

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A WORD FROM JEAN-PAUL, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Forestry, a fulfilling profession, and certainly agroforestry combines constant learning and meaningful interactions with its stakeholders in the field. Better Globe Forestry (BGF) and its staff and partner-farmers create a dynamic ecosystem focused on learning and mutual improvement. BGF fosters human connections through farm visits and training sessions. Agroforestry necessitates a willingness to learn and continuously adapt together with its partner-farmers. BGF's relations with farmers are characterized by shared respect and understanding, facilitated through site visits and fostering dialogue. Farmers are empowered through capacity building, getting access to a market for their trees, and other interventions, enabling them to be stewards of the land and promote environmental conservation and achieve sustainable livelihoods. Working with farmers in agroforestry represents the epitome of rewarding forestry, encompassing learning, growth, and meaningful interactions.

TO THE FIELD TO CHECK FOR OURSELVES



The trees planted by Martin Eruju, in August 2018. Well maintained and impressive growth. Photo BGF



Unbelievable but true: this melia was planted in 2015, hence was 8 years old when this photo was taken (Abongowoo village, DBH 45cm). Photo BGF

BGF's Managing Director and Senior Director Forestry visit the Dokolo operations

In early May, the management team of BGF embarked on a trip to Dokolo in northern Uganda. They also took the opportunity to meet with JICA in their Ugandan office and Julius Odwe, the founder of the farmer organization YICAFA based in Dokolo district. The purpose of the visit was twofold. Firstly, it provided an opportunity to observe the field operations and assess the growth of *Melia azedarach*, the main tree species in the area. Additionally, it allowed for a courtesy call to the LC5, the district's leadership.

The initial trees were planted in August 2018, making



Our staff and nursery casual labour during the visit. Photo BGF

them approximately 4 years and 9 months old. The growth of these trees has been remarkable, with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 25cm and commercial boles reaching 5m in length. To monitor the growth more systematically, the company has established Permanent Sample Plots (PPS) in selected farms. These plots will enable them to track the trees' growth through yearly measurements of DBH, commercial height, and total height. During the visit, the team also had the opportunity to see older trees planted before their involvement in the area. These trees, aged 8 and 9 years (planted in 2015 and 2016), displayed impressive DBH ranging from 40 to 45cm, despite being poorly pruned. The team received blessings from the LC5 and Julius Odwe during their visit, and the rainy weather added to their positive experience.

With the successful growth of the existing trees and the commencement of seedling production in the nursery, the team returned with high spirits, looking forward to planting more trees in Dokolo this year.

TRAINING IN BGF

No simple matter, and taken seriously

The training in Better Globe Forestry Ltd. (BGF) is a complex and important process that requires specialized and tailored approaches. The company employs a significant number of people in various roles and locations, both on a permanent and temporary basis. The Human Resources Department, led by the Deputy Director of HR, coordinates the training efforts in collaboration with the Heads of Departments.

The training initiatives at BGF are diverse, ranging from external training for specific tasks such as the use of Walkie Talkies by the security force, to internal training conducted by experienced personnel. For instance, the Head of Security on each site imparts training on discipline, grooming, punctuality, and how to handle different situations like encountering pastoralists or dealing with snakebites. Regular training sessions and protocols are in place to

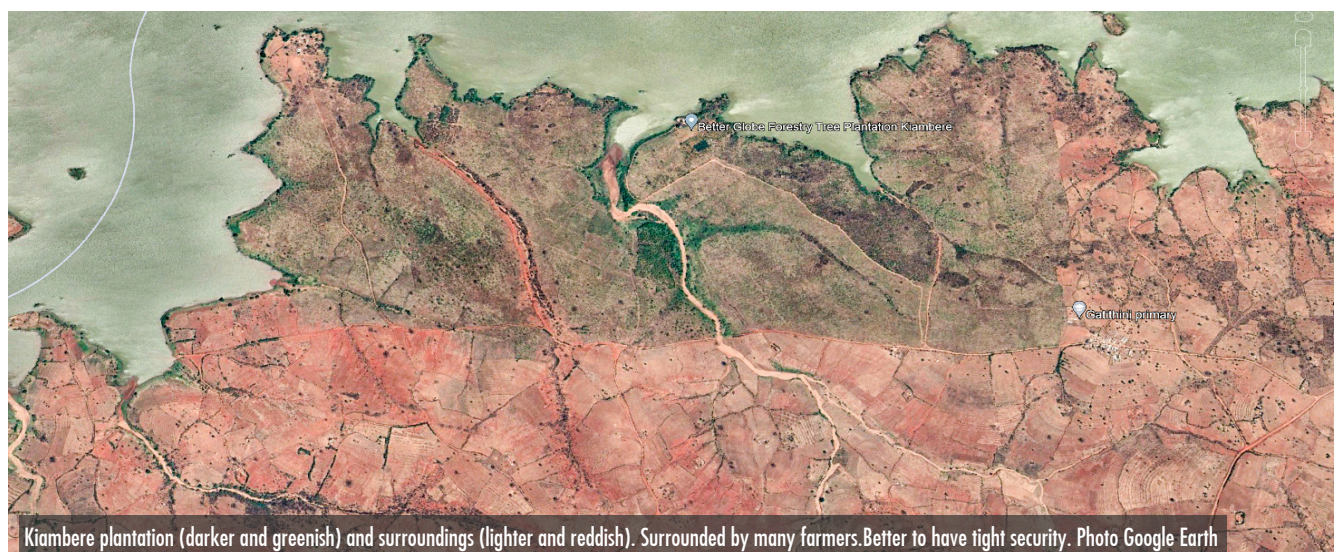
ensure the guards' preparedness and effective functioning. Another significant aspect of training at BGF is related to engaging with farmers for the company's tree planting programs in Kenya and Northern Uganda. Agroforestry Agents (AAs) represent the company in these interactions, and they receive training on attitudes, techniques, record-keeping, contracting, and assisting farmers with various aspects of farming. The company has compiled its experiences in a training manual and conducts regular meetings between AAs and supervisors for feedback and adjustment.

BGF also emphasizes workplace safety, environmental stewardship, compliance with regulations, and the use of new technologies.

The company maintains a comprehensive training program that includes evaluations of the training sessions to ensure effectiveness and keep up with evolving needs. Overall, BGF recognizes the importance of training its employees, tailoring the training to their specific roles, and adapting to changing circumstances.



Security guard in Kiambere plantation. No firearms. Photo BGF



Kiambere plantation (darker and greenish) and surroundings (lighter and reddish). Surrounded by many farmers. Better to have tight security. Photo Google Earth