



COMPANY HIGHLIGHT

HIGHLIGHTS

KVTC's Research Program

by Andrew Callister, PhD

Forestry Research; what is it and why is it fundamental?

Applied forestry research involves field experiments to determine the best management protocols and genetic materials for commercial forests. A research program is best customized to the needs and opportunities of each company.

KVTC Research prior to 2013

KVTC has been an early-adopter of innovative practices such as the use of improved clones and the application of fertilizer to sites with deficient soils. Genetic experiments at KVTC date back to 2004.

KVTC Research 2013 onwards

I started working with KVTC in 2013 to provide more rigor to its research program and to accelerate operational gains in genetic improvement, fertilization, and optimum thinning. In 2013 we launched PROJECT PLUS 20, a ten-year program with the goal of increasing KVTC's returns by deployment of elite clones and developing site specific best practice silviculture.

In the first five years, PROJECT PLUS 20 has achieved field testing of 190 families and 880 clones at seven sites representing a range of

performance conditions. PROJECT PLUS 20 focuses on improving the Tanzanian teak landrace, which has proven to be well adapted to KVTC's growing conditions against a mix of genetics from other sources.

Fertilizer response trials have shown that substantial growth benefits can be obtained by fertilizing stands after first thinning. The commercial adoption of fertilizing after thinning is expected to increase Mean Annual Increment by as much as 40% depending on site class.

Results of thinning trials have supported a 2012/13 KVTC initiative to introduce a thinning schedule that is responsive to the growth differences of individual stands.

Looking forward

The next step in PROJECT PLUS 20 is to capture elite clones from the genetic trials for commercial deployment. The ongoing program of fertilizer and thinning response trials will support the development of a more dynamic model of teak growth, which in turn will be used to fine-tune management decisions and yield forecasts

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#NZS2018 Cycling Race

KVTC Sponsored the [2018 North Zanzibar Sportive](#), an annual 100km competitive cycling race. Zanzibar is an important market for KVTC and the race offered an opportunity to show a different side of the company in a key domestic market.

Hope to see you next year at the [#NZS2019!](#)



OSP Seminar - Save the Date

On 30th October KVTC will bring together close to 500 smallholder teak growers for a seminar to learn more about the future and growth potential of teak in the Kilombero Valley. Several microfinance institutions and banks are expected to participate in this seminar. Contact the [OSP team](#) for more information.

From Hans' desk

by Hans Lemm

We are in the mid of our fire season and the temperatures are heating up in the Valley although coastal areas continue to receive rain. Our teams are working hard to keep the threat of fire under control. We have people in our plantations day and night patrolling and all fire towers are manned around the clock. **Please help us to avoid forest fires!!**

The dry season is also the period where we are most active with purchasing logs from smallholder farmers and we expect to double our purchases compared to last year.

Our feature article this quarter is about the applied forestry research that is taking place

at KVTC. It is an extremely exciting time being at the midpoint of a 10-year program that commenced in 2013. Already now we can start quantifying some of the gains made and turn research into operational best practice.

This October we are going to bring all our Outgrowers together in the first ever OSP Seminar. A total of around 500 growers will gather in Ifakara to share experiences and exchange ideas with the KVTC team but also with representatives of the Private Forestry Programme and a number of financial institutions.

Lastly, I like to highlight the great effort of the KVTC cycling team at the #NZS2018. The team looked great and three of the KVTC riders ended in the top 10 and as a result the KVTC Team received the overall Team Prize.



One more picture of a Team KVTC rider from the #NZS2018.

UPDATE KVTC BIOMASS CHALLENGE

On 6th of September KVTC signed a contract with Sustainable Charcoal Cycle Industries of Germany. SCCI will be investing in a new charcoal factory to be established close to KVTC's sawmill

DID YOU KNOW?

Teak is a member of the mint family. Native inhabitants of regions where teak is abundant, such as Myanmar, used to make a tea out of the bark of the teak tree.

LISTEN TO US

RADIO MITIKI

On Radio Pambazuko at 89.5FM

Every Friday at 07.30pm and every Saturday at 07.30am

Natural Woodland Areas

by Kennedy Haule & Hans Lemm

A bit of history

KVTC started in 1992 however the concept of KVTC dates back to the 80's when the Government of Tanzania and the lead investor, the Commonwealth Development Corporation ('CDC'), first debated the project. Following this CDC initiated a number of feasibility studies including an Environmental Impact Assessment conducted by the Institute of Resource Assessment of the University of Dar es Salaam and the International Institute for Environment and Development of the UK.

Among many recommendations one of the key ones was *"the inclusion of a considerable extent of miombo woodland within large project blocks with teak grown in plots in a mosaic pattern. The project would manage this miombo woodland on a sustainable basis"*

Connectivity and Kilombero Game Controlled Area

Over the years KVTC's forests have become a key part of the connectivity and corridors that link the Selous Game Reserve and Udzungwa Mountains.

KVTC forests are also part of the watershed areas that feeds the Kilombero River which

ultimately runs into the Rufiji River Delta and as a result the Kilombero Valley is receiving increasing levels of attention from various actors in the conservation sphere. The Valley has been designated as a Ramsar site and feeds more than 50% of water into a major planned hydroelectric project

Future Developments

Whilst KVTC management is firmly committed to maintaining its natural forests in good condition we realize that with increasing pressures on scarce resources we may need to review our management models.

We are working closely with a number of stakeholders on designing new and innovative ways to safeguard the environmental values of our forests whilst increasing the economic benefits to neighboring communities.

CONTACT US

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