



FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT TRUST  
UENDELEZAJI MISITU TANZANIA

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ADVISORY PANEL NEWSLETTER

Q3 2014/2015

10/02/2015



# OVERVIEW: QUARTER 3 2014/2015

The Forestry Development Trust is now into its first planting season (December-March). As such, during Q3 the focus was predominantly on the acceleration of activities in order to roll out the first wave of farmer training in time to influence new planting in early 2015. At the same time preparations continued in laying groundwork for implementation of the proposed Tree Improvement Strategy whilst also preparing for the establishment of new demonstration plots

The major developments in Q3 2014/2015 can be summarised as follows:

## I.1. GENETIC RESOURCES (COMPONENT 1)

- Improved seed was imported from South Africa for species trials (10 pine species and 15 eucalyptus species). Eucalyptus seeds were sown at a Green Resources nursery; the seedlings from which will be established in a trial site in Q4. Pine species trials will be established in the 2015/16 planting season.
- Hybrid clonal material was imported from South Africa for the establishment of eucalyptus hybrid clonal trials. The clonal trials will be established in Q4.
- The first round of local plus trees have been identified for the breeding programme (150 x *Eucalyptus grandis* and 150 x *Pinus patula*). A local contractor will be hired to collect the plus tree seed in Q4.
- Located and negotiated land use agreements on 4 five-hectare species trial sites across the Southern Highlands. Commenced land preparation on three of the four sites.
- Unfortunately, the stakeholder workshop on the establishment of a Tree Improvement Cooperative, originally planned for November, had to be postponed. Following individual meetings with each of the key institutional stakeholders (TAFORI, TTSA, and SUA) in Q4 2014, FDT received disappointingly limited feedback on the proposed Tree Improvement Strategy. As such, work is now under way to develop a more detailed, practical proposal for a Tree Improvement Cooperative in a renewed effort to obtain stakeholder buy-in. This will be presented at a stakeholder workshop in Q4.

## I.2. SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE (COMPONENT 2)

- 80 Community Agents (CAs) were selected across 40 villages of the Southern Highlands. The CAs were each given three days of training on plantation establishment (including practical activities in the field), as well as on the use of smartphones for data collection. The CAs are currently in the process of registering farmers ahead of the roll-out of training activities in Q4. The establishment of this network is a vital step towards the delivery of FDT's results.
- A Tree Growers' Day was held at our flagship demo plot at Kisolanza in December, with almost 200 farmers attending, along with over 30 government officials, including the District Commissioners of four of our districts.
- Land contracts were negotiated for four 1-hectare district demonstration plots across the Southern Highlands, with land preparation commencing on two of the sites. These are intended to be larger and more advanced than our village plots, but cheaper and more accessible than our flagship Kisolanza plot.
- A consultant at SUA was contracted to develop FDT's proposed Tree Plantation Management Guidelines, the draft of which will be circulated amongst stakeholders in Q4. See below.

- A producer has been identified for the video training materials, and work has commenced on scripting. See below.

### I.3. SECTOR INSIGHT (COMPONENT 3)

- A review of the draft National Forest Policy was commissioned by FDT, and the results shared with the Ministry.
- It was agreed with the Trustees roll Component 4 (Bio-energy) into Component 3. Discussions are required in order to determine the future work to be done under this sub – component.
- An initial Value chain analysis of wood products study yielded a considerable amount of data but with uncertain conclusions. Further analysis is required to inform the design of interventions required in wood products markets. Meanwhile, the Farmer Registration Survey being carried out will identify initial targets beneficiaries who are considering harvesting in 2015.
- The study on growth and yield of Pine and Eucalyptus planted in woodlots produced very variable results. The study results will be verified by taking measurements in a sample of plots of the two species.
- Results of the remote sensing study in the Pilot area of the Southern Highlands are still expected in February.
- The Trust's ME&L system has been overhauled and a revised logframe proposed. New logframe has been presented to the Trustees.
- It is being proposed that M&E be removed from the Sector Insight Component so that it stands alone as an independent function working with all other components.

### I.4. ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE

- Deputy Director Abigail Brown left the Trust to take up a new position in South Africa in December. A detailed handover process between Abigail and other FDT staff was successfully completed in November-December 2014.
- Mr Simon Milledge will report for duty on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015 to take position left vacant by Abigail Brown.
- Two full-time Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (ME&L) staff were recruited – Tom Hilton and Nicodemus Msika.
- Rashid Mgeni a GIS graduate was recruited as a Planning Technician to support mainly the Genetic Resources Component but also work with the rest of the team.

### I.5. TRAINING AND LEARNING MATERIALS

#### I.5.1. TREE PLANTATION GUIDELINES

Prof. Chamshama of Sokoine University who previously developed the tree planting guidelines for the Ministry of Natural Resources, has now been recruited to develop a new set of tree plantation guidelines for FDT. These guidelines will be shared with stakeholders from the public and private sector to solicit comments and additional inputs. Subsequently the guidelines will be discussed and ratified during a stakeholder workshop under the facilitation of FDT staff and Prof. Chamshama. These

new tree plantation guidelines will form the basis for the development of training and learning materials for FDT and other stakeholder. The guidelines will also support the training efforts of the TCs and the FFs.

### 1.5.2. PRINTED MATERIALS

A professional photographer was engaged to take high quality images related to the forestry sector in the Southern Highlands. Themes covered were nursery operation, timber trading centres, tree harvesting, timber sawing on the woodlot with mobile circular saws, fire control measures at Sao Hill, among others. We will hire the photographer a second time to capture images related to land preparation, tree planting and the tree planter training efforts.

The images were so far used in the recent production of four panels outlining FDT core activities, the production of 400 copies of the 2015 FDT calendar and the first FDT flyer.

Once the Tree Plantation Guidelines are accepted by key stakeholders, these guidelines will be the technical foundation for the development of learning materials suitable for tree planters, both small and large scale.

### 1.5.3. VIDEO PRODUCTION

An experienced video producer based in Dar es Salaam has been identified. Chris Morgan has many years of experience producing educational videos in Africa. He works with the renowned production company Media for Development International under John Riber in Dar and has produced a series of videos for a variety of clients in Tanzania. He works as a one man team combining the roles of producer, script writer, director, cameraman and editor. This makes the production more cost effective and we only have to deal with one person. We have agreed on the general outline of the task and Chris blocked out four months between February and July to work with us on the production of a series of videos covering all aspects of FDT training content.

### 1.5.4. RADIO

The first targeted use of the local radio stations in the Southern Highlands took place in the announcement of the Farmer Field Day in December 2014. Since then various radio stations aired programmes prepared by individual journalists who either attended the Farmer Field Day or came to the office interviewing FDT staff. We are setting up procedures with radio operators so that we can track what broadcast has been aired when.

First discussions with the Iringa based station Radio Ebony, which broadcasts in the entire project area, took place to explore the option of jointly producing a regular programme specifically addressing tree growers with technical and marketing information.