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Kenyan Foresters visit Uganda

UTGA organised and facilitated an exposure visit as part of general support to the Kenya Commercial Forestry Programme (KCFP). They were here to see the nursery and contractor sub-sector of Uganda's commercial forestry industry. The tour was in the week 27th November to 1st December 2017 and the [To page 4](#)

Members pursue Agroforestry to support Tree growing

Growers visit Kaweri Coffee

There are ongoing plans by some commercial tree growers to invest in coffee farming under agroforestry systems currently supported by a number of players. It has become evident that as commercial tree growers wait for their trees

COFFEE

to grow, it is important in the interim to venture into a number of agroforestry systems that would help them to provide incomes to

support the maintenance and management of their existing tree plantations but also enable them to expand. One of such is coffee [To page 2](#)





Tree growers in the coffee plantation at Kaweri

UTGA visits Kaweri Coffee Plantation

growing about which UTGA has been doing some information scouting. Eden Forestry Company, another UTGA Member has volunteered to work with UTGA and UCDA to develop the concept and agree on how to move forward. The findings will then be shared with UTGA Members. Be that as it may, some Members have already embarked on the initiative and are preparing ground to plant coffee in the coming planting season.

In line with this, early this month, some members of the UTGA Board together with other UTGA growers visited Kaweri Coffee Plantation in order to acquire knowledge and to get a better understanding and experience the specifics, details and what is entailed in coffee growing alongside the growing of trees. They were taken around the plantation by Mr Simon Sakwa, a forester who is the Human Resource and Administration Manager. By the

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At the coffee seedling nursery



The visitors listen to Simon Sakwa at the wet processing unit



Highlights from the recent SPGS/FAO grantees' meetings



Tree growers try out chemical weeding operations

Last month the Sawlog Production Grant Scheme conducted a series of grantees meetings across the country in two day meetings which included an action packed

field training day and an inhouse meeting on the second day. The meetings were aimed at providing a platform for the project implementers to interact with the grantees and also to showcase some of the best practices in plantation establishment that were found lacking for some of the growers during the inspections for grant approval.

The field trainings included a showcase of the best practices in chemical weeding, planting, seedling choice and quality, road maintenance and wetland delineation. The tree growers had a feel of how the field operations are carried out and took part in them fully by trying them out. This was quite beneficial in that the growers learnt how to supervise their investments, get value for money from them and more so increase their chances for accessing the grant. The field session also allowed for information and experience sharing during the Q&A sessions especially from the seasoned growers most of whom were UTGA members.

The second day mainly comprised of a recap of the field presentations to allow the growers to internalise the best practices and identify where they might have been going wrong. The team also shared their findings from the field inspections in a bid to help the growers to avoid some of the bad practices and en-



Demonstration on wetland delineation

sure that the best ones are adhered to.

Updates were made on the milestones of the project and highlights were made on the targets, procedures for accessing the grant particularly on progress reporting, evaluation, payment schedules and timelines for report submission and invitation of the project team to carry out field inspections. UTGA was well represented by the membership and the program officer (Peter Mulondo) who made a presentation about the association (what it is, what it does, its activities, achievements,



Demonstration on the selection of quality clones

information about the UTGA model nursery and UTG sacco) and emphasised the need for SPGS grantees to join the association as the best way to sustain project's initiatives.



Kenyan foresters visit Uganda



The visitors listen to Sebuliba at the NFC poletreatment plant

visitors were able to meet and engage various stakeholders, both public and private players.

With an aim of drawing lessons that could apply in the Kenyan context, five members of the KCFP (Forest Economist, MEL manager, two foresters, Senior Business Analyst) and 13 other forestry stakeholders undertook this exposure visit to draw lessons from Uganda on how the SPGS programme played a role in promoting the use of high quality planting material for growers at different scales, to learn about the development of contractor services and how this can be integrated into the nursery intervention.

KCFP is in the process of designing a nursery intervention to address key challenges in Kenya. The intervention will broadly be looking at how demand led nursery standards can be used to promote the use of high quality genetic material, improve technical skills in production of high quality plants and awareness creation to growers on the use and availability of high quality planting material. They hope that through adopting such standards, lead nurseries could increase market share, charge premium prices and improve overall profitability which would result to crowding in by

other nurseries and consequently lead to increased use of high quality planting material across the country.

In Uganda, the Sawlog Promotion Grant Scheme (SPGS) has proven very successful since its inception in 2004. Initially it stimulated demand for tree growing through providing a grant of 50% of the direct cost of plantations to commercial scale growers but has increasingly grown to support groups of small holder farmers and institutions. The key elements of success have been insistence on the use of high quality planting material and correct site species matching, provision of quality and practical training and extension services; and performance based grant payments being made only in arrears after the area has passed an inspection .

