926.

The Congress attracted 4000, participants from 142 countries. Kenya had a delegation of 40 participants 6 of whom were from KEFRI. Dr. Ben Chikamai led a delegate of KEFRI scientists who included; Dr. Ebby Chagala-Odera, Dr. Gabriel Muturi, Dr. Mercy Gichora, and Messrs. Meshack Muga and Linus Wekesa.

During the Congress, 825 technical papers, 269 posters, 200 events and sessions were presented making it the largest gathering of the forest community this decade. KEFRI director presented a paper at the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) Director’s forum. Accepted were 12 papers and a poster by KEFRI scientists; Messrs Paul Ongugo, William Omondi, Simon Choge, Musingo Mbuvi, Linus Wekesa, John Ngugi, Stephen Omondi, Chemuku Wekesa, Ms. Sheila Mbiru, Mary Gathaara, Bettina Adhiambo, Therezah Achieng and Lyndah Sabwa.

Prior to the Congress, the African Forest Forum (AFF) jointly with Swedish International Cooperation (SIDA) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) organized a 2 day workshop from 4th to 5th September, 2015 under the theme: *Forests, People and Environment: Some Perspectives from Africa*.

The workshop was attended by African forestry stakeholders from national organizations, civil society organizations, academia and researchers. They discussed trends relevant to the African forestry sector with a view to enhancing the role of forests and trees in national economic development and poverty alleviation; improving food security and nutrition and enhancing environmental stability. Dr. Gabriel Muturi and Mr. Meshack Muga each presented a papers during the workshop.

Key outcomes

The delegates adopted the Durban Declaration which calls for policies and actions on forests that are more closely integrated with those of other land uses, particularly in regard to climate change, food security and improved livelihoods.

The Congress issued a statement to the United Nations General Assembly on the critical role of forests in implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and likewise to the 21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on how forests can contribute to mitigating climate change challenges.

Extension Course on Forest Tree Breeding in Japan

(By N. Oduor)

Three scientists from KEFRI - Bernard Kamondo, Nellie Oduor, Peter Angaine attended an Extension Course in Forest Tree Breeding in Japan. The course was courtesy of JICA undertaken from 20th May to 21st June 2015.

The trip was study tour was to impart skills on implementation of the ongoing project on “Development of Drought Tolerant Tree Species for Climate Change Mitigation in the Arid and Semi Arid Lands of Kenya” (*Melia volkensii* and *Acacia tortilis* Project). This is a 5-year project (July 2012 – June 2017) implemented by KEFRI in partnership with Kenya Forest Service (KFS), University of Nairobi (UoN) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Japan’s Forest Tree Breeding Center (FTBC), and Kyushu University. The beneficiaries of the project include communities in arid and semi arid lands (ASALs) of Kenya, and staff members of the implementing agencies. The overall goal of the project is to have quality tree plantations in ASALs. To deliver on the goal, the project activities are implemented in 4 different components namely: DNA analysis, Tree Breeding, Drought Tolerance and Extension.

The participants that included Clement Ngoriareng from KFS were enlightened on general status of forestry in Japan and specific practices such as: Genetic resource

conservation/preservation; Tree breeding; Seed and seedling production and distribution; Tree propagation techniques in Japan; Wood processing and utilization; and Forestry in disaster management and rehabilitation.

Tree genetic resources are conserved at different levels i.e. as; populations of trees, individual trees, and accessions of seed and pollen using the two broad conservation methods (*in-situ* and *ex-situ*). At the moment, Japan has 670 stands that are classified as *in-situ* conservation forest stands. *Ex-Situ* conservation include plantation stands, pollen and seed accessions conserved in cold storage, vegetative materials for endangered species and elite trees, and arboretum for individual trees.

Japan supports tree breeding work in Kenya among other countries globally in a bid to help them adapt to climate change. The key achievements from the breeding programmes include: Variety of high carbon dioxide fixing cedar trees; Less twisted wood varieties of Larch; resistance through repeated inoculation and selection of pine clones that resist infection.

