



Forest Department



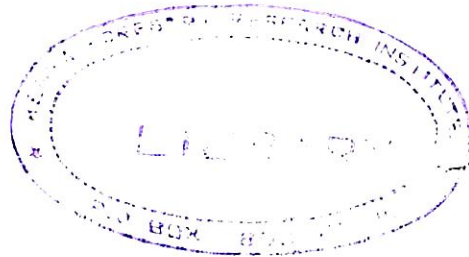
Japan International
Cooperation Agency



Kenya Forestry
Research Institute

KENYA/JAPAN

SOCIAL FORESTRY TRAINING PROJECT



PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE 3RD
NATIONAL SOCIAL FORESTRY PRIZE DAY
HELD ON
25TH APRIL 1991

IMPLEMENTED BY
KEFRI, FD AND JICA

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1 Background

The Kenya/Japan Social Forestry Training Project started its training activities in 1988, at its two centres, namely; Muguga National Social Forestry Training Centre (Muguga Centre) - cum - KEFRI headquarters and Kitui Regional Social Forestry Training Centre (Kitui Centre), with the main goal of promoting social forestry activities for the people on their individual or communal farm land.

One of the training activities carried out by Muguga Centre, is holding a social forestry national event, so called National Social Forestry Prize Day. This event is held annually in the training calendar of the Muguga Centre. Its objective is to recognize and award tree growing groups and individuals, whose activities in forestry appear to be above the average concern in their localities, within five districts selected every year, with appropriate tools suitable for the promotion of tree cultivation and tree nursery establishment and management. Through this activities, it is also expected that nation-wide awareness of social forestry and rural tree planting shall be enhanced.

So far two Prize Days have been held since 1989. This year's Prize Day was held on 25th April 1991 at ICRAF auditorium with participants drawn from Isiolo, Meru, Embu, Murang'a and Nyeri districts. The event is jointly sponsored by Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) while implementation is done by KEFRI, JICA, and Forest Department (FD) of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

The announcement of the event published by the "Daily Nation", the widely read newspaper in Kenya, on 25th April 1991, is shown in the Annex II.

The original programme is on the next page although it was changed partially.

PROGRAMME

The Third Social Forestry Prize Day

Date: 25 April 1991

Venue: ICRAF Auditorium

9.00 - 9.10	Introduction	Mrs. A. Kaudia
9.10 - 9.30	Opening address	Director, FD
9.30 - 10.10	Presentation (1)	Moderators -
10.10 - 10.50	- do - (2)	Mr. P. Mung'ala
10.50 - 11.20	Break	Mrs. A. Kaudia
11.20 - 12.00	Presentation (3)	
12.00 - 12.40	- do - (4)	
12.40 - 13.20	- do - (5)	
13.20 - 14.30	Lunch	
14.30 - 15.30	Film Show	ICRAF Staff/ Mr. S. Kamonde
15.30 - 16.00	Comments on presentations	Chairman, Awarding Com- mittee
16.00 - 16.30	Address and awarding prizes	Hon. Mr. G. Muhoho Minister for Research, Science and Technology
16.30 - 16.40	Address	His Excellency, Mr. N. Kumagai Ambassador of Japan
16.40 - 16.50	Short address	Mr. H. Okabe The Chief Adviser - SFTP
16.50 - 17.00	Vote of thanks and Closing remarks	Director, KEFRI

2 Opening Session

The event started at 9:50 am. with Mrs A. Kaudia, the Training Manager, welcoming all the attendants, defining the essence of the day and reading the programme in two languages viz Kiswahili and English. Thereafter she invited Mr P. Mung'ala, Chief of Forestry Extension Services Division to lead the proceedings of the morning session.

Mr P. Mung'ala, in welcoming the Director of Forestry to give his opening speech, thanked all that were present. He also pronounced 26th April 1991 as the National Tree Planting Day.

The Deputy Director of Forestry, Mr J.O. Angwenyi read the opening speech by the Director of Forestry in English and later translated it into Kiswahili for benefit of the farmers. The speech was as follows:

OPENING ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR OF FORESTRY
MR C.R. NYAGA

Distinguished guests,
Participants,
Fellow officers,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to address you during the 3rd National Social Forestry Prize Day. I have noted with appreciation that the Kenya/Japan Social Forestry Training Project has been carrying out this activity since 1988 as part of the social forestry programme. The peak of this event is a competition on social forestry focusing on semi-arid areas. The competition is organized annually by the Forest Department, KFFRI and JICA jointly.

The objective of the competition is to promote nation-wide awareness of Social Forestry and enhance rural tree planting by recognising outstanding achievements by the people at "grass-roots" level. I have been informed that the participants in the competition are individuals and groups who have excelled in tree planting and are selected from five districts namely; Isiolo, Embu, Meru, Nyeri and Murang'a. I believe that prizes will be awarded in the order of excellence. As you may already know, the Forest Department has posted Diploma level Forest Extension Officers to almost every Division in the country and the officers are working in close contact with the farmers.

Suitable agroforestry development requires that local communities and institutions are made aware of the encroaching environmental problems and the opportunities which agroforestry offers. For this reason, the Forest Department is now shifting emphasis from seedling production to encouraging and assisting local farmers and institutions to produce their own seedlings. In this context, it is useful to note the importance of a two way communication process. Previously, it was thought that all wisdom comes from the extension officer, and farmers are only expected to learn from him. It is now understood that many farmers are knowledgeable about the specific environment they are living in. As a result, the combined knowledge of extension officers and that of the farmers, obtained through two way communication, must now be appreciated as the more successful extension strategy. Many farmers, organisations and groups are expected to start tree nurseries and

plant more trees. All of these need to be facilitated with seeds, nursery materials, simple tools and technical advice.

In the past, the Forest Department had to start at least one demonstration departmental tree nursery per division using 6 - 12 workers. Experience has revealed that such a small number can only raise a maximum of 200,000 - 300,000 seedlings. This then falls short of our target of half million seedlings per division. With the changing trend, some of these workers are now being used as agroforestry extension agents in the locations facilitations. They are facilitating opening up of many forest tree nurseries in all locations and sub-locations by individual farmers, women groups, chiefs, schools, churches, KANU, NGO's and other government institutions.

Tree growing and conservation was deep-rooted in the culture of many Kenyans in the earlier days, when the human population was much less and most of the country was covered by thick forests. These were the sources of construction materials, fuelwood, fodder for livestock and wildlife, fruits, berries, medicines, dyes, etc. Now that we have cleared the natural forests for cultivation of crops, we can no longer sit and expect to get these products as before. Trees have to be grown and the remaining cover conserved so that we can continue to benefit from them.

The process of development involves the optimal use of limited resources available to achieve a certain goal. The limited resources of land, labour, capital, skill, etc. available to a farmer have to be utilized in the most economical way so that his problems are solved and needs met. The forest extension officer together with the farmer should identify the link between the problems and the most appropriate solutions in the area of forestry or tree planting in general.

