



KEFRI STAFF CLOSE YEAR 2010 IN STYLE



The Director KEFRI Dr. Ben Chikamai addressing KEFRI staff during end of year party

The Director KEFRI, Dr. Ben Chikamai, hosted a staff bonding and end of year party on 10th December 2010. In attendance were Permanent Secretary Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Mr. M.A.M. Wa-Mwachai (CBS), members KEFRI Board of Management, KEFRI pioneer Director Dr. Jeff Odera, Deputy Director KARI, representative of the area MP, Provincial Administration, leaders from neighboring key institutions and KEFRI staff.

The party was one of its kind ever organized within the institution and the day's activities included staff bonding, team building and entertainment by Cheche Sounds.

In his opening remarks the Director noted that KEFRI is a fraternity bound together by professional obligation and aims to work towards generation of technologies for forest development.

On this Issue

KEFRI close year 2010 in style	1
KEFRI excels in ASK shows	3
KEFRI Pension Scheme	3
KEFRI launches ISO 14001:2004	4
KEFRI hosts Japanese University students	5
Wambugu Agricultural Training Centre	5
Scientific Colloquium	6
Prosopis Control, Management and Utilisation	9
KEFRI Scientists Publish Research Findings	10
KEFRI new staff in 2010	11

"This event, which cascades to all regional centers, brings all cadres of staff together to celebrate our achievements which have brought KEFRI where it is today. It also helps us to bridge the gap between different cadres as we reflect on how we have shared experiences and challenges affecting the Institution", he stated.

The Director termed the year an eventful one where a number of achievements had been attained among them:

- Successful implementation of KEFRI Strategic Plan 2008-2012.
- Adoption of eco-region approach in implementing Research and Development at the regional centres.
- Re-branding of Gede Research Centre to Coast Eco-Region Research Programme was launched in September 2009.
- Lake Victoria Basin Eco-Region Research Programme and the Rift Valley Eco-Region Research Programme will be launched soon.

- Good performance through evaluation under the performance contracting.
- Institute's exemplary performance at the ASK shows and other publicity events.
- Staff analysis and rationalization
- Re-deployment of staff to deserving areas
- Strengthening of Centers through competitive placement of Centre Directors and Deputy Centre Directors.

Dr. Chikamai noted that to help the institute overcome challenges and strengthen teamwork, different communication channels such as executive meetings, scientific colloquia, Unions and Welfare meetings have been put in place. The Management has also enhanced staff strength through recruitment of new staff to various divisions.

Chairman's Remarks



Dr. James Onsando addressing KEFRI Staff

The Chairman KEFRI Board of Management, Dr. James Onsando, promised to propel the Institute to higher visibility through effective communication, creation of an enabling working environment and harmonization of terms and conditions of services.

He added that performance is going to be enhanced by set targets, identifying products of importance, value addition at production points, and appraisal of staff linked to rewards. He also outlined KEFRI's achievements that included;

- A budget of above 1 Billion in Research and Development.
- Payment of the Institute's debts previously owed to staff
- Enhancement of staff allowances.

The chief guest, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Forest and Wildlife, Mr. M.A.M Wa-Mwachai stated that dedicated officers are needed for our country to attain 10% forest cover. He promised to address the issue of forest cover by encouraging stakeholders to plant the right tree species. He said, "In comparison with other Institutions, KEFRI is doing well in performance contracting and in meeting its targets".

He congratulated the Board of Management for its commitment to the Institute and encouraged staff to continue working hard. He further informed the staff that doors are open at the Ministry whenever there are issues that need his attention.

During the occasion, KEFRI founder and pioneer Director Dr. Jeff Odera was lauded among other guests for his contribution to the institute's development. Dr. Odera visualized an institution to carry out forest research activities and presented the idea to the Kenya Government. The Government of Japan, through Japanese International Corporation Agency (JICA) also supported the idea and Kenya Forest Research Institute was created under Science and Technology Act (Cap 250) in 1986.



Dr. James Onsando (right) presents a gift to pioneer Director Dr. Jeff Odera in the presence of Mr. Wa-Mwachai (left) and Dr. Chikamai (centre).

Dr. Odera was appointed the first Director KEFRI and retired in June 1995. In his remarks, Dr. Odera took issue with Institutions that are swallowed by others due to nepotism and injustices. He called upon scientists to beef up their effort in research work and desist from competing for administrative posts as such a move impacts negatively on their work performance.

