

**Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) Africa Exchange visit,  
Kenya, 6-8 June 2015 & African Farm/ Family Forestry  
Producer Organizations Conference, Nairobi, 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>  
June 2015**



**The Gambia Report, June 2015**

# **PART 1: REPORT OF THE EXCHANGE VISIST**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Gambia being one of the four (4) African partner countries' of the Forest and Farm Facility initiative participated in the Exchange visit – Learning and Sharing of experience among FFF implementing countries in Africa. The exchange visit gathered participants from FFF implementing countries; The Gambia, Liberia, Zambia and Kenya. The Gambian delegation consists of Head of Participatory Forest Management Unit (PFMU) Mr. Cherno Gaye, President National Farmers Platform of The Gambia (NFPG) Mr. Alagie Basse Mboge, Scorpion Women Farmers Mrs. Jainaba Badjie, Coordinator All Gambia Forestry Platform (AGFP) Mr. Ebrima Camara and FFF National Facilitator Mr. Kanimang Camara.

*The main objective of this exchange visit is to enable Africa FFF countries to learn and share experiences from Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs) and the enabling environment in Kenya.*

*The specific objective is to exchange, learn and discuss with delegates of FFPOs and governments of the respective countries on topics related to Forest and Farm Producer Organizations on following areas:*

- *Enabling policy and institutional framework in support of farm forestry*
- *Socio-economic benefits and incentives for farm forestry and community-based forestry*
- *Organizational structure and governance of FF producer organizations*
- *Capacity development strategy*
- *Communication arrangements*
- *Challenges and opportunities for FFPO's*
- *Linkages /partnerships with related programmes and organizations*
- *Sustainability strategy of FFPOs*
- *Partnerships*

**FFPOs and Institutions' visited were:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of FFPO/ Institution visited</b>	<b>Area of Interest</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> June	Introductory & Briefing meeting on Exchange visit at Jacaranda Hotel	Introduction to proposed sites of the visit by FF SPAK, KFS, FAO
6 <sup>th</sup> June	<p>Am. Travel to Nakuru &amp; installation in Merica Hotel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FOMAWA</li> <li>• Gum Grower Group (G3)</li> <li>• Community Food and Environment Groups in Molo (Small Holder Farm Forestry Integrated Project)</li> <li>• Charcoal Briquetting Centre using Saw Dust</li> <li>• Nakuru County Tree Nursery Association</li> </ul>	<p>School Green Projects: Establishment of woodlots</p> <p>Commercial Forestry</p> <p>Inter-cropping/ Trees on Farmlands</p> <p>Domestication and Utilization of the African Plum (Prunus Africana)</p> <p>Alternative energy sources and income generation</p> <p>Commercial Tree Nursery production and ornamentals</p>
7 <sup>th</sup> June	<p>Meeting with Nakuru County Government in Merica Hotel and presentation on preliminary results of the conducted Baseline Surveys for Nakuru and Lakekipa Counties</p> <p>Menengai Community Forest Association</p>	<p>Roles and contributions of County Governments towards Farm Forestry</p> <p>Contributions of Farm Forestry Producer Organizations to forest conservation, employment opportunities and poverty reduction</p> <p>Priority Areas for FFF support in the 2 Counties earmarked</p> <p>Co-management of Forest Reserve (KFS and satellite community)</p> <p>Income Generating activities (Poultry, rearing of small ruminants, Beekeeping &amp; eco-</p>

		tourism)
8 <sup>th</sup> June	Meeting at Kenya Forest Service	<p>Presentations on: Kenya Forest Policy framework, Support to Community Based Farm Forestry Enterprises through existing projects and programmes, Proposed Kenya Forest Conservation and Management Fund</p> <p>Experiences from FF SPAK and from other FFF Countries (The Gambia, Liberia and Zambia)</p>

## **Proceedings**

### **Pre-field visit preparatory meeting at Jacaranda Hotel**

Participants met briefly on the evening prior to the field visit to be informed and sensitized on areas proposed for the field visit by the host KFS, FF SPAK and FFF Facilitator of Kenya. Details for the field visit to Nakuru County were presented and discussed upon by the participants. Other issues discussed upon are:

- (i) the status of FFF Small Grants actualization; and
- (ii) FFF country communication plans level of implementation

FFF Small Grants scheme is being implemented in all the FFF African countries, although countries are at different levels. In Liberia the National Charcoal Union is been granted support from the Small Grants to address governance and marketing issues. In The Gambia on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2015, 9 FFPOs were concluded Letters of Agreements, while in Kenya advertisements are underway both on radio and print media for "call for proposals" to initiate the process.

