



**KENYA FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
KITUI REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE**

**BAMBOO TRAINING FOR
KILUNGU DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE**



**Stakeholders' Training Report on
Bamboo Use, Propagation and Management**

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**STAKEHOLDERS' TRAINING ON
BAMBOO PROPAGATION, USE AND MANAGEMENT**

Introduction

Kitui Centre started undertaking propagation of bamboo from culm cuttings in 2007/08 financial year. Establishment of Bamboo demonstration farms was started in November 2008. In 2011, the Centre started training farmers and other stakeholders on how to bamboo propagation, use and management in the farms.

The Centre was able to train more than the one group targeted in the performance contract on bamboo. Most of the stakeholders trained were farmers representing various Self Help Groups, Farmer field School groups, Focal development area and community forest Associations. Other stakeholders trained were officers from the Ministry of Agricultural, Kenya forest Service and NEMA most of them being facilitators of study tours and other types of training. This training report mainly addresses training done for members of Kilungu District Agricultural Agricultural committee during their education tour to KEFRI Kitui and other farms in Mwingi and Kitui Central Districts.

The objective of the study tour was to learn more on bamboo seedling production, environmental conservation and uses of bamboo plants. The training was done at the centre nursery and a field visit was made to Bamboo Demonstration farm of Masila Kindiiu in Kisasi location, Kitui district as shown in the plate below.



Plate1: Kilungu District Agricultural Committee members in Bamboo demonstration Trial

The Farmers were highly interested in engaging in bamboo seedling production for planting in their own farms and also for commercial purposes. Therefore as recommended by farmers and other stakeholders trained during this tour, it is important for KEFRI to extent this training to more farmers and other stakeholders such as KFS staff working in the nurseries not only in the dry lands but also in the highlands where a variety of bamboo species are known to perform very well. Farmers and stakeholders from other government ministries consent to the fact bamboo has a great potential of enhancing income generation for farmers as it does not take as long time as indigenous and most exotic trees to mature and be ready for use.

Requests for bamboo seedlings to be planted along the river banks by farmers in Kilungu and other districts in the Eastern region are increasing. Therefore, it is necessary for training on bamboo propagation to be followed up by training of carpenters and other entrepreneurs on use of bamboo for furniture making and other commercial uses to ensure that farmers have a ready market for bamboo culms in their local market.

Another important recommendation made by MOA officers that require KEFRI attention is bamboo water use efficiency research. This should be done for various species so that the most adaptable species to dry lands with high economic gains to dry land communities is identified. Farmers and other stakeholders who are knowledgeable and have experience on use of bamboo are also requesting for further research on preservation of bamboo raw materials (culms) against beetles that have been observed as very destructive making the bamboo furniture to be short lived. KEFRI Karura has been undertaking this research and should avail the information to the trainers for dissemination to the farmers and other stakeholders.

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| NAME | SEX | DESIGNATION |
|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| STEPHEN NIU | M | CHAIRMAN/FARMER-KILUNGU |
| JOHN MBONDO | M | FARMER – KILUNGU |
| BILHA MUKEKU | F | FARMER –KILUNGU |
| GERALD KYENGO | M | FARMER –KILUNGU |
| AGNES MATIVO | F | FARMER –KILUNGU |
| JOHN MALUKI | M | DAO– MOA KILUNGU |
| WLBERFORCE MWANGI | M | TRAINING OFFICER, MOA KILUNGU |
| PETER OWITI | M | PROJECTS M&E OFFICER, MOA-KILUNGU |
| EMMAH GICHEHA | F | DO – KILUNGU |
| LEAH NYAMBURA WANJOHI | F | HOME ECONS OFFICER, MOA-KILUNGU |