I must be hasty in pointing out that Forest Department is not doing this single handedly. Several government ministries and departments, non-governmental organizations, donor funded Projects, International organisations and many local groups are directing efforts at assisting the farmer in tree growing and conservation in order to meet his tree-related needs. Such organizations include ICRAF, MoA, KEFRI, KENGO, JICA, DANIDA, CARE, SWISS/RTDS, SIDA churches among others. However, in the recent past, forest cover has continuously decreased due to the pressure exerted by the high population growth rate. This has consequently meant that forests are further pressed to supply more and more timber, poles.

3 Presentations

The presentations were proceeded by Mr P. Mung'ala.

The members of the Awarding Committee were introduced to the audience. They were as follows:

Mr G.O. Ochieng	FD	in the chair
Mr E. Barrow	ICRAF	
Mr M. Mbegera	MoA	
Mr P. Ongugo	KEFRI	
Mr H. Okabe	JICA	

The presenters were reminded of the allocated time of 30 minutes each, thus 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for Q & A session.

All presentations were done in Kiswahili. Mr P. Mung'ala announced the summary in English after the presentation for benefit of those who did not understand Kiswahili.

The summary of the presentations were as follows;

3.1 Mr George Nti'Gitonga

Introductory remarks by D.F.O Meru

I have the honour to thank you for your invitation. I am happy today to be with this farmer Mr. George Nti'Gitonga from Ndumburi, Gituaja Location, Central Imenti, Meru District. This area is relatively dry, with very little and unreliable rainfall of between 200-400mm per year. The soils are black cotton, but the farmer has tried hard to succeed in his tree planting activity. He will explain how his shamba was before he embarked on this exercise, and what he has done so far.

Presentation

I started planting trees species in 1967, near the Meru-Isiolo border about 12 miles away. I could then go for another 15 kilometres away to buy seedlings for planting. As water is a problem in this area, I had to fetch some about 7 kilometres away. This I did using a hand or an oxen drawn cart which could carry ten drums. I had no watering can, so I had to use alternatives such as cooking fat tins, which were also not easily available. While doing all these, my neighbours were sceptical, but I ignored them and carried on. With tins at hand, I perforated a hole on each tin at the bottom side. I then put each tin beside each seedling I planted. Every morning I fill the tin with water, which drains away very fast for the first and second time, but for the third, it remains in the tin. So far, I have planted 20,002 trees of 59 different species. I have dug four furrows through advice by the Ministry of Agriculture officials on which I will plant four rows of trees. My piece of land, measuring 23 acres and once bare, is now green and beautiful, with good air conditioning and a lot of organic matter.

Slide show

The following slides were shown:

A perforated tin which he used to water his seedlings and compares it with a bottle; fodder for his livestock; a water tank he has constructed to store water during the rains from his iron-roofed house (with which he intends to start a nursery); and poles, timber and fuelwood plantations. The farmer argued that the bottle technique of watering seedlings kills them since the water in the bottle gets so hot from the intense heat in his environment during the relatively dry spells.

Q & A session

- Q1. What size of the tin do you use? Is there any specificity in the size to use?
A1. Any size serves the purpose.
- Q2. Have the crops and animal yields been low or high since you started this exercise of tree planting?
A2. It is three times better. Trees are conserving moisture and now crops are surviving. Before, crops used to die early.
- Q3. How much water do you put in the tin and how much water does each tree use?
A3. I fill the tin with water which drains very fast for the first and second times. The third time it remains in the tin, and this can last three more days, although I keep on checking and adding whenever the level drops.
- Q4. What is your neighbour's response towards your success? Are they still sceptical?
A4. They are now following my footsteps and more so since the Forest Department invited me for a course at Kitui Social Forestry Training Centre.
- Q5. Doesn't the oil in the cooking fat tins affect the trees? How do you clean them, yet water itself is a problem?
A5. The dirty water used for washing utensils is put in a debe. Thereafter I use it for cleaning my tins.
- Q6. Do you get any form of assistance from anyone?
A6. Yes. The Ministry of Agriculture which advises me to dig furrows; and the Forest Department which gave me polythene tubes, technical advice and tree seedlings. Everything else is my own effort.

3.2 Nkirote Women's Group

Introductory remarks by DFEO Isiolo

This was the first Women's group of its kind in Isiolo West Location, roughly six to 10 kilometres from the town. The district is relatively dry with unreliable rainfall of between 100-500mm per year. The soils are sandy black cotton type. The first seedlings were brought from the Forest Department in 1984. This is the present source, for this group's nursery.

<Presentation>

We started the activities of our group of 23 members on 1st July 1990. The first step we took was to establish a nursery. Due to the difficulties in working with sandy black cotton soils, we had to look for the better red soils and manure. We had to look for water and later plant the seeds, using tetrapacks as containers. Initially, we collected 1,000 milk packets to begin with before getting a supply of polybags from the Forest Department. At this stage when the Forest Department officers visited our group, we informed them that our main problem was a piece of land on which to raise trees, and that currently, we were on the Chairlady's farm who has set aside a one-acre plot for this purpose. We also have a problem of water which is currently being fetched from far. We heeded to the President's call to plant trees in addition to realising the other benefits from trees. Presently, we have 2,500 seedlings in our nursery and have so far sold 1,000 seedlings.

Slide show

The following slides were shown:

The group's Chairlady, Elizabeth watering the different tree species in the nursery; agroforestry intervention which is a mixture of banana, nappier grass, fruits and trees; thorn trees used for fencing the nursery to protect it from chicken, birds and other animals; and a fish pond.

Q & A session

- Q1. Do you plant trees on individual farms or at the Chairlady's farm only?
A1. In all members. We are twenty three members.
- Q2. Being a Women's group, what is your husbands' opinion, do they complain?
A2. Although they used to complain, we shared our products with them so that they are happy and no longer complain.

- Q3. To the forester, why does the group use black polythene tubes instead of the clear ones in a dry area?
- A3. The forester answered that black polythene tubes retain water longer than clear ones which tear quickly.
- Q4. From the slides shown there are no indigenous trees on their farms, why?
- A4. They have a feeling that indigenous trees will just thrive without necessarily being planted.

3.3 Ngatho Umoja Women's Group

Introductory remarks by DFFO Murang'a

Ithanga Location is a newly settled area since first settlement was in 1984. The area has little rainfall coming in April and October. Soils are predominantly sandy.

Presentation

We are 38 members in our group at present. In 1984 we acquired plots in this area, we sat together and thought it wise to form a women's group to benefit ourselves. We then started off by contributing two shillings each for buying household utensils. Afterwards, we decided to extend our group activities to include tree planting. We started this on 23rd October, 1990 by establishing a tree nursery. We fetch water from a nearby river and use tetrapacks and tins to water our seedlings which include oranges, cedar, casuarina species, etc. Last season we produced 10,000 seedlings, out of which 6,000 were planted by members while 4,000 were sold. We have a number of problems, among them lack of co-operation from our husbands, termite attack, pest menace in nursery and illiteracy. Presently, we run our nursery activities on the chairlady's shamba.