Based on the course delivered, the participants were able to highlight key aspects that would be applicable in both general forestry in Kenya in implementation of the *Melia volkensii* and *Acacia tortilis* Project.



Japanese expert (right) demonstrating the use of digital technology in measurement of tree at a cedar progeny trial (FTBC) Japan



Course participants from left: Ngoriareng, Kamondo, Angaine and Nelly displaying grafted pine seedlings which was part of their course work

County Environment Executives Seminar

(By J. Wanjiku)



Participants of the 2nd County Environment Executives Seminar

A 4-day Policy Level Seminar on Participatory Natural Resources Management for County Environment Executives was held at KEFRI headquarters from 10th to 13th August 2015.

Participants were drawn from the counties of Garissa, Narok, Nairobi, Nakuru, Kisii, Makueni, Kiambu, Siaya and representatives from national institutions namely; NEMA, KFS, Egerton University, and KWS. The objective of the seminar was to share experiences, and insights on participatory natural resource management approaches.

While delivering the opening speech Dr. Alice Kaudia, Environment Secretary Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Authorities (MENR & RDA), on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary, noted that the county delegates would bring services closer to the people as envisaged in the constitution. She highlighted that capacity building is key to sustainable natural resource management. She however pointed out that there is need to continually identify emerging gaps, needs and challenges through Training Needs Assessment to inspire relevancy and meaningful participation in natural resource management.

Delegates deliberated on issues of governance, resource mobilization, high value trees, sustainable water availability, wildlife management, biomass energy use and climate change. They also observed case studies of farmers drawn from drylands and highlands of Kenya who show-cased Mukau (*Melia volkensii*) and bamboo farming perspectives

for both environmental conservation and commercial purposes. The delegates discussed opportunities in natural resource management in various counties and developed action plans which included livelihood mapping and capacity building of communities.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Gideon Gathaara, the Conservation Secretary - MENR & RDA emphasized that both the national and county governments have a role to play in natural resource management and conservation. He noted that the national government develops policies and frameworks, while county governments are responsible for implementation.

Sub-Sahara Africa states called upon to improve production and marketing of Gums and Gum resins

(By S. Gitonga and Oriwo)

Commercial gums and gum resins are among the dryland commodities in Africa that contribute immensely to improved livelihood economies. Gum and resins are used for medication, food, additive to soft drinks, confectionery, pharmaceutical, for making paint & printing color among others.

The Commission of the African Union (AU) in collaboration with the Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa (NGARA), FAO, COC International and the Africa Forest Forum organized a regional workshop on the production and marketing of gums and resins in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop was held on 10th to 12th August 2015 at the AU-IBAR office in Westlands, Nairobi.

The Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Authorities Prof. Judi Wakhungu addressing the stakeholder's forum revealed that Africa supplies over 95% of the world Gum Arabic requirements with Sub-Sahara Africa being a key player in the international trade of commercial gums and resins.

"Gum is the third income earner for Chad while Senegal is a key player in the production and export of gum Karaya. Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are principal producers of gum resins namely Frankincense, Myrr and Opoponax harvested from Acacia, Boswellia, Comiphorra and Sterculia trees," she said.

In Kenya gums and gum resins are produced naturally in 8 counties; Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Marsabit, Moyale, Samburu, Turkana and Wajir. In 2013, the country exported 3000 metric tonnes of gum resins valued at Ksh.850 million.

Prof. Wakhungu stated plans are in place to address challenges of commercializing the crops as well as ensuring value addition for sale in the international market. "However despite the importance of these commodity and resources, women need recognition for the vital role they play in production and processing and marketing of gums and resins," she said.

KEFRI Director Dr. Ben Chikamai who also heads the Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa (NGARA) informed the forum that there was great demand for the products standing at 100,000 tonnes whilst the current supply stands at 70,000 tonnes hence there is an opportunity to bridge this gap.