The immediate former Director Dr. P.K.A. Konuche (In absentia) was commended for his good leadership and contribution towards forestry research. He will be remembered for revising various KEFRI Strategic Plans. His term lasted fourteen years commencing July 1995 to April 2009.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Chikamai wished all the staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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KEFRI EXCELS IN ASK SHOWS



Entrance to KEFRI stand at Nairobi ASK Show

During the 2010 Nairobi International Trade Fair held from 27th September to 4th October at Jamhuri Park, KEFRI was ranked 2nd position in the best government agricultural based statutory body and 3rd position in research and development.

In line with the 2010 ASK show theme "Driving Agribusiness in Attaining Food Sufficiency and Vision 2030" KEFRI exhibited various forestry based products and disseminated forestry research information to various stakeholders. This was in an attempt to addressing among other issues the role of farmer based associations in the development of a framework for innovative agribusiness solutions. The institute was also represented in other ASK show exhibitions countrywide and various judgment categories were entered.

At the Central Kenya ASK show held from 15th to 18th September 2010 at Kabiruni ground in Nyeri, KEFRI was ranked 2nd position in the category of best research organization stand and 2nd best organization displaying herbal and related products.

Among the prominent guests who visited KEFRI stand were the Assistant Minister for Agriculture Hon. Kareke Mbiuki. He commended KEFRI's role in linking farmers and other stakeholders to suitable technologies which are contributing to driving agribusiness, attaining food sufficiency and environment conservation.

At the Mombasa ASK show, held between 4th to 8th August 2010, KEFRI was ranked 2nd position in the category of organization displaying medicinal products.

In Machakos ASK show KEFRI was ranked 2nd position in research and development, 3rd position

in the best government managed stand and 3rd position in the most striking government stand.

In Kabarnet show held from 14th to 16th October 2010, KEFRI was ranked 2nd position in the category of best government stand. In Kisumu show held from July 28th to 1st August 2010, KEFRI was represented by Maseno Centre and a certificate of participation was awarded.

ASK Shows advocates for the adoption of technologies in agricultural development using appropriate information exchange channels and market development.

In all these ASK show events KEFRI participated to show case the advancement of forestry research technologies and how they contribute to the show theme.



KEFRI Staff at the reception in Nairobi ASK Show

KEFRI PENSION SCHEME

KEFRI staff pension scheme has hit a billion shilling mark since its initiation in 1995. The Chairman KEFRI Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme Mr. Gabriel Muturi revealed this during the annual general meeting held on 13th September 2010 at KEFRI headquarters, Muguga. "The scheme has grown from KES 9 million to KES 0.9 billion as at June 30th 2010, reflecting an average annual growth of over 60 million over 15 years" He said.

In attendance were the Board of Trustees, Retirement Benefits Authority representatives, Scheme Administrators, Regulator, Custodian, Investment Management Team and KEFRI employees.



KEFRI Director, Dr. Ben Chikamai.

In his introductory speech, KEFRI Director, Dr. Ben Chikamai expressed his contentment as the vision to hit a billion mark was realized during his tenure. He praised the investment representative and the trustees for steering the scheme to success and safekeeping of the scheme's assets. He added that KEFRI pension scheme members anticipates higher growth once a professional pension manager is engaged and takes charge of all pension matters.

The investment representative, Mr. Gabriel Odeno attributed the growth realized in the year 2010 to sponsor and investors' professionalism as well as the countrys' economic growth.

Barclays Bank custodial services representative Ms. Rachael Wambui, informed members that Barclays Bank had sold its custodial services to Standard Chartered Bank.

Mr. Jackson Nguthu, who is in-charge of supervision and registration of all service providers in the Ministry of Finance acknowledged that the ministry was involved in ensuring smooth transaction of the matter.



KEFRI staff attending pension meeting.

ISO 14001:2004 AWARENESS MEETING

The institute held an awareness creation on Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Standards category ISO 14001:2004, on 9th November 2010.

The Director, Dr. Ben Chikamai lauded the initiative noting that a journey that started way back in 2006 is finally coming to an end. "I am emphatic that EMS policy under ISO 14001:2004 certification will improve the Institute's corporate image nationally and internationally if management systems are observed," he said.

In the policy statement, the Institute recognizes maintenance of a healthy working environment for its staff, stakeholders and the society at large. The document further seeks to achieve advancement of technologies and dissemination of research findings for sustainable development through a healthy environment.