Slide show

The following slides were shown:

The group chairlady checking on insect damage and watering in the nursery.
Different tree species, planted on farm, including fruit trees.

Q & A session

- Q1. Do you still contribute the two shillings since you started tree planting activities?
- A1. No, except a sort of fine when a member is late or deliberately fails to turn up for group work.
- Q2. Even in case of sickness.
- A2. No.
- Q3. How many members are you and where do you plant trees?
- A3. We are thirty eight members, we plant trees on our individual farms and sell the surplus.

Q4. Supposing the roots of your seedlings go deep in the soil before you transfer them from the nursery, what do you do?

A4. We root-prune using a pair of scissors.

Q5. It seems you started planting trees before Forest Department explained the best species for your area. How did you know which species to plant here?

A5. It was our own initiative to collect seeds from trees in the area e.g. Grevillea. We also planted tree species whose seeds we locally collected.

3.4 Kavai Kamutwamathaga Self Help Group

Introductory remarks by DFFO Embu

The group comes from Kyeni South Location, Runyenjes Division. It was formed in 1986 on a family basis i.e. husband and wife, and has thirty seven couples to date. The land is on an elevation of 1100m above sea level. He called upon the group Chairman to explain why the group was started and how.

Presentation

We decided to form a tree planting group in 1986 following the clearing of land for tobacco growing, which led to shortage in fuelwood, timber, poles, fodder, fruits and water. The first step we took was to collect soils, put it in tetrapacks then looked for seeds from trees in farms, sowed them and watered the seedlings until they are ready for planting in our shambas. Since 1986, we have raised seedlings as follows: 1986 - (9,301); 1987 - (33,306); 1988 - (39,379); 1989 - (27,619) and 1990 - (26,866). This year, we have planted tomatoes, sukuma wiki and other vegetables. Because of the long dry spell from May - October, we transfer seedlings to the shamba in October. At first, the main problem we encountered was lack of land to carry out our activities. We approached the local council which allocated us a quarter of an acre. Water provides vegetables and fruits and a profit we get from sale of the surplus. We hope to get a bigger piece of land on which to extend our activities, - among them raising grafted fruit trees.

Slide show

The following slides were shown:

A fuelwood woodlot; fodder crops (Leuceana leucocephala and nappier grass) and group members assessing the damage done by insects in the nursery.

Q & A session

Q1. Since the group is of husband and wife, who determines which trees are planted?

A1. The decision is made by the committee.

Q2. Do you involve your children in the group?

A2. Yes. During the holidays. They fill the polythene tubes with soil, collect seeds, etc.

- Q3. Who tends the homestead since both are group members?
- A3. Only one person attends the group activities, the other is left at home.
- Q4. Fuelwood is not valued much in this country. A woman is not therefore allowed to fell trees for this purpose. So what happens when they need this wood?
- A4. There is a woodlot purposely set aside for fuelwood. Prunings are also used as fuel wood.
- Q5. How do your members ensure that the trees survive?
- A5. A committee is formed that follows up group or individuals given seedlings by the group.
- Q6. Who decides on which tree to cut?
- A6. A man (husband) decides.
- Q7. Who are members of the committee?
- A7. Three men and one woman.

3.5 Mr Harun Nderitu

Introductory remarks by DFFO Nyeri

This farmer comes from Kyeni East, Narumoru Location in Nyeri District. The area receives very low rainfall of about 500mm a year. The land is generally flat, therefore, eliminating the questions of soil erosion but creating the problem of drainage. Mr. Nderitu is individual farmer who started tree planting activities in 1963.

Presentation

Although I started planting trees in 1963, I did not succeed until 1968 when I started planting trees together with food crops. The species I planted were cypress, blue gum, podo and other indigenous trees. I also planted orange trees. The height of the 1968 plantations is approximately 30m. In 1988, I sold cypress timber worth KShs 24,000, an equivalent of 170 cubic metres. Initially, I had problems in obtaining seeds because I had to walk to the Forest Department tree nursery; about 15km away. It is for this reason that I decided to start my own nursery. The initial problems I had while establishing this nursery were water shortage, soil drying out fast, looking for better soils to mix for use in the nursery and damage by animals. My future plans are planting more trees for sale; sell mature cypress trees to saw millers or as transmission poles to the Kenya Power and Lighting Corporation. I also intend to construct a tank for water shortage. I enjoy various benefits by planting trees among them being income, fruits, sites for bee production and shade.

Slide show

The following slides were shown:

The cypress, podo, grevillea and blue gum plantations of 1968; some beehives, the farmer intends to start bee-keeping and the way he does his tree planting. First the trees are planted together with food crops for five years. After this, the farm is left purely for trees; and some orange trees.

Q & A session

Q1. Do you plant trees yourself or you hire labour?

A1. Both

- Q2. Have your neighbours emulated you?
- A2. At first they thought it was waste of time, but today they see the fruits of my work and have started doing the same.
- Q3. Any assistance from the Forest Department or the Ministry of Agriculture? Have they visited your farm?
- A3. Yes, the Forest Department have provided seeds and technical advice.
- Q4. How does the DFEO ensure trees' survival in such a dry area?
- A4. The farmer prepares for planting well before the rains. Planting is normally done in October because the dry spell after these short rains is shorter than during the long rains in April. The farmer then waters the seedlings until the next rains.
- Q5. How come you are allowed to burn charcoal while we at Isiolo are not?
- A5. I only burn in small quantity for my personal use, with permission from the chief. When I cut tree for charcoal burning I plant ten!
- Q6. How big is your shamba as you have planted many different species?
- A6. One is 10 acres, the other 28 acres and 100 acres.
- Q7. Why do you intend to sell cypress to KP&LC and TC as transmission poles?
- A7. In business, best buyer, best seller.

4 Film show and free discussion

After lunch there was a short film show of "Trees in our lives", emphasizing the importance of trees to mankind and the physical environment.

A free discussion followed the film show. During the discussion session, the chairman of Kawai Kamutwamuthaga from Embu wanted to know how he could eradicate or control termite on *Grevillea robusta* which is damaging them, whatever the size. Although complete eradication was not assured, several temporary control measures were given as follows: "Termites occur in two body sizes, big and small types. For big type, the farmer was told to trace the colony and destroy it. For small type, again to destroy the colony and put some material e.g. grass on which to feed so that they do not come out looking for your trees. Another measure would be to use ash, which keeps them away for two to three days only."

