



FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT TRUST  
UENDELEZAJI MISITU TANZANIA

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ADVISORY PANEL NEWSLETTER

Q2 2015/2016

15/12/2015



# OVERVIEW: QUARTER 2 2015/2016

The major developments in Q2 2015/2016 can be summarised as follows:

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

- Termite control of affected trials and district demo plots following hot and dry spell.
- Completion of marking of all individual plots in trials and demo plots.
- Completed analysis of growth data following assessment made in May 2015.
- Plus tree selection and seed collection ongoing in collaboration with TTSA for geo-referencing.
- Seed sowing operations ongoing for Pine, Eucalyptus and Corymbia for use in trials.
- Progress made in identifying trial sites and cost sharing arrangements with partners.
- Completed *P. patula* and *E. grandis* seedling potting by TTSA prior to grafting operations.
- Planned activities:
  - Trial site selection, preparation, soil analysis involving 16 sites each with 2.5 ha (Pine, Eucalyptus, Corymbia and Clonal hybrid)
  - Clonal hybrid importation and maintenance in Makungu nursery (Green Resources)
  - Planning of trial establishments and designs
  - Complete plus tree selection and seed collection (Sao Hill Forest Plantation)
  - Equipment in place for interim seed storage

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

- Seeds distributed to partner nurseries reached over 60kg of pine and eucalyptus.
- Initiated partnership with Jambe Agro to distribute 'one-acre packs' of improved eucalyptus seeds for the 2015/16 season.
- Finalisation of video and printed training material, expected to be ready in November.
- Radio announcements and programmes prepared and aired (with a focus on fire).
- Field Foresters capacity building focused on IT training and a weekly reporting format.
- Continued to develop strategies to position Community Agents as service providers to tree growers, including their role as input distribution agents and providers of training materials.
- Final edits made to national plantation guidelines.
- Planned activities:
  - Finalise production of training videos and training materials
  - Build capacity of 80 CAs and 70 NOPs
  - Pilot sustainable models for training material distribution to tree growers
  - Pilot input distribution networks (Mufindi, Njombe, Kilolo) in partnership with FIPs
  - Partner with Jambe Agro to pilot a commercial seed distribution to small scale growers through one-acre packs, and prepare nursery seed packs
  - Explore demand for advisory services for tree planting investors

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

- Scoping of potential interventions relating to the facilitation of investment in wood processing in rural areas reached by the Mwenga rural electrification programme, thus potentially bringing processing facilities closer to tree growing areas.

- Completed assessment of woodlot yields, and initiated scoping study to assess feasibility of establishing a rural market centre for sale and value addition of timber
- Participation at the World Forestry Congress in Durban in September.
- Completed remote sensing pilot with variable results and steps underway to engage a third party to apply another potential method.
- Meeting with pole transmission industry held in July 2015. Further stakeholder engagement meetings held with four large-scale commercial forestry companies.
- Planned activities:
  - Develop process for developing industry vision and FDT strategy refresh/review
  - Recruitment of senior forest business analyst
  - Targeted studies and stakeholder engagement for the Mwenga opportunity
  - Pursue commissioning of remote sensing work using alternative methodology
  - Produce FDT newsletter
  - Develop long-term vision for Kisolanza demonstration plot

#### I.4. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

- Initiated evaluation of FDT's range of demonstration plots.
- Collaborated with PFP with information sharing and work to harmonise MEL approaches, as well as collaboration on a study of poverty in the Southern Highlands.
- Designed and piloted a set of new processes and tools for the design and management of interventions, seeking to ensure that M4P principles are embodied from the outset.
- Reports were circulated on the 2014 household survey, the 2015 registration survey, the 2015 nursery survey, and current adoption rates of improved practices.
- Planned activities:
  - Conduct evaluation of nurseries
  - Finalise MEL handover plans for December/January
  - Finalise Component 2 results frameworks
  - Commence planting season monitoring plans

#### I.5. ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE

- Mwaniki Ngibuini left FDT as Executive Director at the end of August. On an interim basis, the senior management team is sharing leadership and management responsibilities.
- Emphasis placed on improving financial management (revisions to policies, procedures and forms, delegation of responsibilities) and development of governance and HR policies.
- On the strategy front, reviews of sustainability have taken place while MEL has assisted develop component-level Theories of Change and monitoring frameworks.
- Scoping trip to northern and eastern Tanzania to explore opportunities for FDT engagement.
- Planned activities:
  - Recruitment of Executive Director, and Finance and Administration Director
  - Development of FDT Operations Manual and implementation of adopted policies
  - Development and implementation of FDT risk register and management framework
  - Directors to attend Springfield training course on market systems development
  - Develop team strategy process to work on long-term vision and sustainability issues
  - Completion of transfer of assets and updating of fixed asset register
  - Broad budget restructuring in order to re-allocate funds until 2018
  - Staff training in defensive driving and first aid