

SEEDLING TRAYS

Polythene pots to be replaced in nursery production and transplanting

By Dennis D. Kavuma

One of UTGA's mandate is to bring to the fore, best practices that bring efficiency and effectiveness to the commercial tree grower. By doing so, this brings value to the industry.

The use of germination trays is gaining steam since their introduction in the country and their usage is going to change the business of seed production and transplanting by tree nurseries. We are going to see their increased use and this will be due to their many advantages. The traditional nursery seedbed will quietly slip into oblivion. It has been alleged by experts that the trays are much better than ordinary nursery seedbeds which are up to now widely known and used by commercial tree growers around the world. There are indications that the use of the trays will overtake the use of field beds. In Uganda Global Woods a large commercial farming company in Kyankwanzi have been using them for a couple of years. It is imperative for small scale farmers and nurseries to access, embrace and use them in the shortest possible time.

The germination tray also known as the germination pellet is usually made of plastic while others are of carton biodegradable material. The trays come in different sizes and are long lasting and reusable, enabling a farmer to use them over and over again.

The trays have holes where the seeds are placed so as to germinate. The root stock grows to an optimum size in the seedling trays. Other than using soil as a plant support media, the trays can also use other media such as coco peat which is a bi-product of coconut tree products which includes the shell, leaves and the back among others. The advantage of using treated coco peat for nursery preparation is that the fibre is an antidote against diseases. Since the bi-products have no



BEST PRACTICES: TWK's Kholisa Langa admires a seedling



UTGA AGM

Notice is hereby given that the Uganda Timber Growers Association (UTGA) will hold their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday, 22nd April, 2016 at City Royal Resort Hotel Bugolobi, Kampala starting at 8:00 am. A Forest Fair will run concurrently in the hotel gardens.

UGX23bn
is lost to illegal
timber trade in
Uganda

Using trays for seedlings

nutrients that plants can feed on, they are mixed with fertilizers to ensure the plants get enough nutrients required for germination and growth. Coco peat is a natural fibre made out of coconut husks and dried in natural sun making it a good growing medium. The properties of Coco peat makes it resistant to bacterial and fungal growth. As such, the fibre has no micro-organisms that consume fertilizers like in the case of soil and so the seedling does not compete for the available nutrients. The trays are also portable making it easy for a farmer and operator to monitor and see immediately when the seeds germinate.

Biodegradable seedling Containers

Recycling of plastic materials wastes is applicable for a limited number of plastics, while composting is the most desirable solution. For the purposes of environment conservation or reduction in soil degradation, use of Biodegradable plant pots in the nursery and greenhouse industry is the answer. Biodegradable pots are environmentally-friendly because they eliminate non biodegradable waste by simply breaking down when planted in the soil. The standard size of the pot is filled with well mixed soil before inserting a seed/transplant to the recommended depth. Once the plant takes hold in the soil, the whole pot is planted in the ground. They are often used in growing seedlings (young plants developing out of a plant embryo from a seed), which are transplanted into the ground after the seedling approaches maturity. The advantage of a biodegradable plant pot is that they can be planted along with the growing medium and the seedling, without impeding the root development of the seedling, because the biodegradable plant pot breaks down and degrades after being planted in the soil. In addition, biodegradable pots can improve on soil nutrients because after planting, the pot's organic material itself breaks down in the soil over the course of the season.

With the recent adoption of the ban on polythene by the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) and enforcement of the ban on plastic bags of 30 microns and below, tree nursery operators ought to seriously begin to think about this option. UTGA urges all the nursery operators to start thinking about how to implement this change.

