In the 1970s the government launched national tree planting campaigns to rehabilitate degraded environments. This created high demand of tree seeds of local and introduced species for various end uses. The government recognized the seriousness of the situation and this led to the establishment of the National Tree Seed Programme (NTSP) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism in 1989. The objective was to enhance sustainable supply of high quality tree seeds and other propagating materials as demanded in Tanzania.

Following the government reforms, National Tree Seed Programme (NTSP) has been transformed into Tanzania Tree Seed Agency (TTSA) with the purpose of enhancing sustainable supply of forest products and environmental conservation by producing, procuring and marketing high quality tree seeds and other propagating materials.

The roles of TTSA are to provide high quality tree seed and other propagating materials for different end uses, to provide technical support for awareness creation and facilitation of customers in raising seedlings from seed supplied by TTSA and to maintain a well managed and financially self–sustaining Agency.

**SALE OF SEEDS AND SEEDLINGS**

TTSA harvests about 10 tons of seeds per year from 150 tree species and supplies them to more than 500 customers within Tanzania and abroad. Seed assortment includes valuable indigenous timber species such as East Africa Cordia (*Cordia africana*), Pod mahogany (*Afzelia quanzensis*), African black wood (*Dalbergia melanoxylon*), Pencil cedar (*Juniperus procera*), Mvule/Iroko, (*Milicia excelsa*) East African camphor (*Ocotea usambarensis*), Blood wood (*Pterocarpus angolensis*) and Podo (*Podocarpus usambarensis*) and Red African mahogany (*Khaya anthotheca*). We also sale and supply genetically improved exotic tree seeds such as Pines, Cypress, Eucalypts, Casuarinas and Australian Acacias. TTSA supplies seedlings of different trees species including those that are difficult to raise like Araucaria and Cypress. The agency has started to supply in large quantity fruit tree seedlings like grafted mangoes, oranges and avocado.

**CONSULTANCIES**

TTSA conducts consultancies in various fields of forest disciplines such as Nursery establishment, Ethno botany, Botanical surveys, Landscaping and selection of tree species for afforestation programmes.

**SHORT COURSES**

TTSA is a good Training centre in Tree seed technology and has a virtual monopoly on safe tree climbing courses for Eastern and Southern Africa, which makes it one of the three best Tree seed programmes in Africa. The agency conducts short courses on forest nursery, forest botany field identification, and safe tree climbing.

**HOW TO CONTACT TTSA**

Customers are welcome to visit TTSA centres, get advice, buy seeds or place orders. Customers are advised to place orders well in advance to provide enough time to prepare the seeds. Information available on request include detailed seed catalogue, TTSA general brochure, a list of TTSA publications, a Teak seed pamphlet, and Seed issue notes that give advice on how to store and germinate tree seeds. Customers requiring more information about the agency or wishing to buy seed or other services can contact us using the following addresses:

**Tanzania Tree Seed Agency**

P.O.Box 373, Morogoro, Tanzania  
Tel: 023 260 3192/3903 Fax: 023 260 3275  
E-mail: ttseedagency@yahoo.com

**P.O.Box 1121, Iringa**  
Tel: 0262 725029 Fax: 0262 725146 E. mail: iringazonal@hotmail.com

**P.O.Box 258 Lushoto**  
Tel: 027 26 4186 Fax: 027 2640187  
E. mail: lushotozonaltree@hotmail.com
Coming up short courses

1 Botany Field Identification

Duration and Dates: Three weeks September/October 2003.

Objectives of the course
To train participants how to identify different important tree species which are found in their areas and other places.
To train participants on how to collect botanical specimens, which need further identification and dispatch them to the herbarium.
To boost botanical interest to the participants and enable them to seek for further training in systematic botany.

Course content:
Introduction to plant taxonomy, Main characteristics of selected families, International Code of botanical Nomenclature and its provisions, Introduction to Identification Keys, Forest ecology Main vegetation types of East Africa, Seed dispersal mechanism, Species identification and Herbarium techniques.

Fee: Tshs. 180,000 per person
Participants to cover own food, lodging and transport to/from Morogoro

Contact Person: Course coordinator, P.O. Box 373, Morogoro.

2. Nursery Course

Establishment and management of tree nurseries

Objectives of the course
To make participants familiar with nursery techniques both theoretical and practical, Particularly with those techniques which are applicable under Tanzanian conditions.

Course content:
Design and layout of nurseries, preparation of seed beds, preparation of seedlings beds, preparation of potting mixtures, seed pre-treatment, seed sowing, prickling out, direct sowing in pots, seedling hardening off, disease and pests control, seedling transportation, cost accounting, grafting, documentation etc.

Registration: Before 1st October 2003.
Fee: TShs. 120,000 per person
Participants to cover own food, lodging and transport to/from Morogoro

Contact person: Course coordinator: Tanzania Tree Seed agency, P.O. Box 373 Morogoro,