



**FOREST AND FARM FACILITY EXCHANGE VISIT AND AFRICA
FAMILY FARM FORESTRY PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS CONFERENCE**

ZAMBIA REPORT

By

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) is a multi-donor programme, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) that is overseen by a Steering Committee, and has a management team including staff from FAO, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

As part of the programme implementation in Africa the FFF arranged for a field exchange visit to Kenya and also participation of the African teams in the first ever African conference for Farm and Family Forestry producers.

The Forest and Farm producers exchange visit and Conference were held between 6th to the 11th of June 2015 in Kenya.

1.1 Exchange visit objectives

The main objective of the exchange visit was to enable FFF Africa implementation teams learn from each other's experience and good practices of forest and farm producer organizations (FFPOs) in Kenya. The specific objective was to exchange, learn and discuss with delegates of FFPOs of the respective countries on topics related to the 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
- Implementation arrangements
- Capacity development strategy
- Challenges and opportunities for FFPO's
- Linkages /partnerships with related programmes and organizations
- Sustainability strategy of FFPOs

1.2 African Farm Forestry Conference

This conference was held from the 9-10th of June 2015, and was designed to discuss and share experiences of locally controlled forestry with a special focus on family farm tree growing groups and their national organizations/federations.

The conference brought together 100 participants from organizations from more than 15 countries and more than 10 international, regional and national organisations including African Union (AU) , which represented farm/family forestry in Africa, as well as government forest managers, forest technical agencies, NGOs, donor agencies, academic institutions, and general forestry groups who were committed to encourage the development of family farm forestry producer organizations and federations in their countries.

Further, the conference produced resolutions which would be feed into the XIV World Forestry Congress, 7-11 September, 2015; Durban, South Africa.

The main theme of the Congress was "*Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future*". The African Family Farm Forestry Conference provided a good opportunity to have African

farm/family forestry voices heard at the international level and also provided a platform for networking.

This conference was officially opened by Kenyan Minister of Environment, Water and Natural Resources of Kenya Professor Judy Wakhungu and was attended by a representative from the African Union Commission Mr Almami Dampha.

The Zambian team that participated in the exchange visit and conference included:

1. Senior Chief Chibwika of Mwinilunga District HRH Julias Muyinda representing the Mwinilunga District Farmers Association and his own Chiefdom.
2. Mr Davies Kashole, Forest Officer in the Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection under the Forestry Department and also the Government Focal point person for the FFF programme in Zambia.
3. Mr Makweti Seshekanu, ZNFU Manager Gender and Environment and also Focal point person for the FFF programme at ZNFU.
4. Mr Ignatius Makumba, Director Forestry only attended the conference.
5. Mr Vincent Ziba, FAO FFF National Facilitator.

