



**George Muthike, PhD**

### TOPIC:

**Integrating Forest Products in Green Economy and Climate Change Space**

### 6<sup>th</sup> Institutional Colloquium

**VENUE:** Boardroom, KEFRI Karura

**DATE:** 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

**TIME:** 10:00am

**VIRTUAL:** <https://kefri-org.zoom.us/join/tZcvd-2uqDgqG9bBRoayZxWqh8QIoDVidNmY>

### Bio:

Dr. George Muthike holds a BSc. in Wood Science and Technology, MPhil. In Wood Science and Technology (Timber Engineering), both from Moi University, Kenya, and a PhD. in Biomechanical and Environmental Engineering (Timber Processing) from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya. He also holds a Diploma in Transnational Church Leadership from Pan African University, Kenya.

Dr. Muthike has risen through the Science ranks, from an Assistant Research Scientist upon joining employment in KEFRI over 32 years ago to his current position of Senior Principal Scientist. He has been the Lead Scientist in Timber Processing and Engineering and the Coordinator for Timber Grading training and certification in Kenya from 2005 to date. He served as the Deputy Programme Director at the National Forest Products Research Programme (NFPRP) from May 2019 -July 2021. Currently, He is the Deputy Director, Forest Products Development (FPD), KEFRI from August 2021.

Dr. George Muthike has published extensively in Refereed Journals, Book chapters, Technical papers, Technology Manuals and Guidelines in the Forest Products Arena (**Web of Science Researcher ID:** AAU-5456-2021; **ORCHID:** <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6905-2146>). He has Optimized one Technology (*Framed Chain Sawing Technology*) for On-farm timber sawing. He chairs the Technical Committee on Timber Standards and a member of Bamboo and Composites Technical Committees of the Kenya Bureau of Standards.

Dr. Muthike is a full member of Forest Society of Kenya. He has mentored and Supervised 2 Masters and 1 PhD scholars and examined 1 Masters Scholar, in addition to numerous students in Internship and attachment in the area of Wood Material Science and Engineering.

In the Public Arena, Dr. Muthike is the Founder and Overseer of Deliverance Believers Fellowship Church (DBFC) in Kenya and the Senior Pastor at Mavoko Congregation. He also serves in several School Boards. He is a Trustee and Current Chairman for the KEFRI Staff Defined Benefits Scheme.

## **Abstract**

Forest remains a key contributor to global, regional and country economies world over, supporting other sectors like agriculture, building and construction, industrialization among others. Despite these contributions, the importance of forest products, their processing and utilization has in many occasions been overlooked in critical discussions touching on food security as well as climate change. Similarly, there has existed for a long time, a disconnect between the quality of the raw materials and that of the final forest product. This presentation seeks to highlight the significance of forest products in the economy, livelihood creation, food security and mitigation of the effects of climate change. It will look at the various elements of forest products, their development, respective processing and utilization technologies as well as interrogating the position of forest products in green economy and climate change space. The status of the forest based industry, achievements, challenges, opportunities, knowledge/information gaps and lessons learned over the past years will be examined, to shape the direction that research as well as investment need to take.

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