Country feedback on communication plans could not be fully addressed as participants decided to call off the meeting due to the late start. Agreement reached to utilize one of the evenings to further discuss and share preliminary results on FFF Communication strategies for each of the FFF Countries.

## **DAY 1 Field Visit Activities**

The exchange visit began on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June, 2015 and the team made their first visit to a project site of Friends of the Mau Watershed (FOMAWA). On arrival at the project site, we were introduced to the project management staff Mr. Richard Milloh. Mr Milloh explained in brief the background of FOMAWA and the purpose of the project. He said the project is Community Woodlot project initiated by FOMAWA under the School Green Project to support meeting the school running cost and train the children on environmental conservation. Mr Milloh said FOMAWA has being in existence since 2011 and has supported 250 Schools. He emphasized that the initiative is geared towards supporting school woodlot establishment. The area coverage is estimated at 1ha and preferred tree species planted are Eucalyptus and Pine. The rationale behind the initiative is to increase the earning capacity of involved schools alongside environmental awareness raising among school going children. Poles produced by the school children will be sold at 4000 Kenya Shilling and proceeds realized from the sales will be re-invested on educational and learning materials. ***"Engaging the future generations (Students) in tree planting will promote changing habits and attitudes towards the environment at an early age, using age appropriate teaching and learning methods that combine academic teaching with practical experiences for students and teachers"* Kanimang**

The second site visited by the team was at the site of Gum Growers Group (G3) an individual owned plantation. The proprietor of the plantation appreciated and expressed delight for visiting his project site. He has a woodlot of 20ha size of Eucalyptus and Pine. He claimed to be a successful entrepreneur based on his financial background and international linkages. However he mentioned few challenges to attaining his objectives:

- Poor prices for Poles caused by growers operating individually and not connected together;
- Difficulty in forming growers' cooperatives to enhance the sector;
- Felling and transport permits be abolished because of bureaucracies and inadequate capacities to monitor the process;
- Proceeds from the sales of trees to be exempted from tax to farmers; and
- Lease to be granted to owners as long as the crop will take to mature and subjected to an agreed management plan

The team continued to visit multipurpose land use sites establish by Community Food and Environment Groups (CofegFA). With references to all the sites visited by the team, participants were impressed to observe and discuss with farmers the approach of inter-cropping and multiple use of land for improve livelihood. Inter-cropping with Irish potatoes, tree crops such as Eucalyptus, pine and moringa alongside Bee farming were commented and participants agreed the need to further propagate the practice at areas where erosion is sever. ***"Come this year rainy season, i will plant emaliana and cashew along our family farm boundary lines such that boundaries cannot be disputed in future"* Jainaba.**

Prior to the conclusion of the site visit at CofegFA, each of the participating countries were urged to plant a tree to commemorate the exchange visit. Mr. Alagie Basse Mboge President of NFPG planted the tree on behalf of The Gambian delegation. ***"Inter-cropping (cereals, tubers, vegetables & tree crops) seeks to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well improve the food security and livelihoods of the people practicing the initiative" Alagie Basse Mboge***

The team proceeded to another project site of CofegFA where the Executives was met and discussions on the management structure and products produced by the Group. The Group with the support of African Development Bank benefited from a processing plant for medicinal products. Among the products produced by the Group includes Prunus Africana, cake made of eddoes and other cereals.

The fourth site visited by the team was the Charcoal Briquetting Centre in Molo. The senior technical officer of the site explained to the team how they process saw dust to charcoal briquette. She made mention of the importance of the project to them in terms of livelihood improvement, employment opportunities and income generation. She elaborated that briquettes are oxidized before packaging to increase the hardness. Oxidized briquettes are stored and pack in 50kg bags for sale at a price of 900ksh.

Concluding the day late in the evening, the team visited the Tree Nursery Association of Nakuru. The Association is the umbrella body for the development and promotion of Tree nursery entrepreneurship in Nakuru County. The Coordinator deliberated on the organizational mandate of the Association, membership eligibility and membership categories. According to the Coordinator, the Association has a membership across the county and each member is raising at least 2,000 tree seedlings. He said the greater percentage of the membership comprises of the youths.

