



UTGA is in the process of developing markets for Members wood. To do this effectively, the office requires information from the Members on location, species planted, acreage and age. Please forward this info as soon as you can. Thanks

# UTGA NEWS

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013

No.24

## UTGA Cluster Meeting In West Nile

Growers learnt how to raise fast growing, high quality Teak



HOST: Moses Obeta also elected as the Cluster Head

### Future Collaboration Between UTGA & SPGS

The Sawlog Production Grant Scheme (SPGS) is an intervention that is focused on establishing commercial timber plantations in Uganda. This intervention is aimed to address the increasing demand for timber and reduce the dependence on wood supply from natural forests. The success of SPGS can be attributed to a number of factors that include:

- SPGS model for support;
- Focus on standards;
- Support from the Government of Uganda (SPGS Steering Committee);
- Support from development partners -European Union and Government of Norway;
- Contribution from individual investors;
- Adherence to sustainable commercial investment practices;
- Post-establishment advice,
- Information and technical support by UTGA;

The single most critical factor that contributed to the success of SPGS was the willingness of private investors with encouragement from the project, to invest in a business that has many risk factors, at the establishment, management and market level. The example set by these investors has stimulated greater interest in tree planting by the wider Ugandan community around the country. This has led to the establishment, over and above SPGS's directly supported



A farmer shows the processing of augering in order to determine the suitability of the site for teak

UTGA organised its first cluster meeting for its Members and tree growers in West Nile on the 7th and 8th of November 2013. The farmers were taken through

basic teak silviculture of planting & weeding. They were shown the importance of planning, fire protection & management. The forum attracted over 40 participants.

More on this in the coming issue

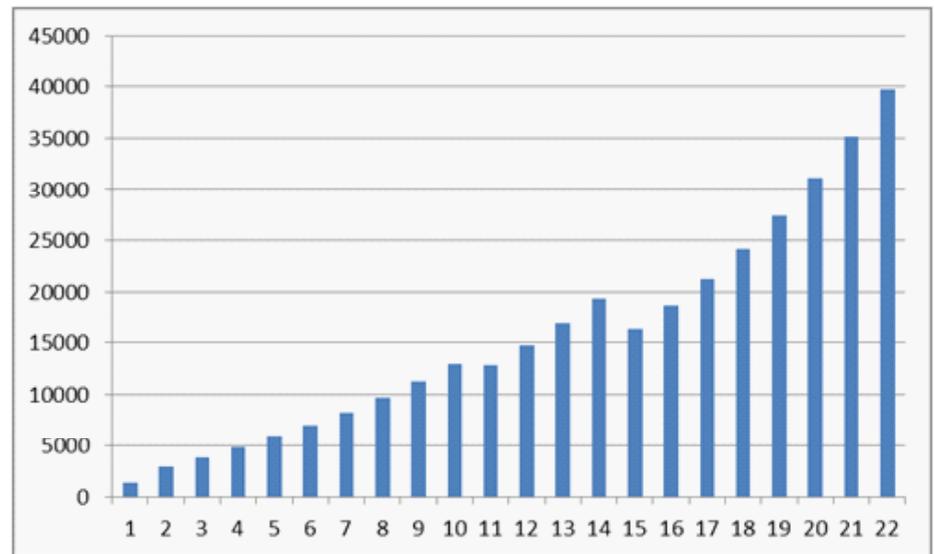
UTGA offers the service of forest valuations to meet the increasing demand from some of our Members, which for various reasons need to know the overall value of their plantation or parts of their plantation.

To facilitate this task, UTGA has developed a methodology along with valuation matrixes and graphs, for both pine and eucalyptus plantations and adapted to different site indexes and/or growth conditions.