Another farmer Mr Nti'Gitonga wanted to know why one is required to get a permit from the Chief in order to fell a tree while the Chief may not have been involved during the planting. A definite answer could not be given as those who answered the question thought it needed to be discussed at a higher level. However, the D.F.E.O Runyenjes spoke that they were handling this in Embu. He said that the farmer could notify his area representative for a few trees.

The discussion stopped when the Minister arrived.

5 Awarding Ceremony

Mrs A. Kaudia took over from Mr P. Mung'ala as a Moderator for this session.

She introduced the guest of honour, Minister for Research, Science and Technology, Hon. G. Muhoho. She also introduced the Ambassador of Japan, His Excellency N. Kumagai, the Chief Adviser of Social Forestry Training Project, Director of KEFRI, the Director of Research in the MRST and Deputy Director of ICRAF. She announced the order of presentation of speeches.

The Chairman of the Awarding Committee, Mr Ochieng was called upon to give his report. Following Mr Ochieng's report was a speech by the Chief Adviser of the Kenya/Japan Social Forestry Training Project. Then His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan was invited to read his speech.

After the Ambassador's speech, the Director of KEFRI approached the centre stage to call upon the Minister for Research, Science and Technology. He asked the Minister to address the audience and award prizes to the winners. All these report, speeches and introduction are appearing later in this session.

After the speech, the Minister announced the winners and awarded their prizes as follows;

First Prize Winner - Mr George Nti'Gitonga from Meru District

- 1 bicycle
- 1 wheel barrow
- 2 fork jembes
- 2 jembes
- 2 watering cans
- 2 shovels
- 2 matchet rakes
- 2 rakes

Second Prize Winner - Nkirote women's group from Isiolo District

- 1 bicycle
- 2 wheel barrows
- 4 fork jembes
- 4 jembes
- 4 watering cans
- 4 shovels
- 4 matchet rakes
- 4 rakes

Third Prize Winner - Kawai Kamutwamuthanga self help group from Embu District

- 1 wheel barrow
- 3 fork jembes
- 4 watering cans
- 5 shovels
- 5 matchet rakes
- 5 rakes
- 4 jembes

Fourth Prize Winners

(a) Mr Haron Mathenge Nderitu from Nyeri District

- 1 jembe
- 1 wheel barrow
- 1 fork jembe
- 1 watering can
- 2 shovels
- 2 matchet rakes
- 2 rakes

(b) Ngatho women's group from Murang'a District

- 1 wheel barrow
- 1 fork jembe
- 3 watering cans
- 4 shovels
- 4 matchet rakes
- 4 rakes
- 3 jembes

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN, THE AWARDING COMMITTEE
MR G.O. OCHIENG

KEFRI staff,

distinguished guests,

ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon, mine will be very brief.

Hon. Minister, I was nominated to chair the committee which was looking at the presentation by the various farmers who are here this afternoon to participate on the third social forestry prize giving day.

Mr. Minister, I thought the job given to me was very simple, it became more and more complicated as I was going ahead, may be we made it complicated ourselves because all of us here were looking at this thing as a group and this also made it very interesting. But it was not judgement or chairing which was very important Hon. Minister, what became very obvious to the group which sat under chairmanship was that the Kenyan farmers are not ignorant. The Kenyan farmers know exactly what they need, the Kenyan farmers have participated in tree planting since before independence and among us here there is one farmer who started planting trees and they failed, tried again and failed. They failed consecutively for 5 years and he did not give up.

He realised later that he was planting in high grassland, there was high competition and there was also browsing by wildlife. Later on he changed and started planting trees together with crops and that was Agroforestry practiced at that time without any advice from anybody and I think the Kenyan farmers are very knowledgeable.

The other thing that became very obvious to the group I chaired was that the Kenyan farmer think that drought is not a limiting factor to the growth of trees or to the growth of any crops, so long as proper species are identified and the timing is right. Because among us here we have got a group from Isiolo which sat together, women groups sat together and thought that they needed more trees in Isiolo and they looked around and saw that they have black cotton soil, developed their own tree nursery. Since black cotton soil is not very good for tree nursery, they went several kms to collect

red soil, developed their own farms, and also Isiolo Town.

This one, points out that really drought is not a limiting factor if one wants to grow trees. We have got trees which are growing with very limited rain and this is clearly expressed by the group from Isiolo that they are here not because of anything but because of tree planting and need for knowledge about trees for the conservation of our environment.

Among us again Hon. Minister, we have had family groups or self-help groups where several families sit together and decide okay what our need is? We have sometimes heard that it is a taboo in other areas for women to plant trees but this does not seem to be the case here today. Because both men and women have sat together in other communities and agreed that what we need most are not necessarily the goats we might also need tree for both shelter, building pole, for shade and for fodder, and there is a group among us here who have done just that. When the women go to the field to plant trees then the man remains back home to look after the children, he makes food for the wife and when the wife comes back home even the water has been fetched and vis-versa.

The other thing that we have here are the individuals. Those people who have felt burning desire to plant their own trees on their farms they are not even groups. Somebody sits in his house and says okay what he needs most, he sees he does not have a shade because a man can sit in the house the whole day. You need to stretch yourself and maybe sit under a tree somewhere and discuss it with other men or with your children. There are members here who have just done that. They have planted trees, as individuals which are very successful.

When I talk like that, it made our judgement very difficult. But what I want to emphasize is that it has also shown us clearly that all those groups have done very well, they have played a very useful role and their numbering to me was not very important. What is important is that the Kenyan community with the call from His Excellency the President has embarked on very aggressive afforestation programme.

Starting from the family level and extending to the national level and this has been proven, the presentations here have stretched thus from the dry areas from which af-

forestation had not been done and in some places have started before we had our own afforestation extension services which started in 1971. There is somebody here who started planting trees in 1963. So the farmer was working ahead even of the Forest Department. They were already extending the afforestation services, themselves without assistance and that became very useful to us. I want to say that those people who were participating here should become our ambassadors, when they go back to their communities, homes or to their groups. Please help us to recruit more farmers and through the forest extension officers more women groups should be assisted. We have several requests here which should be followed up by our officers who are in the field. Please see where we can help since we have got a division which is fully fledged in extension services and which could look into those minor requests of giving polythene bags, watering cans, giving technical advice or may be giving one lorry load of red soil for tree nursery development. Those ones I think can be looked after, let people who need assistance get assistance but also participate in recruiting more people.

Hon. Minister, I don't want to mention the result because they are for your eyes only. I will give you the results Hon. Minister, it was a difficult task we have done it with a lot of pain but we have managed to do it.

Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen.

SHORT ADDRESS BY THE CHIEF ADVISER, SETP
MR H. OKABE

The Honourable Minister for Research Science and Technology,
His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan,
The Director-General ICRAF,
All other participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you very much for participating in this event, the Third National Social Forestry Prize Day.

