

# Intensified Social Forestry Project *For Semi-arid Areas in Kenya*



Forest Department  
Japan International Cooperation Agency  
Kenya Forestry Research Institute



# Background

This project, the *Intensified Social Forestry Project in Semi-arid Areas (ISFP)*, is as a result of the continued desire by the Government of the Republic of Kenya in seeking ways and means of implementing forestry development in the expansive arid and semi arid lands (ASALs) of the country. While the 1994 Kenya Forestry Master Plan (KFMP) envisioned farm forestry as a practice that is viable in the high and medium potential areas, past projects such as the Social Forestry Extension Model Development Project (SOFEM), have clearly demonstrated the viability of farm forestry development in the ASALs.

In addition, the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation (2003 - 2007), which is the current national development plan for Kenya identifies the development of the ASALs as a key area for accelerated development to offset pressure from state forests located in high and medium rainfall areas.

The ASALs cover about 80% of the total land surface and are home for about 25% of the human population. The numerous woodlands, bushlands and wooded grasslands estimated at 37 million hectares, have varying potentials in terms of timber and non-wood tree products.

However, the prevailing low technology production systems, coupled with the unreliable rainfall regimes,

the ASALs are characterised with poor agricultural



*Baobab tree in Semi-arid area.*

productivity and high incidences of poverty. The threat to the livelihoods of the inhabitants of the ASALs is thus real which calls for practical interventions so as to improve on the livelihood conditions of the people in these areas.



*Farmer managed Melia volkensi Farm Forest*

The involvement of Government of Japan (GOJ) in the forestry sector in Kenya dates back to the middle 1980's. The initial assistance was through the Social Forestry Training Project (SFTP), which was implemented from 1985 to 1997. SFTP's main focus was on technology development on tree nursery establishment and tree planting in the semi-arid areas and to provide training in social forestry. SOFEM followed SFTP and was implemented for five years ending November 2002. The main output of SOFEM was the development of a model through the establishment of farm forests by the local residents. During the terminal evaluation in 2002, the JICA review mission recommended the necessity to give further support to the extension component so that more impact could be created in the development of farm forestry in the semi-arid areas.

It is in this context that the Government of Kenya (GOK) requested for technical cooperation under this project from the Government of Japan.

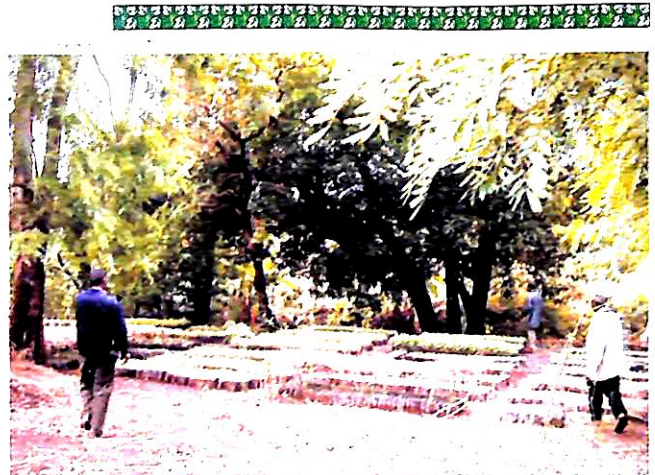
# Project Outline

## Project Title and Duration

The project title is *Intensified Social Forestry Project in Semi-arid Areas (ISFP)* and will run for five (5) years over the period 2004 to 2009.

## Executing Organizations

1. *Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife* has the overall responsibility for project administration and implementation.
2. *Forest Department (FD)* is the lead managerial and technical implementation agency.
3. *Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)* is a collaborating implementation agency.
4. *Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)* advises and supports the managerial and technical implementation.



FD Field Tree Nursery

## Expected Outputs

1. Institutional and technical capacities for social forestry extension in FD are strengthened at headquarters level.
2. Social forestry extension activities among individual farmers and farmer groups are promoted in Kitui, Mbeere and Tharaka districts.
3. Farmers and other stakeholders obtain enough practical knowledge and techniques in Kitui, Mbeere and Tharaka districts.
4. Information on social forestry extension and related issues is shared among the stakeholders in semi-arid areas.