The methodology for young stands (cost approach) is based on experienced or estimated costs for establishment of the plantation up to the present stage. The methodology for older stands (net present value) is based on the expected future incomes and costs. The valuation is done for each stand in the plantation, based on resource information collected in the field. The services offered by UTGA include: field surveys; analysis of field resource data; value calculations and a valuation report. The final product is a narrative report supported by freshly collected field data and digital map information that can be used for future management planning. These services offered to Members of

# FOREST VALUATION

Now a paid for service offered by UTGA



The above graph shows how the value of a pine stand develops through one rotation, e.g. an 8-year old stand is shown to have a value of UGX 10 million per hectare

UTGA are on a paid for service basis.

Forest establishment is a time consuming business and the value of a stand is directly related to the age of the stand. A mature forest stand will normally contain more wood than a young forest and an old forest stand is closer in time to an expected income than a young

stand. The growth in value of a plantation is directly related to the development of the resource. The graph below shows how the value (in 1000 UGX) increases with the age for an average pine stand on a medium site class (site index 14) and with an expected rate of return of 12%.



LCV Zombo district addresses the meeting



Francis Ssali showcases the boom sprayer

## West Nile Cluster Meeting



UTGA field cluster meeting in progress



In the field illustrations



Spraying demos

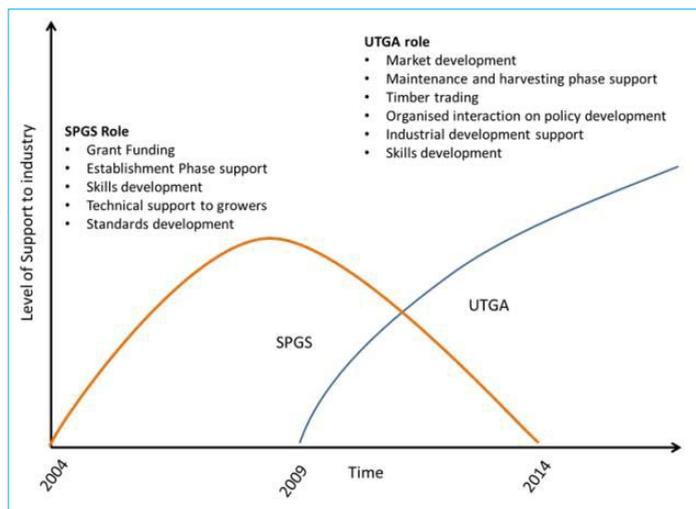
# Future collaboration between UTGA & SPGS

40,000 hectares, of an additional 30,000 hectares of commercial plantations by individuals, organisations and government. This excludes the growth in small plantings by individuals all across the country. The relatively unique characteristic of the Ugandan forestry sector is the fact that the resources are owned by a large number of individuals. In most other countries, the forestry sector is dominated by government and large corporations.

SPGS is a good example of empowerment of individuals and rural and economic development. However, this unique characteristic also brings with it a number of challenges. The major challenge at present is organisation within the forestry sector. The current timber market is informal and unregulated and there is a serious issue of responsibility and capacity. A question that needed to be addressed was "Who is to take responsibility" for, amongst others, issues such as:

- Commercial and operational research and development;
- Product and market development;
- Industrialisation (processing and value addition);
- Co-ordination of sector development in partnership with government;
- Technical development of forest maintenance and harvesting systems;
- Post-establishment operations and skills development;
- Implementation of international certification standards;
- Co-ordination of carbon funding;
- Forest protection measures and strategy;
- Standards development;

As the planting programme expanded it became clear that



there was a need for a strategy for post-SPGS interventions. On the initiative of the SPGS project developers, SPGS Clients were encouraged to join forces to address future issues in the commercial forestry sector.