SEEDLINGS

from FERDSULT
ENGINEERING
SERVICES LTD



Clonal eucalyptus



Pine seedlings

High quality seedlings are now available at very attractive prices:

1. Pine seedlings (*Caribaeae*-Brazil) @ 420/=
2. Clonal Eucalyptus seedlings @ 500/=
3. Seedlings of grafted oranges @ 1,800/=
4. Seedlings of Grafted mangoes @ 2,000/=



Grafted mangoes



Oranges

The nurseries are located 8 kilometers off Jinja road in Luwombo-Lugazi Buikwe District. For more information and booking, visit our office on Plot 17/19 Kampala Road 7th & 8th floors Diamond Trust Building or contact:

Project Manager on tel:

0772 474431/0701 474431

Marketing Manager on:

0393 262775 /0414 346456



KANGULUMIRA CLONAL NURSERY

'Grow rich,
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Environment'

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Dealers in Clonal Eucalyptus, Teak & Pine

Quality seedlings of:

- Eucalyptus clones (GUs & GCs),
- Clonal Pine (Australia F2),
- Teak (Kilombero, Tanzania)
- Gmelina Arborea,
- Melia volkensii,
- Terminalia superba,
- Grevillia robusta,
- Measopsis eminii (Musizi) and other fruit trees.

Other services offered:

- Crates for transporting the seedlings are available at for hire at low rates.
- Expert and technical advice on Site and Species matching, assessment of what tree species is best recommended for particular soils
- Plantation establishment and maintenance,
- Tree disease control & management.

Information and bookings contact: Pastor Aboneka Michael on

0776593286 / 0785925266
Email: michaelaboneka@gmail.com

Location: 18km from Kayunga town, along Kayunga-Jinja road; branch off at Kangulumira town and proceed for 1km to reach the nursery. SEETA PLANT NURSERY; Located at Namyoya, 3km off Namugongo road.

FROM SECRETARIAT

A. PAYMENT OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

The Secretariat is very grateful to all the members who have paid their Annual fees for 2016 and arrears. This is to kindly remind all those who have not yet paid to do so. Payments for arrears can be received in installments. Members can use one of these options to pay their annual subscription dues:

1. Office: A receipt is availed immediately.
2. Direct Debit to the UTGA Bank Account, a receipt is written after confirmation with the bank and scanned to the Member.
3. Mobile money: Withdrawal Charges need to be included. A receipt is written, scanned and sent to the Member.
4. Collection of payment for Members around Kampala: A call to 0785-343564 or email to info@utga.ug may be sent. UTGA Staff will pick the funds and a receipt availed immediately.

Payment of the Annual fees is highly appreciated and allows for efficient running, facilitating and supporting of UTGA activities.

B. SEED ORDERS

Members who plan to raise seedlings for the second planting season 2016 are hereby reminded to make their orders by calling 0785-343564 or mail on info@utga.ug Orders for Pine Caribea Brazil & Australia and Teak and Euc Grandis South Africa. We have 200 grams in Office available for sale @ 15,000 per gram for Members and 25,000 per gram for non-UTGA buyers.

C. FORESTRY INTERNS

The Secretariat informs members who are interested in having forestry interns at their plantations to contact the secretariat.

D. FORESTRY TOOLS

Orders for forestry tools and equipments like Diameter Tapes, GPS Gadgets, Suuntos, Callipers and many others can be made at the office.

Tools currently available for sale include: Lasher & BAHCO Pruning Saws, Fire Beaters, Overalls, Gumboots and Helmets.

E. FORESTRY SERVICES TO MEMBERS

UTGA is now offering paid-for services at subsidized rates. These include:

- Forest Valuation, forest & timber inventory
- Plantation assessment / Site assessment
- Mapping of plantations
- Technical forest visits to offer onsite advice
- Onsite Training to Members & workers

F. CERTIFIED SERVICES

UTGA has a list of Certified Service Providers including tree nurseries for planting material and Contractors.



Creative uses of wood



FORESTRY NEWS

International Day of Forests: UN message on Forests & Water

The world's forests are essential to realizing our shared vision for people and the planet. They are central to our future prosperity and the stability of the global climate. That is why the Sustainable Development Goals call for transformative action to safeguard them.



