

Melia Project workshop held on the 22nd of August 2019 at the University of Nairobi, hosted by the Department of Plant Science and Crop Protection.

A programme under the VLIR/Team initiative “Synergy for mass propagation of elite *Melia volkensii* clones and exploiting its derived bio-pesticides” is implemented by University Of Nairobi, University Of Ghent, Kenya Forestry Research Institute and Better Globe Forestry LTD to do research in utilization of the species. The research focuses on micro-propagation, acclimatization of elite clones and utilization of the insecticidal extract of leaves and fruits. This second phase of the programme will train two Ph.D and 4 master’s students. In addition, the capacity of the UON in-vitro and entomology laboratories will be improved to handle micro-propagation and bio-pesticide work. The project is headed by Prof. Stefaan Werbrouck and Prof. Guy Smagghe from the University of Ghent in Belgium. The local partners include; Dr. Titus Magomere from Kenyatta University, Prof. Florence Olubayo of University of Nairobi; Dr. Jackson Mulatya from Kenya Forestry Research institute and Mr. Jan Vandenabeele of Better Globe Forestry LMT. Knowledge transfer and sharing regarding in-vitro and bio-pesticide research is a core concern of this partnership.

It is with this in mind that a project workshop was held on 22nd of August 2019, at the University of Nairobi, Kabete campus to share the objectives of the initiative and to further strengthen knowledge sharing with relevant stakeholders. Welcome remarks were given by the chairman, Department of Plant Science and Crop Protection and the Dean Faculty of Agriculture at the start of the workshop. Official opening of the workshop was done by the Ag. Principal of the college of Agriculture and veterinary Sciences, Prof. Rose Nyikal after remarks from, the Ambassador of Belgium to Kenya, His Excellency Mr. Nicholas Nihon; the chief conservator of forests, Kenya forest service ; the director Kenya forestry research institute and the Managing Director of Better Globe LMT. They all emphasized the importance of conserving forests and the significance of research in the management and sustainable use of forest products. They thanked the Melia research team for the initiative and the Belgium government for funding the team to undertake the research and the capacity building for the students.



His Excellency the Belgium ambassador to Kenya, Mr.

Ag. Principal CAVS, Prof. Rose Nyikal



Workshop Group picture

Thought provoking presentations were delivered during the workshop on the following topics:

- Compost and compost tea as a tool for healthy trees by Mr. Carlos Verhelst, Nursery expert from Belgium
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Nzoia basin using vermicomposting technology by Mr. James Wafula, University of Nairobi
- *In-vitro* propagation of *Melia* (current status and future prospects) by Prof. Stefaan Werbroeck-, University of Ghent, Belgium
- Biotechnology of tree species at UON by Dr. Lydia Wamalwa, University of Nairobi
- Propagation and growing experiences in KFS by Mr. Julius Kamau, Kenya Forest Service
- Propagation and growing research in KEFRI by Dr. Jackson Mulatya, Kenya Forestry Research Institute
- Insecticidal extract of *Melia* and their utility (current status and future prospects) by Prof. Guy Smagghe, University of Ghent, Belgium

- Plant derived compounds utility biochemistry and toxicity by Dr. Ngugi Mathew Piero, Kenyatta University
- Use of bio-pesticides in the management of pathogens and insects by Dr. Dora Kilalo, University of Nairobi
- Organic farming –role of bio-pesticides by Prof. John Nderitu, University of Nairobi
- Dudutech bio-pesticide experience by Dr. Vitalis Wekesa, Flamingo Horticulture, Dudutech
- Promotion of Melia at seven forks region by Mr. Anthony Igecha, KenGen Foundation



Mr. Carlos Verhelst, Belgium



Dr. Dora Kilalo, University of Nairobi



Prof. Florence Olubayo and Dr. Titus Magomere, Project Partners Kenya



Invited guests from Partner institutions with His excellency Mr. Nicholas Nihon

The presentations elicited very useful discussions that will enrich the implementation of the project. The students on the program presented posters on their work.

MELIA WORKSHOP PHOTO GALLERY, 22ND August 2019



Melia project poster



Better Globe forestry LMT banner



Prof. Hutchinson, Chairman Dept. PS&CP, UON



Prof. George Cheminingwa Dean Faculty of Agriculture UON

PRESENTERS



Mr. James Wafula, Africa Climate Change Leadership Program, UON



Mr. Julius Kamau, Kenya Forest Service



Dr. Jackson Mulatya, KEFRI



Prof. Guy Smagghe University of Ghent, Belgium



Dr. Titus Magomere Project Promoter/
PI Kenyatta University



Prof. John Nderitu, University of Nairobi



Dr. Vitalis Wekesa, Flamingo
Horticulture, Dudutech



Mr. Anthony Igecha, Kengen Foundation



Workshop Registration	Workshop Registration
	
Attendance	Opening session
	
Attendance	Prof. Rose Nykal and Prof. Agnes Mwang'o'mbe
	
<p>Mr. Anthony Igecha, Mr. Jean-Paul Deprins His excellency Mr. Nicholas Nihon and Mr. Julius Kamau</p>	<p>Prof. Florence Olubayo</p>