SPGS has developed comprehensive standards and guidelines covering technical matters such as forest operations together with health and safety aspects of these.

Objective

The exposure visit enabled KCFP and the Kenyan forestry stakeholders to:

- a) Understand the scale of demand that the SPGS incentive system created, its composition, volume of supply to different strata, % of SPGS vs non-SPGS



NOTICE

ANNUAL FEES

UTGA Members with unpaid subscription fees are reminded to send them by CASH/CHEQUE to the UTGA office, Mobile money to 0785343564 or 0703343565 or you if you can make a bank deposit - please call the office

NEXT PLANTING

The next planting season is not far away!

Preparations for planting:-

- Clearing of land
- Burning the rubbish
- Booking for seedlings

UTGA recommends the use of certified contractors (*List available on demand*).

UTGA has information on external suppliers for chemicals, herbicides and tools

FOR ANY FOREST

SERVICES REQUIRED

Please get in touch with the UTGA office by calling **0785-343564** or by sending an email to info@utga.ug or caroln@utga.ug or peterm@utga.ug

IMPROVED SEED & SEEDLINGS Clean South

African Eucalyptus Seed now available at UTGA @ UGX 20,000 per gm for Members and UGX 32,500 per gm for Non-Members.

UTGA Clonal nursery has DU and GC clonal eucalyptus, Pinus caribaeae, Meaospsis eminii, Melia seedlings for sale.



The Kenyan team at the UTGA office

planting/ spill over demand and how SPGS stimulated demand for tree planting in Uganda, key incentives used, challenges faced and lessons learnt.

b) Learn how the nursery certification system was designed and implemented and how the phases have evolved from pilot to scale (crowding in etc) along with the institutional arrangements (SPGS, UTGA) their roles and responsibilities for specific functions, their will and skill in the phases of design and implementation

c). Understand how nursery business models have been impacted by the system and develop case studies to showcase this – what changes were necessary and how this was supported, impact on sales and profits

d). Understand how new, improved genetic material supply chains have been developed; roles and responsibilities of key players, commercial viability of seed importation

e). Understand how contractor services were developed and the extent to which these are housed in nurseries the impact of participant in the scheme to growers, contractors and nursery operators.

The team engaged in organized meetings both in and out of field with key actors who included the Sawlog Production Grant Scheme (SPGS), Forestry Sector Support Department (FSSD) and the National Forestry Authority (NFA) National Tree Seed Centre.

They met private sector players like UTGA members including New Forests Company Pole treatment Plant in Mityana, certified commercial nurseries that included Green Spirit nursery in Mukono, Bukuwa nursery and Kisaana Clonal Tree nursery and UTGA Model nursery on Mityana Road. They met with certified contractors that included Planet Greenworld and Babeku Minsi in Luweero and Nakaseke respectively. They also visited growers' plantations of Patrick Mbonye in Bujuko and Engineer Hillary Kakeeto in Nakaseke.

The Global Carbon Project estimates that 2017 will see a two percent rise in worldwide carbon dioxide emissions, reversing the downward trend of the previous few years. Almost a quarter of these emissions come from agriculture and the conversion of forests and wetlands into farmland.

SEEDLINGS FROM FERDSULT ENGINEERING SERVICES LTD

Quality seedlings are now available at very attractive prices:



Pine seedlings (Caribae-Brazil) @ 420/=



Clonal Eucalyptus seedlings @ 500/=



Seedlings of grafted oranges @ 1,800/=



Seedlings of grafted mangoes @ 2,000/=

The nurseries are located 8 kilometers off Jinja road in Luwombo-Lugazi Buikwe District. For more information and booking please visit our office: Plot 17/19 Kampala Road, 7th & 8th floors, Diamond Trust Building or contact: Project Manager on tel: 0772 474431/0701 474431



Productivity in nurseries

The effects of silvicultural practice, both in nursery and field establishment, on the survival and growth of man-made forests are discussed.

In the nursery the production of trees which survive is considered more important and more likely to succeed than trying to influence the long-term growth of the stand. The nursery manager should concentrate on increasing efficiency without reducing the survival rate of plants. The use of containers, particularly polythene sleeves, is still the most common method of producing seedlings. Bed-raised, bare-rooted plants which have been thoroughly conditioned are becoming increasingly common. Conditioning, the under-cutting and wrenching of a tree's roots which produces a compact fibrous root system and a dormant state in the shoot, has created the greatest possibility for change in nursery practice.