In this first year of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the International Day of Forests focuses on their role in supporting water systems. Forested catchments provide three quarters of all the freshwater used for farms, industry and homes. Forests are also central to addressing climate change. Forests provide one of the most cost-effective and efficient natural carbon capture and storage systems. Investing in forests is an insurance policy for the planet. On this International Day of Forests, I call on Governments, businesses, civil society and other partners to adopt holistic policies and practices to protect, restore and sustain healthy forests for our common future.



New Secretary for Climate Change body

Current Vice-President of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Mr.

Abdalah Mokssit, from Morocco, has been offered and accepted the position of new Secretary of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The announcement was made at the forty-third session of the IPCC, convening in Nairobi this week. Dr. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of WMO said, "I have had the pleasure to collaborate with Mr. Mokssit for more than a decade as a colleague, WMO Director and as an Executive Council member. He has special organizational and diplomatic skills; these will be needed to engage more developing country experts and governments in the IPCC's work. I am convinced that he will be a very useful asset for IPCC."

About IPCC

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the world body for assessing the science related to climate change. The IPCC was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), endorsed by the UN.

UTG SACCO reduces lending rates & increases loan amount



By Moses Kasirivu

Uganda Timber Growers Cooperatives Savings and Credit Society Ltd (UTG-SACCO Ltd) held its 4th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the 18th March, 2016 at Protea Hotel Kampala.

The Chairman of the SACCO Mr. Ponsiano Besesa informed the AGM that the SACCO's Assets grew from UGX 142,246,506 to UGX 190,525,415 demonstrating 33.9% growth, total loan turnover increased from UGX 178,700,000 to UGX 190,500,000 in 2015 while maintaining Portfolio At Risk (PAR) at 0%. He further reported an increase in gross profit from UGX 41,129,081 of 2014 to UGX 45,029,785

The General Secretary Mr. Robert Mbabazize presented the Annual Report. Mr. Ponsiano Besesa requested the AGM to approve UGX 23,535,589 as dividend to members for 2015. Subsequently the AGM approved the amount as dividend to members.

2016 Plans

UTG-SACCO has big plans for 2016. The Treasurer Mr. Douglas Ssendagire Kabenge told the members that the SACCO shall earn UGX 75,938,350 charged from loan interest, loan processing fees and Treasury Bills (TBs) and he plans to spend UGX 47,392,095 on SACCO running during the year.

For further details and reading of AGM documents, please visit the UTGSACCO office.

CONTACT US AT:

UTGA Office

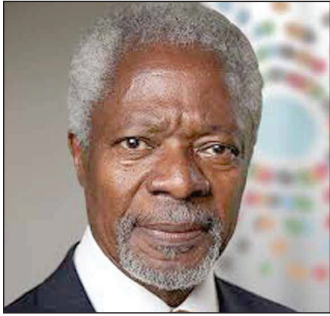
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African forests at risk of depletion

Continent has great opportunities for reforestation and afforestation



By Nelly Bedijo

During the March 16th - 17th 'Forest for the future, new forest for Africa' conference, held in the Ghanaian capital Accra, Kofi Annan delivered a keynote speech on the needs and challenges for forests in Africa. This conference was an initiative of the Dutch forestry consultation company, Form International; the sustainable forestry plantation company, Form Ghana; Nyenrode Business University; and in cooperation with The Forestry Commission, Ghana and the World Resources Institute. The conference was attended by forest experts and stakeholders from 13 countries in Africa, Europe and America. Issues discussed among other things included:

- Possible ways of protecting the continent's forest cover by addressing destructive practices, including illegal logging, illegal mining, wildfires, and unsustainable agriculture.



- Next steps following COP 21 conference in Paris last to ensure that the promise made by African leaders that pledged to restore a total of 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes within Africa by 2030 if fulfilled.

Kofi Annan's speech rested on three critical areas. He emphasized urgent need for action where Africa can play a leading role in support of global efforts in the areas of:-

- Forest protection and conservation;
- Forest restoration and reforestation;
- The transformation of energy systems.