Signing the Project agreement for ISFP

## Project Locations

1. Project head office: Forest Department Headquarters, Karura Forest, Off Kiambu Road
2. Project field offices: District Forest Offices in Kitui, Mbeere and Tharaka districts

## Project Beneficiaries

1. Direct beneficiaries: Inhabitants in Kitui, Mbeere and Tharaka district
2. Indirect beneficiaries: Inhabitants in semi-arid areas of Kenya

## Overall Goal of the Project

Living standards of the rural people of semi-arid areas are improved while enhancing sustainable environmental conservation.

## Project Purpose

Individual farmers, farmer groups and other stakeholders intensify social forestry practices in semi-arid areas.



Farm forest establishment: Tree Nursery

# Project Activities

## 1. At the Forest Department (FD) headquarters level

- ❖ Carry out baseline survey for situation analysis.
- ❖ Prepare practical guidelines for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- ❖ Conduct training for FD staff.
- ❖ Monitor extent of institutional and technical strengthening.

## 2. In Kitui, Mbeere and Tharaka districts

- ❖ Carry out baseline survey for situation analysis
- ❖ Improve extension staff activities
- ❖ Facilitate planning, implementation and evaluation of social forestry and related activities with individual farmers and farmer group's initiatives.
- ❖ Facilitate farmer to farmer extension



*Farm forest establishment: Fruit Orchard*



*Farmer to Farmer extension*

- ❖ Organize open days of project activities and demonstration plot for farmers and other stakeholders.
- ❖ Monitor the extent of adoption of practical knowledge and techniques.

## 3. In the other semi-arid areas

- ❖ Carry out baseline survey for situation analysis
- ❖ Diversify methods for information sharing.
- ❖ Hold workshops and seminars.
- ❖ Identify potential marketing incentives for social forestry products and services.
- ❖ Monitor extent of information sharing



*Dissemination of information.*

- ❖ Facilitate network among farmer groups
- ❖ Monitor extent of the promotion of social forestry extension activities.
- ❖ Develop farmers friendly techniques.
- ❖ Identify useful local forestry related knowledge.
- ❖ Develop technical manuals.
- ❖ Provide technical assistance for diverse needs of individual farmers, farmer groups and other stakeholders.
- ❖ Maintain and improve Tiva demonstration plot.
- ❖ Identify and asses practical field demonstration sites and need for promotion.
- ❖ Undertake cross visits among individual farmers and farmer groups.

# Joint Coordinating Committee

## Functions

- To formulate annual work plan of the Project based on the Plan of Operations within the framework of the Government of Kenya (GOK) and Government of Japan (GOJ) agreement (Record of Discussion).
- To review the results of the annual work plan and progress of the Project.
- To exchange views and ideas on major issues that may arise during the implementation period of the Project.
- Project Coordinator, FD as Project Manager
- Kitui Centre Director, KEFRI as Project Co-Manager
- Provincial Forest Officer, Eastern Province, FD
- Head, Farm Forestry and Extension Branch
- Head Dryland Forestry Branch
- DFO, Kitui district, FD
- DFO, Mbeere district, FD
- DFO, Tharaka district, FD
- Relevant personnel accepted by Chairperson. If necessary

## Committee members

- Chairperson:
  - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife
- Members:
  - Kenyan Side:
    - Desk Officer responsible for JICA, Ministry of Finance
    - Chief Conservator of Forests, FD as Project Director
    - Director, KEFRI as Project Co-Director
  - Japanese side:
    - Chief Advisor
    - Project Coordinator
    - Expert(s)
    - Resident Representative of Kenya Office, JICA
    - Relevant Expert(s) and staff member(s) accepted by Chairperson, if necessary Official(s) of Embassy of Japan in Kenya may attend the Committee meetings as observer(s)

## Project Organisation