The Kenya/Japan Social Forestry Training Project has been carrying out its activities since 1988, following a two-year preparatory phase. It consists of Pilot Forest Programme and Training Programme, placing emphasis on Arid and Semi-Arid lands. The National Social Forestry Prize Day is held as a part of the Project Activities, by the Forest Department (FD), Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) jointly. I am convinced that this event would enhance a nation-wide awareness of tree planting activities, in conjunction with the National Tree Planting Day which would be held nationally tomorrow. Reviewing this one year, all the Project activities have been implemented on schedule. I hope that our Project can help Kenyan country become a green country of which trees will carry welfare to all like to make as much efforts as we can.

Tree planting is a back-breaking task. Recently, a man-made forest in Japan has exceeded ten million hectare. Normally, about three thousand seedlings are planted per hectare, so it means that more than thirty billion seedlings have been planted. Moreover, most of forested area of Japan is located in steep mountainous area. These seedlings have been planted not by machinery but manpower, one by one. It can be easily imagined that it has taken a long period to do it. In the mean time, a great deal of tree planting activities will produce a good result in the future. There is a saying "Rome was not built in one day". Please do not give up continuing these activities.

Ni furaha kubwa kwangu kuwapongeza nyinyi nyote mlipata zawadi siku hii ya leo. Hii ni sababu ya juhudi zenu za ukuzaji wa miti mashambani kwenu. Nimatumaini yangu kuwa mtaendelea na juhudi hizi, na sio tu mashambani mwenu, bali pia kwa machamba za uma. Hii ni muhimu kwa uendelezaji wa nchi kwa kuweka madhari nzuri. Pia ningependa kuwaomba ya kwamba, msiwe wachoyo bali muusambaze kwa wakulima wenzenu ambao hawakushabiki kwa ushirika huu.

It is my pleasure to offer congratulations to those who got prizes today. This is the result of your best efforts in Social Forestry or farm forestry activities. I hope that all of you would continue tree planting activities, not only in your own lands, but also on community land, because this is necessary in order to develop this country by keeping it beautiful and green. I would like to put the following request: do not keep this important success to yourselves only extend it to many other people who have not participated in this event.

It is also my great pleasure to announce that this event has been successfully carried out through the contribution by all of you, particularly, Dr. Lundgren, the Director General of ICRAF who kindly offered the venue for the event.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all of you and I am looking forward to continuous cooperation to our Project.

Thank you very much.

SPEECH BY THE AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN
HIS EXCELLENCY N. KUMAGAI

Good afternoon,

I have not studied Kiswahili as Okabe. So I would not dare speak in Kiswahili.

Hon. Minister G. Muhoho,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be invited here today on this very happy occasion of the Third National Social Forestry Prize Day. First of all I would like to congratulate all who would be winners, we do not know yet who the winners are in this competition that will award the prizes later on. The rate at which global forest have been deflected has reached an alarming proportion, the evidence of this has been documented and greatly published in conclusion to Research on global warming and studies on the green-house effect.

Taking into consideration the more specific point of view, it has been noted with some concern that the pressure of progress and development has had a devastating effect on the forests of Kenya, a country which has once been dominated by abundance afforestation. The research and development of forestry has over the recent years become our increasingly important factor in efforts made by the Government of Kenya to improve and accelerate the Social economic and cultural awareness of the Kenya people. This aim has been supported and aided by the Government of Japan through JICA in collaboration with the International Council for Research in Agroforestry. In Agroforestry ICRAF, KEFRI, Forest Department of the MENR and Ministry of Agriculture collaborate.

The Kenya/Japan Social Forestry Training Project aims at promoting self-reliant tree planting activities on national level placing great emphasis on the rural areas. This annual competition organised by the Project plays an effective role in motivating farmers at grassroots level to excel in their efforts to improve their environment by recognising, evaluating and awarding those outstanding contributions. Participants for this year's event have been selected from 5 districts of Kenya, namely; Isiolo

Meru, Embu, Nyeri and Murang'a all of which to some extent can be agro-climatically described as semi arid areas.

Hon. Minister judging from the success of the participants in the competition and from their commendable progress with regard to social forestry in Kenya, I wish to express my sincere hope that self-reliant tree planting activities will extend and encompass the entire nation and I trust that the candidates themselves will play a leading part in this endeavour.

Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MINISTER BY THE DIRECTOR, KEERI
DR J.A. ODERA

Hon. Minister Sir,

Allow me ladies and gentlemen,
distinguished guests,
your excellency the Ambassador of Japan to Kenya,
now to call upon our chief guest Hon. G. Muhoho.

I had not prepared to say much at this stage but since I have been asked to call upon the Minister, just allow me to point out one or two things.

Hon. Minister, G. Muhoho is himself a social forester. He has been following very closely on the foot steps of his excellency the President who upon taking the presidency of this country directed all members of parliament to plant trees along the roads that traverse their constituencies. Hon. G. Muhoho has taken this task seriously and virtually every year, he has been planting trees. I do not know what plans you have Hon. Minister but I know that ever since you took the constituency every year you have been leading your constituency in tree planting along the roads, the highway between Thika and Nairobi. Most of you who use that road, I do travel through that road quite often for various reasons. I keep track and progress of performance of trees along the highways. They are coming up beautifully and a lot credit therefore goes to our Minister for taking this task seriously. So as we call upon him to say a few words and to award prizes to those who have excelled in this participation, we are not calling upon a stranger but a leading Social Forester in Kenya following very closely in the foot steps of his excellency the President.

Hon. Minister, allow me now to call upon you most kindly to say a few words and then present awards to the winners. The Minister please.

SPEECH BY THE GUEST OF HONOUR

HON. GEORGE K. MUHOHO

His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan,
The Director-general ICRAF,
Distinguished Guests,
The participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to join you at this occasion to witness the recognition of tree planting efforts by fellow farmers. As you are aware, natural forest resources are continuously being depleted to give way to crop production. In most intensively farmed areas, natural forests do not exist at all. Since we will continue to need wood for fuel and building, it is evident that we will have to plant trees on our own farms to meet these needs.

It is pleasing to note that tree planting has been established as a cultural tradition in the Kenyan community. This is portrayed by the great demand for seedlings from existing tree nurseries and actual numbers throughout our country during every annual tree planting week. This tradition has gone a long way in ensuring that the community is able to obtain firewood, construction timber, fruits and fodder from individual farms.

My frequent visits to Kenya Forestry Research Institute has enabled me to have close contact with Forestry Research Scientists and Technology Developers. I have therefore come to learn that Social Forestry refers to all forestry activities carried out by resource users themselves at community and farm level. This is therefore, a forestry practice by farmers themselves and is oriented to ensuring that needed forest/tree based resources are available when required. Social Forestry, like subsistence farming is therefore an essential practice which will enable the rural communities to remain self sufficient in fuelwood, fodder and timber. It is important that rural communities become self sufficient in tree products because gazetted forests account for only 3.7% of our total land area. 95% of our tree cover is to be found in the range areas consisting of mainly woodland in ecosystems that are fragile and easily denuded. The country must guard against the destruction of such woodland in order to avoid desertification and loss of our biological diversification which conserves important wild genetic material for prosperity.