Forest protection and conservation

Mr. Kofi Annan says African governments must formulate strong policies which will protect the forests and prevent

loss of biodiversity. "African governments need to put in place ambitious forest policies and regulations to protect traditional forest cover and the biodiversity that it shelters. This must include strengthening legal frameworks for protecting forests, adopting effective measures to tackle illegal logging and introducing economic incentives for forest conservation," he said.

According to the FAO, **Africa loses an estimated 3.4 million hectares of forest every year.** Research also reveals that close to 130 million hectares of forest (an area almost close to the size of South Africa) have been lost since 1990; and more than one-fifth of earth's potential forest cover has been degraded. Despite all the inval-

able ecological, economic and social benefits, Annan lamented that "we are destroying the very forests and ecosystems vital for sustainable living on our planet"

Forest restoration and reforestation

He urged that forest protection has to go hand-in-hand with forest restoration and reforestation. Africa has the largest restoration opportunity of any continent in the world – an area nearly the size of Australia.

"Forest restoration and reforestation in Africa can contribute to the global effort to tackle climate change and accelerate progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals", said Kofi Annan, adding that "forest restoration of 350 million hectares could generate \$170 billion per year in net benefits from watershed protection, improved crop yields and forest products". Several companies in Africa, including Form Ghana, have set-up sustainable forestry projects based on a long-term approach and multi-stakeholder benefit. They are operating according to high

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standards for sustainable forest management, serving the needs of the local communities and restoring vital environmental services. These successes need to be replicated and scaled-up. African governments must create conducive environments to promote domestic and international investment in sustainable reforestation initiatives.

He encouraged companies to build innovative partnerships with governments, civil society, and multilateral institutions to develop and apply sustainability criteria and increase the areas of certified forest plantations. Businesses must adopt zero-deforestation policies, respect human rights and land rights, and commit to third party verification of their operations. And added that consumers can support responsible business practices by committing themselves to buying recycled or certified wood products.

Transformation of energy systems

Kofi Annan challenged Africa's leadership on reforestation to go hand-in-hand with a massive transformation of its energy sector, adding that two out of three Africans, over 600 million people, had no access to electricity. Cut off from the grid, rural populations across the continent often have no other choice than chopping trees to make charcoal for cooking. This is not just driving deforestation and

African forests at risk

“While the priority must remain on preserving our natural forests, the revival of denuded areas through reforestation helps not only Ghana but also the global fight against climate change.”

Kofi Annan ~

Chair of the Kofi Annan Foundation

climate change, but also putting people's health at risk.

He outlined three key steps to transforming Africa's forestry sector:

1. Put an end to deforestation and protect the health of our remaining forests;
2. Recognize the huge potential of new forests and invest in sustainable reforestation of degraded lands;
3. Put Africa on a pathway towards a low-carbon energy future to end the clearing of forests for energy purposes.

Paul Hol, director of the forestry company Form international was reported to have said “ the Paris agreements were not very binding,” “We want to take the next step and that is why we are bringing the 10 largest foresters of Africa, government officials and international investors together in Accra. The companies have the knowledge, the government can designate an area and

the investors are required to cover the start-up costs.

According to Prof. Dr. Tineke Lambooy LL.M. (Professor Corporate Law and Corporate Social Responsibility at Nyenrode Business University) “With a view to preserving biodiversity in Africa, increasing the area of forest plantations is of great importance, since this creates corridors for wild life. In addition, planting of forests is of crucial importance to fight erosion, desertification and climate change.” That the importance of the reforestation goes far beyond planting trees, is also endorsed by Hendry Djombo, Minister of Economic Affairs in Congo: “If the Congo Basin is not well managed, the land will become degraded and turn into grassland, and then the desert will take over the whole of Africa,” he said in Paris.

More information can be obtained from: www.newforestsforafrica.com

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.

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

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