



**KARUCO
Agriculture Curriculum Team**



Mary Ariel Schott

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Mary Schott joined the Educate Tanzania Curriculum Team as a specialist in Horticulture with particular expertise as founder of “*Trees for Tanzania*” based in Kigoma (about ten hours south of KARUCO). Mary has worked extensively at Purdue University as a student and researcher where she developed protocols for tropical tree regeneration, developed methods using remotely sensed data, and became an expert on poverty and deforestation in a remote area of Tanzania. Mary designed a poverty alleviating forestry project for Kigoma based upon best practices for plantation forestry in developing nations.

In her positions as a GIS Specialist and researcher with Arbor America, Inc., Mary developed genetically improved hardwoods as a financial opportunity for long term investors; and oversaw GIS mapping and cultivar testing. In her research role at Purdue University’s Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, she assisted with nearly all aspects of research projects at the Southwest Purdue Agriculture Center.

In 2007, Mary founded Trees for Tanzania, a project that establishes sustainable sources of firewood and other tree-based products in poverty stricken, deforested areas around Kigoma, Tanzania. Her skills include start up of organizations, fund raising, development of tree nursery, free tree distribution programs, development of agroforestry training seminars, implementation of a forestry research plot, and development of seedlings for outplanting in forestry projects. Mary is also the founding partner and CEO of Maximum Yield Associates, LLC (other founding partner is John Gordon, former Dean, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies), which prospects globally for highly productive sites for intensive tree plantation and tree crop establishment and management, and provides yield improvement advice to the managers of intensive tree and perennial crop plantations based on the Theoretical Maximum Yield model. Mary has published and presented in Horticulture and serves on several community and church boards.