



## UTGA Tax Seminar

UTGA has organised a follow up meeting/seminar on Taxation, Record & Book keeping on Thursday 3rd October 2013 at City Royal Hotel starting at 8am to 11am. The forum will be facilitated by two tax professional consultants.

# UTGA NEWS

27<sup>th</sup> September 2013

No.22

## Expectations & Hope At Mubende Cluster Meeting



The host, Gen Katumba Wamala and the Mubende District Chairman, Mr Kibuuka

UTGA organised a meeting for its Members and growers in the Mubende Cluster. Participants were from the districts of Mityana, Mubende, Kyenjojo, Kibaale, Kabarole and Kyegegwa. The Cluster Meeting took place on Thursday 19/9/13 to Friday 20/9/13 at Gen. Katumba Wamala's plantation in Kasana Kasambya.

### Attendance

The meeting was attended by local government authorities including the LCV Chairman Mr Kibuuka Amooti, LCIII, Sub County Chief, Police, NFA Sector Manager, the District forestry Officer (DFO), press and the growers.

### Processing

Mr Elvis Mulimba showcased the use of a Woodmiser LT 10 to convert 2nd thinning trees to 6 X 2 planks

### Barbeque

The host, Gen Katumba Wamala informed participants that he'd started with no forestry knowledge and it has been a learning curve and aesthetically appealing to see the trees grow. He hosted growers to a barbeque at the end of the first day spent in the field.

### Town hall meeting

The growers then met up the next day and had a town hall meeting to discuss the real cluster issues that needed their collective concerted effort.

# WHY UTGA?

## A case for Cooperatives



UTGA Members in the Mubende Cluster listen to the UTGA General Manager Dennis Kavuma during the forest day

UTGA is a membership organisation for Tree Growers who wish to see the sustainable development of the commercial forestry sector in Uganda. Active forest owners wish to influence the outcomes of the investments they have made in their forest enterprises. The Association provides a forum for

co-operative efforts to improve the investment environment for commercial plantations establishment, management and utilisation. The collective voice of the membership provides a strong signal to politicians (policy makers) and the general public on the values of forestry. A co-operative is often established and managed to meet the common interests that the members have identified. Although the smaller Members may have different immediate needs than the larger investors, all Tree Growers investing in commercial plantations have the aim to achieve a maximum return



Information sharing during the forest excursion

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## Terms of Reference for UTGA Cluster Heads

The **Cluster Head (CH)** is an UTGA contact person permanently residing in the region and elected by the Growers at an annual Cluster Meeting for a period of 2 years. The **CH** will maintain communication with the UTGA Secretariat on issues that affect the Growers in his area of jurisdiction.

The **Cluster Co-ordinator (CC)** is an UTGA Member/Grower elected at the AGM by the Members of the cluster. The **CC** will work hand in hand with the **CH** to ensure Growers meet regularly to discuss issues that need a collective effort so as to ease operations and optimally benefit from their plantations.

The **CH** is a non-salaried person, but a refund of fuel and airtime may be made for Cluster Meeting sessions and any UTGA field meetings and training sessions within the cluster, as may be agreed with the General Manager.

The **Cluster Head** shall:

1. Consult Growers within the region on forestry issues that need attention and make these known to the UTGA Secretariat;
2. Be the UTGA focal point in the region and work with the Cluster Co-ordinator to facilitate information flow between the Growers and the Secretariat;
3. Chair the Cluster Meetings to discuss issues that afflict the Growers in order to find lasting solutions;
4. Help to mobilise Growers for all UTGA Cluster Meetings, training sessions or field activities and get-togethers;
5. Join the UTGA team to lobby local governments to create a conducive climate for the establishment of plantations, their management and utilisation;
6. Help UTGA efforts to lobby for a fair and just tax regime and against any proposed local taxes or levies that unfairly target the commercial tree farmers or that are an impediment to UTGA Members operating in a fair market place within the region;
7. Help UTGA efforts to streamline the process for obtaining licenses and permits relevant to developing commercial forestry business in the region;
8. Work with the Growers within the region to identify appropriate tools and equipment needed to grow, manage, harvest and process their timber;
9. Promote the role and importance of UTGA to the public and other audiences in the region.

