



FORIG NEWS

EDITORIAL

The Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) is one of the 13 institutes of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) mandated among other things; to undertake forest and forest products research to ensure the sustainable management and utilization of Ghana's forest resources. FORIG's research activities are organized under five main programmes namely,

- Natural Forest Management Programme.
- Plantation Development Programme.
- Processing and Utilization Programme.
- Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) Programme.
- Policy and Socio-economics Programme.

FORIG over the years has chalked a lot of success in developing a number of innovative technologies to protect and safeguard the forest resources of the nation. The overexploitation of prime timber species in the country has been of particular concern to the institute. In order to help widen the resource base and divert attention from these prime species, FORIG has researched on and established the basic and technological properties of some Lesser Used Species (LUS) including Coconut wood, Borrassus palm ('Mmaa Kube') and many others that could serve as substitutes for the overexploited species in a wide range of uses.

FORIG has decided to show case some of its technologies developed hence the establishment of a permanent exhibition hall and the commencement of FORIG's Newsletter to promote the activities of the institute.

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FORIG NEWS

Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
P.O. Box 63,
KNUST,

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DIRECTOR-GENERAL COMMISSIONS FORIG EXHIBITION HALL AND CANTEEN

On Thursday, August 10, 2006, Professor Owusu-Bennoah, the Director-General of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research commended FORIG for conducting high quality research aimed at the development of the forestry sector in Ghana. He urged the private sector as well as relevant stakeholders to support the institute in its research efforts to come out with new and innovative technologies to sustain the forest resources of the nation. Prof. Owusu Bennoah was speaking at the inauguration of a newly established Exhibition Hall and a Canteen at the institute's premises at Fumesua, near Kumasi. The Exhibition Hall is aimed at showcasing the institute's research findings while the canteen is to provide balanced diet for the members of staff and the general public at affordable prices. The Director-General advised Staff not to be complacent but rather work harder for the development of the country.



FORIG Exhibition Hall

Dr. J. R. Cobbinah, Director of FORIG, said the exhibition center was established with a view to making available at all times most of the institute's research findings to stakeholders as well as others who might be interested in its work. He further explained that a major problem facing the institute was lack of funding for research activities, adding that more than 95% of money received from the government went into payment of wages and salaries of staff, leaving only a small amount for research work.

FORIG has made efforts to support the Institute by generating internal funds. Both projects were funded from FORIG's internally generated funds at the cost of over 490 million cedis.

CACAO WORKSHOP

A three-day international workshop to brainstorm on the possibility of mixing cocoa with other crops for forest restoration at forest degraded sites was held from 14th to 18th August, 2006 at FORIG. The workshop, organized by the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) was sponsored by Mars Incorporated in the United States of America (USA). The main theme of the workshop was, "Extending Cocoa for Biodiversity Con-

servation".

Over forty participants drawn from the USA, United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, Denmark and Ghana deliberated on issues affecting the environment including deforestation, decrease in soil fertility, pests and environmental degradation. These challenges were identified as the principal causes of low cocoa yields which adversely

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affect the livelihood of over 20 million people depending on cocoa in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr. J. R. Cobinnah, Director of FORIG, opening the workshop, said Africa is now an epicenter of cocoa production and accounted for about 70 per cent of global production, with Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Cameroon and Nigeria as the major production centers. However, he said cocoa production faces many social, economic and environmental challenges which need to be addressed to forestall the problem of dwindling yields that affect the economies of the production countries. He urged participants of the workshop to focus attention on how biodiversity conservation should be mainstreamed into the cocoa production landscape. This, he said, is because empirical evidence from recent research has proved that apart from the mixed cropping, other trees on cocoa land suppress weeds and also slows down the spread of swollen shoot and black pod infections.

The quorum resolved to implement the following with respect to more sustainable cocoa systems, and call on others to endorse and participate in a comprehensive and integrated approach to cocoa development in West Africa. Specifically, to support the goals to intensify, diversify and make more biodiverse cocoa agroforestry systems and their associated landscapes. Participants also sought change with respect to:

- Policy, Regulation and Natural Resource Manage



Workshop participants

ment.

- Cultivation Practices
- Incentives, Investment and Institutions

MEETINGS

The quarterly Directors Management Committee (DMC) meeting was held on the 9th and 10th of August, 2006 at the Crops Research Institute, Kumasi. All Directors of the 13 institutes forming corporate CSIR were in attendance. The directors joined the Director General to commission the exhibition hall and canteen on the second day of their meeting.

FORIG's Management Board also held its second meeting of the year on the 11th of August, 2006 at the Conference Room to strategize on the Management of the Institute.