The following key challenges are encountered by the Association:

- Product pricing not taking consideration overhead cost of production especially labour requirements;
- KFS is selling tree seedlings at a far lower price than them and this is driving away customers from them to KFS;
- Inadequate market research to determine customer preference; and
- Lack of coordination among Association members

## **DAY 2**

The second day of the field visit began with a meeting at Merica Hotel in Nakuru. The meeting brought representatives from the Nakuru County Government, Farm Forestry Producer Organizations and representatives from FFF implementing countries in Africa.

The meeting focused on:

- I. The role and contribution of County governments towards Farm Forestry
- II. The contributions of Farm Forestry Producer Organizations to forest conservation, employment opportunities and poverty reduction

### III. Preliminary feedback on the just concluded Baseline surveys in the 2 counties

The Country Government representatives mentioned that developed plans and strategies for providing support to Farm Forestry Producer Organizations are on course and the challenges faced includes provision of Forestry Extension Services to all the Districts in the County which is caused by the recent devolution of the Central Government. ***"Decentralization of State Organs should encompass human and financial resources allocation to the decentralized structures for active role play" Cherno Gaye***

A Representative of Farm Forestry Producer Organizations mentioned the following challenges: Inadequate Extension Services by the Kenya Forest Service, Formation of growers' cooperatives without institutional capacity building or funding support. ***"FFF is not a project but an initiative, the momentum created through FFF should continue with or without Facility support" Kanimang***

At the end of the Merica Hotel Meeting, the team proceeded to the Community Forest Association (CFA) of Kenya. The Association is a co-management partner to the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) in relation to the Forest Park. The CFA was created in 2012 and has a 20 (12 men & 8 women) member management committee elected through consensus among the communities involved in the management.

The Forest Park is frequently visited by many tourists visiting the Nakuru County. The surrounding lakes of Nakuru could be viewed crystal clearly from the cliffs of the mountain alongside the caves used by former freedom fighters which are now used for ritual and cultural purposes. The Co-management committees benefited from series of trainings with funding from KFS and partners. Other tangible benefits realized from the management arrangement include:

- Privilege of user rights on minor forest products for domestic use;
- Integration of sector and non-sector related income generating activities for improved livelihood; and
- Tax incentives on products produced and sold by the local communities

Country experiences were shared with the CFA especially in terms of exploring other bee hives such as the Kenya Top- Bars for increased wax production which fetches more price than pure honey. Innovative approaches were as well observed in terms of poultry farming. For example the use of motor batteries to power electricity instead of relying on the usual electricity supplies and use of locally crafted incubators for hatching.

### **DAY 3**

The final aspect of the exchange visit was a meeting at Kenya Forest Service. The meeting brought officials (Technical and Projects staff) of KFS, Service Providers and delegates from the 4 FFF implementing countries in Africa.

The meeting centred on the following presentations followed by plenary discussions:

- Kenya policy Framework for Farm Forestry by Zipporah Toroitich



- WB – support to Community Based Farm Forestry Enterprise by Jane Ndeti
- Proposed Kenya Forest Conservation and Management Fund
- Experience from We Effect by George Onyango
- Experience from FF-Spark
- Experience from other FFF Countries
  - The Gambia
  - Liberia
  - Zambia
- Way forward

The FFF Country presentations focused on key thematic areas for experience sharing on the implementation processes. The Gambian presentation highlighted the following areas:

- Support to the Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Multi-sectoral Platform for effective coordination of stakeholder efforts on ANR and promotion of all inclusive participatory dialogue on ANR policies;
- Organizing Gambia Cashew Farmers Federation for business and markets; and
- Overview of The Gambia FFF Communication strategy

The Liberian presentation provides an up-date on the Letter of Agreement (LoA) signed by the National Charcoal Union of Liberia, initial efforts on FFF Small Grants scheme and the up-coming LoA in support of the multi-sector landscape forum. Key challenges such as the Ebola outbreak hampered the speed of implementation of planned activities.

Zambia presentation gave an overview of the proposed sites for FFF programme, selection of chiefdoms and implementing partner institutions. The recently conducted Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) Regional training for the African partner countries were well elaborated upon.

Mr. Oscar of KFS presented the initial concept note on the creation of an African network in support of FFPOs which emanated from the Vietnam conference on locally controlled forest enterprises. The idea was highly welcomed by the participants but a lot of work needs to be done prior to the presentation scheduled during the up-coming World Forest Congress slated for September 2015 in Durban South Africa.

