



As population increases, demand for food increases. The need to produce more on less land, less water and with less chemicals have seen the technology of greenhouses come of age. Due to benefits accrued to the wooden greenhouses, they have fast gained popularity in Kenya as compared to metallic.

Wooden greenhouses are low in cost since they utilize the locally available materials mainly wood and have low maintenance cost. They are easy to construct, modify and repair. They are also flexible in sizes and can fit land of different terrains and sizes. A well-constructed wooden greenhouse can last for up to 5 years and even more with good construction.

The wooden frame provides natural insulation. The wood absorbs the rays of the sun during the day and holds in the heat at night thus providing constant temperatures opportune for crop growth. Where crop support is needed, it is easy to install.

Fine touch Construction Limited, a leading agricultural construction company is

pioneering and promoting construction of wooden greenhouses as an alternative low cost.

The company which also does other agricultural structure was motivated by the need to promote the utilization of locally available material to enhance the modern agricultural technology.

According to the company's projects coordinator Mr. Gideon Mwaita, an Agricultural engineer by profession, most farmers especially the small scale holders are embracing the use of wooden structures particularly because of their low cost while attaining their set goals.

The wooden greenhouse comes in handy also to those who are trying out as a temporary source of income

in town plots or leased parcels. At least it will be easy to dispose off at an ideal time. Most plots often lie idle for too long before

owners develop them. Quite a number of such plot owners are constructing greenhouses to be disposed off when ready to develop.



Wooden Greenhouse photograph: Constructed by Fine Touch Construction Ltd for a clients in Birika near Isinya (February 2012).

Note: Ventilation provided on three fronts Covered by an insect net: From top by provision of a 30cm vent covering entire length and on the long sides 1mX15 m on both sides of the length.



Fine Touch Construction Ltd does custom designs for specific places and sizes. The smallest most common size being 6X15m (90m2) which goes with a drip irrigation system, a water tank of 500L and installation for only KShs 99,000.00. Any other size can be done depending on the client's needs and suitability of the land.

The bigger the surface area, the cheaper the greenhouse which means it is more economical.

Although the wooden materials are readily available with timber dealers in the urban centres, where the client provides wood, the cost comes down by up to 20%.

Fine Touch Limited does greenhouses that are ample in height with the minimum being 2.5 metres and a maximum of 4 metres; an adequate height for one to work and tend crops without struggling. The structure are also good for long crops such as tomatoes. For areas that are hot, very appropriate designs are made to suit the area.

Most of the structure is done using blue gums poles, for they are readily available, strong and has smooth surfaces.

The support posts are treated and concreted to make them firm on the ground.

The company which also does the metallic greenhouses sees most of their orders and enquiries directed at the wooden signaling the acceptance of the alternative low cost structures.

"I see a situation where food security will be significantly enhanced if other stakeholders take more focused strategies to promote and empower the rural areas through wholesome trainings which also includes the actual construction of the greenhouses other than the

limited basic crop production trainings" Mr. Mwaita said.

Due to overwhelming demand for agronomic support services, the company partners with selected agronomists to help farmers to get the necessary services such as getting the right seeds for planting, soil analysis, supply of seeds treatment of soil and crops for best results.

The growing demand for their wooden greenhouses has seen the company recruit experienced and train a pool of technicians in a bid to enhance the company capacity to handle big/many projects at ago.

GREENHOUSES

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6m X 15m

Inclusive;

- Wood frame, film, net
- Drip Irrigation,
- Water tank 500L and
- Installation



Wooden 12m X 25m



Metallic Greenhouse
8m X 15m

Metallic greenhouses also available size from 8X15M upwards

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