2. Top Insights Gained from the Forest and Farm Exchange Visit and Conference Kenya

PRE- CONFERENCE THE FIELD EXCHANGE VISIT	
1	<p>Field visits to Molo and Mau Water shade: A visit to the small holder farmers practicing Agroforestry and small forest plantations was undertaken.</p> <p>It was interesting to note how smallholder farmers with less than 5 acres of land have embraced Agroforestry with the view of establishing woodlots after the trees have formed a canopy. The intercropping with high value crops like Irish Potatoes provided an incentive for managing the trees for woodlot establishment.</p>
2	<p>The smallholder farmers working in producer groups have managed to organize marketing with the National Electricity Company of Kenya for supplying poles. However the small scale farmers are challenged with good quality species to compete with commercial farmers for quality poles.</p>
3	<p>It was interesting to see intensive production for Forest and Farm producers on limited land. The production of woodlots mainly Eucalyptus and Pines were grown and beekeeping with seasonal crop production of Irish Potatoes and maize was common among the small scale farmers visited.</p> <p>In Zambia the challenge of promoting Agroforestry has been long term incentives from Agroforestry and poor market for the Forest products from the fields.</p> <p>In Kenya we noted an effort by the Mau Watershed Association headed by a commercial farmer with linkages to senior Government officials and major coffee/Tea producing companies of Kenya to collaborate with small holder producers to access a local Government company Electrical pole market.</p>
4	<p>Nakuru County authorities dialogue meeting: The Government of Kenya has targeted 10% improved forest cover by 2016 but most land is in private hands. The Government therefore needs to promote Forest plantations on private lands by offering incentives mainly providing market for the products and also access to processing equipment. Small grants have been provided through KFS for process of forest products like we noticed the processing of Pinus African for medicinal purposes.</p>
5	<p>Community forestry is an integral part of forest management in Kenya as strongly provided for by the Law. Forest-dwelling communities living near Government gazette forest lands have been mandated to manage, but not own, the forests, forest products and forest landscapes around their communities.</p> <p>In Menengai, this initiative was proving helpful in providing livelihood support services to the many unemployed youths in the concerned communities. The team noticed diversified Livelihoods options to groups around Forested areas supported by Kenyan Forest Services. We noted beekeeping and processing of honey using simple machines and also promotion of small livestock and poultry through group incubation for chicken eggs.</p> <p>Chief Chibwika was intrigued with the simple Honey processing machine and would like to start similar initiative in his Chiefdom which one of Zambia's most Honey producing areas but small scale farmers always complaining of poor market.</p>
6	<p>In Kenya, Charcoal production and trade is legally permissible as a forest enterprise by law. Yet there are plans to make it more sustainable by promoting and regulating energy efficiency in the production and use. One such avenue is the support offered to a community</p>

	charcoal briquette project in Molo by Kenyan Forest Service; the groups is producing more energy efficient charcoal briquettes than the conventional charcoal. Charcoal producers and transporters are being recognized as key players in the sector through organized systems of charcoal producers' and transporters' cooperatives. This was quite interesting to the Zambia Government team as end of last year the Forest Department in Zambia called for a Charcoal Indaba to discuss the way forward with Charcoal production, this experience provided information on what other African Governments are doing for Zambia to learn form and provide an avenue for more information sharing for sustainable charcoal production by small scale farmers.
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8	<p>Meeting at Kenyan Forest Service (KFS): The KFS is a statutory body; an authority mandated by law to conserve, develop and sustainably manage forest resources. It was established as part of Kenya's long term forest reforms which involved the transformation of a Government Department into an autonomous authority to improve on Forest management programmes.</p> <p>The exchange visit ended up with a meeting of stakeholders at KFS. This meeting included an exchange of project ideas on how the Kenyan Forest Service (KFS) was supporting small holder producer organizations. At this meeting, WE Effect also made a presentation on the works they do in Kenya through support to Small holder Forest and Farm Producers Association of Kenya (FF-SPAK). FF-SPAK is an umbrella organisations for small holder Forest producers providing capacity building and advocacy works.</p> <p>Two project documents were presented by KFS on how the institution was supporting producer groups with livelihoods activities that promote Forest conservation.</p> <p>The participants appreciated the effort of community Forest platform through FF-SPAK and also KFS support for value addition of Forest products and providing of micro Finance for smallholder Forest business ideas.</p>
9	During this meeting the FFF country status reports was shared and this provided an opportunity to learn from how countries were implementing FFF activities to support small holder producers. Good lessons from Charcoal producers Association of Liberia were shared and well appreciated. During this meeting the Kenyan Forest Service Charcoal support regulation framework was also shared. This was of great interest to most Zambian participants as Charcoal production in Zambia was identified as one of the main drivers of deforestation and the Government has not put in place measures to sustainably support this activity.
AFRICA FARM AND FAMILY FOREST PRODUCERS CONFERENCE	
1	<p>The background paper shared at the conference based on experiences in Sub Sahara Africa provided research findings on the status of Farm and Family Forest producers. According to the background paper what constituted the forest and farm concept in the Sub Saharan African countries were practitioners of Agroforestry, family forestry, community forestry, nonindustrial private forestry, small holder plantations and, trees on farms.</p> <p>The research also noted that most Sub Sahara Africa countries had weak legal and policy frameworks to support Family Farm Forest producers. While most countries had policies and regulations mentioned in many documents, there seems to be weak or no</p>

