



FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT TRUST  
UENDELEZAJI MISITU TANZANIA

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ADVISORY PANEL NEWSLETTER

Q3 2015/2016

15/1/2016



# OVERVIEW: QUARTER 3 2015/2016

The major developments in Q3 2015/2016 can be summarised as follows:

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

- Negotiations and Agreements prepared for seed procurement for trial establishment.
- Plus tree selection and seed collection (local) undertaken with exception of Sao Hill.
- TAFORI Arboretum Lushoto visited and seed collected.
- Suitable short term storage facility for seed installation.
- Seed sowing, importation of clonal material and site identification for trial establishment.
- 2016 species trial signage prepared.
- Staff undertook tree breeding course in South Africa, and nursery establishment technique course at TTSA.
- Planned activities:
  - Continuation of planning activities for trials and land preparation for 2015/2016, along with implementation of trial designs, planting, blanking
  - Develop ToR for a study on species suitability and site potentials across country
  - Undertake planning for scoping trip to western and southern Tanzania
  - Convene meeting to pursue the adoption of the Tree Improvement Strategy and first meeting of TI Research Working Group including development of Terms of Reference.
  - Complete appraisal of options for the tree improvement programme before deciding on a course of action for Year 4.

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

- Developed plans to trial a range of delivery models to provide training/advice, information and access to high quality material, via: (a) private sector processors; (b) nurseries; (c) aggregators/buyers; (d) CAs (on a small scale); and (e) input suppliers.
- Finalised two video modules (module 2 tree nursery and module 3 woodlot establishment), with module 4 (woodlot management) in final stages.
- Printed 1000 copies of the Module 3 booklet on woodlot establishment and under testing by FDT and PFP. Modules 2 and 4 booklets completed.
- Supported improved seedling marketing by radio announcements.
- In addition to 70 FDT partner nurseries, some 17 other nurseries have approached FDT for access to advisory services and improved seeds.
- Piloted input distribution networks in Mufindi, Njombe and Kilolo in partnership with FIPs.
- Continued partnership with Jambe Agro to distribute 'one-acre packs' of improved eucalyptus seeds for the 2015/16 season.
- Planned activities:
  - Dialogue with plantation investors to strengthen the viability of their investment and explore opportunities for innovation clusters around their plantations.
  - Continue to facilitate the relationship between Jambe Agro and the tree nursery operators, support sourcing of high quality tree seeds, and advise on marketing.
  - Analyse industrial actor's plans and capacity to engage with small and medium tree growers to identify training delivery options and marketing opportunities.

- Continue to build capacity of nursery operators with special focus on record keeping and how to deliver technical advice to tree growers.
- Organise Farmer Field Day in Kisolanza to promote improved planting materials and techniques among tree growers.
- Test screen videos in 14 villages with the TFS Forestry Publicity department.

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

Scoping results were delivered for the Mwenga opportunity, helping to highlight key uncertainties and relevance to wider Trust activities.

- Organisation-wide strategy design process outlined, covering scope, timeline, content, sequencing, roles, resourcing and management considerations.
- Prioritised studies in relation to strategy design: (a) regional supply and demand of specific timber products and issues of competitiveness; (b) tree grower economics, investment and marketing choices; and (c) species suitability and site potentials across country.
- Job Descriptions developed for Forest Business Analyst and Business Engagement Manager.
- Participation of three directors at Springfield M4P training.
- Scoping work in relation to Mwenga rural electrification programme to determine if electricity supply can catalyse sawmilling opportunities, including first phase of sawmilling (three types of technology) and smallholder woodlot economic analyses.
- Took part in PFP stakeholder validation workshop for value chains study and provided consolidated review comments from FDT, regional forestry team and independent advisors.
- Planned activities:
  - Finalisation of strategy design and formulation of interim sector vision and strategy.
  - Define ToRs for key regional and national studies.
  - Communicate with RVE and GVEP on key uncertainties and undertake studies or engagement to help provide answers.
  - Hold Advisory Panel Meeting, preceded by collaboration with TTSA on study on seed production, distribution, certification and importation.
  - Continue with exploration of alternative remote sensing approaches, aiming to establish area estimates and locations of trees grown across project area.
  - Respond to demand for FDT engagement with Dar-based tree growers/investors.

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

- Completed evaluation of nurseries, focusing on assessing the cost-effectiveness of C2 training efforts as well as support to nurseries.
- Commenced planting season monitoring plans.
- Supported the introduction of intervention design/management tools and processes to capture the learning agenda of specific components and interventions.
- Review and development of Theories of Change and monitoring plans.
- Distribution of results from evaluation of FDT's range of demonstration plots.
- Planned activities:
  - Complete adoption survey.
  - End of season nursery survey.
  - Support to DFID annual review.
  - FDT annual report (Q4).
  - Support on rethinking the role and positioning of MEL within FDT.

## I.5. ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE

On the management and administration front, several key governance and HR organisation policies were rolled out including staff training following their approval at the last Trustees meeting. Work continued on the finalisation of remaining policies (finance, procurement, human resources, health and safety). Targeted efforts were made in fixed asset management and tax compliance. The internet infrastructure at FDT office was upgraded, providing much more reliable connectivity.

Trust management was undertaken jointly by the three directors, augmented by Christine Mavulla who joined as the Finance and Administration Director in November. Recruitment for the Trust Director was also completed. Staff development received emphasis, including the three directors attending Springfield training on market systems development, and other staff receiving training in tree breeding and nursery establishment.

- Planned activities:
  - Roll-out of several governance policies.
  - Develop external relations plan.
  - Design strategy process, develop interim sector vision and learning agenda.
  - Develop FY2016-2017 work plans.
  - Prepare and engage with DFID annual review.
  - Review organisation structure and recruit for C3 positions.
  - Create a stock control system for seed distribution, stock flow and controls.
  - Undertake tax and compliance review and prepare for end of year audit.