# **ECHO** East Africa Symposium on best practices in Highland areas, FMNR Experiences from Kenya

28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> October 2014

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# Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration

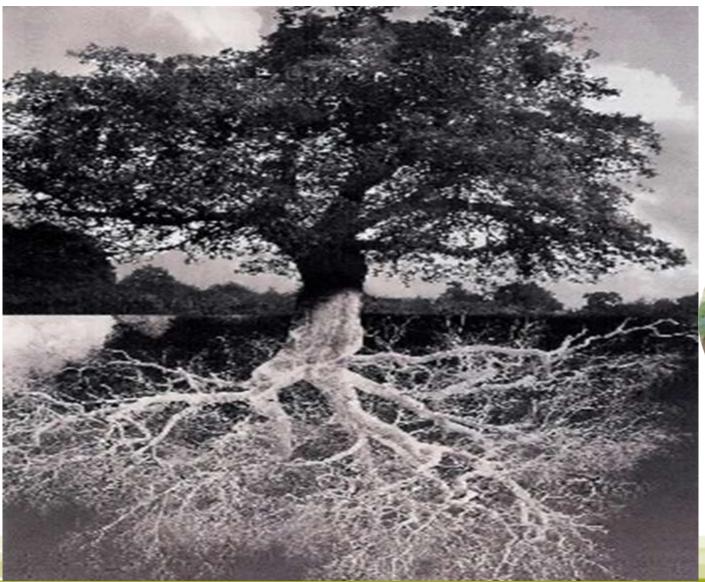
- It is an approach by which a farmer takes decision to re-grow trees in his/her farm without planting.FMNR is based on the systematic regrowth of existing trees or self-sown seeds, and is possible wherever there are living tree stumps with the ability to re-sprout or seeds in the soil that can germinate.
- FMNR encourages natural tree re-growth by selecting, pruning and protecting naturally regenerating trees, and uses living rootstock making sprouting of tree stumps easier, making it cheaper than tree planting. The approach has proved to have a great potential in restoring tree cover.
- FMNR is a rapid, low cost, easily replicated approach to restoring and improving agricultural, forested and pasture lands through reforestation and agro forestry.













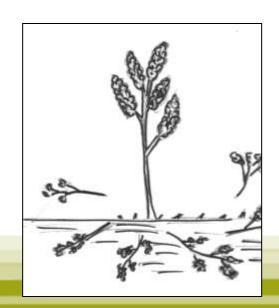


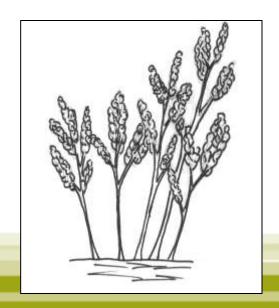
Select desired tree stumps and for each stump, choose number of (tallest and straightest

Remove unwanted stems and side branches

Cull emerging new stems and prune side branches from time to time









Always cut upwards





Always use sharp tools



## FMNR enabling factors

- Community education and awareness(training, media).
- Learning sites (individual farms/public sites) acknowledge indigenous knowledge.
- Tree and land user rights and or ownership, joint management on communal land(By laws)
- Stopping destructive burning and educate community on managing wildfires
- Use community existing community structures/extension agents(community and state), Bottom up approach
- Law and legislation(Policy),partnerships(government and non government), Alternative livelihood and energy options are key investments
- Exchange visits



# Community education and awareness





# Training of community agents(ToTs)





### Use of children/schools







# Use of Media





# Farmers to farmer spread is the key!



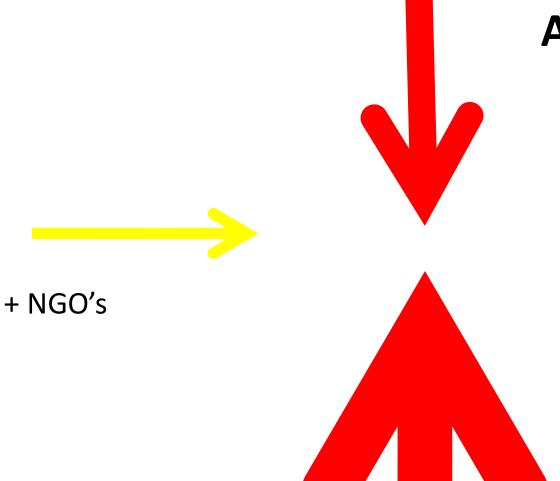


## 'Farmers believe their own'





# Bottom up Approach



+ Research

+ Bottom Up (Community /individuals)

