

KIRINYAGA UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE ESTATES MANAGER

FROM: Grounds Maintenance Officer

DATE: 20th June, 2018

TO: Vice Chancellor

REF: KyU/GMO/VC/Vol.1/71

THRO': Estates Manager

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR SHAMBA SYSTEM

A. Introduction

The National Forest cover stands at approximately 7% against the United Nations requirement of 10%; Kirinyaga County has approximately 20% forest cover.

The National Tree Planting day was held on 26th April, 2018 and the University participated in this noble venture where planting of 6,000 tree seedlings donated by the Kenya Forest Service (Kirinyaga) commenced.

To ensure maximum survival rate is achieved the tree plantation has to be tended to (watering, weeding and pruning); during the aforementioned day; the Assistant Ecosystem Conservator proposed implementation of the *Shamba System*. Simply defined as a form of agroforestry, where farmers are encouraged **to cultivate primary crops (maize, bananas, beans and cassava)** on forested lands on the condition that they tend the trees.

B. Objective

To ensure that tree survival rate is improved.

C. Programme

The target plantation has 2,800 trees with spacing of 2500mm equating to **approximately 20No. quarter acre plots**. Availability of the plots for allocation shall be advertised in the University website from thence these plots shall be allocated to willing members of Kirinyaga University staff on first come first served basis on condition that during the allotted duration: -

- i) Allocated staff shall ensure 100% survival rate for the tree seedlings in the allotted plots.
- ii) Allotted plot shall be cleared of weeds and undergrowth whether there shall be cultivation or not.
- iii) Allotted plot shall only have primary plants cultivated to ensure minimal competition with the seedlings for nutrients.

This proposal shall be supervised by the Estates Department and monthly status reports shall be prepared and submitted to the Vice Chancellor's Office.

D. Benefits

This proposed system shall be beneficial to the University since the survival rate for the trees will be enhanced at no cost implication to the University.

Kindly approve this proposal.

Ngooro BK
Grounds Maintenance Officer