Climate Change Adaptation Course for Somalia Government Officials

(By M. Mukolwe & R. Mokaya)

Climate change is currently one of the looming global issues that demands worldwide attention to mitigate and adapt sustainable measures.

KEFRI conducted a course for Somalia Government Officials working with environmental related ministries. The training was supported by United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The training entitled "Policies and Practices for Climate Change Adaptation Course (PP4CCAC)" was held from 21st September to 9th October, 2015 at KEFRI Headquarters. The training aimed at enhancing climate resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems in Somalia.

During the opening ceremony, Mr. Yoichiro Toda, the Project Formulation Advisor for JICA (Somalia) in Kenya commended KEFRI's two-decades experience in conducting the JICA supported Third Country Training Programme for African Countries in Social Forestry since 1995. He also observed that the climate



in Somalia is very harsh characterized by prolonged drought and frequent flash floods.

The UNDP Project Manager, Environment and Energy Poverty Reduction and Environment Protection (PREP) Mr. Abdul Qadir Rafiq, reiterated that climate change knows no boundaries and solutions demand regional and global coordination and collaboration.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), with the support of UNDP, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other international development partners, facilitates inter-governmental efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to expected impacts of climate change.

“Having trained over 19 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, KEFRI is glad to share with Somalia the knowledge and practices that the Institute has amassed in regards to climate change mitigation,” said Dr. Ben Chikamai, Director KEFRI.

KEFRI Training Manager, Mr. Michael Mukolwe noted that this was the first course drawing participants purely from Somalia, a semi- arid and arid country. He spearheaded participatory in-house sessions and study tours to arid and semi-arid regions in Eastern, Rift Valley and Lake Victoria basin.

Management and Enhancement of KEFRI Laboratories

(By R. Mokaya)

KEFRI is the lead government agency mandated to carry out research in forestry and allied natural resources. In implementation of its forestry research mandate, a number of activities involve laboratory based research. These laboratory activities involve: plant analysis, tree pests and diseases, soil analysis, tree anatomy, and tree seed quality research. The Institute has set aside a number of specialized laboratories namely; soil chemistry, microbiology, pathology, tissue culture, molecular genetics, entomology, tree seed, wood anatomy, and photochemistry. However, some laboratories combine different specialties consistently with the nature of forestry research activities in the respective research programmes.

In order to enhance the management of laboratories, laboratory heads, scientists and technologists convened a forum on

24th August, 2015 at KEFRI Headquarters. Director KEFRI Dr. Ben Chikamai opened the forum accompanied by the Deputy Director for Technical Support Services Dr. Ebby Chagala-Odera. During the forum the following issues came up; KEFRI being ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management Systems (EMS) certified all laboratory activities should conform to the standards on environmental management and relevant national legislations; The Institute recognizes that maintaining a clean and healthy work environment is crucial for the well-being of its staff and society at large.

KEFRI management also emphasized to the laboratory staff to conform to the requirements of: Occupational Safety and Health Act, 2007 (revised 2010); Environment Management and Coordination (Waste Management) Regulations, 2006; Environment Management

and Coordination (Water Quality) Regulations, 2006; and the Factories and Other Places of Work Act and Medical Examination Rules, 2005.

Staff recommended; macro propagation of seedlings in tree breeding to ensure superior tree species; provision of Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) for power back up; awareness creation on available laboratory services; development of policies on marketing of laboratory services and products for both internal and external customers.

KEFRI laboratories offer the following services:

- Analytical Chemistry, wood engineering-wood preservation and training on timber grading at FPRC Karura
- Soil analysis at Gede, Kitui, Muguga and Maseno
- Molecular analysis at Muguga
- Identification of tree pests and diseases at Muguga

KEFRI hosts JICA Mission on REDD+ Readiness Activities

(By S. Gitonga)

Over 3-decade KEFRI has received financial support from the Government of Japan through direct funding (Grant Aid) and collaborative Technical Cooperation project through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

It is against this backdrop that a team from JICA headquarters headed by Mr. Kenichi Shishido, the Deputy Director General for Nature Conservation, Global Environment Department, Dr. Takahiro Endo, Remote Sensing Specialist from Remote Sensing Technology Center Japan and Mr. Taichi Morinaga Project Planning Specialist from Global Environment Department, made a 5-day visit to Kenya between 22nd and 27th August, 2015.

