



**KENYA FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
KIBWEZI RESEARCH STATION**

**MUKAU FIELD DAY HELD AT KIV1SU'S FARM
KIBWEZI ON 20TH JANUARY 2011**



By: DAVID MUCHIRI
JUNE 2011

Introduction

Field days meetings are used by Krefri, stakeholders and collaborators to disseminate information's on Agro forestry and Agricultural technologies.

. The aim is to expose farmers and service providers to successful and relevant technologies that are demand driven and meet pressing needs of farmers by raising their incomes and promoting food security.

The 2010 – 2011 field day organized by Kefri Kibwezi was held on 20/01/2011 at Mr. Daniel Kivisu's farm. The farm is located in Nyayo village, Ngulu Sub-Location, Kikumbulyu location of Kibwezi District.

Attendance

165 people attended the field day. Among them were a few pupils and teachers from Nyayo primary school.

summary of attendance.

Category of participants	Male	Female	Total
Farmers	25	52	77
Pupils of nyayo primary school	31	34	65
Teachers	2	1	3
Ministry of Agriculture	3	1	4
Ministry of Livestock Development	2	1	3
Twiga Chemicals	1	0	1
USAID	1	0	1
Forest service	1	0	1
Kefri Kibwezi	6	2	8
Kefri Kitui	6	0	1
Provincial Administration	0	1	1
Total	73	92	165

Mode of communication

Kamba and Kiswahili and to a lesser extent English languages were used considering that the majority of those who took part come from the local community.

Theme of the field day

The main theme of this year's field day is to share ideas and opinions on diversification of Agroforestry technologies with emphasis on the tree component for increased and income and food supply.

farm background

Mr Daniel Kivisu's farm is about 25 km away from Kibwezi District headquarters. it is about 300m away from Nyayo shopping centre along Kibwezi – Kitui Main road.

The farmer had been trying to establish tree plantations but with little success. This made him to seek advice from a friend (Mr. Kituku) who is a core Kefri farmer. Mr. Kituku introduced the farmer to Kefri office in Kibwezi his persistence to Kefri offices was rewarded with a demonstration establishment of about 15 acres under melia Volkensii and fruit Orchard in December, 2009. Since then he has demonstrated his ability of management and maintenance of farm .

Exhibition.

The participants were divided into two groups during the viewing of the 8 technologies in the farm. The resource persons were strategically placed along the technologies.

The following were the exhibition stations for the field day

Technology/Activity	Organizations involved
Wood lot/Melia volkensii	- KEFRI -KFS
Fruits	KEFRI, MOA
Soil and water conservation	KEFRI , MOA
Crops	MOA
Home economics/food utilization	MOA
Mechanical water harvesting	KEFRI
Pasture improvement and fodder trees	Livestock development
Post harvesting handling and crop protection	Twiga Chemicals



Discussions and speeches

- Deputy District Agriculture officer who was also the guest of honor, stressed the importance of diversifying farm enterprises due to climate shift. He said time when farmers could rely on maize for subsistence and as cash crop is gone. He asked farmers to plant different crop varieties especially drought resistance to spread the risk of crop failure. He also talked about Gadam sorghum that was being issued free of charge by the ministry of Agriculture in partnership with East Africa Breweries Limited (E.A.B.L). He asked farmers to organize themselves into groups in order to benefit. He told farmers that Gadam sorghum has ready market with East Breweries Limited.
- District Deputy Livestock Production Officer told the gathering that pastures is becoming less available within and between seasons. The vegetation composition for fodder is also disappearing at an alarming rate,hence the need to improve pasture and fodder for feeding our livestock. Storage of crop residues was also stressed. He also gave a brief on pasture establishment,management and

harvesting techniques. He asked farmers to use the locally available grass species for pasture establishment.

- The representative of Kefri centre Director Kitui, made brief remarks on dryland tree establishment, management and tending techniques without which mass failure could be witnessed. He also talked of water harvesting structures to enhance the tree growth.
- The assistance chief of Ngulu sub- Location said that time for relying on relief handouts from the Government should be discouraged. She noted that the local farmers have the potential to produce enough food, if what she had seen in Kivisu's farm is done by other farmers. She requested the farmers to make use of the Government officers for fast development.



Conclusion.

There is growing interest in technology adoption in this area. This has been made possible because of the successful field days that have been used to reach many farmers.