## STANDARDS

### WEED CONTROL

The purpose of weeding is to reduce competition on the tree crops. Weeding also reduces the fire risk that is caused by accumulation of fine combustible in plantations. UTGA recommends that growers use a combination of manual and chemical weed control methods. When applied correctly, chemical weeding reduces the frequency of ring hoeing and slashing thus reduces weeding costs. The number and intensity of weeding operations vary with the intensity of weed growth. Generally two to four weeding operations (ring hoeing, slashing and chemical spray) per year may be required in plantations for the first three years.

After land clearing, weeding usually starts with pre-plant weed control operations. These operations include slashing then burning and finally full cover chemical spray. Compartment slash burning and chemical weed control must be carried out at the beginning of the rain season when fire is easy to control and weeds are starting to grow fast. A systematic and non-selective herbicide such as glyphosate is applied to ensure that all potential weeds are dead by the time of planting. If the weeds are dense a second herbicide application is applied as a follow-up, two to three weeks after the initial application. On gentle slopes which are highly erosive, spot or line spraying is done instead of full cover-spraying to minimise erosion. For post-plant weed control operations, ring hoeing is done first followed by slashing (if necessary) and then chemical weed control. The following are quality standards which apply to weeding operations:

#### Ring hoeing

- Must be correctly timed ie a few weeks into current rainy season and late in the rainy season;
- All weeds must have been removed within 0.50 m radius;
- Ring hoe around each tree to a 0.50 m in radius by hoe;
- In the inner 0.20 m radius, weeds must be uprooted by hand to avoid root and stem damage;
- There must be minimum soil disturbance within 0.50 m radius;
- Compartment must be completed;

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## KNOW your Cluster leaders

Cluster	Cluster Head	Cluster Coordinator
West Nile	VACANT	Aluma Robert 0772-514244
Mubende	John agaba 0772-976357	Dr James Semwanga 0752794612/0776-794612
Northern	VACANT	Opio Ambrose 0777-156906/0754-533894.
South Western	Basigire Felix 0772/0712-447758	Masiko Augustine 0788-660211
Albertine	Yohannes Mokwena 0777-057098	Yohannes Mokwena 0777-057098
Central	Nkwanga Samuel 0782-949192	Muwanga Samuel 0772-415115

# WHY UTGA?

on their investment for either financial, social or environmental benefits. An organisation with 200 Members that speaks with one (1) voice guides the actions in the development of the commercial forestry sector in an efficient manner.

One example of a common good that is best achieved through co-operative efforts is access to the newest scientific information for management and maintenance of healthy and robust forest plantations. Research requirements and results that promote improvements will benefit all of the owners and bring the sector forward in an organised manner. Another example is policy changes, which at times are needed to improve the return on the investment or reduce the risks that are an ever-present part of forest resource development processes, that are best achieved collectively. Co-operative efforts most often help to ensure a positive outcome in favour of the Tree Growers.

The private sector needs to promote the positive impacts proper forest establishment has on the environment and on the social well-being of the local population. The creation of jobs and valuable resources in a Region will over time bring social, environmental and economic gains. The co-operative advocacy for a sustainable forestry sector by the Tree Growers will raise awareness in the general public and show both the local authorities and central government that the commercial sector is operating in a transparent and responsible manner. By making a common effort to carry out sustainable operations, Tree Growers can monitor progress themselves.

The organisation structure that is needed to maintain a viable forest owners Association will change as the development of the sector advances. The current services provided by UTGA/ SPGS will require service payments once the organisation is properly staffed and the sector is fully operative. The business philosophy for commercial Tree Growers is based on a strong right to land access and exclusive user rights for the forest resources.

UTGA will continue to promote private sector forestry as a collective group. Having a co-operative that takes on the responsibility for attaining the best possible environment for an ACTIVE FOREST SECTOR is a means of achieving sustainability in the sector. UTGA Members are pioneers for commercial tree planting in Uganda and show strategic thinking, raw muscle power and a strong will to establish a viable commercial forestry sector in Uganda. Future generations will look back on you with pride.

