

A word from Jean-Paul Deprins, CEO

New projects bring excitement, but lasting impact comes from strong partnerships. In forestry, especially agroforestry, success relies on close collaboration with communities and committed farmers.

At BGF, we've developed a proven model for dryland agroforestry in Kenya. But success isn't just about commercial returns, it's about improving livelihoods and strengthening local resilience. That's why we

Partnered with K-Rep Financial Services to strengthen village banks. Through access to credit, savings, and training, farmers are empowered to invest in their trees and their future.

In this edition, we spotlight innovation and impact: from the launch of the Kiambere pilot to Kamuwongo's five-year milestone. Each story reflects how sustainable forestry can transform lives.

Thank you for reading and for walking this journey with us.

Driving Community-Centred Reforestation: Hybrid Agroforestry Pilot Launched in Kiambere

Better Globe Forestry (BGF) has launched a 10,000-tree agroforestry pilot project at the Kiambere site, funded by our partner Tree Partner Solutions (TPS). The initiative follows intensive planning at the BGF Head Office and a high-level stakeholder engagement visit by the CFO and CFOO. Designed around five key phases: stakeholder engagement, seedling production, establishment, maintenance, and protection, the pilot is firmly rooted in community participation. At its core, it aims to integrate reforestation with sustainable livelihoods across arid and semi-arid regions.

Laying the Groundwork: To ensure timely execution, the planning team focused on realigning timelines and fast-tracking key activities. Top priorities included setting up the nursery, sourcing quality seeds for *Melia volkensii* (Mukau), *Acacia senegal*, and *Mangifera indica* (mango), and initiating site levelling and tunnel construction by the Kiambere team. The nursery layout was confirmed, 33m x 16m for the shed and 7m x 0.7m for the tunnels, with directives issued to have all materials on-site by early July.



TPS-BGF meeting on pilot project rollout at BGF HQ.



On-site pilot planning by BGF team.



Nursery shed measurement.



Site of the agroforestry pilot project

Strengthening Farmer Collaboration: A draft farmer agreement was reviewed with the field team, detailing responsibilities, benefit-sharing models, agroforestry species selection, and monitoring protocols in line with FSC certification. These agreements will be signed by group leaders of Community Forest Associations (CFAs), with individual members listed in annexes to ensure clarity and accountability. To further boost resilience, farmers will be linked to the Kamuwongo Financial Services Association (FSA) for access to microfinance, laying the foundation for long-term sustainability and financial inclusion.

Community Baraza: Stakeholder Engagement: A lively baraza at Kaliani Market drew over 100 farmers from nearby villages, including Malatani, Kambusu, Kawala, and Izunzi. BGF's field team shared the project's vision, emphasising both environmental restoration and economic benefits. Farmers were introduced to the full agroforestry model, *Melia volkensii* for timber, mango for fruit, *Acacia senegal* for gum, alongside food crops like green grams, pigeon peas, sorghum, and millet. Participants voiced enthusiasm, but also raised concerns about water access, land demarcation, and tree ownership. These were addressed openly, affirming BGF's commitment to transparency and co-creation.



Strategy session on implementation at BGF HQ. SMFP addressing a Baraza at Kaliani Centre. A thankful farmer voices hopes and inquiries. Community engagement.

Looking Ahead: This pilot reflects BGF's vision for scalable, community-led forestry. With farmer training and strong local engagement underway, the next focus is on launching nurseries and formalising CFAs, paving the way for a greener, more resilient Kiambere.

KAMUWONGO FSA CELEBRATES ITS 5TH AGM, A MILESTONE IN COMMUNITY-LED FINANCE

Kamuwongo Financial Services Association (FSA) recently marked a major milestone with the celebration of its 5th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at Kamuwongo Market Grounds. Established in 2018 as the second FSA funded by Better Globe Forestry (BGF) and managed by Kenya Fedha Services (KFS), Kamuwongo FSA was founded to uplift rural livelihoods across the 7Forks region by providing access to credit, savings, and financial literacy. The event gathered hundreds of farmers, local administration officials, KFS representatives, FSA board members and staff, and BGF delegates to recognise the achievements and impact of the bank, as well as to review the annual financial statement.



Strong farmer turnout at the 5th AGM.



Bonface M. (2nd right) with Kamuwongo staff.



FSA Managers.



Managers, board, and staff from various FSA

KFS General Manager – Madam Emmah Kimani praised the Kamuwongo team for their success in member mobilisation and training. She underscored the importance of financial inclusion and urged the formation of enterprise-based farmer groups to enhance market access. She also called on parents to involve youth and expand FSA's reach for greater community impact.

Board Chairman – Mr. Samuel Munyoki Muthui thanked farmers, staff, and KFS for their support and collaboration over his six-year tenure. He acknowledged BGF's role in enhancing livelihoods through socio-economic empowerment and climate action. He officially handed over to the incoming chairperson.

Kamuwongo Acting Manager - Mr. Bonface Muthoka lauded members for their participation, loan repayments, and trust in the institution. He encouraged continued borrowing and saving to boost dividends.

Regional Team Leader – Madam Peninnah Malewa, representing Kakeani FSA, reaffirmed support from KFS, BGF, the board, and local authorities. She encouraged members to pursue better standards of living and hold tightly to the opportunities offered by FSA.

Local Administration - Chiefs praised the FSA and BGF for empowering farmers through training, loans, and tree planting initiatives. They committed to continued administrative support for loan processing and community engagement.

Better Globe Forestry: BGF SMFP emphasised the positive socio-economic and environmental impact of the FSA, urging farmers to stay active in groups, save regularly, and care for their Mukau trees. "Saving today is withdrawing tomorrow," was a key message.



Florence (BGF SMFP) addressing farmers.



Peninah M. Team leader from Kakeani FSA.



Emmah K. KFS Manager from Nairobi



Gilbert M. the Auditor.

Mr. Gilbert P. Mugo (PSK Associates): Presented the 2024 financial results, reflecting Kamuwongo FSA's solid performance and member trust. These figures reflect consistent growth, good governance, and strong participation from the membership.

Financial Indicator	2023	2024
Total Assets	Ksh 24,863,058	Ksh 33,208,629
Member Contributions (Savings)	Ksh 15,207,589	Ksh 20,000,132
Dividend per Share	Ksh 23	Ksh 25

Conclusion & Recommendations:

This milestone highlights the power of collaboration between communities, institutions, and visionaries. Through disciplined saving, responsible borrowing, and strong community engagement, we can build greener, stronger, and more self-reliant rural economies.