The founding members of the Uganda Timber Growers Association (UTGA) took it upon themselves to accept responsibility for the future development of the sector. The issue of capacity building for the commercial forestry sector was raised with SPGS and a model for support encompassing both SPGS and UTGA was initiated. This model is shown above:

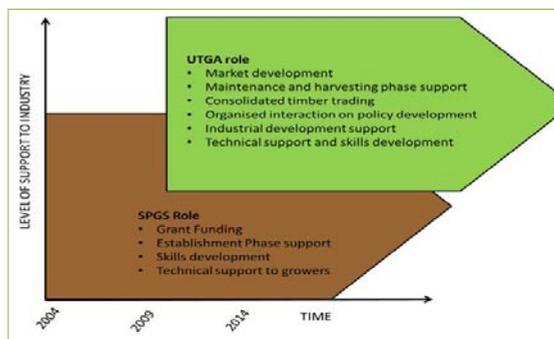
As shown in the model illustrated above, UTGA was to take on responsibility for post-establishment activities along with the immediate needs of the Members (plantation investors). This would entail that UTGA gradually became responsible for more and more of the SPGS functions, as SPGS was phased out. UTGA, on behalf of Members would, over time, assume all the responsibilities for the commercial forestry sector.

Recent analysis of the forestry sector show that the sector has

not reached the "tipping point", a point in time whereby the sector would become self-sustainable.

Uganda needs an additional 80,000 hectares to sustainably supply future domestic consumption and mitigate the degradation of natural forests. Secondly, the current plantations (70,000 ha) have not reached harvesting age, the point at which the viability of the business model will be demonstrated.

Thirdly, the capacity of UTGA has yet to reach a position whereby the Association is self-sufficient. Viability and therefore sustainability will only be reached by improving the current market conditions. Continued support to the sector will most likely be necessary until the tipping point is reached. It has been proposed that SPGS, as a project, continues to implement the model that has shown considerable success over



the past decade, but with some alterations, as shown in the figure above.

It is envisaged that SPGS shall

continue to provide support to Tree Growers, but with UTGA assuming responsibility for an increasing proportion of post-establishment development. A value-chain study commissioned by the European Union will help define the format of the support to the sector.

The value chain study aims to identify the gaps within the value chain, issues that need the focus of stakeholders and the format of future interventions. Until the study is complete, SPGS with support from the Government

# Future collaboration between UTGA & SPGS

of Norway and potentially the European Union shall continue with technical support activities including support to UTGA. There is however, a limit to the SPGS intervention of continued support to establishment of plantations, as this is unsustainable in the long-term and needs to be carefully managed keeping in mind market demand. The lifespan of SPGS support to commercial forestry is finite. The success of the project may allow SPGS to evolve and redefine its intervention focus. Determination of this point is very complex, but needs to be considered in order to have a smooth transition from development partner support to commercial operations while maintaining the SPGS legacy intact.

UTGA has been identified as the organisation that will preserve the standards and culture developed in SPGS. Until the transition, as described above, is carried out, both organisations remain integral to the sustainable development of the commercial forestry sector and have key roles to play.

## THE ROLE OF SPGS

SPGS core functions remain focused on the establishment of commercial plantations with attention given to the implementation of standards, practical training and skills development. The impact of the SPGS initiatives can be seen nationwide. Due to the commercial focus of SPGS, it is natural for SPGS to maintain an efficiency and effectiveness, as an example to others. It is important that the roles of the different participants are not duplicated, but through co-operation attain a multiplying effect for each input. Being aware of the roles of other organisations, SPGS can identify areas where it is most effective. The roles of SPGS are summarised as follows:

- Support plantation establishment through retrospective grants and awareness creation;
- Conduct appropriate training and skills development;
- Provide practical and technical advice;
- Support appropriate research and development initiatives through collaboration;
- Support sector sustainability through organisational development of UTGA;

## THE ROLE OF UTGA

UTGA needs to be developed into the driver and custodian of the future sustainability of the commercial forestry sector. Development of a private-sector led forest industry will keep the focus on efficiency, effectiveness, and competitiveness that allows for the development of appropriate interventions. The UTGA role going into the future will be to:

