

**WORKSHOP ON THE VETIVER SYSTEM
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND LAND
STABILISATION**

IN KENYA

March 11, 2009, Nairobi , KENYA



VETIVER SYSTEM - PROVEN AND GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

Held at

**Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) headquarters in
Nairobi**

**Organised by the
KENYA VETIVER
NETWORK (KEVN)**

**Sponsored by the
Vetiver Network
International (TVNI)**

PROGRAM		
Time		
	Opening Session	
8:30	Short speeches by Dick Grimshaw (TVNI chairperson) & Kenyan officials	
	Topics	Presenters
	CORE PRESENTATIONS	
9:00	Vetiver Grass, a Unique Plant, with Pan Tropical Applications that are Essential for Africa.	Dick Grimshaw, OBE Chairman, TVNI
10:00	Role of the Vetiver System in the achievement of Kenya Vision 2030	Dr James O. Owino
10:30	Tea	
11:00	Potential applications of the Vetiver System for environmental protection in Kenya	Elise Pinnars (MSc) Associate Director TVNI
11:45	Vetiver System for Prevention and Treatment of Contaminated Water	Dr. Paul Truong Director TVNI
12:45	Lunch	
13:45	The Vetiver System, a Biological Solution for Development and Conservation in Madagascar	Yoann Coppin Aadirector, La Plantation Bemasoandro, Madagascar
14:15	Household grey water treatment using vetiver grass. Case of Nakuru Municipality	James M. Raude
15:00	Voi group	Kennedy and Paul
15:20	Tea	
15:50	Applications of Vetiver Grass for Wastewater Treatment in Mombasa & Nanyuki	Sarah de Mowbray GreenWater Solutions
16:35	Community Development and Poverty Alleviation Opportunities through the Use of the Vetiver System	Dick Grimshaw OBE
17:00	Closing	

This was a one day Workshop on “The Vetiver System for Environmental Protection and Land Stabilization held in Nairobi, Kenya on 11th March 2009. It was organized by Kenya Vetiver Network in collaboration with The Vetiver Network International (TVNI) that funded the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was:

- to provide support to those applying Vetiver Systems (VS),
- to advocate for the scaling up of good practices already evident in Kenya and elsewhere, and
- to promote relatively new, but unused, applications of VS in Kenya.

There were presentations that were of relevance to professionals from different sectors: agriculture, water, and transport infrastructure, people from government, non-government and private sector.

There were over 60 participants from government and nongovernment organizations, research institutions, higher education institutions, farmers, individuals and those from the private sector. A total of 10 presentations were given by both local and international experts. Some of the participants had the opportunity to go for a one day field trip to Mavoko –EPZA Water and Sewerage Company during which they toured the EPZA Sewage treatment plant serving that area. The need to use of Vetiver grass to improve the sewage treatment plant was discussed during the trip.

PICTURES OF THE WORKSHOP PATICIPANTS



(L to R) Elise Pinners, Dick Grimshaw and Paul Truong at the workshop



Sara de Mowbray of Green Water Solution Company



L- Paul Truong and R- James Owino



A section of the participants



L- Justine Mbula and R- Ken Mwashako



Dick Grimshaw –Chairman TVNI



Paul Truong – Director TVNI



Paul Zuckerman -UK



Yoann Coppin- Madagascar



James O. Owino – coordinator
KEVN



Elise Pinnars – Associate
Director TVNI

ISSUES ARISING DURING THE WORKSHOP

The following issues arose from questions, comments and brainstorming by participants during the workshop:

- The length of time it takes to stabilize Railway lines, Roads and slopes using a vetiver hedges
- The nutritional value and palatability of vetiver grass to livestock.
- Susceptibility of Vetiver to termites
- Fertilizers (nutrients) requirements for vetiver establishment
- How active the vetiver network was in Kenya and efforts being made to strengthen it.
- Availability of tangible evidence or data on the advantages of Vetiver grass over conventional technologies in Kenya
- Effectiveness of the vetiver system in controlling water hyacinth
- Interaction of the vetiver network in Kenya with relevant government ministries and the plans on the ground to ensure that such interactions are there.

- Presence of a framework for advocacy
- Information on any vetiver system research work in Kenya
- Need for the vetiver network in Kenya to explore the possibility of having it activities under the Constituency Development Funds (CDF)
- The need to demonstrate clearly how vetiver system can put food on the table for a small scale farmer for it to be easily accepted.(i.e. How it can be used in poverty eradication
- How the VS relates to agro forestry.
- The relationship between the amount of water to be treated in wastewater treatment and the amount of vetiver to be planted.
- The method used and the interval at which the vetiver pontoons are replaced in a vetiver wastewater treatment pond
- The effect of the vetiver system of water availability especially when used to stabilize river banks and canals.
- Availability of TVNI certified vetiver experts in Kenya
- Need to explore the use of vetiver leaves as substrate in mushroom production.
- Possibility of the network getting involved and incorporating VS in the World Bank projects in Kenya
- Establishment of a Kenyan networking group incorporating local resource persons (grass root groups) to ensure effective information dissemination
- The network to identify strategic people and bring them on board, e.g. arrange for a meeting with Kenya's infrastructures stakeholders.
- The network to organize a presentation to the Central Advisory Board (CAB) who meets monthly at KARI HQs. (to address among other issues flood mitigation)
- Promote vetiver handicrafts through training to ensure production of high quality handicraft items
- Need to contact KARI for work in Kakamega
- Need to link Nairobi River project website to the Vetiver website
- Set up vetiver google group blogs and produce newsletters
- Develop applications in practice on water quality

CONCLUSION

The workshop brought professionals and non professionals from different sectors together, thus making it one of the highest profile level meeting on vetiver system in Kenya . The presentations from various experts exposed the participants to the unique and versatile nature of the vetiver grass and they had the opportunity to exchange ideas through the interaction between the participants and the presenters. There is need to strengthen the vetiver network in Kenya and to encourage closer interaction between the network and relevant government ministries, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.