	<p>implementation strategies in many countries. An enabling environment for family/farm forestry needed to deal with issues revolving around land tenure systems, market access and capacity needs.</p> <p>Lack of coherence among sectoral policies and competing land claims pose a huge challenge on family and farm forest producers (FFPOs).</p> <p>However, it was noted that most African countries were making positive strides in promoting community based Forest management practices through introducing community Forestry policy frameworks..</p> <p>Some key discussion points about the background paper</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The family/farm forestry concept was critiqued by other development proponent’s who found it had to accept on one piece of farm land we can manage to grow agricultural crops, poultry and livestock and trees and have meaningful benefits for smallholder farmers. 2. The Voice of the Pygmies of Ituri Rain Forests of DRC: “The forests know us and we know the forests” but the background paper did not a represent the views of the Pygmies’ experience. It did not reflect the aspirations, concerns and needs of indigenous and often marginalized people. A Masai representative from Kenya raises similar sentiments. 3. The provision of scientifically approved germ plasm was deemed very critical for small scale farm grown trees to avert high chances of Invasive alien species, mutation of pestilences, and to achieve the quality standards of timber demanded by the markets. Apparently, many family/farm forest production systems are not backed by appropriate forest research rather operating on trial and error bases.
2	<p>Key note speeches</p>
	<p>The conference had four major Key note speakers including the official opening from the Minister of Environment, Water and Natural resources of Kenya Professor Judy Wakhungu. The KFS Acting Director Mr Emilio Mugo emphasized the need of support institutions for producer organizations to stop acting as stewards, mediators, brokers, middlemen and spokespersons of the FFPOs; but rather to promote the FFPO grow to be their own stewards, mediators, market brokers and spokespersons about their own production.</p> <p>The Kenya FAO Representative Dr Luca ALINOVI also emphasized the need for support organizations to see themselves more and more irrelevant in the future because FFPOs are growing more and more vibrant enough to speak for themselves. The economic power of forests and forest enterprises was huge but often underutilized, such opportunities made farm forestry attractive.</p> <p>The African Union Representative Mr Almami Dampha a Senior Policy Officer Forestry and Land Management also emphasized on involving the local grassroots producers as a key indicators of a paradigm shift in the management of forest landscapes. Such approaches were important in addressing the exodus of the many African youths across the Mediterranean Sea into Europe. Without forestry, which was the core of sustainable land management in Africa, food security, energy sufficiency and maintenance of peace will be difficult to achieve.</p>

	<p>The Minister of Environment, Water and Natural Resources of Kenya Professor Judy Wakhungu who officially opened the conference emphasized on the importance of conserving Forest in Africa. She underpinned many economic enterprises and developments in many African countries based on Forest resources for livelihood improvement and national development. She also laid emphasis on the importance of Forest for the conservation of biodiversity and water resources. She further highlighted the need for Africa to continue sustainable development agenda through policy reviews including Community Forestry in the country National Constitutions which legally provided for promoting Farm Forestry activities.</p>
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4. Actions as a Result of what was learned

1	Chief Chibwika will introduce a simple Honey processing machine learnt from the exchange visit in his Chieftom to provide value addition from beekeeping activities in his area.
2	The Forests Department to follow closely the implementation of community Forest actions in Kenya as the 2015 Zambia Forestry bill now provides for formation of community Forestry.
3	The Zambia Forest Department was encouraged with the National Charcoal regulation framework in Kenya and will follow closely some success for adoption in the country.
4	The ZNFU was pleased with the promotion of Agroforestry with high value crops for setting up woodlots a practice that will be promoted among Forest and Farm producers in Zambia as an incentive for setting up Forest plantations.
5	The FAO Facilitator was pleased with the collaboration between We Effcet, FF-SPAK and KFS in arranging the field visits and managing participants for the conference. This can be emulated if given a chance to host such an event for Zambia FFF programme.
6	The Director Forestry was pleased with the enthusiasm for Forest and Farm integration efforts in Kenya leading up to Policy makers sharing a common platform. This must be promoted in Zambia as we have had a challenge of the Forest department working alone with a limited number of field staff and not taking advantage of the Ministry of Agriculture with wider extension network for promoting Forest plantation as a cash crop.