Loss of tree cover often accompanies loss of lesser flora and fauna and changes microclimate with often deleterious effects on our watersheds and catchment areas.

The government recognises farmers' tree planting efforts and the occasion that we are celebrating today, the Third Social Forestry Prize Day, is yet one of the complementary inter-agency efforts in promoting of on-farm, tree growing. This is not only a prize awarding forum but one that enables close interactions between various actors in tree planting promotion.

I have already mentioned the importance of Social Forestry for subsistence. However, in order that we continue to benefit from Social Forestry practices there is need to spread the knowledge and information to others who have not had the chance of participating in the competition. This is a task in which we as farmers based in rural areas can effectively complement government efforts. You can educate other farmers on its benefits and also technically assist by providing them with tree planting know-how.

The Kenya Forestry Research Institute has done a commendable job since its creation a few years ago. It has come up with technologies for growing and propagating seedlings of important indigenous trees that have been difficult to grow hitherto. In the important area of Agroforestry KEFRI has identified several species of multipurpose trees (MPI) i.e. trees that can be grown for timber, fodder, soil fertility and even soil erosion control. It is important that we make use of these multipurpose trees to enhance our farm productivity.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to extend the government of Kenya's gratitude to the government of Japan which has been providing the resources for the mutually cordial Project. Relationship between the two countries has made it possible for us to work and collaborate consultatively with rural based farmers in a forum such as this one. This is an achievement that we are all proud of and grateful to the government of Japan.

It is a pleasure, ladies and gentlemen, to be with you this afternoon and join efforts with the participants at this occasion in the promotion of tree growing on-farm.

Thank you!

6 Closing Session

Dr J.A. Odera, the Director of KEFRI moved a vote of thanks to all participants as follows;

VOIE OF THANKS BY THE DIRECTOR, KEFRI

DR J.A. ODERA

The Minister for Research Science and Technology Hon. G. Muhoho,

His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan,

The Director of Research in the MRST Dr. Ngulo,

The Director-General of ICRAF,

The Chief Adviser - SFIP,

The Master of Ceremony,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

To every beginning there is an end and all is well that ends well. So what started this morning with vigour and enthusiasm has once again come to a clear demonstration that we have had a very successful day. Mine now is to thank all most sincerely for the success of the day.

Yaani kurudisha mpongezi na heko kwa wale wote ambao walihusiana na sherehe yetu ya tatu ya Social Forestry Prize Day.

Firstly, I would like to thank the farmers and the many groups that participated in this programme from the very beginning, and those of you who have come along to share with us your knowledge, your many experiences not only indicating or demonstrating commitment to the course but a clear expression of Kenyan drive and initiative in following directions and examples provided by our leaders. We have seen here today Hon. Minister Sir, examples where indigenous technologies are developed by the farmers themselves. So it has been a great learning experience. So to our farmers who have participated today, those who have come up with awards, those who have

come up with certificates and those who have just participated lets give them one big hand clap

To the adjudicators that were led by Mr. G. Ochieng accompanied by Mr. Mbengeru, Mr. E. Barrow, Mr. P. Ongugo and Mr. Okabe. Theirs as Mr. Ochieng the chairman confessed was not a simple or an easy task. It was challenging but as he said stimulating. They patiently listened to the presentations, examined the slides that were shown, and in the end assisted us in coming up with gradation of performance by our own farmers. So to them our thanks are due. Hand claps

To the organisers: the organisers of this function started their work many months back, they patiently went through mail, in the field, in the farms chaired by, I gather Mr. P. Mung'ala, assisted by Mrs. Kaudia, Miss Doris Muta, Miss. Wacira and many others. The DFOs in the various areas where the work was done, the foresters, the administration, and many others that we would not be able to mention at this occasion, to them our thanks are due.

To the Director-General of ICRAI who kindly allowed us the use of the premise and indeed the hospitality of their office in receiving our chief guests, we are simply thankful and please convey our appreciation to the director-General when he gets back.

To his Excellency the Ambassador of Japan, in fact I will definitely fall short of words to clearly go through the many items, many areas, and activities that your country has assisted Kenya in general and KEFRI in particular, through a very difficult face of its establishment from inception 4 years back. We thank you also for finding time in your busy schedule and coming along to be with us at this function. This is a clear testimony that you are concerned, you are committed to the success of the joint initiative and collaborative effort between the three major players. The three major players in this programme are the forestry service led by the Deputy of Forestry, two experts, our colleagues from Japan, the technical Chief Adviser and scientist of KEFRI. The three players, pardon me for omitting one group, the beneficiary, the farmer. It is a clear testimony that you are working with us and please kindly convey our thanks and appreciation to your Government.

Finally, the Minister Sir, your Excellency the Ambassador of Japan, the directors, distinguished guests, the organisers, ladies and gentlemen.

I often find it difficult to be able to express appropriately our profound thanks to your Hon. Minister, for the support you've continued to give research in this country, not just to KIEFRI per say. I have had occasions to attend a number of functions that you have attended and also of the functions of the research institute you have attended yourself in person whenever you are called upon and your duties allowed we thank you most profoundly for this support. We thank you sir for many challenges that you have given us.

I on my part have had brief exchanges with you on some very in depth technical issues, touching on programme development, touching on structuring of our research and development, management and technical content and more importantly I do recall most vividly sir when you launched the KIEFRI plan up to 2,000 sometime last year. You have made it very clear that you would like to see research in this country starting with involvement of the beneficiaries from the very beginning, involving them through the whole process of conducting of research and development, through the on-station face, through the on-farm validation face and finally at the adaptation face. Hon. Minister this involves the players that you have seen represented today, it is a clear testimony that we are taking your challenges, your directions quite seriously. As for now KIEFRI is coming up with a master plan. The master plan clearly reflects that research priorities must be drawn by the four players, the actors namely, the major resources managers including the forest service and other Government agencies of land use, the researchers, the beneficiaries (the farmers) all coming together and developing a research priority process and undertaking the research, through the whole channel and avenue and processes of development of technologies and later on following to determine why there have been successes in certain areas and failures in other areas. Sir we are extremely indebted to you that you continue to be with us and for coming along this afternoon. Today was a very busy day, I was in your office a little earlier on, apprehensive as whether you may make it or not, but your office had assured me that you are on the way.

Please continue supporting research because as you have rightly said that development in this country must be spear headed by results of research, tested and found to be effective for benefiting not just forest development within the forest reserve but also in the farmers own farms. Thank you very much sir.

