



Some of the students have the young tree seedlings mulched with dry grass.



Seedlings protected by strong sticks



Some of the students show a high level of attachment to the trees as they have labeled their trees

The project has culminated into today's launch to reach and create awareness, among all the stakeholders involved and forge a common and participatory initiative to mitigate the effects of emerging consequences in human activities destabilising catchments and thus contribute to catchments protection.

Contact Us:

CETRAD,
Buttson's Complex
Off Hospital Road,
2nd Floor, Left Wing
P.O Box 144 – 10400
NANYUKI.

Tel: +254 62 31328, +254 725 348449,
Fax: 062 31323,
cetrad@cetrad.org



The students have invented drip irrigation methods using bottles.



Tree planting in schools

The students also depict ownership by opting to devise various improvised methods to nurture the growing seedlings such as:

- Protection of the tree seedling by stones, thorns, strong sticks and wood
- Mulching by dry grass
- Simply Improvised drip irrigation using water bottles inserted into the soil.
- Labeling of the tree seedlings' owner and date of planting

SUPPORTING CATCHMENT PROTECTION THROUGH SMALLHOLDER AGRO- FORESTRY IN THE LARGER MT KENYA REGION: CETRAD's CONTRIBUTION



Buttson's Complex
Off Hospital Road,
2nd Floor, Left Wing
P.O Box 144 – 10400
NANYUKI.

Tel: +254 62 31328, +254 725 348449,
Fax: 062 31323,
cetrad@cetrad.org
<http://www.cetrad.org>

CETRAD

CETRAD (former Laikipia Research Programme (LRP)) supports research and training activities that promote better use and management of natural resources for environmental protection, increased land productivity, and improved rural livelihoods and food security in the ASALs. It is a bilateral institution between the governments of Kenya and Switzerland, under the Ministry of Water and Irrigation .

WHY CATCHMENT PROTECTION

Mount Kenya is an island of resources in a dry environment. Specifically, it is a water tower providing water to over 7 million people living in its surroundings. As rates of deforestation continue to rise organizations are faced with the challenge of finding approaches which can reduce deforestation while offering alternate benefits to rural livelihoods in addition to conserving biodiversity. Catchments need to be protected to maintain water quality, biodiversity and general ecosystem health. Catchment's management activities include activities such as tree planting, stream rehabilitation, erosion management and soil conservation. There is a growing recognition of sustainability in using agroforestry to protect catchments.



CETRAD APPROACH:

SMALLHOLDER AGROFORESTRY

1. Why choose Agroforestry: catchment protection through establishment of farm based woodlots for home consumption; soil and water conservation; control of soil erosion and protection of river riparian etc

2. Approach:

- ◆ Use existing Community Based Organisations and Self Help Groups addressing catchment protection through agroforestry
- ◆ Use of local based education institutions
- ◆ Support targeted agroforestry: indigenous tree species; high value fruit trees

3. Activities:

- Groups needs assessment to determined preferred support
- Training on SHG dynamics; tree nursery establishment and management; and agroforestry practices
- Provision of seedlings and basic storage facilities
- Follow up for backstopping



Poorly managed nurseries



Farmers attend training on tree nursery management operations

Provision of inputs hose pipes and seeds of various varieties

Provision of inputs: tanks



Grafting



Ground layering



Farmers' active participation in Tree planting activities within their areas



Improved tree nursery management operations



WORK DONE AND ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2006

- The project has collaborated with over 44 self help groups and 30 primary/secondary schools in former larger Laikipia, Buuri, Isiolo and Meru districts. The groups had poorly managed tree nurseries.
- Through this collaboration the project has helped:
 - train 88 groups/ 264 farmers;
 - supplied indigenous seeds to 44 groups
 - develop/rehabilitate 100 tree nurseries;
 - supplied 21 water tanks of capacity 4000 (6) and 3200 (12) in total, 62,400litres; and hose pipes
 - Through sale of seeds farmers have bought land and share proceeds from the sales

Groups have cropped up emulating the existing ones
Trees are growing in schools and children have learnt to appreciate what it takes to nurture a tree.

- So far over 333,007 tree seedlings have been raised and 103, 360 seedlings sold out to neighbors and visitors, and 49,229 seedlings planted on farmers' farms, public and private institutions. In total, 106,812 (70% of total trees planted) have successfully gone through the seasons
- Two major umbrella associations have been formed to continue supporting the already initiated activities beyond the project time through general coordination of agroforestry practices in the region; further training of group members; establishment of new tree nurseries; marketing of tree seedlings. These are i) Mount Kenya West Environment Conservation and Catchment Healing Association (MKWECCHA); and ii) Nanyuki Maritati Ex-Lewa Ntirititi Land Reclamation Association (NAMENT).

