

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A WORD FROM JEAN-PAUL, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Welcome to the latest edition of the Better Globe Forestry monthly newsletter! In the ever-evolving world of forestry, staying ahead of the curve is essential. This month, we highlight the importance of active participation in industry conferences, such as the 2023 National Scientific Conference of Forestry Society of Kenya. These gatherings provide a unique opportunity for us to engage with fellow experts and exchange ideas at the highest level of professionalism and knowledge. Furthermore, our commitment to sustainable forestry extends beyond conferences. We understand that effective communication is the

cornerstone of our success, especially when working closely with farmers in remote areas. In Dokolo, Uganda, Better Globe Forestry has been pioneering the use of radio talk shows as a means of clear and well-planned communication. The results have been overwhelmingly positive, fostering understanding and collaboration within the community.

In this newsletter, we invite you to explore these two crucial aspects of our work as we continue to make strides in sustainable forestry and community engagement. Thank you for being a part of our journey to create a better world through forestry.

CREATING A TREE PLANTING MOVEMENT IN UGANDA

Radio talk shows in Dokolo

Better Globe Forestry employs a variety of channels to deliver programme information to its farmers. One of the key means of delivery is through monthly radio talk shows. Dokolo and its neighboring districts have a significant population, and radio remains a vital medium in every household, fostering community participation and engagement regardless of age or reading ability.

Dokolo FM, a community radio station with a substantial listenership, primarily serves Dokolo but also extends its broadcast to the nearby districts of Kaberamaido, Kalaki, Alebtong, Amolatar, Apac and Lira. This wide geographical reach makes it an essential tool for BGF to mobilize, sensitize, and train the audience on current and future activities of BGF's Dokolo Farmers' programme. The radio talk show is not only useful to registered farmers but also strategic for expansion to other districts. The districts neighboring Dokolo have over 30,000 households each that potentially listen to our programme.

The show is usually hosted by some of our Agroforestry agents led by the site manager. Recently, the radio talk show has evolved to become more farmer-led. This was achieved by inviting a lead farmer to share his successes and lessons with other farmers. Mr. Amori Denish is a BGF lead farmer from Dokolo District. He was registered this year and has planted 160 tree seedlings all of which are doing well. He explained to other farmers the importance of planting trees, advantages of agroforestry systems and even went further to amplify the message that planting trees by farmers is the surest way to secure their future. This personal connection with local farmers resonated well with the audience and

created a sense of ownership. Many farmers phoned the radio station to air their questions and get specific answers. This feedback, often substantial, includes both positive and negative comments. It plays a crucial role in decision-making, enabling BGF to build on successes and rectify shortcomings.

This interactive session was followed by a detailed presentation of the current activities which included farmer registration, seedling distribution and planting. Farmers were also encouraged to continue forming groups.

Since the commencement of the radio talk shows after the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a significant change in perception towards BGF's farmers programme. Interest in the programme has grown, even beyond Dokolo. Many lead farmers now aspire to be featured on the show, and agroforestry agents find it easier to register new participants in the tree planting programme.



Silus Omwandi one of our Agroforestry Agents, talking into the microphone, with Amori Denish at his side

FORESTRY SOCIETY OF KENYA

Its 2023 National Scientific Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM)



View of the conference hall

The Forestry Society of Kenya (FSK) is the sole professional body of foresters in Kenya. It was registered in 1979 and hence has reached the venerable age of 44 years. The Society is dedicated in advising its members, the government and the public on professional forestry practices and standards. Most of its members are government employees, from Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Forest Research Institute, but academia, NGOs and the private sector, among which Better Globe Forestry, are also represented.



No serious conference without a field trip

The theme of the Conference was “Forests for betterment of humanity and climate resilience in the 21st century and beyond”. It took place on 20th and 21st of September in Nanyuki, and the AGM on 22nd. Some 200 people attended, and the event was well organized. The main objective of the conference was to deliberate on emerging forestry issues and the role they play in enhancing forestry and climate change mitigation & adaptation. There were 4 sessions:

- ~ Policy perspectives on attainment of 30% tree cover by 2032
- ~ Forests, climate change, carbon markets and trading
- ~ A just transition in the forestry sector
- ~ Commercial forestry for betterment of humanity

Various presentations were given, on the government’s objective of planting 15 billion trees, and related seed production, on the plantation concession system and many more.

This being the premier occasion to discuss forestry matters with the whole professional forestry community of Kenya, and an important networking opportunity, BGF was present, with its Senior Director of Forestry. He also contributed with a presentation on improved planting of *Melia volkensii*.

The Conference was closed by the Permanent Secretary of Forestry Mr Gitonga Mugambi, who took his time in addressing the forestry fraternity and their concerns.



Tea break with the Permanent Secretary and the Chair of FSK, Benjamin Wamugunda