7 Post-mortem Meeting

The meeting was held on 3rd May 1991 to review the event. The minutes were as follows;

THE MINUTES OF THE POST-MORTEM MEETING FOR THE 3RD NATIONAL SOCIAL FORESTRY PRIZE DAY

Present

Mr H. Kashima	-	SFTP/JICA	(In the chair)
Miss D. Mutta	-	SFTP/KEFRI	
Mr M. Mukolwe	-	SFTP/KEFRI	
Mr P. Baraza	-	KEFRI/InfoDoc	
Mr M.T.E. Mbuvi	-	KEFRI	
Mr A. Mwamburi	-	SFTP/KEFRI	(Taking Notes)

The meeting was held at the conference room in the Muguga National Social Forestry Training Centre at 10:30 a.m. on 3rd May 1991.

The following issues were discussed;

1 Field Survey

1.1 Staff allowance

It was suggested that the Forest Department should shoulder the allowance for its staff in the preparation for the next Prize Day. This matter was to be referred to the next TICM for further discussions.

1.2 Field Extension Staff

(a) It was noted that some extension staff was not prepared for the spot survey and even uncooperative. It was suggested that sufficient information would be given to them in advance to prepare them for the activities.

- (b) Time was also a constraint i.e. there was less time to talk to the farmers since the distances were enormous. It was suggested that more time allocation in term of days per district would be desirable.

1.3 Transport

KEFRI's transport arrangements for the event were not satisfactory. This will have to be improved next year.

1.4 Questionnaire

It was suggested that the questionnaire used did not have a 'flow' and hence needs to be improved for the next Prize Day.

(action: Mr Mwamburi)

2 Preparations for the actual day

2.1 Banner

This issue had not arisen in the working group and hence it was missing. It should be considered early enough for the next Prize Day.

2.2 Catering

It was suggested that KEFRI catering staff could provide an equally efficient catering services as the HIRED team. This means that arrangement would be made towards the same (catering services) during the next Prize Day.

2.3 Punctuality

Punctuality on the actual day (25th April) was noted to have been poor. This would be improved during the next Prize Day.

2.4 Invitation

(a) It was suggested that only names would be used leaving out the courtesy titles like Mr, Mrs, Miss, etc. to avoid the confusion that ensued.

(b) Even though some of the invited guests did not turn up, they would be invited again during the next Prize Day.

2.5 Rehearsal

More staff should have been in for rehearsal.

2.6 Closing Ceremony

(a) It was suggested that comments should come before the speeches by the main guests.

(b) Main points about presentations should be given to the guests before the commencement of the closing ceremony started. These could be given to the typist as 'para-bits'.

2.7 T-shirts

Could be given at prize awarding time or at registration.

2.8 Visitors book

It was suggested that a lady should be present to give the chief guests the visitors book as soon as they arrive.

3 General Comments

Mr Kashima had the opinion that the event was successful bearing in mind that 100 participants had attended the event.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 11:45 p.m.

Annex I List of the Participants

Guest of Honour

- 1 Hon. George K. Muhoho Minister for Research, Science and Technology

Main Guests

- 2 H.E. M. Kumagai Ambassador of Japan
- 3 Dr B. Lundgren Director General, ICRAF

Awarding Committee Members

- 4 G.O. Ochieng ID (in the chair)
- 5 E. Barrow ICRAF
- 6 M. Mbegera MoA
- 7 P. Ongugo KEFRI
- 8 H. Okabe SFTF/JICA

Presenters

- 9 G. Gitonga Meru Farmer
- 10 B. Mung'aya Meru DFEO
- 11 Rose. M. Isiolo Farmer
- 12 E.W. Wachira Isiolo Farmer
- 13 E. Wangu Isiolo Farmer
- 14 L.C. Sundu Isiolo DFEO
- 15 Julia Wanjiru Murang'a Farmer
- 16 Veronicah Wairimu Murang'a Farmer
- 17 Phones Mideva Murang'a Farmer
- 18 Nguyo S.K. Murang'a A. DFO
- 19 Mark Gitete Embu Farmer
- 20 Amos Ileri Embu Farmer
- 21 Njue Njagi Embu Farmer
- 22 S.K. Sinei Embu A. DFO
- 23 D.K. Mbogo Embu DFEO
- 24 Harun Ndiritu Nyeri Farmer
- 25 Robert Wambugu Nyeri Farmer
- 26 E.W. Wambugu Nyeri A. DFO
- 27 S.K. Wamunyasia Nyeri DFEO

Organizers

30	J.A. Odera	KEFRI
31	A. Kaudia	KEFRI
32	M. Mukolwe	KEFRI
33	D. Mutta	KEFRI
34	A. Mwamburi	KEFRI
35	G. Aoko	KEFRI
36	P. Baraza	KEFRI
37	N. Muniafu	KEFRI
38	W.K. Bii	KEFRI
39	S. Kamonde	KEFRI
40	J.N. Njue	KEFRI
41	G. Awino	KEFRI
42	M. Kasango	KEFRI
43	M. Were	KEFRI
44	J.O. Ang'wenyi	FD
45	P. Mung'ala	FD
46	S.K. Mukundi	FD
47	Kihara J.N.	FD
48	H. Kashima	SFTP
49	M. Ozawa	SFTP
50	K. Kato	SFTP
51	S. Ogawa	SFTP
52	F. Imai	SFTP

Other Guests

53	Bruce Scott	ICRAF
54	Takenari Okubo	Embassy of Japan
55	S.K. Waithaka	Chief, KARI
56	M. Opuba	N.C.S.T.
57	Moses Anami	ITAP
58	S.M. Oduori	DRSRS
59	C.H.K. Muchoki	DRSRS
60	P.M. Ndonge	NES

61	Clement K. Kariuki	KFFHC
62	Seneliwa A.K.	Moi Univ.
63	R. Ngunjiri	KBC
64	F. Masai	KBC
65	H. Kandwa	KBC
66	J.M. Njigoya	FD
67	A.N. Wacira	FD
68	M.N. Muchiri	KEFRI
69	Makanji	KEFRI
70	L.M. Mwangi	KEFRI
71	Kioko I.	KEFRI
72	Muga M.O.	KEFRI
73	A.L. Owuor	KEFRI
74	Ndegwa	KEFRI
75	Njenga M.G.	KEFRI
76	J.G. Mwangi	KEFRI
77	William Omondi	KEFRI
78	J. Wanjiku	KEFRI
79	D. Ochieng	KEFRI
80	Anne Mbora	KEFRI
81	Abayo B.A.	KEFRI
82	D.O. Nyamai	KEFRI
83	C.O. Ndege	KEFRI
84	Jacinta M. Kimiti	KEFRI
85	Joseph A. Sigei	KEFRI
86	R. Mwendandu	KEFRI
87	R.O. Nyambati	KEFRI
88	Paul Magondu	KEFRI
89	Dan Onyango	KEFRI
90	Lydia Nguri	KEFRI
91	Mbuvi M.T.E.	KEFRI
92	Lameck O. Sabaya	KEFRI
93	Akira Sakai	SFTP
94	Mitsuo Takahashi	SFTP
95	Susumu Hirao	SFTP
96	Nobuo Ishibashi	SFTP

THIRD SOCIAL FORESTRY PRIZE DAY SUPPLEMENT

Kenya/Japan Social Forestry Training Project is holding its third national forestry prize day today at the International Council for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) at Gigiri, Nairobi.

