Regreening Africa

TECHNICAL APPROACHES FOR SCALING UP REGREENING IN KENYA

BACKGROUND

- Land restoration to enhance productivity, food security and prosperity for rural communities is a key goal for Kenya RA project.
- Tree planting/growing, FMNR, with tree nurseries and mother blocks has been identified by stakeholders as crucial.
- Large amount of high-quality germplasm is required for successful tree growing plans.

CHALLENGES

- Availability of seed for diverse tree species seeds is limited, posing risk of restoration based on only a few species.
- Nurseries, face challenges in seed and vegetative material sourcing, handling & production, as well as information on a diverse range of species.
- Nurseries lack structured markets and are largely an underdeveloped value chain.

DESIGN TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION (DTI) INTERVENTION

Trainings & Demos

- ToTs (tree nursery managers and lead farmers) in partnership with KEFRI Migori on quality seed sourcing and procurement, with aim of quality sourcing of germplasm and linkages to local seed center.
- 68 ToTs trained in Homabay & Migori.
- Refresher trainings for nursery managers on good nursery practices from seedling production to vegetative propagation.
- Practical demo sessions on good nursery management practices e.g. vegetative propagation techniques, potting media use, shade etc.

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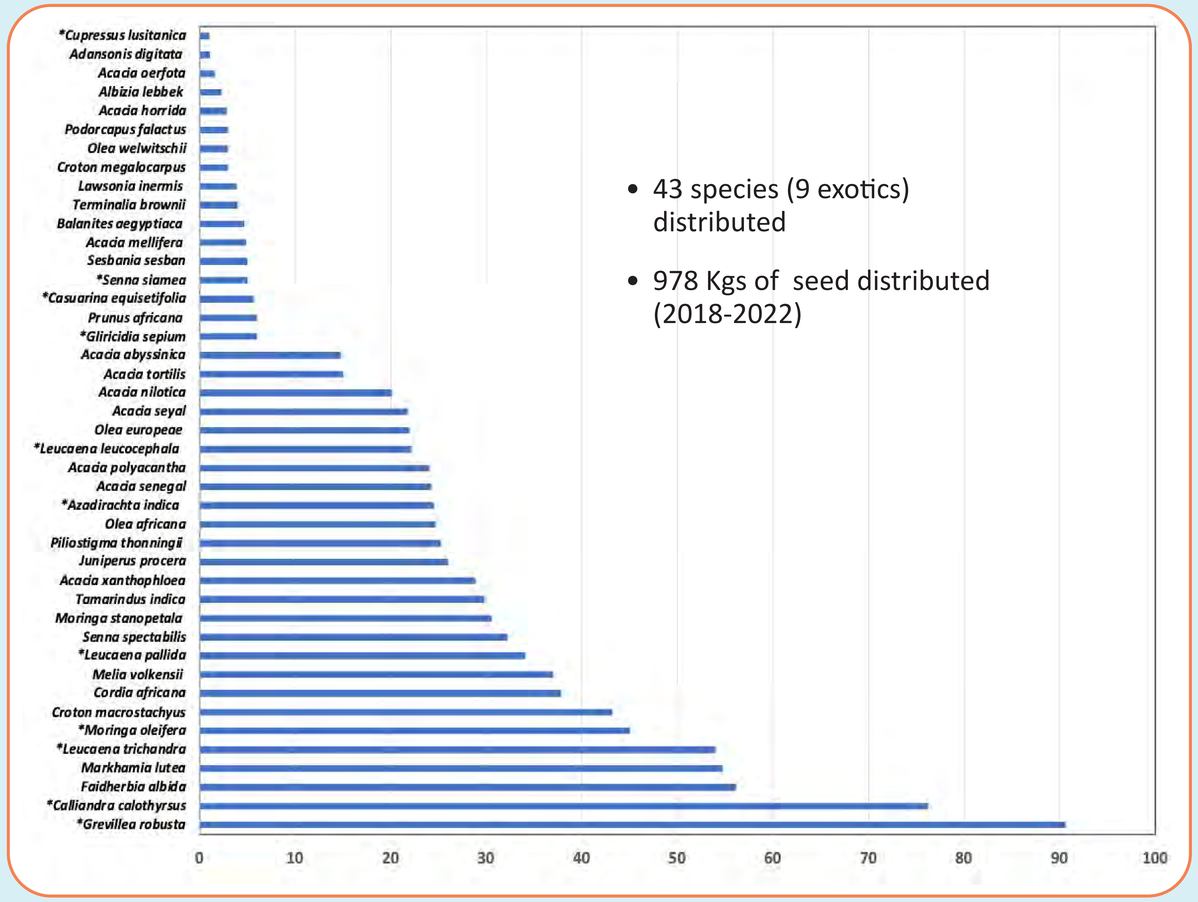
FRUIT TREE MOTHER BLOCK ESTABLISHMENT

- Four mango varieties (Apple, Tommy, Vandyke, Kent) identified to support farmer communities in Migori and Homabay.
- To promote growing of true to type vegetative materials, mother blocks were established
- 19 mother blocks (13 in Migori and 6 in Homabay) were planted with a total of 540 saplings (4 varieties)
- Follow-up visits report: all MB successfully established, some ready to flower after 2.5 years.

SUPPORT WITH IMPROVED FRUIT VARIETIES

- 2000 true to type mango scions for Tommy, Apple, Van Dyke & Kent availed each to 20 nurseries in Migori and 7 in Homabay.
- Grafting success rates of 80% reported in Migori and 46% in Homabay respectively. Lower rate in Homabay attributed to water shortage and scions that didn't match root stocks sizes.
- Most nurseries have sold the grafted saplings for KES 300 per piece. Only a few nursery operators planted or added to MB
- Women who benefited with scions/ grafted seedlings planted the seedlings in both locations, and one woman did in-situ grafting and was successful.

SEED DEMAND IN KILOGRAMMES (2018 TO 2022)



- 43 species (9 exotics) distributed
- 978 Kgs of seed distributed (2018-2022)

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