



The Kenya Forestry Research Institute

KEFRI conducts and disseminates forestry research findings

The Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) is a public research institution established in 1986 under the Science and Technology Act Cap 250 of the Laws of Kenya. Its mandate is to conduct research in forestry and disseminate the research findings.

The vision of KEFRI is to be a centre of excellence in forest science through technology development, deployment and dissemination of scientific information and its mission is to conduct research and provide information and technologies for sustainable development of forests and allied natural resources.

KEFRI is mandated to:

- *Conduct research in forestry and allied natural resources*
- *Disseminate research findings*
- *Co-operate with other research bodies within and outside Kenya*
- *Establish partnership with other organisations and institutions of higher learning in training and on matters of forestry research.*

The core values and principles that KEFRI embraces while carrying out its mandate includes the promotion of **Teamwork** to enhance collective participation of its staff to achieve its goals. It also conducts all its activities with **Integrity** in order to uphold fairness, openness, transparency and accountability within the Institute and in provision of services to clients. Building strong synergistic **Collaboration** linkages with stakeholders and partners and constant sensitivity to costs and benefits of all activities by the institute for **Financial justification** and **Impacts** are two more principles. Last, the Institute has the **Maintaining of a Clean Environment** as a core value.

KEFRI has an objective to generate knowledge and technologies for farm forestry natural forests, drylands forestry and forest plantations. It also endeavours to strengthen research and management capacity and to document and disseminate scientific information. Improvement of corporate profile and strengthening of linkages and

partnerships is also a goal.

Through farm forestry, KEFRI aims at diversifying the supply of forest products, improving productivity and enhancing environmental conservation in farmlands. The current research priorities in farm forestry focus on developing technologies, generating information to guide policy decision, developing market systems for tree products and improving supply of high quality tree seed.

Natural forests are important in the protection of water catchments areas and conservation of biodiversity. The Natural Forests Programme undertakes research to guide conservation and management of natural forests. The main research areas include: Participatory Forest Management (PFM), policy research, determining values of natural forests, improving degraded forest areas and utilisation of non-wood forest products.

Dryland forest, woodland and shrub land cover about 80 per cent of Kenya. Dryland forestry research aims at enhancing effective and

sustainable management of forest/woodland resources in arid and semi arid areas. Generating information to improve utilisation of wood and non-wood dry land resources and developing dryland rehabilitation technologies are priority areas.

Plantation Forests are important in the production of industrial wood. Forest plantation focuses on research to improve management and productivity of forest plantations to meet industrial demand. Improving the supply of high quality propagation material, reducing loss of plantations due to pests, diseases, human interferences, fires and game damage, determining economic/ financial analysis of silvicultural operations, improving the harvesting and utilisation of wood and non-wood forest products and diversifying plantation species are all priority areas.

The Service Programme provides supportive services to the technical programmes. The following units implement its activities:

- ***Information Dissemination and Publications***
- ***Social Forestry Training***
- ***Wood Production at Muguga***
- ***Forest Products Processing and Marketing Workshop***

The Partnership and Network Programme develops and coordinates networks and enhances effective partnerships with collaborating institutions within and outside the region. The Tree Seed Programme deals with tree seed research. KEFRI has a Tree Seed Centre, which deals with seed collection, testing, packaging and distribution.



KEFRI's pioneering research in *Melia volkensii*: Rooting of cuttings and sylvi cultural treatments (a trial plantaion in Tiva (Kitui District))

The Corporate and Public Relations Office is part of the Director's office and aims at enhancing, promoting and popularising the image of the Institute. The office also coordinates donor relations, work environment (EIA and EMS), consultancy and intellectual property issues.

The Institute has 85 postgraduate scientists, 80 foresters and technologists and has modern research and training facilities, which include catering and hostel facilities.

KEFRI has six regional research centres, four sub-centres and six field stations in various ecological zones of Kenya. The headquarters is in Muguga, 25 kilometres from Nairobi, along the Nairobi-Naivasha Road.

The regional centres are:

- **Muguga:** Covers the highlands east of the Rift Valley.
- **Londiani:** Covers the highlands west of the Rift Valley.
- **Maseno:** Covers the Lake Basin.
- **Gede:** Covers the coastal lowlands.

- **Kitui:** Covers the drylands.
- **Karura:** Has a national focus on forest products research to backstop the main research programme.

KEFRI has sub centres in Nyeri, Turbo, Turkana and Kibwezi. The parastatal also has field centres in Kuja River, Kitale, Kakamega, Ramogi, Marigat and Bura in Tana River.

KEFRI publishes a biannual newsletter jointly with the Forest Department. The publication is distributed free of charge or on an exchange basis. The parastatal also publishes technical and research notes regularly. The Institute's scientists have published over 500 papers in referred international journals and other scientific publications over the years. **M**

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