
Report on DANKenya Activity

Activity Type:	Open Day
Activity Theme:	<i>Sensitization on Climate Smart Agricultural Technologies and Dryland Forestry Products for Increased Food Security</i>
Day/Date:	Friday, 8 th March 2018
Venue:	Kenya Forestry Research Institute – Dryland Eco-Region Research Programme (KEFRI-DERP), Kitui, Kenya
Organizers/ Fund Applicants:	Pauline Bala, Margaret Miano, and Florence Gachango

1. Background information

Increasing deforestation and cycles of droughts in Kenyan dry regions continue to undermine the potential of sustainable food production. This phenomenon has exposed the local communities to food and nutritional insecurity with their rescue being food aid from the national government and development partners. To address this persistent problem, the above mentioned three Danida alumni through the DFC funding organized an open day to sensitize the local community in the lower eastern region on; climate smart agricultural and forestry technologies, sustainable use of forestry resources, integration of commercial model in community development, and efficient drinking and irrigation water usage. The one-day event was aimed at bringing together subject matter experts within the Danida alumni, county government officials, model farmers, and the local community to address the food insecurity problem. The activity had four expected outputs:

- i) Increased cohesion among Danida alumni in Kenya
- ii) Enlightened community on available forest commodities for food security and nutrition
- iii) New and improved knowledge on water harvesting, integrated food production, and sustainable income generation among the local communities
- iv) New knowledge on propagation of the difficult to germinate tree seeds (e.g Melia, Terminalia, Osyiris, Moringa) for adoption in climate smart agricultural and forestry practices.

2. Event planning and participant mobilization

2.1 Role of the organizing team

- Florence Gathoni (Pwani University):- General coordination
- Pauline Bala (KEFRI):- Organized collaboration with KEFRI who hosted the event
- Maggie Miano (MESPT):- Organized for collaboration with MESPT, in charge of Logistics and mobilized co-funding from MESPT

2.2 Participant mobilization

Different channels were used to mobilize participants (alumni and the general public)

- An e-invitation for the alumni through social media; danida alumni network facebook and linkedIn, and danida alumni-kenya network facebook and WhatsApp platforms. Using these channels led to many network members signing up for the event. However, a relatively good number dropped out of the event at the last minutes citing emergence of other commitments.
- Local community invitation through a banner hoisted at the Kitui town gate
- Word of mouth in community meetings
- Letters to different schools within the region

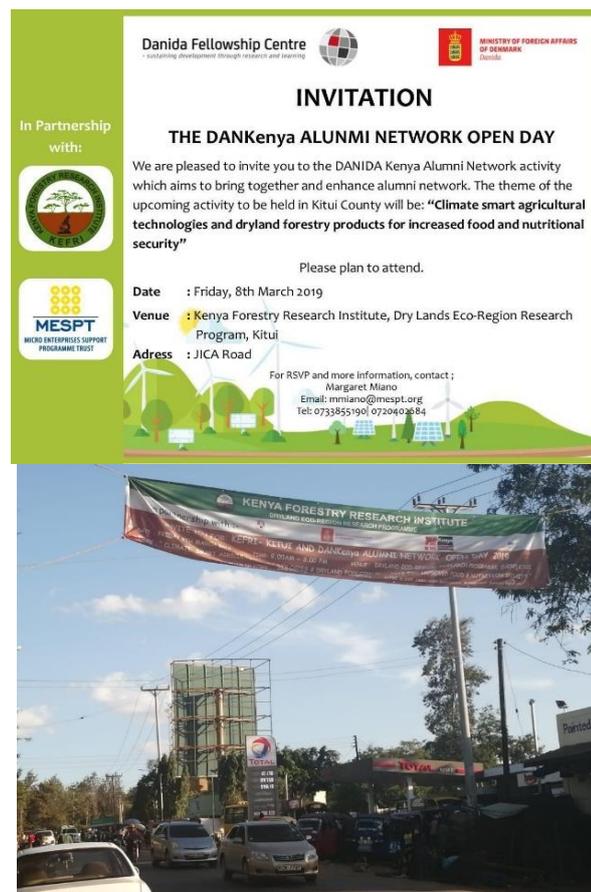


Figure 1a: e-invitation used on social media and Figure 1b: The Banner publicizing the event in Kitui town

3. Event outcomes

The Open Day comprised of two parallel yet interconnected activities;

3.1 DANKenya alumni workshop (See Programme Appendix 1)

3.2 Climate Smart Technology and Dryland Forestry products exhibition open to the members of the public.

3.1 DANKenya workshop

The Alumni workshop with 14 participants (See Appendix 2) focused on identifying the existing gaps with regards to the current approaches in increasing food security in the Arid and Semi- arid regions. The session which ran from 0930hrs to 1540hrs comprised of 2 sub-sessions: experts talks and a moderated plenary discussion. Details of each session are provided in the table below.