The mission's aim was to familiarize themselves with Kenya's strategy and action plan to achieve 10% of forest coverage by 2030 under the devolved governance; update status of REDD+ related activities by Kenyan government and key development partners and agree on tentative concept and design for the proposed extension project.

The mission visited KEFRI to assess the progress of the current JICA supported project entitled "Development of Drought Tolerant Trees for Adaptation to Climate Change in Drylands of Kenya". The parties agreed on amalgamation of all proposed technical cooperation forestry initiatives into one project entitled "Capacity Development projects for Sustainable Forest Management in Kenya".

Turkana Cultural Festival 2015

(By J. Owino)

Turkana Tourism and Cultural Festival 3-day event themed 'Tobong'u lore' which means 'come back home,' was held from 28th to 30th August, 2015 at the newly built County Ekalees Cultural Centre-Lodwar.

KEFRI in partnership with the County's Ministry of Energy, Environment and Natural Resources, KFS, KWS amongst other institutions disseminated information and technologies relevant to the event.

KEFRI got an opportunity to train and respond to clients' queries on forestry and allied natural resources as well as on various ongoing research activities in the county.



Former Prime Minister Hon. Raila Odinga (left) accompanied by the Turkana County Executive for Environment Hon. Rhodah Loyor being briefed on forestry research activities by KEFRI Turkana OIC Mr. Jeseo Owino (in cap) during the festival.

Farmer's field day

(By S. Gitonga & F. Mwanzi)

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock in collaboration with Nyeri stakeholders organized a farmer's field day where over 75 exhibitors displayed their agricultural technologies, products and services. The annual farmer's field day was held on 24th and 25th July, 2015 at Wambugu Farmers Agricultural Training Centre, Nyeri County.

KEFRI represented by CHERP, FPRC and Nyeri sub eco-region showcased forestry technologies geared towards improving agricultural and industrial enterprises. The displays included: assorted quality tree seeds; tree improvement on commercially grown tree species; *Cupressus lusitanica*, Eucalyptus and *Pinus patula*, sandal wood and its various products. The displays also included technologies on tree pest and disease management, value addition to wood and non-wood forest products that include Aloe plant, gum and gum resins and their uses, propagation and utilization of bamboo.

This year's Farmers field day gave KEFRI staff an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences with approximately 6,000 visitors including farmers, entrepreneurs and students from over 140 learning institutions.

KEFRI New Board Member



Dr. Abdullahi Dima Jillo has been appointed member of the KEFRI Board for a period of 3 years with effect from 17th April, 2015.

Dr. Jillo's appointment was announced in the Kenya Gazette Vol. CXVII – No. 43 notice no. 2925 dated 27th April, 2015. He replaces the late Prof. Kingiri Senelwa who passed away in September, 2014.

We are confident that Dr. Jillo will advance the Institution overall mission of conducting research in forestry and allied natural resources for development.

KEFRI celebrates the 4th Anniversary of the late Prof. Wangari Maathai

(By S. Kamonde)



Acting Chief Kerwa Location Mr. J. Ributhu (left) planting a tree in commemoration of the late Prof. Wangari Maathai

Muguga Ecosystem Research Community Forest Association (MERCFA) jointly with stakeholders of Muguga Forest celebrated the 4th Anniversary of the late Prof. Wangari Maathai by planting trees at Gachuthi natural forest site on 25th September, 2015.