## STANDARDS: WEED CONTROL

### Slashing

- Cut all competing vegetation to less than ankle height i.e 15 cm (where possible) along the row of tree using a slasher or billhook;
- Cut all competing vegetation to less than ankle height i.e 15 cm (where possible) inter-row using a slasher or billhook;
- Compartment must be completed;
- No damage must be observed on desired plants;

### Chemical weed control

- Use Glyphosate which is authorized by NEMA to control weeds in forest;
- Calibrate equipment in the field before starting spraying operation;
- Use the recommended application rates for glyphosate per hectare (eg 2 to 4 lts/ha);
- For post-plant operation, spray when wind speed is less than 4 km/hr, weeds are less than 15 cm and when it is not raining.
- Use cones for post plant spray and low drift nozzles;
- Spray when morning dew has dried;
- Conduct an initial spray (to kill 90 % of weeds) then have a follow up spray directed on gaps and partially dead weeds 2 to 3 weeks later;
- Water that is drinkable must be used for chemical spraying;
- Sprayed weeds must have at least 2 hours rain free after treatment;
- Compartment must be completed;
- No damage must be observed on desired plants;
- All weeds must be dead after 4 weeks;
- Empty chemical containers must not be left in the field;
- Knapsacks must be well serviced with no leaks;

**NEW LOOK: For all news & information on commercial forestry, please visit us on [www.utga.ug](http://www.utga.ug)**



**GREEN TREE NURSERY**  
 Has quality Pine seedlings (14 weeks *Pinus Caribaea*) at only Shs 400 only  
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 on 0772-403300/0702-418137, email: [greentree121@gmail.com](mailto:greentree121@gmail.com)  
 Transport may be arranged on request

## UTGA Members & Staff at Forestry Economics & Finance Training



UTGA growers, the Programme Officer (PO) and Accounts & Administration Officer (AAO) attended an SPGS-organised Forestry Economics and Finance training Course running from 5th -8th August 2013 at City Royal Resort Hotel Bugolobi

The Training was facilitated by Prof Michael Jacobson from the Pennsylvania State University; Department of Ecosystem Science and Management. Other participants included SPGS Staff, commercial tree growers and representatives from key stakeholder institutions like NaFFORI and NARO.

A number of issues were looked at including: forestry economic perspectives, discounting of future values and compounding present values, market economies and timber markets, investment criteria, inflation and risk, unpriced forest values, land use & allocation, taxation and property ownership as well as a look at global forestry issues at large. The course strengthened the capacity of trainees in forest economics and determination of forest plantation values by equipping them with all necessary variables to use to reach appropriate values during plantation valuation.

## Preparation of timber for commercial use

### STAGE ONE

The 'felling' of a tree, is the first stage of preparing timber for commercial use. It is better to cut and leave the tree out in the forest for couple of days to allow it to lose some of its moisture content. Trees can have more than fifty percent water content and this increased weight adds to the cost of transport, handling and initial preparation for the sawmill.

It is good to harvest old mature trees. Planting should be continuous so that consequently, the forest has compartments that have trees with different ages and therefore allow the plantation to be sustainable (it should not

run out of trees).

If small numbers of trees are harvested each day, a skilled forestry worker/contractor should use a chainsaw. When high numbers of trees are to be harvested, a team of forestry workers will work together felling trees.

### STAGE TWO

The logs are stored/stacked in a clearing. Sometimes logs are stored in the forest until they are needed at the sawmill to allow some water content to evaporate and reduce the weight of the log.

### STAGE THREE

## SPGS Opens Field Office In N. Uganda

Sawlog Production Grant Scheme (SPGS) opened an office, in the Northern Uganda District of Gulu. This followed recommendations from the SPGS project Mid-term review exercise that was done in 2011 that justified the need for a special focus/ attention on Northern Uganda by the project.