Figure 2: Alumni workshop



Figure 3: Alumni group photo

Topic/Speaker)	Key points
<p>DANKenya updates (Phillip Lumwamu)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Noted progress since launch of the alumni network in February 2018 ➤ 4 activities planned for this year courtesy of DFC activity grant (Kenya received 3 out of the total 8 grants awarded for the call) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15th Feb 2019 – Alumni workshop organized by the coordinating office • 8th March 2019, the current activity organized by three female alumni (activity also marked the International Women Day) • 22nd March 2019, Reforestation and Beekeeping activity in Baringo • 19th April 2019, Coordinating office workshop, Kisumu ➤ Need to align Alumni activities with DANIDA focus areas; Environment, Health, Education, Trade, and Food Security for complementarity. ➤ Danida Alumni Network to be renamed to Denmark Alumni Network (DANKenya) ➤ Ways of strengthening the Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member engagement through formation of cell groups of like-minded alumni • Conducting interest-based activities to enhance frequent meeting by cell members • Increase communication through social media and mailing list (the latter will be updated to include all alumni) • Networking with Danish stakeholders (to be enhanced through creating of a databank within the Danish Embassy) • Follow-up on alumni activities <p>Action points: Coordinating office to share information of existing agencies to increase alumni networking with Danish stakeholders</p>

Dryland Forestry & Food and Nutritional Security (Pauline Bala & Michael Okeyo KEFRI)



KEFRI Mandate: Conducting research in forestry and allied natural resources.

Focus areas:

- Forest Biodiversity and Environment Management – technologies for rehabilitating woodlands and development of drought tolerant tree
- Forest Productivity and Improvement – propagation of high value species eg bamboo
- Forest Product Development – gums and resins, dryland fruits/ fruit products/medicinal trees
- Socio-economics, Policy and Governance



Flagship project on *Melia volkensii*

Challenges:

- Propagation of some forest species like bamboo and Melia
- Low interest in commercial investments in dryland forestry products value addition
- Current ban on plastics in Kenya hampering tree nursery projects thereby impacting negatively on propagation efforts

Areas of collaborations with DAN Kenya alumni and other stakeholders

- Linkage with potential investors in forestry mainly in establishment of commercial nurseries and value addition of forestry products (Tamarind and Baobab)
- Packaging of research findings into locally consumable outputs and dissemination of the same by development agencies, private service providers and public extension officers
- Resource mobilization to increase forestry research for development in the drylands

Job Ngeny (MESPT)



MESPT Pillars

- Green Growth
- Enterprise Development
- Value Chain Development

Climate Smart technologies supported

- Solar systems- home lighting systems, water and irrigation pumps
- Solar driers for fruits and vegetables
- Water harvesting – eg. water pans with dam liners.
- Certification of producers and exporters – (e.g in GLOBALGAP and Fairtrade)
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Services in Agricultural value chains under the regreening growth



- Future area of possible collaboration with KEFRI to further improve food security in the region identified.
- Alumni working with the two institutions to explore these possibilities further.

Research & Development Nexus (Cassava for dryland agriculture), Wilton Mbinda, Pwani University)

- Cassava identified as one of the food security crops in dryland in Africa
- Other potential uses – animal feed and biofuel production