KEFRI representatives joined Kenya Forest Service (KFS), County Administration, Human Rights and Information Forum (HRIF), Nguriunditu Primary School, and communities adjacent to Muguga Forest in weeding the site and planting indigenous ceremonial trees namely *Olea africana/europaea*, *Warburgia ugandensis*, *Teclea simplicifolia* and *Juniperus procera*.

The chief thanked the CFA and its stakeholders for their commitment in conserving Muguga forest and honouring the late Wangari Maathai's call for environmental conservation.

The late Wangari Maathai (1940-2011) was an environmental activist, founder of the Green Belt Movement and the 2004 Nobel Prize Laureate.

Director's Tea Forum

(By J. Otwoma)

Muguga

The Director's quarterly tea forum was held at KEFRI Headquarters on 28th September 2015. Highlights of the forum included:

- Introduction of new staff
- A medical talk on lifestyle diseases by a consultant pathologist (The consultant pathologist advised staff to observe healthy eating and undergo regular medical check ups for a better healthy living)

Kitui

(By R. Ngaira)

The Regional Director DERP Dr. James Ndufa convened a quarterly interactive tea forum in Kitui on 30th September 2015.

Dr. Ndufa briefed staff on the status of the budget for the Financial Year 2015-2016.

The Centre Administrator, Jemimah Nzilani, briefed staff on the committee formulated for implementation of ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management Standards (QMS) and its functions at DERP.



Some of KEFRI staff enjoying a cup of tea after the forum

Challenges of Lumpsum Payment of Retirement Benefits

(By Dr. M. Gichora & P. Tuwei)

Members of KEFRI Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme (RBA) organized a pensioners survey of 2012 on 30th September and 1st October 2015. Those nominated to attend were two Trustees from the scheme and three KEFRI Staff Union leadership who had earlier shown interest in dissemination of findings. The five staff who attended the training were:

- Mr. Paul Tuwei - Deputy Chairman, Board of Trustees
- Mr. Joseph Koech - Trustee, member elected
- Mr. Milton Esitubi - Chairman, UNRISK
- Mr. George M'masi - Chairman, UKCS
- Mr. Ali Dzitu- Assistant to Trust Secretary

The objective of the survey was to investigate experiences of retirees in Kenya, how they view life and the challenges they face after retirement.

Findings

Findings of the survey were that lump sum mode of retirement benefit payment to pensioners comes with greater risks and challenges of managing such savings, greater tendency of misuse of the funds through investment in unviable ventures and therefore leaving little guarantee of income security in retirement.

In addition, the study found out that most savings from the retirement was not sufficient due to lack of adequate disposable income and lack of information on investment opportunities.

Statistics of how retirees spent the lump sum amount was as follows:

58% Paid school fees for children, 27 % invested in manufacturing, retail or service business, 19% bought land, 24% built or bought a house to live in, 30% invested in chicken farming, pigs, cows, 5% settled medical bills, and 2% paid loans.

It was concluded that retirees most of whom had received a lump sum payment, did not put the money into projects that guarantee income security in retirement, hence favouring the implementation of monthly payments of benefits.

Approximately half of the retirees (48%) who have experienced challenges receiving benefits indicated delay in payment of the benefits, 23% of them saying lack of transparency/support from the officials.

APOLOGY

In the 13th edition Mr. Joseph Koech was referred to as the Treasurer. Mr. Koech is a trustee elected, representing KEFRI non-scientific staff. The omission is highly regretted.

KEFRI Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme

The following members of staff left service between 1st April and 30th September, 2015

No.	Name	P/No.	Station	Date
1	Francis Mathenge Muchina	7012	Headquarters	17.04.2015
2	Patrick Mwaniki Mukua	6353	Headquarters	01.06.2015
3	Samuel Muchunu Waithaka	6592	Muguga	01.06.2015
4	Michael Ochieng Nyandiko	6277	Kakamega	22.06.2015
5	Charles Onsarigo Begi	6328	Kuja-River	01.07.2015
6	John Obiero Were	5291	Headquarters	07.07.2015
7	Julius Njoroge Karanja	5283	Muguga	05.08.2015
8	Patrick Mwangela Tati	6826	Kitui	08.08.2015
9	Lawrence Ng'ang'a Kamiri	5572	Turkana	05.09.2015
10	Jonah Kiprono Malel	5300	Londiani	06.09.2015
11	Julius Musau Mwilu	6309	Karura	14.09.2015