KEFRI Headquarters

The key issues in the policy entails;

- Safe handling of hazardous solid waste and affluent,
- Phasing out of chloro-fluorocarbon emitting equipments.
- Control of radiation emission.
- Control of invasive introduced species of trees and insects.

The document also emphasizes reuse, recycle and reduction of products and less waste generation.

The Director called upon KEFRI members of staff to read the document and understand it since the audit of the system shall be pegged upon its comprehension and compliance.

KEFRI HOSTS JAPANESE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

A group of 22 students, 2 professors and 2 co-ordinators from different universities in Japan, were hosted by the institute. The students came from Waseda, Mie, Niimi Tokyo, and Toyoma Universities. They were on a Social Forestry Study Tour which commenced on 26th August to 7th September 2010.

The study tour focused on the youth and aimed at enhancing the cordial relationship between Japan and Kenya.



Dr. Ebby Chagala-Odera issuing certificates to visiting Japanese students.

The students visited Elangata Wuas Ecosystem Management Programme in Kajiado where they stayed with host families in Maasai Manyatta.

They also visited KMQ Primary School for educational activities. The interaction exposed the students to environmental challenges and social cultural issues.

For the first time since the study commenced under the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) Programme in 2002, the team visited Moshi Timber Utilization Research Centre (MTURC-TAFORI), African Wildlife Conservation College, Mueka and Arusha in Tanzania.

Other places the students visited were Amboseli National Park, a farmer Mr. Joseph Kiverenge who is a former Social Forestry Training Project trainee in Kitui.

The team made courtesy calls to UNEP head office in Nairobi, JICA Kenya office and Embassy of Japan in Nairobi, where they had discussion on initiatives in environmental conservation and international relations.

Speaking during the closing ceremony the Assistant Director Technology Dissemination and Service Programme Dr. Ebby Chagala-Odera called upon the participants to use and share lessons learnt in Kenya as well as seek internship in KEFRI and other related institutions. Each student was issued with a certificate of participation.

WAMBUGU AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTRE FIELD EXHIBITION 2010

KEFRI participated at Wambugu farmers field day exhibition held on 30th to 31st July 2010 where about 1,500 people visited the stand. Among the technologies that KEFRI displayed during the two days event were;

- High quality tree seed processing and pre-treatment methods.
- Packaged tree seed from various tree species for sale.
- Grafting techniques using *Markhamia lutea*, *Vitex keniensis*, *Pinus patula*, and *Cupressus lusitanica*.
- Techniques to control insect pests and tree diseases.
- Blue Gum Chalcid (BGC) pest which attacks Eucalyptus tree species.



KEFRI staff interacting with farmers at Wambugu farmers field day.

- *Calliandra calothyrsus* a nitrogen fixing plant for soil fertility improvement.
- Biofix fertilizer
- Non-wood products from aloes such as juices, lotions and shampoos.
- Harvesting of aloe leaves, processing of juice and solidifying of aloe sap.
- Other non-wood products on display were juices, jams and wines made from Baobab,
- *Vitex payos* and *Tamarindus indica* fruits.

Other products on display were gum arabic from *Acacia senegal*, Myrrh resins from *Commiphora myrrha*, frankincense from *Boswellia* species.

The field day attendants were advised to preserve indigenous trees like acacia because some produce high value gums and resins which are used in pharmaceutical industries, paint manufacturing as well as in stabilizing some drinks.

On the display too were *Osyris lanceolata* (Sandalwood), which is one of the valuable endangered tree species found in Kenya. The tree is now under presidential ban due to overexploitation. Sandalwood has high value oil, which is used in pharmaceutical industries and in manufacturing of perfumes. Those interested in cultivating it were advised that it is a slow growing tree and research on domestication is ongoing.

Tree seedlings suitable for highland, humid and sub humid zones were exhibited as well as Bamboo and its products. Eight years ago, KEFRI established a tree demonstration plot in Nyeri. The demo plot is open to visitors to view the growth performance of eucalyptus and other tree species. KEFRI collaborators displayed herbal product derived from roots, barks and leaves of various medicinal trees and shrubs.

Many field day attendants showed interest in fast growing Eucalyptus trees and fodder trees. They also enquired where they could obtain seeds of the same.

