



Dr. James Kimondo (PhD)

TOPIC:
**Increasing forest cover in Kenya for wealth creation:
A need to re-evaluate the forest management systems**

4th Institutional Colloquium

VENUE: Auditorium, KEFRI Headquarters Muguga

DATE: 14th July, 2022

TIME: 10:00am

VIRTUAL: <https://kefri-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMoc-CpqjMqHdSW-pULRifS5fgc9mspmBP1>

Bio:

Dr. James Munga Kimondo has a B.Sc. in Forestry from University of Nairobi, an M.Sc. in Forest Biometrics from University of Alberta, Edmonton Canada and a PhD in Agroforestry and Nonwood Resource Assessment from the University of Wales, Bangor, UK. He is currently the Acting Director KEFRI and Deputy Director, Forest Productivity and Improvement since July 2018. Previously he served as National Programme Director for National Forest Products Research Programme, Karura from July 2014 to June 2018. As a researcher James has risen from an Assistant to Chief Research Officer in KEFRI where he served as the Centre Director in Dryland Eco-region Research Programme, Kitui between 1999 and 2007. He was promoted to a Chief Research Scientist in 2010. He served as an Assistant Conservator of Forests in Forest Department where he was seconded to Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), Forest Research Department (FRD) from 1983 to June 1986. Dr. Kimondo has 39 years in forestry research specializing in plantation and dryland forestry management and non wood resource assessment.

His research interest include the introduction of new species to broaden the species base in plantation forestry, application of silvicultural operations to enhance the value of plantations and utilisation of natural resources especially in the drylands on a sustainable basis while benefiting the local communities through concerted efforts of managing existing germplasm on farms and expansion of *ex-situ* conservation of others on farms intercropped with agricultural crops.

He is a full member of the Forestry Society of Kenya; recently deployed as a Member of the Multi-Agency Team that Undertook Independent Mapping, Verification and Valuation of Mature/Overmature Forest Plantations; and a Member of Multi-Agency Oversight Team on Disposal of Mature and Overmature Forest Plantations.

Testimonials:

Dr. James Munga Kimondo has authored numerous journal articles in refereed journals and book chapters, Technical Notes, Protocols, and Guidelines.

His past research activities include:

- Initiated the planting of *Melia volkensii* as a plantation species on a large scale in 2001 in the drylands of Kitui
- Development of growth models of eucalypts,
- Evaluation of the growth performance of different provenances of *Eucalyptus urophylla* and *Casuarina equisetifolia* and *Casuarina junghuhniana* for different Eco-regions
- Utilisation of natural regeneration of plantation species *Cupressus lusitanica* and *Pinus patula* in the high potential of Kenya for plantation development.
- Improvement of seedlings survival after planting through use of water management and manipulation of the soil and ground cover to conserve moisture in the dry areas.
- Application of plot-less methods in resource assessment and
- Promotion of non timber products in the arid areas among others.

Together with Dedan Kimathi University, University of Nairobi and the National Museum of Kenya, he won a grant of Ksh 19.9m for a three year research from National Research Funds titled “Integrated collaborative research on climate change, water resources and food security in upper Ewaso Ngiro river basin for sustainable management and enhanced ecosystem health”.

He taught, on part time basis in Karatina University, taking B.Sc. Forestry Class in Silviculture and Tree Management; MSc Class in Dryland Forestry and Forest Biometrics for 3 years. He has mentored and supervised two Master’s and several undergraduate students. He is also an External Examiner for MSc thesis for the School of Natural Studies, Kenyatta University since 2018; Kabianga University since 2021.

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