

Q2 2016/2017

18 November 2016

OVERVIEW

After a six-month period of strategy review and realignment, as well as various organisational development efforts, Q2 2016/17 saw FDT accelerating the implementation side once again, bolstered by a highly positive annual review. Key documents can be found on the Trust website.

Progress in each programme area are outlined below.

ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE

Key developments included:

- **Annual review** - FDT underwent its first joint annual review in October 2016, with both Gatsby Africa and DFID seeking to harmonise the annual review process. FDT achieved an “A” rating, marking a very successful six-month period of strategic review and refocusing. The positive feedback stands FDT in good stead for continued funding beyond 2018.
- **Recruitment** - Four new positions were recruited, including Ijumaa Kombo Singo (Tree Improvement Research Manager), Kastory Timbula (Markets and Policy Manager), Philemon Peter (SML Analyst) and Eddo Sika (Accountant). Two further Business and Market Facilitator positions are currently at interview stage.
- **PPF collaboration** – Following the advice of the Advisory Panel, an MOU was drafted and signed with PPF, setting out the means of collaboration going forwards.

GENETIC RESOURCES (COMPONENT 1)

Key developments included:

- **Tree Improvement Strategy** – The guiding strategy document for the tree improvement programme was finalised and presented to the Tree Improvement Research Working Group in Morogoro in July. Attention turns now to operationalising the strategy with partners.
- **Tree improvement institutional arrangements** – Efforts at appraising and deciding upon long-term institutional arrangements within which to house the tree improvement programme are ongoing. In the meantime, it was agreed at the July TIRWG meeting to proceed this year on a bilateral basis with willing and able partners.
- **Trials** – Work continued with partners on the maintenance of 36 trials across 10 sites, as well as a process of measurement and assessment of trial performance to date. Results will be communicated to stakeholders in Q3.
- **Seed orchard and breeding population preparation** – Preparatory work is underway to ensure timely establishment of seedling seed orchards and breeding populations in partnership with TFS and TANWAT. Seeds have been sown, potential sites identified, and MOUs are being developed with the respective partners.

TREE GROWER SERVICES (COMPONENT 2)

Key developments included:

- **Seed supply (Jambe Agro)** – FDT conducted analysis of the seed supply business model, finding that it is expected to be commercially feasible. However, initial farmer demand remains relatively low – FDT is working with Jambe on developing incentive schemes and promotional activities to stimulate demand. Meanwhile, Jambe continued to make strong progress – negotiating airtime deals with five radio stations for marketing campaigns, signing a deal with Tanganyika Farmers Association to open up major new distribution channels, and connecting with the Tree Improvement Research Working Group to discuss future improved seed supply potential.
- **Nurseries** – FDT continued to offer training to partner nurseries on nursery management and business practices, including initial explorations of access to finance issues. Over 100 nurseries attended a field day at FDT’s flagship demo plot, Kisolanza, in order to learn more about the potential benefits of improved planting material. A selection of nurseries are also engaging well with Jambe Agro, working together on incentive schemes for the sale of improved planting material. As with seed supply, business model analysis conducted by FDT showed that there is substantial commercial potential in trading in improved planting material for nurseries.
- **Investors, contractors, standards and certification** – Initial meetings were held with a range of Tanzanian investors and contractors in order to commence scoping of intervention opportunities in this area. Many investors were found to have limited knowledge of silviculture, and to be heavily dependent upon contractors. FDT believes there is potential for mid-to-large investors to play an important role in terms of (a) providing a demonstration effect to smaller growers and (b) stimulating demand for important market functions such as seed/seedling supply, standards and certification.

MARKETS AND POLICY (COMPONENT 3)

Key developments included:

- **Wood product market study** – A major study of Tanzanian wood product markets was commissioned, building upon the recent work of PFP/Indufor. The study aims to:
 - Provide up-to-date, long-term forecasts of overall supply and demand of wood products in Tanzania, disaggregating by product and supply source, and analysing market dynamics (including threats from substitutes/imports, and changing demands on quality)
 - Conduct in-depth analysis of key value chains (sawn timber, eucalyptus poles and veneer), in order to identify key constraints and potential intervention areas for FDT to support inclusive, competitive and resilient value chains.
- **Woodlot valuation study** – A scoping study investigating the potential to promote price information systems revealed that small growers are in fact better equipped than expected to estimate woodlot value using local (roadside) sawn timber prices. As such, this idea has been parked for the time being.
- **Aggregation and marketing** – Initial scoping exercises were conducted with a view to FDT providing technical assistance in Q3 to the UWAMIMA tree growers association in the development of a new marketing centre. The centre will support growers in adding value and delivering more efficient product aggregation.

- **Kisolanza** – A new management plan was set out for the flagship demo plot at Kisolanza, with new spacing and thinning regimes applied accordingly. Growth measurements have been taken and analysed, and will be shared with stakeholders in Q3.
- **Remote sensing** – Ground truthing was carried out on two pilot remote sensing studies. Initial results will be shared with stakeholders in Q3.

STRATEGY, MONITORING AND LEARNING

Key developments included:

- **Intervention Guide development** – Substantial efforts were invested in developing new tools and processes for the cost-effective design and management of FDT interventions. New processes will push out monitoring and learning responsibilities to intervention managers, in order to build a culture of learning and adaptive management across the team.
- **Defining poverty** – Work was carried out to assess the poverty status of FDT’s beneficiary farmers, and to establish poverty line definitions to be used in results measurement going forwards. This will ensure that FDT can maintain a strong focus on inclusivity, and ensure that our work is reaching poor farmers.
- **Routine monitoring** – The team carried out a number of studies, finding the following:
 - “Early adopters” of improved seeds and practices have a significant influence on neighbouring farmers, with a 1-to-1 “copying” effect observed in the field, suggesting the FDT may be having a larger impact than previously reported.
 - A link between adoption of improved seeds/practices and increased employment was reported – further investigation should reveal more about the magnitude of the employment impact.