- Guide policy development that compliments sustainability objectives;
- Participate in the development of forest protection strategies;
- Guide appropriate training by relevant institutions;
- Provide cost-shared technical support to Tree Growers;
- Participate in the development of industry standards;
- Organise the industry while maintaining a competitive nature;
- Support the development of a competitive processing and value-addition sector;
- Formalise the market;
- Facilitate research and development by relevant institutions;



SPGS Nelly and a tree farmer measure the diameter of a tree

- Embrace and enhance climate change mitigation and environmental services;

From the above roles, it is clear that there is valuable synergy between the two organisations and in the best interest of Uganda to harmonise the roles of the two organisations. It is expected that UTGA shall gradually take over the responsibilities for the commercial forestry sector, which shall require alignment and close collaboration with SPGS.

## COLLABORATION

- Collaboration between SPGS and UTGA has included and is expected to continue to be focused on:
- Technical Advisor support to SPGS from UTGA;
- Technical support from SPGS staff;
- Market research and development;
- Financial support to training and skills development;
- Co-ordination of training and information meetings;
- Capacity building of UTGA staff;
- Direct financial support;
- Co-contribution to sustainable training capacity (Nyabyeya/ Makerere) within Uganda.

# FOREST TOOLS

# Billhook

The billhook is a traditional cutting tool used widely in forestry for land preparation and manual weeding (slashing).

It is very common in Southern African forests (South Africa, Mozambique and Malawi).

The billhook can be locally developed. The use of a billhook is between that of a garden slasher and an axe. Long handles make swinging easy during cutting. The heavy head (blade) provides extra weight to the tool during the downward stroke which makes cutting easier than when using an ordinary garden slasher. The long handle as well as heavy blade makes the billhook ergonomically friendly for cutting both tough grasses and smaller woody material such as shrubs and branches.

During use, the bill hook should always be sharpened to reduce effort from the workers when slashing. After use, it should be sharpened and oiled to prevent corrosion and then safely stored.

The following safety tips must be observed for bill hooks:

- Keep at least 2 arm plus tool lengths from the nearest other person;
- This is a wooden-handled swinging tool so do not wear a glove on the back hand holding the tool;
- You may wear a glove on the front hand;
- When walking to work carry the billhook down by your side and not above your head;
- When not in use, leave it flat on the ground where it can be seen;
- Cut away from your body by



Paul Jacovelli holding a billhook

swinging the bill hook beside you so it goes behind you.

The billhook is locally made on a small scale by village smithies in Arua.

The blade is made from a medium-carbon steel in varying weights (1

## ADVERTISING RATES FOR UTGA NEWS

UTGA News is now running adverts at cost-friendly rates. Reach hundreds of individuals, groups and companies in and of various fields and professions.

Front page strip	300,000/=
Full page	600,000/=
Half page	400,000/=
Quarter page	250,000/=

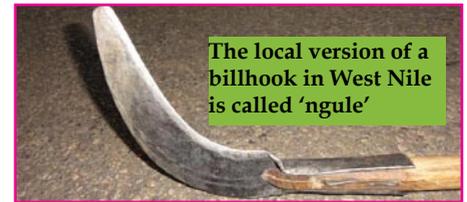
UTGA News is a digital newsletter for the Uganda Timber Growers Association. It is published semimonthly (twice a month) to briefly summarize recent forestry-related publications, projects, activities, and news.

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 public 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).



The local version of a billhook in West Nile is called 'ngule'

to 1.5 kg) and lengths (20 to 25 cm long). The blade is straight near the handle but have an increasingly strong curve towards the end. It is sharpened only on the inside of the curve. The blade is fixed to a 1 to 1.5 m wooden handle, due to its strength and ability to absorb shock during slashing.

The slightly lower carbon content in the blade makes the blade easy to sharpen in the field. Cosmetic appearance is unimportant so more expensive stainless steel is not used. UTGA has had several made and is selling one at UGX 10 000. This is a good bargain and we encourage our tree growers to use this appropriate tool for slashing in plantations.

## 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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