Finally, Sophie Grouwels FFF coach and the Facility manager, Mr. Cam thanked the entire participant for their efforts and contributions during the field visit and urged

the same momentum to continue to the first international conference for IFFPOs slated for the next day.

### **Key issues and lessons learned**

- Provision of adequate and timely extension services to FFPOs key to successes and sustainability of the groups;
- Participatory inclusion of all concerned stakeholders on sustainable forest landscape management key ingredient for sustainable development;
- The need to support the groups visited with viable enterprise development plans to evaluate the profitability and sustainability of their enterprises;
- New insights gained on inter-cropping of cereals, legumes and tree crops for control of erosion on sloppy farm lands replicable in many country contexts; and
- Tenure security in relation to land and trees needs further improvement especially for co- managed areas.

### **Areas for further improvement on organizing and conducting field visits**

- Time management needs to improve to avoid visiting too many areas within a given day;
- Culture of working together among groups needs to be further strengthened such joint efforts could be undertaken;
- Democratization of the governance structures of the groups needs to be further investigated and short-comings addressed through trainings to avoid individual dominants of the group activities as observed in Molo Small Holder Farm Forestry Project.

# **PART 11: REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE**

## **African Farm/ Family Forestry Producer Organizations Conference, Nairobi, 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

### **DAY 1**

Conference opening remarks was delivered by Peter deMarsh Chairman of International Farm Forestry Alliance (IFFA) and Geoffrey Wanyama, Director Farm Forestry Small Producer Association of Kenya (FF SPAK).

### **Presentation on the Background Paper**

Julius Chupezi Tieguhong and Jolien Schure Research consultants for the development of the background paper for the conference "*African Farm/Family Forestry and Producer Organizations for improved livelihoods and sustainable landscape management*" provided an overview of key findings to the participants. The background paper provides synopsis on the current status of Farm/Family Forestry and Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs) in Africa. It serves an input to the African Farm/Family Producer Organization Conference in Nairobi 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015. According to the consultants, the report is based upon review of literature, policy documents and interviews with key informants and representatives of FFPOs, with focus on twelve African countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia. The presentations covered key areas in the draft document. This includes:

- Setting the scene for Farm/Family Forestry in Africa (status and contributions)
- Getting the enabling environment right (land tenure, market access, capacity and technical assistance)
- Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (rationale, characteristics, policy and resource)
- FFPOs provides multiple services to address policy and market challenges
- Future for Farm/ Family Forestry and FFPOs in Africa (key constraints and opportunities)

### **Remarks by the Acting Director –Kenya Forestry Service (KFS)**

In his remarks, Mr Emilio Mugo the Acting Director of KFS thanked all the delegates for turning out to the conference. He said this is the first of its kind (a conference on Farm/Family Forestry) and looking at the representation, he can be assured that this conference will yield a very positive impact on Farm Forestry. He highlighted the commitment of KFS to promoting Farm Forestry and providing support to small holders in Kenya. He challenged participants to engage in fruitful discussions and deliberations for advancing Farm/ Family Forestry in Africa.

### **Remarks by FAOR-Kenya**

FAO Representative in Kenya made very short and precise welcome remarks and assured the cooperation of his office in organizing and conducting the Regional Conference. He emphasized that "Small holders Farm and Forest producers are the main players for change"

### **Remarks by FFF Manager Mr. Jeff Campbell**

The Manager of Forest and Farm Facility Mr. Jeff Campbell described FFF as Facility to enhance the capacities of small holder producers in Farm Forestry. He said FFF is a multi donor (IUCN, IIED) funded initiative house at FAO. Mr Campbell made an assurance that "Small holder producers will one day do things on their own".

### **Remarks by African Union Commission**

The representative of the African Union Commission, Mr Almami Dampha – a Senior Policy Officer for Forestry and Land Management thanked all the donors who contributed to organizing this important conference. Mr Dampha highlighted the role of African Union towards environmental conservation. He said environmental conservation particularly Forest can address the following issues;

- Poverty alleviation
- Desertification and land degradation
- Job and wealth creation
- Food security and environmental protection
- Climate change mitigation
- Energy demand

Mr Dampha said therefore the representation in this August conference will surely make positive contributions to Forest conservation and Farm Forestry to improve the livelihood of the African population.

**The official opening remarks was delivered by Minister of Environment, Water and Natural Resources Prof. Judi Wakhungu.**

### **Group work 1: Securing tenure and enabling policies:**

A round table discussion was made on securing tenure and enabling policies for Farm Forestry Producer Organizations facilitated by James Makori an Environmental Lawyer. Each table conducted a group work on Challenges and solutions to securing tenure. After group round table discussions, each table presented two challenges and two solutions to securing tenure and enabling policies for supporting FFPOs.