The Minister for Research Science and Technology, George Muhoho, will give the key note address and award prizes.

The day has been marked every year since 1989 when the first ceremony was held in Nairobi at the French Cultural Centre. Last year's event was held at Irati in Gwira and so is this year's.

The day is part of the wider social forestry training project which aims at promoting forestry activities for the people by the people. The project's headquarters are at Mugu, Social Forestry Training Project Centre and has a regional centre in Kitui.

The project organises a competition among farmers whose activities in forestry appear to be above the average concern in their localities. The objective of the competition is to promote nation-wide awareness of social forestry and enhance rural tree planting by recognising outstanding activities of the people at the village level.

Participants for this year's event have been drawn from Isiolo, Embu, Meru, Nyeri and Murang'a. The judges are drawn from leading forestry research scientists, foresters and the chief adviser in the social forestry training project.

The event is jointly sponsored by the Japan International Co-operation Agency (Jica), and the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (Kefri). Co-ordination and implementation is done by Jica Kefri, and the forest department and Natural Resources.

What is social forestry? This is a common question justifiably asked for the term social - takes prominence in the terminology - hence implying a closer interaction between man and the vital resource - trees. Indeed social forestry is a policy concept that governs tree growing by the people within their individual or communal settings.

It differs from plantation forestry which is characterised by monocultural plantations of species objectively grown for industrial exploitation.

It therefore includes practices such as planting of trees in wood lots within homesteads boundary planting, tree planting for aesthetic purposes - along road sides, in homes - and so on for provision of forest resources based needs on a sustainable basis.

The prize day is an annual event by the Kenya/Japan Social Forestry Project and its objective is to award tree growing groups and individuals within the districts selected every year with appropriate tools suitable for promotion of tree cultivation and tree nursery establishment and management.

The procedure for selection of participating groups involves identification of the group/individual by the local district forest extension officer, field visit to the identified groups/individuals by a select team of Kenyan and Japanese experts for assessments of on-ground performance. The thoroughness of selection procedure ensures an equal opportunity for all participating, a chance to win a tool, a set of tools etc.

The other year, saw the participation of Kajiado, Kiambu, Machakos, Kitui and Nakuru districts. Last year Narok, Samburu, Nyandarua, Baringo and Elgeyo Marakwet districts were covered. This year participants come from Isiolo, Embu, Meru, Nyeri and Murang'a. It is anticipated that all the districts in the country will be covered in the course of time.

In response to a request by the Government, on the establishment of the social forestry training project, the Japanese Government, through the Japan International Co-operation Agency (Jica), offered technical support and capital grant aid, and Kenya Forestry Research Institute

tula (Kefri) was commissioned as the implementing agency.

Under this grant, approximately Sh142 million have been used for the establishment of two forestry centres namely, Mugu and Kitui.

The former being a national research and training centre, and the latter a regional training centre but with a national mandate particularly for development of social forestry in the semi arid areas.

Construction works for both centres were completed by the end of March, 1988. Under the technical co-operation scheme, the main phase of the project was started in November 1987.

The project places special emphasis on the social forestry development in the semi-arid areas because of the following reasons:

Among the various ecological zones of Kenya, the most vulnerable and calling for immediate action is the semi-arid area which is experiencing an influx of population from high potential areas of the semi-arid area, in addition to the fact that it is under mounting pressure on land, is characterised by a harsh environment, low biological productivity. Coupled with the prevailing inappropriate land use practices, the situation is likely to lead to irreparable environmental damage and degradation.

The main phase of the project consists of two sub-projects, Training and Pilot Forests. The project carries out training activities at both Mugu and Kitui centres.

From May 31, 1988, the day the training centre was handed over to Kenya up to end of March 1990, the centre has held one national seminar, one social forestry and 11 training/refresher courses in social forestry and one national event (Social Forestry Prize Day). The objectives and the level of the participants of these courses

of the Eastern Provinces.

The training activities of this centre covers forestry extension workers' level, plus active farmers and women group leaders at the grass root level and tries to give them a systematic and practical training in social forestry including various subjects needed to tackle the problems of the semi-arid areas.

From the time the project was initiated and up to March, 1990, three leading farmers courses, four teachers courses and six nursery, foreman's and women groups courses have been held with an attendance of 352 persons.

The pilot forest sub-project has been going on since 1988 with the financial support from Jica of about Sh3.3 million every year. This project is carrying out two main activities.

One is the establishment of a trial forest plantation of about 300 ha for the selection of appropriate tree species, and development of planting and tending techniques in semi-arid areas.

Two is the social forestry extension to the nearby rural areas. In this regard it has provided 8,000 seedlings and helped to establish 40 ha of woodlots and continued technical assistance, offering guidance to individual farmers, schools and other groups.

The local people receive guidance and support for soil conservation and other related activities.

Besides inviting voluntary groups of people for training, the sub-project promotes tree planting (people's forests) for their benefit. It supports them by offering technical guidance and material support.

It should be noted that the pilot forest activities are closely linked with the training activities of the Kitui Regional Centre so as to maximize their production potential.

Their documentation and commercialisation

areas of Kitui.

Commemorative tree planting is more or less a symbolic gesture to mark the co-operation between Kenya and Japan in the field of social forestry development.

To date, a total of about 2,087 trees have been planted and are so far growing vigorously. As a result, the Nairobi - Mombasa highway will be adorned with lines of attractive trees where many benefits will be derived, abate to the pedestrians and beauty among others.

The project emphasises strongly on the role of research as a tool in fostering social forestry development. In this regard it has identified and commissioned research under the following titles:

Medical and nutritious indigenous Plants Research. Research has already taken off and the following activities have been accomplished or are in progress:

• Preliminary survey on the identification of the major medicinal plants, poisonous plants, vegetables and fruits indigenous to Kenya is in progress in Loitokook Division of Kajiado District.

• Logistics of strengthening a medicinal plants herbarial garden and indigenous medicinal plants nursery in Nakuyu Division of Murang'a District have been finalised and the project shall be launched by the Minister for Research Science and Technology any time from now.

• Logistics of Kefri spearheading the establishment of a proposed herbal college and pharmaceutical industry in Matuu (SOKIL) East of Thika along Calaisa road are under review.

• Otherwise, the long term objectives of the medicine, and nutritious indigenous plants research is:

- Identification of potential uses of indigenous plants of Kenya.
- To develop methods for their effective in situ and ex situ conservation.
- Increasing their production potential.
- Their documentation and commercialisation.