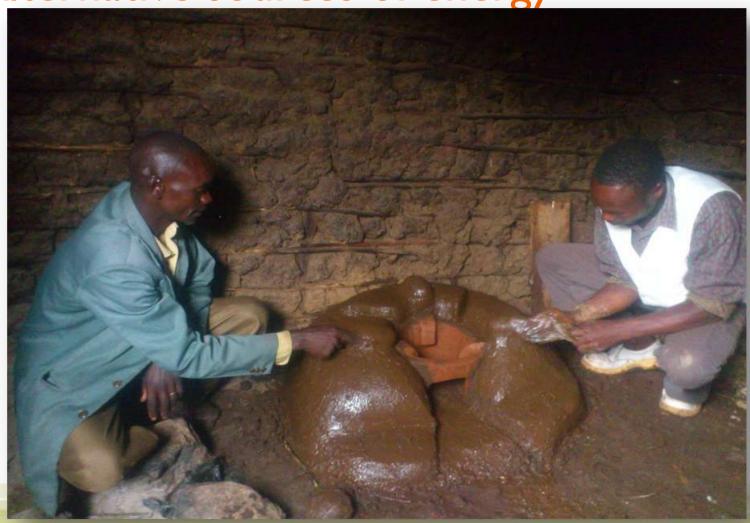


# Alternative livelihood options, CA





Alternative sources of energy





# Exchange visits





#### **FMNR** Benefits

- Improved women and children's welfare as fuel wood becomes more plentiful and close to households
- Improved animal nutrition as many regenerated species provide edible leaves and fodder;
- Improvement of economy through the harvest and sale of wood and non-wood products;
- Improved water infiltration and hence increased groundwater recharge;
- Increased fruits and herbs/traditional medicine as more indigenous trees regenerate;
- Reduces severity of impact from droughts and floods.
- Improves bio-diversity with the return of wildlife, rare plant species and natural pest predators.
- Reduces soil erosion as well as improved soil structure through increased vegetation cover



Increased pasture, firewood supply





## Increased firewood







Increased milk production





## Advantages of FMNR

- It is a rapid, cost effective and large scale land reclamation and forest regeneration method;
- It is a low cost method to implement and easy to adopt, as it requires no expertise and utilizes local knowledge.
- It is less laborious as it does not require a lot of time and energy to look after the regenerated trees.
- It is sustainable even after funds are withdrawn.
- it provides quick and early returns as farmers can get fodder, wood, herbs and fruits from the trees in short time.
- It restores hope and empowers individuals and communities to overcome difficulties without reliance on external assistance.





### Challenges to implementation

- Non defined user rights/land ownership
- Fires deter the process

More FMNR resources can be found at:http://www.fmnrhub.com.au



# Closing Remarks

- World Vision Australia was awarded 2nd place for popularizing Farmer
  Managed Natural Regeneration in the Sahel region in Africa by United
  Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) as one of the
  winners of the 2013 Land for Life Award.
- FMNR was ratified by the AU, during the Second Africa Dry lands Week held from 25 to 29 August 2014 in N'Djamena, Republic of Chad. The forum recommended and proposed that the dry lands development community, through the African Union, and all collaborating and supporting organizations, commit seriously to achieving the goal of enabling EVERY farm, family and EVERY village across the dry lands of Africa to be practicing FMNR and ANR by the year It was noted that these practices have created multiple benefits in food security, resilience and adaptation to climate change, and the restoration of the land and soils.