Demise

KEFRI fraternity consoles the family of the following members of staff who passed away during this quarter



Dolly Akinyi Olumo

Dolly Akinyi Olumo passed away on 30th September 2015. Dolly worked at Lake Victoria Basin Eco-region Research Programme – Maseno. She was the beloved wife of Mr. Willis Atie, Officer-in-Charge, KEFRI Turbo sub-centre. Burial was held on 16th October 2015 at Kanyidoto West, Kilota Village, Ndiwa sub-location.



Robert Mulwa Muli

Robert Mulwa Muli who passed away on 24th August, 2015. Until his death, Robert worked at Enterprise division, KEFRI headquarters. His body was laid to rest on 3rd September, 2015 at Kitulu village in Machakos County.

May the Lord rest their souls in eternal peace

New Staff

KEFRI fraternity welcomes the new staff who were engaged by Board of Management from 1st September, 2015



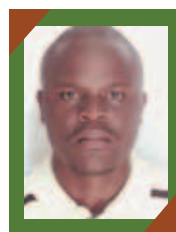
Sayah
Alukhaba
Abiud

Data Technician - Hqts
Diploma Applied Statistics
Kenya Polytechnic university



Chris
Kivati
Bernard

System Developer - Headquarters
BSc. Computer Science – Egerton
University



Griffins
Omukango
Makokha

Accountant III - Gede
BBM- F& Banking – Moi University



Galgalo
Rob
Jattani

Accountant II - Headquarters
B. Com/Acc- Catholic University

New Staff cont.



*Victor
Gitau
Kamau*

**Knowledge Management
Officer I - Headquarters**
MSc-Library and Information
Science from Moi University



*Francis
Mbugua
Kioi*

**Laboratory Technologist III
- Maseno**
Diploma in Analytical Chemistry
from Kinyajui Technical Training
College



*Asenath
Akinyi
Adiengi*

**Assistant Research Scientist
(Biotechnology) - Muguga**
BSc. Philosophy in Biotechnology



*Francis
Munene
Ileri*

Accountant III - Marigat
Bachelor of Commerce in Finance
CPA (K) from Kabarak University



*Peter
Ngugi
Gikonyo*

Library Assistant I - Kitui
Diploma in Information Science
from Kenya Technical Training
College



*Stella
Muthoni
Gatama*

Research Scientist II - Muguga
MSc in Environmental Policy and
Law, University of Eastern Finland



*Sheila
Aswani
Wachiye*

**Research Scientist (GIS/Remote
Sensing) - Headquarters**
MSc. in Geospatial, Information
Systems and remote sensing from
JKUAT



*Sam
Okoth
Ojung'a*

**Research Scientist
(Biometrician) - Maseno**
MSc. in Applied Statistics from
Maseno University



*Abdala
Kiteo
Kisiwa*

Assitant Research Scientist-Londiani
BSc in Community Development from
Egerton University



*Lydia
Khibali
Khaemba*

Laboratory Technologist - Londiani
Higher Diploma in Analytical Chemistry
from Kenya Polytechnic



*Priscilla
Njeri
Kimani*

**Assistant Research Scientist
(Biotechnology) - Muguga**
BSc-Biochemistry and Molecular
Biology from JKUAT



*Phedister
Riziki
Charo*

Forester III - Lamu
Diploma in Forestry from Kenya
Forestry College



*Dennis
Olwano
Amakanji*

Forester III - Kibwezi
Diploma in Forestry from Kenya
Forestry College - Londiani



