

ADVISORY PANEL NEWSLETTER



2016/2017 Q3 (OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2016)

OVERVIEW

Following a successful annual review outcome in Q2, the Trust continued to build a leading team and accelerate implementation activity. Despite some market uncertainty, encouraging evidence is emerging of tree growers adopting behaviours and practices in support of a more competitive sector, and various market actors moving to realise opportunities to improve the provision of sector services on a commercial, sustainable basis. Collaboration among public and private actors has seen the consolidation of an expansive species trials network, preparations for establishing advanced seed orchards, and focus on developing sustainable institutional arrangements for tree improvement. The Trust also mapped and quantified, for the first time, planted pine and eucalyptus in the Southern Highlands, and progressed with producing an updated industry outlook of wood supply and demand.

Key developments during 2016/2017 Q3 are outlined below.

ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE

Monitoring and learning: Completion of two annual review reports by DFID and Gatsby Africa, following achievement of an 'A' DFID rating and Gatsby committing to longer-term support. Action plan prepared in response to the main recommendations. Specific monitoring studies conducted included a gender study, beneficiary analysis and nursery adoption survey. Further development of Intervention Management Guides as routine means to promote results measurement, learning and adaptation. Updates made to website content.

Human resources: Mr. Emmanuel Ikolongo Sangalali joined FDT as Markets and Business Facilitator, bringing valuable experience from Sao Hill Industries Ltd and Tanzania Leaf Tobacco Company. Additional HR activities included performance management training, mid-year performance reviews, job evaluation benchmarking, OHSA action plan development, strengthened visitor security and safety measures, and hosting of second FDT Family Day.

Finance and administration: Budget management improved with 1% variance in overall Trust expenditure compared to budget in Q3. Expenditure by end of Q3 amounted to 67% of the Year 4 budget. Financial statements 2015/2016 were approved and signed by Trustees, together with Management letter response. DFID financial management review undertaken.

GENETIC RESOURCES

Tree breeding infrastructure: Maintenance of 36 trials in 10 locations, some of the larger forestry companies increasingly taking financial responsibility. Trial assessment data for 2014/2015 trial series analysed and results communicated at various fora (forestry investors conference, Tanzania Association of Foresters). Four trial sites selected with partners for the establishment of trials, breeding populations and seedling seed orchards. In preparation, raised over 350 individual families for both *P. patula* and *E. grandis*, procured eucalyptus clonal hybrids and *Corymbia* hybrids, and

maintained older seedlings in GRL nursery. Raising of rootstocks and selections made of plus trees for *P. patula* grafting operations in preparation for clonal seed orchard establishment.

Strategy and institutional arrangements: Coordination arrangements has been a major focus of discussion within TIRWG, involving MNRT, TFS, TTSA, TAFORI, private companies and others. Initiated review of different tree improvement business models, covering incentives and capacities of different actors. Finalised Standard Operation Procedures for executing tree improvement activities and awaiting adoption by TIRWG. Development of national level tree improvement strategy awaiting formal communication from MNRT following interest expressed during the visit by Lord Sainsbury.

TREE GROWER SERVICES

Seed supply: Collaboration with JA in developing seed distribution channels (including evaluation of Tanganyika Farmers Association), and connecting to other players (participation in TIRWG). JA produced all-weather posters to help their nursery clients distinguish themselves from other nurseries marketing local seedlings under the name of improved seedlings. Analysis undertaken to confirm the market volumes and viability of improved seed importation and distribution. The results also highlighted the uncertainties and contradicting interpretations of the regulatory framework on public and private sector roles in tree seed importation, production and distribution.

Nurseries: Nurseries received training materials to improve quality of extension advice to clients, and provided business and technical assistance while monitoring impact along the four stages of nursery development. Analysed business models and introduced pilot marketing scheme with JA to encourage nurseries sell improved seedlings to smaller-scale growers. Continued work with Private Forestry Programme to facilitate sourcing of seedlings from village nurseries. Explored options for private actors to deliver training services to nurseries, and conducted survey of financial services to nurseries.