In 2012, a simple survey was done by SPGS in Northern Uganda to get the views of the people on tree planting and to discuss at length the SPGS approach to commercial forestry to ascertain how this region could be supported better. The survey result justified the need for an office and indicated Gulu District as the central location for this office. On 16th August 2013, the Minister of state for Environment Hon. Betty Bigombe launched the SPGS Northern Office. This launch was witnessed by the SPGS steering committee members' i.e. The European Union and the Government of Norway representatives, the Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Water and Environment. Also in attendance were Government officials from Gulu District, tree growers in the area and key partners and stakeholders in the forestry sector and other players in the region.

Through this office, SPGS intends to scale up its support in tree planting by providing grants and technical support as required by tree planters in the region. This new office is on Plot 24 on Eden Rd. at Gulu Senior Quarters. It is important to note that most SPGS clients are UTGA Members and therefore, because of this crucial link, UTGA will have a desk in the office to handle Association issues.

The logs are loaded and transported to the sawmill.

In areas adjacent to water bodies, large numbers of logs are transported by floating them in rivers and allowing them to be carried down stream by the current, to sawmills.

**To be Continued**

# National Forestry Authority (NFA) Issues New guidelines

The National Forestry Authority (NFA) has issued new guidelines to private tree farmers on the progress of their tree growing activities in Central Forest Reserves. The message there in is as follows:-

The National Forestry Authority (NFA) is the body corporate established by National Forestry and Tree planting Act 2003 to manage Central Forest Reserves on a sustainable basis and supply high quality forest related products and services. As part of the sustainable forest management strategy, the NFA involved the private sector and local communities through land license incentive mechanism to promote and establish commercial tree planting business enterprises in central Forest Reserves.

To this end , the NFA hereby declares a 6 months' notice effective 1st October 2013 and pronounce the following policy measures as interventions to stabilize tree growing licensing system in Central Forest Reserves:

- a) All private Tree Farmers authorized to establish forest plantations and have not fulfilled all the provision in the agreement will have the offers withdrawn and licenses cancelled.
- b) All private Tree Farmer s who have not met the annual planting schedule will have their respective offers/licenses revised to planted area only.
- c) All private Tree Farmers who are carrying out unauthorized activities in the Central Forest Reserves should stop or risk having their licenses cancelled and /or prosecuted as provided in the National Forestry and tree Act, 2013.
- d) All private Tree Farmers who have compiled with at least 50% of the terms and conditions of the tree farming licenses should contact the NFA for further management and guidance.
- e) All private Tree Farmers with without licensed fees should effect payments immediately.

Please note that the above measures will be strictly monitored by NFA and relevant Government Departments and Agencies to ensure compliance. NFA re-affirms its commitment to effectively manage Central Forest Reserves and calls upon all private Tree Farmers to adhere to the license conditions and the afore-mentioned policy measures.

For more information, please contact the NFA Head office, or Range and sector officer country wide, or write using the address below.

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NATIONAL FORESTRY AUTHORITY  
10/20 spring road  
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UTGA News is a digital newsletter for the Uganda Timber Growers Association. It is published semimonthly (twice a month) to briefly summarize recent forestry-related publications, projects, activities, and news.

Do you have news, content, or ideas that you want to share in upcoming newsletters? Please send us your segments on articles and opinions on your organization, partnership, project, group, field stories, successes, challenges, fact sheets,

papers, books, guides, or other resources, upcoming or past events.

UTGA News is a great way to reach a wide audience of foresters, natural resource persons, practitioners, scientists and the publics across the Uganda, East Africa and across the globe. If you have friends (*of forestry*) or anyone you think will benefit if they receive UTGA News, please send their email addresses to [dennisk@utga.ug](mailto:dennisk@utga.ug).

## FSC Roundtable slated for October in Uganda

There will be an FSC Roundtable sitting in Kampala on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2013. A detailed programme showing actual site visits and the venue for the discussions has been circulated to those that have been invited.

## ADVERTISING RATES FOR UTGA NEWS

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Front page strip	300,000/=
Full page	600,000/=
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Quarter page	250,000/=

## SULKY FOR HIRE



UTGA has a sulky at the office that members can hire at a small fee. The sulky is used extensively in the skidding or extraction of wood/thinning from the interior of the plantation to a collection point. Those who are interested can call **0785-343564**

Contact: Uganda Timber Growers Association (UTGA)  
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Tel: 256-785-343564  
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