

Yesterday, KPCG/PACJA was represented in the CIFOR-ICRAF Launch of a Learning Platform. Sponsored by the CIFOR-ICRAF Quality Tree Seed (QT-Seed) for Africa Project, the forum brought together Restoration Champions from the Great Rift Valley to foster adaptive and collaborative learning about quality planting material for environmental restoration. The platform is aimed at providing unique opportunities for restoration champions to share insights, best practices, and innovative ideas for advancing restoration initiatives in the Great Rift Valley and beyond.

The QT Seed project aims to support the TerraFund for AFR100 project and communities in harnessing the power of trees to address among other issues, biodiversity loss, deforestation, extreme inequality, and climate Change by transforming the tree value chains and food systems. In the recent past, CIFOR-ICRAF have conducted cutting edge research on:

- 1). Trees & forests genetic resource/ biodiversity,
- 2). Climate, Energy & Low Carbon growth,
- 3). Soil and Land Health,
- 4). Sustainable value chains & investments,
- 5). Governance & Equity, Equality, and wellbeing.



*A Scientist at the CIFOR-ICRAF Laboratory explains the imperatives of seeds preservation and conservation.*

During the workshop, seed dialogues centered on:

How to improve the quality of tree seeds and other planting materials for land scape restoration. This can be achieved through multi-stakeholder engagement in formulation and enforcement of regulatory mechanisms, SOPs and protocols for collection, distribution, processing, and general handling of seeds and planting materials. To bridge the supply chain gap of the indigenous tree seeds, it was noted that there was need for policy guidance and implementation to preserve the indigenous trees, need to incentivize the seed collectors and communities, investing in research, promoting non timber tree benefits and alternative energy sources. These strategies will be handy in improving the uptake and adoption of indigenous species that meet the farmer needs of fast growth and economic viability.

The participatory launch event allowed PACJA and other Restoration Champions to share technical knowledge, unique strengths and experiences as well as set the agenda for collaborative learning to the platform. Other partners present in the launch included KEFRI, One Acre, Bezos Earth Fund, One Tree Planted, CGIAR and WRI.