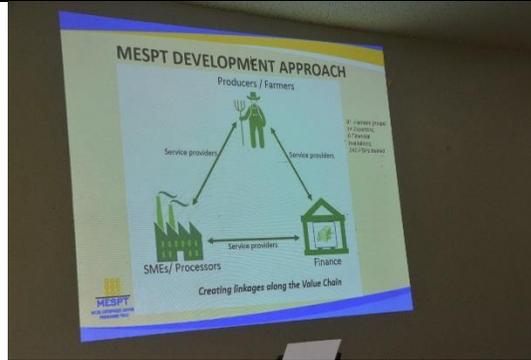


- Main challenges being addressed by research
 - Control of Cassava Brown Streak and Cassava Mosaic Disease
 - Nutritional enhancement given that cassava contains 100% starch
- Research focusing on simple biotechnological techniques to address the above-mentioned challenges. This is still at trial stage
- Research also making strides in reduction of post-harvest physiological deterioration in the crop (this will significantly reduce economic losses associated with cassava production in East Africa dry regions)
- Collaborations between researchers and development agencies is key for provision of lasting solution to food and nutritional security in arid and semiarid regions.
- A starting point for the collaboration would be with the researchers at Pwani University and implementors of the SCCVC (Strengthening the Competitiveness of the Cassava Value Chain) project funded by the EU in Kilifi county where the university is situated)

Collaboration/ Partnership in development,
Jeff Njagi (Development Consultant)

What works in development

- Collaboration amongst institutions resulting into a win-win situation for all, minimized duplication of activities, and enhanced impact.
- An illustration on ‘MESPT development approach’ (pictured below):- The approach has proven to have impact on all players in the agricultural value chains in the drylands.



- For effective delivery of the alumni mandate, adopting a model that encompasses all value chain actors with facilitated linkages by expertise (service providers) in different value chain activities is necessary.



- Action points on alumni partnerships and collaboration were discussed in the plenary.

Plenary Discussion, Margaret Miano

Conclusions and Action points

- The alumni group to incorporate all Kenyans who have benefited from the Danish government through other channels besides the Danida Fellowship Center (DFC)
- To expand and grow the alumni network through wide sharing of network information, and inviting more people to join the network;
- Keep the Kenyan alumni network vibrant by creating cell groups of common interest alumni



- Conducting interest-based activities to enhance frequent meeting by cell members
- Current DANKENYA alumni to send request to join the facebook group as well as Kenya alumni WhatsApp group
- Sharing of relevant activities on the alumni social media platforms
- Keeping the platform for relevant information only to avoid discouraging members to remain in the group.



3.2 Climate Smart Technology and Dryland Forestry products exhibition (0900 – 1500 hours)

- A total of 12 exhibition stands displaying different climate smart technologies and dryland forestry products were mounted. A summary of the exhibitors is tabulated below:
 - KEFRI – showcasing different dryland forestry management practices and forestry products
 - MESPT – Sensitizing the public on the MESPT approach to development
 - 4 Green technology service providers – showcasing different energy, water saving and irrigation technologies.
 - 1 financial institution – sensitizing the public on available financial products for farmers in the Kenyan lower eastern region.
 - 2 Agricultural Technical Service providers – sensitizing the public on the available farm planning and water management mobile applications
 - 2 women group – showcasing different forest products (fruit juices, wines and dyes), and household energy conservation technologies (solar cooking basket)
 - 1 Youth Groups– exhibiting energy saving home appliances).
- The participants walked round the different stands, receiving explanation on the displayed products and technologies. They were also given opportunities to ask questions and, in some instances received printed material (brochures) to take home. They also received some refreshment at the end of the event.
- In total approximately 140 participants (excluding school children) were sensitized on climate smart agricultural technologies and dryland forestry products (excluding school children) (Appendix 2)
- Youngster from 2 primary and 2 secondary schools also participated in the event. Youth participation was of particular importance as awareness was created in these young minds on the need to adopt climate smart agriculture and forestry practices so as to ensure sustainable food and nutritional security in the region.



➤

Exhibitor	Technology/Product	Pictorial
KEFRI	Propagation of different tree species (Osyris, Melia, and Bamboo)	

➤ Forestry products (*Aloe vera* detergents and handwash)



➤ Tamarind juice and jam)



KEFRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Alternative climate smart sources of wood (Bamboo tree).➤ Campaigns on use of bamboo for furniture in homes and offices is on top gear in the country as this will result to reduction in tree cutting and subsequent environmental degradation.	
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Climate smart technologies providers

➤ Solar cookers



➤ Water and irrigation pumps (SUNTECH & OASIS)



➤ Smart farming App (CROPESA)



Local women groups

- Baobab wine
- Tree bark dye



Kenya Youth Entrepreneurship Program

- Energy saving home appliances

