2nd KEFRI Institutional Colloquium Report

# Introduction

The 2nd KEFRI Institutional Colloquium was held on 5th May 2022 at KEFRI headquarters’ auditorium. It was attended by 69 physical and 49 virtual participants. The presenter was Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo – KEFRI Director. He presented on “The role of forestry research in trade and socioeconomic development in Kenya in the 21st Century.”

The colloquium started at 9.00am with a word of prayer by Angela Muthama and Dr. Mbuvi welcomed all members presented before inviting Dr. Mulatya to introduce the Speaker – Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo. Dr. Mulatya read through the speakers profile and called for a 2 minutes video on the views of the presenter on colloquiums and the topic to be presented.

# The Presentation: The role of forestry research in trade and socioeconomic development in Kenya in the 21st Century.

Dr. Cheboiwo presented on the historical back groud of the markets, marketing and economics of forest trade since 1952. And explained the role of forests in wealth creation, employment and source of raw materials for various industries.

He presented on the overview of the forestry sector in Kenya and named the following players in forest products trade: farmers, companies, social investors, and public agencies. He said that Kenya is a net importer of wood from neighboring countries especially Tanzania and DRC. The presentation is attached here: <http://km.kefri.org:8085/pub/Main/NdKEFRIInstitutionalColloquiumSuccessStories/The%20role%20of%20forestry%20research%20in%20trade%20and%20socioeconomic%20development.pptx>

Some of the recommendations given include:

* Central repository of data on forest trade, markets and marketing to be established
* Creation of woodwork hub in Kenya

# The way forward

* KEFRI to establish a data repository for forest markets, marketing and trade
* KENYA to create a woodwork hub
* KEFRI to operationalize the commercial forest information center

# Discussions

Discussions were based on the following issues:

* Smuggling of forest products into Kenyan economy
* Standardization and certification of forest products
* Role of youth in forest products trade
* Predication models
* Value addition
* Infrastructural development verses conservation
* Ban on logging