Some challenges and solutions presented include:

**Challenge:**

Complexity of laws regarding tenure rights, the communities and individuals are not well sensitized on the laws covering land and tree tenure.

**Solution:**

Farm Forestry Producers Organizations should be sensitized on Land Acts in order to take up the advocacy and awareness raising programs for FFPOs.

**Challenge:**

Governments issuing licences to housing and business companies for turning forest landscapes to housing estates

**Solution**

Housing estate companies should make agreements with forest communities before turning forest landscapes to housing estates.

**Group work 2: Gaining Access to markets and effective service provision and organizational strengthening in the different African context**

A second round table discussion focused on gaining market access and effective service provision and organizational strengthening in the different African context facilitated by **Serge Razfimahatratra**.

Similarly, each table had plenary discussions on how to improve access to markets and effective service provision for FFPOs.

Some of the group work outcomes include:

- Exchange and sharing of knowledge on business development and market information among FFPOs.
- Growers should form cooperatives to be responsible for marketing of their products.
- Growers need to be trained on Enterprise Development Planning in order to become potential entrepreneurs.

Group work 3: Focused on the presentation of Makweti sishekanu of Zambia Farmers Union "**Forming and strengthening effective organizations/Federations**".

Makweti's presentation was supported with a short video and followed by plenary discussions. At the end of day 1 field trip team were developed and logistics agreed upon for the next day.

## DAY 2: Field Trips

The second day of the Conference was field trip to some community initiative project sites as illustrated on the below table.

<b>Group &amp; County Visited</b>	<b>Activity &amp; Site</b>	<b>Details/ Area of Interest</b>
Group 1: Kiambu County	Visit to a Private Farm owned and managed by Mrs. Rose Makimei at Lari Kirenga location	Woodlot, Apiary, Animal husbandry and vegetable growing
	Site visit to Natural Water bottling site	Sector and non-sector related activities by NGO Kenvo
	Kereita Community Forest Association	Co-management arrangement between Government and communities in conserving forest
	Visit to Bamboo Farmer	Giant Bamboo propagation and use. Kenya Forestry Research Institute educational center
Group 2: Muranga County	Visit to Kangema	
	Visit to Gatere Community Forestry Association	Engage in forest protection- benefits- fuel wood collection including grazing
	Kiarutara Community Water Project Group	Seedling production and joint marketing initiatives
	Visit to Bamboo Farmer	Giant Bamboo propagation and use. Kenya Forestry Research Institute educational center
Group 3: Nyandarua County	Visit Peter Mwangi Nderitu Farm	Production of poles and timber
	Second small scale farmer	Mixed farming
	Daniel Maina Farm	Harvesting Transmission poles from Eucalyptus
	Olbolossat CFA	Government and local communities collaboration in conserving forest
	Nyakariang Catchment	Natural water source for bottling

Team contracts were agreed upon and each of the groups presented lessons learned and observations for improvement based on findings of the field trip.

### **DAY 3**

The third day of the conference began with the reflections on the field trips. Each Rapporteur for each of the three teams presented a report on their field trip – lessons learned and observations.

The second activity of day 3 was Panel discussion on the role of Governments including state forest service (from policy to extension).

The panellists were Mr. Lamin Jawara Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Forestry and Environment The Gambia, Mr Edward Camara of Forestry Development Authority of Liberia, Mr Patrick, Acting Director of Kenya Forest Service and representative of Zambia Forest Service.

In his speech, Mr Lamin Jawara from The Gambia explained the role of The Government of The Gambia in formulating effective policies on natural resources. Mr Jawara mentioned that initially there used to be individual institutional policies for each Department but of recent the policies in the natural resource sector were harmonized to an integrated sectoral policy called the ANR Policy. Mr Jawara elaborated that the ANR policy captures key provisions for all the ANR Departments which advocates for an integrated approach towards the implementation of the policy. Mr Jawara quoted some of the key areas in this policy such as Participatory Forest Management and Community Forestry and the major activities conducted are rolling-out the policy to relevant stakeholders, conduction of tree planting exercises and training of extension agents. Key challenges facing the sector include, illegal forest product utilization alongside and inadequate institutional capacities in advancing the policy forward.