KEFRI SCIENTIFIC COLLOQUIA

KEFRI holds scientific colloquia alternately between Muguga and Karura Centers. Among presentations held within the period were;

Optimization of On-farm Machine Design Parameters for Eco- efficient Timber Processing *by George Muthike*

Mr. Muthike, a Senior Research Scientist based at Karura Centre stated that there is serious reduction of forest cover in Kenya, which currently is about 1.7 percent, far below the recommended 10 percent.

The low forest cover has further been aggravated by among other factors inappropriate timber harvesting and processing technologies. The saw milling industry in the country has for a long time used obsolete sawing machines and very few saw mills are adapting more efficient wood processing technologies.

When activities in the sector stopped due to the 1999/2000 Presidential ban on harvesting logs from Government forests, many of the then 450 saw mills closed down leaving only a few multi-national, who the Government continued to allow access to the forests. This has caused serious timber shortage in the Kenyan market.

Farms have since been a major source of timber with a small portion of the supply coming from neighboring countries. Most of the timber from farms is processed using simple and wasteful sawing machines whose recovery is as low as 30 percent.

Information derived from a study conducted to evaluate performance of on-farm timber processing systems, identified pit saw, tractor saw bench, and free hand chain saw as timber processing tools currently used on farm.

Comparably the free hand chain saw is the most ideal tool for farmers in this country because it is faster than the pit saw, has low capital investment, and it is versatile allowing farmers to access trees even in difficult terrains.

However, free hand chain saw system has several disadvantages including machine weight and the cutting chain exposes saw millers to health risks.



Timber sawing using a power saw

It also has low timber recovery rate, due to mainly the mode of operation and vibration of the machine.

Mr. Muthike emphasized that on-farm timber sawing faces challenges which include among others, lack of knowledge by farmers on the appropriate tree species for saw logs, sites species matching and siccicultural practices.

Mr. Muthike appealed to the stakeholders in the

entire timber value chain to adopt modern timber sawing technologies because the solution to addressing forest degradation is not to slap a ban on over harvesting but to take timber processing a notch higher where modern processing systems are developed and adopted.

GIS and Remote Sensing Application In Natural Resource Management by *Joseph Machua*

In his presentation Mr. Machua stated that Geographic(al) Information System (GIS) is a system that captures, stores, analyzes, manages, and presents data that are linked to locations. GIS analyzes different entities such as geo-referenced locations features with their attributes. These features use specialized Global Positioning System (GPS).



KEFRI Scientist Mr. Machua showing how GPS tool works.

GPS is a radio navigation system that allows land, sea, and airborne users to determine their exact location. GPS receivers provide high quality data where signals are incorporated into orbital models.

The modern GPS stores data for use in Geographic Information Systems and map making. Their recordings are thus superior in several respects compared with the traditional survey method of using latitude and longitude.

Mr. Machua further informed the participants that GIS data is achieved through use of Geographic Coordinate Systems, which enables every location on earth to be specified by a set of parameters such as latitude, altitude and longitude, Universal Polar Stereographic (UPS) geodetic heights and Cartesian coordinates.

He advised scientists to utilize the latitude, altitude and longitude or the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinate systems.

UTM is a grid-based method of specifying loca-

tions on the surface of the Earth in 2-dimensions. Different projections are used for different types of maps as each suits specific users.

These projections are based on a reference datum, used to describe locations of unknown points on earth.



Mr. Machua displayed types of GPS equipments available locally.

He called upon KEFRI scientists to use GPS with World Geodetic System (WGS 84), since it is mostly preferred.

Uses of GIS and Remote Sensing by *Laban Maiyo*

Mr. Maiyo informed the colloquium attendants that Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing are modern data collecting tools that are applicable in several research and related scientific disciplines. Remote Sensing is an art of getting data from space through airborne platforms or satellite images.

In agriculture GIS and Remote Sensing is often used in resource mapping and assessment. In forestry it can be used in plant stocking, inventory, monitoring land changes, levels of forest degradation and carbon sequestration. It is also applicable in epidemiology, forest health, where monitoring of pests and diseases is of concern. It can also be used in social studies, archeology and in site description.

He cautioned scientists and other GPS users that they may experience reading errors, more so during cloudy days. These inaccuracies may emanate from environmental noise, code and bias from the numbers of the satellite picking signals and their positioning, and blunders, which occurs due to user interaction with the receivers.

Readings from the GPS are better done in the morning hours and in the evenings and the more the satellites captured the better and accurate the readings will be. To enhance accuracy in GPS data collection, he suggested that;

- Scientists and other users seek GPS calibration services at KEFRI GIS office.
- Acquisition of modern GPS with high differentials of 2.5m.
- Capacity building to equip the GPS users with skills on data collection and processing.