Extension services: Conducted training course covering technical advances in commercial forestry for 140 District Forest Managers (costs covered by TFS) and 60 District Forest Officers from the Southern Highlands. Each forester provided with 50 booklets, CD with guidelines and DVD with videos.



Tobacco industry: Initial meetings held with tobacco industry to discuss tree planting plans and advisory services, leading to identification of collaboration around extension content and species choices to provide advice on tree planting to some 10,000 tobacco farmers.

Tanzanian investors: Conducted forestry investor forum in Dar es Salaam for Tanzanian investors, with insights used to design further engagement activities with this influential stakeholder group.

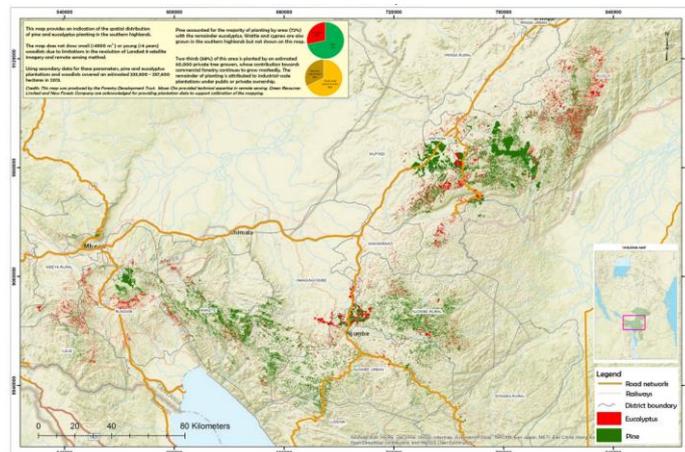
Kisolanza demonstration site: Pruning, thinning and marking of demonstration sites, and published a leaflet and presentation summarising purpose and early results across different treatments.



Demand creation: Support given to marketing efforts of Jambe Agro and knowledge dissemination through various channels including printed materials, training videos, DVDs and direct training efforts by Field Foresters. FDT printed and distributed some 10,000 copies of the three training modules, while TFS and PFF printed another 10,000 copies each for distribution through their respective networks. Several adoption surveys conducted by FDT produced evidence that tree growers effectively learn from their peers, leading to an acceleration of adoption of good silviculture practices.

MARKETS AND POLICY

Woodlot mapping: For the first time, FDT produced a map of woodlots and plantations in the Southern Highlands. Completed ground truthing and analysis based on 2013 satellite imagery; an estimated 233,500-257,600 Ha covered by pine and eucalyptus (72% and 28% respectively) in the Southern Highlands. Posters produced and shared with stakeholders, initiating collaboration to test suitability for securing raw material supply and linking to smallholders.



Policy and institutional support: Comments submitted on the draft National Tree Planting Strategy (Vice President’s Office – Division of Environment), focussing on the rationale for proposed planting levels, market orientation, private sector recognition and roles, research and development, and implementation feasibility. Provided financial support (TSH 5 million) to the annual TAF meeting. Attended and presented at Tanzania Forestry Investor Conference organised by MNRT, and held discussions involving senior policy makers at MNRT, Lord Sainsbury, Gatsby Africa.

Wood market study: Shared UNIQUE’s initial output of wood market study at a validation workshop attended by tree growers of all categories, public institutions responsible for quality standards, processors and consumers of wood products and FDT Advisory Panel members.

Smallholder aggregation: Initiated work with UWAMIMA to develop a database of raw material by location and age class, to be used to develop a harvesting plan for pine sawn logs and eucalyptus poles. Initiated tree grower economics modelling for small, medium and large tree growers. A concept note on improving smallholder tree growers access to extension services was developed.

Various documents can be found on the [Resources](#) section of the Trust website.