Mr Edward Camara from the Forestry Development Authority of Liberia, in his speech highlighted the policy priority for the forestry sector in Liberia. Mr Camara said policy priority for forestry sector in Liberia is management and conservation of forest. He said communities are engaged in these conservation activities. Mr Camara said these activities are Agroforestry, commercialization of forest products, Community Forestry activities. He said reforestation activities are regulated by FDA.

In his speech, Mr Patrick, the Acting Director of Kenya Forest Service explained the role of KFS and the Government of Kenya in formulating effective forest policy for forestry sector. He said KFS was committed to empowering charcoal producers into cooperatives to avoid interference of middlemen in hampering the prices. Mr Patrick said this was part of their efforts in promoting value chain for FFPOs. The new development in the sector in relation to the creation of a Forest Trust Fund was highlighted.



In his speech, the Zambian panelist said the new forest policy was developed in 2014 and the is looking at different types of forest management - Participatory Forest management, Community Forest and Private Forest. He said the provision includes community empowerment and integrated forest management.

**Round table discussions** moving farm forestry ahead: securing tenure, fair market access, extension services, effective FFPOs and step for practical information exchange and networking.

In this session, each country was assign to develop an Action Plan to be implemented from the outcomes of the conference. The Gambian team develop an Action Plan which was presented by Mr Alhagie Basse Mboge, the President of the National Farmers Platform The Gambia. The Action plan involves the following:

❖ **Securing tenure**

- I. Strengthening the capacity of Regional Task Force to better engage the Ministry in CF tenure transfer
- II. NFPG will facilitate the engagement process
- III. Build the capacity of line Ministries responsible for CF designation process.
- IV. Training of Regional task force on tenure transfer processes.

❖ **Access to fair market**

- I. Training of FFPOs on Enterprise Development Planning
- II. Conduct periodic Contact and Collaboration fairs for producers
- III. Government to re-enforce regulatory mechanism in apprehending illegal forest products
- IV. Community collaboration in curbing illegal forest activities.

❖ **Extension Services**

- I. Strengthening of Multi Disciplinary Facilitation Teams at District level
- II. Revive and promote Village Promoter (ViP) concept for supporting extension services at rural level

❖ **Promotion of effective FFPOs**

- I. Encourage the registration of FFPOs to National Apex Bodies
- II. Training of FFPOs on group management and strengthening topics
- III. Facilitation of the involvement of FFPOs in policy dialogue.

## **Africa Forest Forum**

In his presentation, Mr Justine Yunus the Senior Program Officer for Africa Forest Forum said AFF is engaged with the promotion of SFM. He said AFF is working with organization and communities in building their capacities on policy dialogue, advocacy and lobbying, networking and information sharing. Mr Yunus mentioned their recent commitment of sponsoring hundred delegates to the XIV World Forestry Congress in Durban South Africa and organizing of a Pre- Conference in Durban before the main Conference.

At the extreme end of the conference, delegates developed key Messages from Farm/Family Forestry Conference to XIV World Forestry Congress slated for September this year in Durban South Africa followed by closing session and a cocktail entertainment.

### **Lessons from the conference**

- Systematic and periodic review of forest policies and legislations in Africa can significantly contribute towards appropriate and supportive framework for advancing Farm/ Family Forestry programmes for improved livelihood and sustainable management of forest landscapes;
- During the panel presentation by Governments, the Kenyan presenter did not elaborate well on modalities of forest fund administration. Lessons from the Gambia showed that in order to minimize the bottlenecks and challenges of accessing the fund from Government Treasury to support SFM, is to establish a fund administration committee of which among others FFPOs needs to be represented for accountability and transparency.
- Agreed and respected benefit sharing mechanism on co-managed forest areas needs to be further strengthened in the Kenyan context because most of the villages involved in joint management of forest reserves alleged that their shares of the benefits realized are yet to be received by the local population;
- The need to further debate about the advantages and disadvantages of incentives among donors and project implementers in SFM as observed in Kenya;
- Diversification of forest and farm products to embark on and their pricing by local communities needs to be further justified through conducted market and customer surveys in order to avoid or minimize high fluctuation of products in the markets with less prospects for marketing; “too many producers of poles with uncertain customers and market values coupled with abundant tree nursery products leading to high competition with KFS nursery programmes ”; and

- Experience from The Gambia has shown that the challenges of SFM can be met if Governments have the will to empower the rural communities by making them owners of their traditional forests through concluding forest management agreements with them and honouring agreed roles and responsibilities.