*Mercy
Karimi
Kivuti*

Lab Technologist III - Muguga
Dipoma in Analytical Chemistry
from Nairobi Technical Training
Institute



*Leila
Ahmed
Mohamed*

Administrative Assistant - Lamu
Diploma in Business Administration
from Kenya Methodist University



*Jane
Wanjiku
Macharia*

Library Assistant I - Londiani
Diploma in Technical Education
from Kenya Teachers Training
College



*Miriam
Gathogo*

**Research Scientist II
Entomology - Muguga**
Bachelor of Education in Science
from Egerton University



*Jonah
Kipsaat
Kiprop*

**Research Scientist II Economist
- Muguga**
MSc in Agricultural Economics from
Egerton University



*Arafa
Abdalla
Amur*

**Assistant Research Scientist
Silviculturist - Gede**
BSc in Agroforestry and Rural
Development from Moi University



*Betsy
Mukonjia
Namisi*

**Communication and Public
Relations Officer 1 - Hqts**
Bachelor of Arts in Mass
Communication from St. Augustine
University of Tanzania.

New Staff cont.



*Zakayo
Kiptoo
Kurui*

Administrative Officer II - Londiani
Bachelor Degree in BBM (HRM) from
Moi University



*Sebastian
Kioko
Makuna*

Laboratory Technologist III-Maseno
Diploma in Applied Biology from
Mombasa Polytechnic University
College



*Patrick
Mwenja
Mwingi*

Assistant Research Officer-Turkana
BSc Natural Resources Management,
from Egerton University



*Shara
Miheso
Samuel*

Seed Collector - Lamu
Certificate from Kenya Forestry College-
Londiani



*David
Isaiah
Omuse*

ICT Technologist III-Headquarters
Diploma in Network Administration
from New Horizon College



*Obelai
Cephas
Opae*

Accounts Assistant I - Lamu
CPA from KCA University



*Margaret
Muthoni
Kaigongi*

**Research Scientist II (Taxonomist)
- Muguga**
Masters in Taxonomy and from the
University of Nairobi



*Delwin
Vuguza
Litu*

Accountant III - Kitui
Bachelor of Commerce and CPA (K)
from Jomo Kenyatta University of
Agriculture and Technology



*Angela
Mwangeli
Muthama*

**Assistant Research Scientist
Pathology - Muguga.** Bachelor in
Forestry from Moi University



*Dennis
Ambani*

Accounts Assistant I - Kakamega
CPA Part I & III from Pinnacle School



*Rabeccah
Ayako
Kerry*

Accountant II - Karura
Bachelor of Commerce and CPA II
from Jomo Kenyatta University of
Agriculture and Technology



*Nixon
Kimutai
Kilimo*

Laboratory Technologist III - Gede
Diploma in Analytical Chemistry
from Eldoret Polytechnic



*Caroline
Makena
Gikunda*

**Administrative Assistant II -
Marigat**
Diploma in Business Administration
from Meru Technical Training
Institute



*Walter
Onyangi
Sangoro*

Forester III - Gede
Diploma in Forestry from Kenya
Forestry College



*Vincent
Kiptoo
Agui*

Personal Secretary I - Headquarters
Bachelor of Commerce from Catholic
University of Eastern Africa. Higher
Dip. in Secretarial Management



*Lawrence
Kokisi
Simiyu*

Forester III - Turbo
Diploma in Forestry from Kenya
Forestry College-Londiani



*Ali
Dzitu
Fundu*

Pension Assistant - Headquarters
BSc. in Actuarial Science - Maseno



*Riany
Goga*

Senior ICT Officer - Headquarters
MSc Strategic B. Information
Technology - University of Portsmouth



*Henry
Mwaka
Komu*

Research Assistant - Lamu
Ag. Officer in Charge
MSc Range Management - UoN




Thousands of people visited KEFRI stand during the 2-day Farmers Field Day event at Wambugu Farmers Agricultural Centre-Nyeri, 24th and 25th July 2015



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