Melia volkensii Genetic Improvement

by Jason Kariuki

In his presentation entitled "Genetic Improvement of *Melia volkensii*" Mr. Jason Kariuki stated that *Melia volkensii* is a valuable fast growing indigenous tree species found in dry areas of East Africa. It grows in parts of Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania.

Melia volkensii is a drought tolerant, termite resistant tree valued for its high quality timber. The species also produces fodder and fruits, which are eaten by livestock. Its bark is used as medicine and pesticide. *Melia volkensii* is friendly tree species when it comes to conservation. It can be bred and easily established as a plantation. It is thus a tree species of choice by many small-scale farmers.

Reasons for breeding Melia

Mr. Kariuki revealed that currently *Melia volkensii*, which is a hardwood, is threatened by overexploitation and information on its existing gene pool is currently lacking. "Good genetic materials are becoming extinct with less than 200 trees existing in Kenya". he said



Grafted *Melia volkensii* seedlings

He stressed that to improve the value of *Melia*, breeding is the only viable strategy. Breeding involves selecting a tree with desired attributes.

Desirable characteristics include good tree form, fast growth, disease and pest resistance. Such selected trees are subjected to propagation so as to produce superior materials for planting. *Melia volkensii* can also be propagated through tissue culture.



KEFRI scientists assessing *Melia volkensii* performance at a farmers' woodlot in Kibwezi county.



KEFRI Technician grafting *Melia volkensii* seedlings



Participants take a tea break during the colloquium.

***Prosopis* Control, Management and Utilisation by Simon Choge**

Prosopis is an evergreen tree that grows well in Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASALs). It spreads easily and colonises other plants. It is found around the world where it is used for charcoal and honey production, animal feeds, construction material among other products for domestic and export uses. However, in the native range, technologies for its management and utilization are at advanced level. This technologies need to be shared with the local communities to fill the existing knowledge gap.

Information from recent experiences from study tours in Peru, Argentina and India indicates that commercialization of *Prosopis* products is fairly advanced both at village level to industrial scale.

In India for instance, *Prosopis* is referred to as "Poor Man's Tree", and apart from general uses, its biomass is used for electricity production. Some states in India have changed their policy on *Prosopis* management to embrace planting on selected desert areas of the country for green energy production and carbon sequestration.

Challenges

Prosopis species that are invasive in nature pose a managerial challenge to various communities where they are growing. In Australia for example, *Prosopis*, which covered over 1 million hectares by the year 2001, has been declared a weed of national importance.

A policy restricting use of its products was set and management approaches such as chemical control, mechanical and manual removal are being implemented.



Pathways and homesteads invaded by *Prosopis juliflora*

South Africa, which experienced the worst invasive problem in Sub Sahara African, has the best management strategy, where management activities are supported and coordinated by the Government and employment of the poor in the society is created in the process.



Prosopis management strategy through uprooting.

In conclusion Mr. Choge said that contrary to negative perceptions in many countries where it is introduced,

Prosopis is a commercial resource crop in the native range, and is changing peoples' means of livelihood. He added that *Prosopis* management and utilization research in Kenya should focus on identifying and breeding clones of superior genotypes from the existing non invasive *Prosopis pallida* species.

Through research, methods of replacing invasive and thorny *P. juliflora* should be explored. In addition, methods of coordinating, facilitating and supporting the local communities through formation of local structures to control and sustainably manage selected invasions should be put in place.

KEFRI in collaboration with other development partners is envisioning setting up a global community *Prosopis* management centre in Baringo County for education and technology transfer.



A well managed *prosopis* field in Baringo County

KEFRI SCIENTISTS PUBLISH RESEARCH FINDINGS

KEFRI scientists have continued to excel in scientific field as evidenced by the increasing numbers of publications in various journals. Some of the publications within the period are as follows;

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13. Wekesa C., Makenzi P. M., Chikamai B. N., Luvanda A. M. and Muga M. O. 2010. Traditional ecological knowledge associated with *Acacia senegal* (Gum arabic tree) management and gum arabic production in Northern Kenya. *International Forestry Review* Vol.12(3).
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KEFRI NEW EMPLOYEES

KEFRI has strengthened its human resource capacity in line with meeting its strategic objectives. Those who have joined KEFRI recently are;



Laban Maiyo

Joined KEFRI as Geo-Information Scientist. He holds a MSc. degree in Geo-Information Sciences from International Institute for GIS, Netherlands. He has seven years of work experience in data mapping and analysis. Previously he worked with Maps Geo-Systems in Dubai.



