



FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT TRUST
UENDELEZAJI MISITU TANZANIA

ADVISORY PANEL NEWSLETTER

Q1 2015/2016

15/12/2015



OVERVIEW: QUARTER I 2015/2016

During the first quarter of Year 3, FDT continued to scale up its field activities, whilst also taking time to reflect after a busy planting season. The development of sustainability strategies has been key on the programme side, whilst an extensive overhaul of the Trust's operational policies and procedures began on the management and administration side.

The major developments in Q1 2015/2016 can be summarised as follows:

I.1. GENETIC RESOURCES (COMPONENT 1)

- Monitoring, blanking and termite/weed control within all trials and district demo plots established at the beginning of 2015, resulting in near 100% stocking of the seedlings/clones.
- Carried out growth assessment in demo plots with each individual tree being measured for treatment (planting regime) and planting stock (species/clones) comparison purposes.
- With TTSA assistance, received individual family seed lots from Paraguay and South Africa for the establishment of breeding populations. Imported *P. patula*, *P. elliotii* and *P. teada* improved seed from South Africa for distribution to commercial nurseries affiliated to FDT.
- Commenced seed collection from plus trees selected from TANWAT commercial stands for both *P. patula* and *E. grandis*, with similar operations to be conducted during Q2 in other commercial stands belonging to private and public sector collaborating partners.
- Initiated potting of *P. patula* seedlings into plastic bags for grafting purposes later in the year (for the establishment of clonal seed orchards), with TTSA facility in Iringa being utilised.
- Renovation work started at FDT offices for seed storage facilities to be installed in Q2. This will involve purchase of fridges and other equipment for basic seed and pollen viability studies.
- Further development of Tree Improvement strategy document was undertaken as part of a Tree Improvement Research working group meeting in June 2015.
- Planned activities:
 - Sowing of pine and eucalyptus seed for trial establishment
 - Site identification for species and seed source trials
 - Plus tree selections and seed collection
 - Procurement of seed and storage facilities
 - Importation of clonal material for trial establishment
 - Potting of pine and eucalyptus seedlings for grafting purposes
 - Attended tree breeding and nursery establishment courses (South Africa and TTSA)
 - Sustainability strategy development

I.2. SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE (COMPONENT 2)

- Identified new private nurseries within the project area to become FDT partner nurseries. A total of 71 nursery operators were trained and are expected to produce 3 million seedlings raised from improved seeds (distributed over 40kg improved pine seeds).
- In preparation for the next planting season toward the end of the year, production of education materials continued including video footage and developing the outline for printed learning materials.
- Field Foresters were given specific targets in monitoring the performance of the village demonstration plots and the partnering village nurseries, and provide technical guidance.
- Sustainability of the tree grower training beyond FDT's lifespan has been analysed and discussed to guide the testing of various approaches and determine the strategic direction of the training effort.

- Planned activities:
 - Sowing of pine and eucalyptus seed for trial establishment
 - Pilot partnering with seed company to distribute 1000 one-acre packs with improved eucalyptus seeds for the 2015/16 season
 - Recruit new Field Forester for Rungwe and Busokelo
 - Produce training videos, printed training materials and radio programmes
 - Continue Field Forester capacity building
 - Develop Community Advisor income streams
 - Finalise plantation guidelines

I.3. SECTOR INSIGHT (COMPONENT 3)

- Initiated priority research to shed light on woodlot yields, sawmill efficiency and economics in order to provide targeted advice for tree growers.
- Ground truthing of the remote sensing pilot undertaken.
- Attended and presented at TFS-organised meeting on wood utilisation properties.
- Held third meeting of FDT Advisory Panel, with members noting the serious situation with regard to shortage of tree seed and requested FDT and TTSA to prepare a position paper to identify and highlight issues affecting seed production and distribution.
- GIS development at FDT including collation of GIS layers, production of FDT base map, spatial presentation of household survey and ground truthing of woodlot remote sensing.
- Attended international bioenergy conference held at ICRAF, Nairobi.
- Ongoing work towards development of a Theory of Change for component 3.
- Planned activities:
 - Roll out remote sensing of woodlots depending on pilot final analysis
 - Complete assessment of woodlot harvesting and sawmills to include a few smaller-scale woodlots to complement medium-scale plantations already covered
 - Hold targeted stakeholder meeting involving transmission pole industry
 - Feasibility study of wood processing linked to rural electrification in Mufindi
 - Revise and update FDT website
 - Commission public-private partnership study

I.4. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

- Reflected on lessons learned from FDT's first planting season.
- Planning for 2015/16 including MEL transition plans.
- Continued to support the development long-term sustainability strategies for FDT, driving for clear sustainability strategies to be elaborated within Theories of Change.
- Attended DCED Standard training course.
- Planned activities:
 - Develop monitoring frameworks for the piloting of new interventions such as the "one acre packs" and proposed CA models under C2
 - Establish clear lines of reporting throughout the C2 network of Field Foresters, Community Agents and nurseries to ensure "real time" updates on basic indicators
 - Further develop the definition of "adoption of improved practices", as well evidence-based assumptions in relation to estimates of productivity and asset value increases
 - Develop a Theory of Change and monitoring plan for C3

I.5. ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE

- Operations review workshop in June, resulting in ongoing revisions to operations manual.
- External financial audit was carried out by Ernst & Young.
- Justin Changa was employed as a driver.
- Daniel Kelm joined as four-month intern to focus on remote sensing and other GIS work.
- Staff annual performance reviews undertaken.
- Various meetings held with Private Forestry Programme to identify areas of collaboration, including market study, remote sensing and stakeholder forum.
- In line with the Trustees request and as highlighted in the DFID annual review, FDT started to focus on sustainability of FDT activities.
- Well-attended stakeholders meeting held in Morogoro during April, approving a proposed Tree Improvement strategy and the formation of a Working Group to oversee tree improvement work in the country, and the adoption (with minor changes) national tree planting guidelines with the endorsement of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.
- Planned activities:
 - Complete work on Operations manual and embark on implementation process
 - Follow up on uncompleted issues arising from the Gatsby operations review
 - Continue work on sustainability of FDT activities
 - Close follow up on trialling of different training options