



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



EUROPEAN UNION



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Call for Businesses: Unlocking Finance and Growth Opportunities in Uganda's Wood-Based Value Chain

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with funding from the European Union (EU) under the Forest Partnership Programme in Uganda, is implementing a 5-year project "sustainable Wood-Based Value Chain" – aimed at promoting inclusive investments in the wood sector in Uganda. A key component of the project is to provide Business Development Support (BDS) through a business incubation, acceleration and investment readiness program for SMEs in the wood sector.

The program is designed to provide a customized mix of targeted technical, business development and financing support to SMEs including:

- Business formalization to improve legal compliance and operational efficiency
- Business management training, investment readiness support and linkages with financial institutions to unlock financing.
- Access to conditional catalytic grant financing to promote innovation, efficiency and product diversification
- The support targets businesses at several stages; early stage, early growth, growth stage. The businesses must be sourcing or using wood from planted forests as the main raw material for production of wood products. Women led businesses and aggregated model businesses are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, businesses must meet the following criteria:

I. Legal status

Businesses formally registered with either Uganda Registration Service Bureau (URSB) or a local authority like City council or municipality and operating within Uganda- (Must attach a copy of URBS Certificate or valid trading license).

II. Eligible value chain activities

- Logging and harvesting in forest plantations.
- Production of sawmilling products—such as rough-sawn timber, planned timber, beams etc.
- Manufacture of solid wood products, such as furniture components, wooden doors and windows, flooring, molding, and joinery products.
- Manufacture of wood-based panel products, such as plywood, veneer, particle board, MDF etc.
- Manufacture of engineered wood products, such as mass timber products (e.g., cross-laminated timber, Glulam etc).
- Provision of value-added services in the wood industry, such as kiln drying, timber and pole treatment, and wood machining.
- Production, construction and sale of prefabricated timber houses—commonly known as prefabs—as a sustainable, cost-effective solution for residential, institutional, and commercial construction.
- Trading and distribution of wood and wood products.
- Support service providers for the wood industry e.g equipment repair and service centers.
- Wood Value chain enabling services such as providers of specialized transport equipment and services, Harvesting plant and machinery.
- Products from utilization of wood waste e.g, sawdust.
- Composite wood e.g combination of bamboo and solid wood
- Atleast 30% of wood raw material

III. Not involved in any prohibited activities

Does not engage in any act of fraud or corruption or is involved in a criminal organization or any other illegal activity under Ugandan law and the entity and/or its owners are not on the United Nations Security Council Sanctions List.

IV. No adverse social or environmental impact

Does not for example result in adverse social impacts to local communities or other project affected parties; critical habitats, cultural heritage sites; environmental pollution; deforestation and land degradation, contribute to emission of significant quantities of GHGs etc.

V. Completed application form

The application must contain all required mandatory information as detailed in the application process below.

Application Process

Interested applicants are invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) by completing the online application form or by downloading and filling out the form, then sending it via email to: UG-Woodfinance-Sme@fao.org. The downloadable application form is available at the following link: <https://ee.kobotoolbox.org/x/7PrhLFF9>

Alternatively, hard copy applications may be hand-delivered to the address below:

- FAO Uganda – Forestry Office
Union House, 4th Floor
Plot 78, Luthuli Avenue, Bugolobi, Kampala
- Addressed to: -
The FAO Representative – Uganda
Attn: Project Coordinator, Sustainable Wood-Based Value Chain Project

Submission Deadline:

All applications must be received by **Friday, 29th August 2025** no later than 2:00 PM (EAT).

Please attach the following documents to the application.

- Completed application form
- Copies of company registration
- A one/two-page company profile structured as follows:
 - o Section A: Overview of the business, including its core activities, products/ services, and target market.
 - o Section B: Summary of the company's growth strategy and future expansion plans.
 - o Section C: Description of sustainable wood sourcing practices (e.g., sourcing at least 30% of raw materials from planted wood species like pine, eucalyptus, teak etc.).
 - o Section D: Outline of the company's specific support needs or interventions required to scale to the next level.

For further inquiries, please contact.

- **Email:** UG-Woodfinance-Sme@fao.org
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