Stephen Fedrick Omondi

Joined KEFRI as a tree breeder. He holds a MSc. degree in Forestry from Moi University. Mr. Omondi has specialized in genetic tree improvement and has been attached to Acacia Gum Project in KEFRI for the past three years.



James Maina Maina

Joined KEFRI as a hydrologist. Mr. Maina holds a BSc. degree in Forestry from Moi University. He brings with him four years of experience from Green Belt Movement and Kenya Forest Service.



Wekesa Chemuku

Joined KEFRI as Assistant Research Officer (Ecologist). He holds a MSc degree in environmental sciences from Egerton University. Has worked with KEFRI Acacia Gum Project for three years.



Gillian Mutua

Joined KEFRI as System Analyst. Gillian holds a Bsc. in Information Technology from JKUAT and an MBA in Strategic Management - UON. She has six years of work experience.



Linda Mutinda

Joined KEFRI as an Assistant Administrator. Linda holds a diploma in management from Kenya Polytechnic and is currently pursuing a BA degree in Business administration at Kenya Methodist University. She has 9 years of work experience gained from various organization among them the Association of Professional societies East Africa (APSEA), an umbrella body of professional bodies.



Stephen Mwangi Ndegwa

Joined KEFRI in November, 2010 as a communication and public relations officer. He holds a Master of Arts and Postgraduate Diploma in Communication Studies from University of Nairobi. He has over 10 years experience in media and communication having worked in the public, private and civil society sectors.



Joseph S. Mukoto

Joined KEFRI as Network Administrator. He holds a Diploma in Information Technology (IT) and has eight years of work experience. Previously he worked with Crown Foods Ltd, Keringet.



Pauline Bala

Joined KEFRI as an Assistant Research Officer. Pauline holds a BSc. degree from Egerton University. She is a specialist in Natural Resource Management.



Kamau Mirin'gu

Joined KEFRI in October 2010 as Supplies Assistant. He has Diploma in Purchasing and Supply and is member of CIPS Professional body. He has four years experience at Phillips Pharmaceuticals and two years at Kenya Methodist University as a warehouse assistant and supplies Assistant respectively.



Nixon N. Sikini

Joined KEFRI as a Supplies Assistant. He holds a Diploma in Purchasing and Supplies Management [KNEC], CIPS [UK]. He has nine years of work experience in procurement and stores management from public and private sector. He is a member of KISM, CIPS. Currently pursuing B-Com at Egerton University.



Lucy G. Kavindah

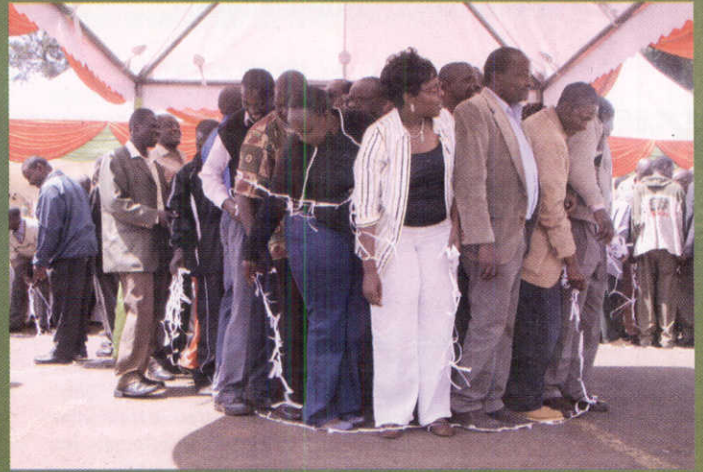
Joined KEFRI in August 2010 as an Enterprise Manager. She holds an MBA degree in entrepreneurship from Maastricht school of Management, Birmingham (UK). She brings twelve years of work experience in management. Currently pursuing a PhD in Management at the University of Nairobi.



Suleiman M. Mohamed

Joined KEFRI as a medical laboratory technician. He holds a Diploma in Medical laboratory from Mombassa Polytechnic. He brings with him a decade experience from NGO sector. Previously he worked with the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation (APHIA II Project).

END YEAR PARTY - 2010



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