

CONSERVATION FARMING IN KENYA

Some examples of the contribution of ex-settler farmers on large farms and their support to small scale farming neighbours

TAA (SW) Spring Meeting at Cannington College – 18/ 3/ 2011

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Summary

1. Introduction
2. History
3. Shimo Farm - Mara
4. Western Seed – Kitale
5. Lengetia Farm – Laikipia



History of Conservation Farming in Kenya

In the 1970's and 80's farmers began to take note of minimum tillage developments in Australia to conserve moisture.

At the same time farmers who had sold their own farms under the land transfer after Independence in the 60's were beginning to lease land in areas previously not used for agriculture eg Masai land.

Existing farms (eg Mt Kenya region) which were left intact were also suffering yield fluctuations due to regular drought.

As glyphosate was introduced, Monsanto organised farmer visits to Australia and Zimbabwe to see the new tillage systems for themselves.

A local firm 'Ndume' was established at Gilgil in the Rift Valley to manufacture suitable tillage equipment based on the Australian models.

Shimo Ltd - Mara



Own 200 ha and lease another 2,000 ha from the Masai. Using centre pivot irrigation ; one unit covering 80 ha. Ten years experience of this and minimum tillage in the Mara region. Currently growing sorghum and millet for the Kenya Seed Company. One crop a year which is followed by a cover crop (green manure) in the 'second season'.

Shimo Ltd - Mara



Western Seed Company - Kitale

- Higher rainfall area – 1200mm + per annum
- Sloping land
- Traditional cultivation system
- Growing crops out of season.
- Financed by AGRA.





Centre Pivot Irrigation at Kimini near Kitale – Western Seed Company





Lengetia Farm - Laikipia

- 270 ha of own land plus 1,600 ha leased from neighbouring ranch.
- Medium rainfall (800mm) but erratic (rain shadow Mt Kenya)
- Practicing conservation farming for about 10 years.
- Main crops wheat and barley.
- Highly mechanised system – large equipment





Lengetia Farm

Small scale equipment for local farmers.
Laikipia Wildlife forum arrange educational
visits for farmers and school children

www.laikipia.org



And finally:

An update on the Agoro Vocational Training Inst. – Uganda.

- Our ultimate destination on this trip.
- Travelled about 600 km from Kenya border around the north of Mount Elgon via Mbale, Soroti and Kitgum
- Excellent roads both paved and ‘murrām’
- Dry season weather
- Peaceful election campaign



Investment Opportunity!

- Land readily available
- Communities ready to lease land – low population density.
- Some of the best land in Northern Uganda.
- Potential market in the new ‘Southern Sudan’ nation.
- Trained labour from the Agoro Training Institute!



Thank you!

A hand is holding a notebook with a table of handwritten data. The table has five columns and several rows of entries. The columns are labeled "DATE", "TIME", "NUMBER", "SPECIES", and "COUNT".

DATE	TIME	NUMBER	SPECIES	COUNT
10/10/10	08:00	1	Red-tailed Tropicbird	1
10/10/10	08:15	2	Red-tailed Tropicbird	2
10/10/10	08:30	3	Red-tailed Tropicbird	3
10/10/10	08:45	4	Red-tailed Tropicbird	4
10/10/10	09:00	5	Red-tailed Tropicbird	5
10/10/10	09:15	6	Red-tailed Tropicbird	6
10/10/10	09:30	7	Red-tailed Tropicbird	7
10/10/10	09:45	8	Red-tailed Tropicbird	8
10/10/10	10:00	9	Red-tailed Tropicbird	9
10/10/10	10:15	10	Red-tailed Tropicbird	10
10/10/10	10:30	11	Red-tailed Tropicbird	11
10/10/10	10:45	12	Red-tailed Tropicbird	12
10/10/10	11:00	13	Red-tailed Tropicbird	13
10/10/10	11:15	14	Red-tailed Tropicbird	14
10/10/10	11:30	15	Red-tailed Tropicbird	15
10/10/10	11:45	16	Red-tailed Tropicbird	16
10/10/10	12:00	17	Red-tailed Tropicbird	17
10/10/10	12:15	18	Red-tailed Tropicbird	18
10/10/10	12:30	19	Red-tailed Tropicbird	19
10/10/10	12:45	20	Red-tailed Tropicbird	20
10/10/10	13:00	21	Red-tailed Tropicbird	21
10/10/10	13:15	22	Red-tailed Tropicbird	22
10/10/10	13:30	23	Red-tailed Tropicbird	23
10/10/10	13:45	24	Red-tailed Tropicbird	24
10/10/10	14:00	25	Red-tailed Tropicbird	25
10/10/10	14:15	26	Red-tailed Tropicbird	26
10/10/10	14:30	27	Red-tailed Tropicbird	27
10/10/10	14:45	28	Red-tailed Tropicbird	28
10/10/10	15:00	29	Red-tailed Tropicbird	29
10/10/10	15:15	30	Red-tailed Tropicbird	30
10/10/10	15:30	31	Red-tailed Tropicbird	31
10/10/10	15:45	32	Red-tailed Tropicbird	32
10/10/10	16:00	33	Red-tailed Tropicbird	33
10/10/10	16:15	34	Red-tailed Tropicbird	34
10/10/10	16:30	35	Red-tailed Tropicbird	35
10/10/10	16:45	36	Red-tailed Tropicbird	36
10/10/10	17:00	37	Red-tailed Tropicbird	37
10/10/10	17:15	38	Red-tailed Tropicbird	38
10/10/10	17:30	39	Red-tailed Tropicbird	39
10/10/10	17:45	40	Red-tailed Tropicbird	40
10/10/10	18:00	41	Red-tailed Tropicbird	41
10/10/10	18:15	42	Red-tailed Tropicbird	42
10/10/10	18:30	43	Red-tailed Tropicbird	43
10/10/10	18:45	44	Red-tailed Tropicbird	44
10/10/10	19:00	45	Red-tailed Tropicbird	45
10/10/10	19:15	46	Red-tailed Tropicbird	46
10/10/10	19:30	47	Red-tailed Tropicbird	47
10/10/10	19:45	48	Red-tailed Tropicbird	48
10/10/10	20:00	49	Red-tailed Tropicbird	49
10/10/10	20:15	50	Red-tailed Tropicbird	50

