

On-farm tree planting for households and institutions in Laikipia County, Kenya

Objective

The objective of this project is to increase local fuel wood supply to ensure future supply to households and institutions of Lamuria Division, Kenya.

Project Description

The project will be implemented in Lamuria Division, Laikipia County with a goal of demonstrating climate change mitigation measures using on-farm tree planting in establishing woodlots for households' and institutions. Most of over 10,000 households of Ex-Forest squatters settled by the government in a section of the expansive and fragile ecosystem of Solio ranch and the public schools established to serve these Ex-Forest squatters in Solio ranch predominantly source firewood and charcoal from the Aberdare Mountains.

Aberdare Mountains are one of Kenya's major water catchment areas, surrounded for the most part by intensive, small-scale agriculture. Habitat on the lower slopes has been severely damaged in recent years. Forest destruction and degradation is the major threat to the site, through agricultural encroachment, poaching of valuable trees and forest grazing of livestock.

The Kenya Forestry Master Plan indicates that wood resources need to be increased in farms while most rural people indicate that they would plant trees in their farms. This is in response to studies by FAO on wood-fuel demand in developing countries which have concluded that for many years to come, a large proportion of people will continue relying on biomass energy on account of its availability, renewability, and cost.

Increasing supply of fuelwood from on-farm sources in the project area will be a major contribution towards bringing sustainable supply of fuelwood in tandem with demand of fuelwood among households and institutions in the project area. This is important considering that on-farm wood resources are 90% available for energy while only 35% of plantation wood can be accessed for energy. The increased tree cover and on-farm fuel-wood availability in land that is increasingly being opened up for cultivation and settlement at the expense of natural vegetative cover will greatly reduce widespread deforestation, de-vegetation, land degradation and destruction of the Aberdare water catchment forest.

Activities

The following project activities will be implemented in the next 12 months:

- Facilitate establishment and refurbishment of fuelwood production and selling centers
- Provide BDS services to fuelwood production entrepreneurs to make their businesses profitable and sustainable
- Provide technical support to entrepreneurs planting trees at buyer's place
- Train households and institutions on production, management and utilization of trees for fuelwood production
- Conduct Awareness campaigns directed at target groups to inform them about benefits and availability of fuelwood production
- Advocate and lobby for formulation and/or enforcement of fuelwood policies & regulations

Project Outputs

- At least 30 entrepreneurs (30% of which are women) have improved technical and management skills for production and marketing of tree seedlings.
- 10,000 households have planted trees for fuelwood production, with a total area of 600 hectares.
- 20 Fuelwood production and selling centers established and each center producing and selling at least 50,000 seedlings per year
- 10 Fuelwood producers & Marketers (30% of which are women) trained on management of trees for fuelwood production, marketing and business management knowledge and skills.
- 2 million fast maturing trees raised and planted for energy production on small scale farm holdings and institutions in the project areas.

Budget Summary

SIXKNM Self-Help Group requests a total contribution of 53,000 US\$ which can be summarized as follows:

BUDGET SUMMARY (US\$)	
Staffing Support and Technical Experts	XX
Field Visit Expenses	XX
Training and Workshops	XX
Communications and Materials	XX
Nursery materials, Tools and Production Centers	XX
TOTAL (request to this funder)	XXXXX