INTERNAL TRANSFERS/ CHANGES

A reshuffling of staff was made a month ago for efficiency and also to allow staff to gain more experience and knowledge in other divisions. The changes made are listed below:

- Mr. Emmanuel Asiedu Opoku, transferred from the CID to the Economic, Policy and Marketing Division, effective date 1st August, 2006
- Mr. Ebenezer Frans, transferred from General Administration to CID, effective date 1st August, 2006.
- Mr. Maxwell Osei Bekoe, transferred from the Chemistry and Chemical Technology Division to the Tree Improvement and Seed Technology Division, effective date 1st August, 2006.

- Mrs. Georgina Attah, transferred from the reception to the Registry, effective date 1st August, 2006.
- Ms. Anastasia Konadu Ofori, transferred from the Registry to the Reception, effective date 18th August, 2006.
- Mr Samuel Yamoah Kyei, transferred from Kumasi to Abofour, effective date 2^{0th} August, 2006.
- Mr Anthony Osei Yaw, transferred from Kumasi to Yenku, effective date 20th August.
- Mr Samuel Sarpong, transferred from Bobiri to the Biology and Forest Health Division, effective date 20th August.
- Mr Paul Kankam, transferred from Mesewam to Pra-Anum, effective date 20th August 2006.
- Mr Samuel Owusu -Yeboah, the scientific secretary has been given additional responsibility for Public Relations with effective from 1st August 2006.
- Mr Richard Boamah Tawiah has been given additional responsibility for supervising staff of the Grounds and Gardens with effect from August 2006.
- Miss Mavis Kwarteng has also been given additional responsibility for handling the National Health Insurance Scheme with effect from August 2006.



What did Mother Tomato say to her daughter when she slipped and fell down?
Ketchup!!!



GOODBYE

- Mr. Adjei-Kusi, Senior administrative officer and Head of Administration, retired on the 25th of August, 2006 after serving the Institute diligently for over 10 years. We say goodbye and wish him well in his retirement.

OBITUARY

- Mr. Joseph Oppong Danso, Assistant Overseer Grade 1 at the Bobiri Research Centre passed away on the 3rd of August, 2006 at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital. May he rest in perfect peace.

COLLOQUIA

Mr. E. Owusu-Sekyere gave a presentation on 'Agroforestry practices to control *Broussonetia papyrifera* (Yorke) - Paper Mulberry—an evasive weed species in Afram Head– Waters Forest Reserve' on August 10, 2006,

Mr. K. Sarpong gave a presentation on Phytochemical and Pesticidal screening of *Blighia sapida* & *Parkia clappertoniana* species on August 31, 2006.

A special stakeholders prioritization workshop was also held at the Conference Room on 18th August 2006. It was chaired by the Director, Dr. J. R. Cobbinah and was a follow up on the 2003 stakeholders Consultative Forum.

On the International Front

New Forest Treaty Signed

More than one hundred and eighty (180) negotiators from governments and international Organisations met for two weeks in Geneva, Switzerland in January 2006 to finalise the agreement for a new treaty that will reinforce work to bring tropical forests

under sustainable management and increase the role of the tropical timber trade in sustainable development.

For a detailed report on the negotiations visit

<http://iisd.ca/forestry/itto/itta4/>

TEASER

When was the first teak plantation established in Ghana and where?

Hills, Volta Region, Ghana
Ans: In 1905, Kpando

IUFRO Meetings

For a full list of IUFRO events, please visit <http://www.iufro.org/events/calendar/>.

27 September 2006

Business Meeting of IUFRO RG 8.03.00 Natural Disasters

Niigata, Japan

During the INTERPRAEVENT Congress in Niigata from 25-29 September.

Contact: Gernot Fiebiger

Gernot.Fiebiger(at)die-wildbach.at ; <http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-8/80000/80300/>

ITTO Workshops

26-27 September, 2006

Sub-regional Workshop on the Reinforcement of Forestry Training Institutions in the Congo Basir

Yaoundé Cameroon

During the Sub-regional Workshop in the Congo Basir from 26-27 September,

Contact: Emmanuel Ze Meka

zemeka@itto.or.jp, at <http://www.itto.or.jp/live>

2-5 October, 2006

International Workshop on Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) : Opportunities and Challenges for the Forest Sector in Sub-Saharan Tropical Africa

Accra, Ghana

During the CDM Workshop from 2-5 October,

Contact: Ben Gyamfi

bengyamfi@hp.fcghana.com or bengyamfi@yahoo.com at <http://www.itto.or.jp/live>

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