Mycorrhizal inoculation in the nursery using ground spores or spores of *Rhizopogon* and/or *Pisolithus* has been shown to be more effective than the traditional system of using infected forest soil.

Fertilizer application combines well with mycorrhizal in-

oculation to produce a well balanced plant with a high root generation potential. Fertilizer application reduces the nursery period and increases the plants' survival potential but is unlikely to have a lasting effect on its growth when field-planted.

Changes in site preparation involving ripping and the use of a glyphosate herbicide have significantly reduced the cost of establishment without serious loss of growth. There is some evidence that with pines adequate growth can be achieved with the herbicide alone and no site cultivation, at least on high-altitude sites.

Reduction in the use of fire for slash removal has created favourable conditions for tree growth following re-establishment. The thick mulch of slash retains moisture in the soil well into the winter drought, suppresses initial weed growth and stimulates seedling development through a slow but steady mineralisation of the organic matter.

Rapid increase in costs and the current surplus in markets have forced the silviculturist to examine his nursery and establishment techniques critically.





Bagging and packaging systems at the plant



Simon shows a 1 year old seedling in the nursery



UTGA visits Kaweri Coffee

end of the visit, they were converted. Owing to the fact that tree growers already have the attitude and commercial mind of investing in long term ventures, the profitability, discipline to the science, standards and patience are virtues that are not entirely new to them. If they can wait for 15 years for pine and 8 to 12 years for eucalyptus, they surely can wait 3 years for coffee.



Mechanical coffee drying & processing unit



PLANET GREEN WORLD U LTD

wish all their clients a Merry Xmas & happy new year



FOREST ESTABLISHMENT AND MANTAINANCE FOR EUCALYPTUS SPP FOR FOUR YEARS

Year of trees	Activity	Variation of Months	Cost Ugx(ha)	Remarks
	Fire line Maintenance	All season	200,000 per km	To improve plantation access and they act as firebreaks
Year 2	Slashing	Apr-May	150,000	For easy access to carry out other operations
	Acces pruning	May -Jun	120,000	
	Post-plant spray	Sep-Oct	270,000	
	Fire line Maintenance	All seasons	200,000 per km	
Year 3	Slashing	Apr-May	150,000	Trimming off some shoots using shears in leaders allowing the tree to grow in good shape Marking and felling. The purpose is to increase the growing space and resources available to remaining tree stands
	Singling	May -Jun	270,000	
	1 st Thinning	Oct-Nov	400,000	
	Fire line Maintenance	All season	200,000 per km	
Year 4	Slashing	May -June	150,000	Proper removal of 2nd layer of braches to produce knot free timber To create space and reduce competition giving room to the remaining stand for better growth which attain more volume.
	2 nd Pruning	June	120,000	
	2 nd Thinning	Sep-Oct	400,000	
	Slashing	Oct-Nov	150,000	
	Fire line Maintenance	All season	200,000 per km	

NB.

If the area is flat, cost in planting varies according to the spacing as follows:- (a) 3X3 one pays 320,000 and (b) 2X2 one pays 400,000. When the area is sloppy, costs range from 400,000 and above for both spacing regimes. For spot weeding at 2X2 one pays 200,000.

Our management plan as a guide to plantation operations has been up dated at an interval of 1 to 4 years with targeted objectives. It describes variation of costs for some activities based on Landscape and altitude of the area as well as Inflation.

The activities include: - Bush clearing, Land preparation, Lining out and pitting, Pre –plant spray, Planting, Spot weeding, Slashing. Post plant spray, Thinning. GPS Survey. All these are negotiable

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CMO opens their East Africa office in Uganda



From left: "Ruddolph Hoffman (CMO E.A. Rep.), Dennis Kavuma (GM, UTGA) and Andrew McEwan (MD, CMO International)

Background

CMO is Africa's leading forestry software, training, auditing and consulting company. CMO (www.cmogroup.net) is a dynamic organisation that has the vision to constantly improve forestry and natural resource competencies in Africa and beyond. To achieve its vision, CMO is now focusing on five distinct areas: CMO Training, CMO Consulting, CMO Auditing, CMO Conferencing and CMO software solutions

CMO recently announced that it had secured the services of Ruddolph Hoffman, an experienced forestry professional with a wealth of experience in forestry in the Zimbabwean and East African timber industry of more than 10 years. He will work closely with Andrew McEwan, the Managing Director of CMO International, and with the CMO SME's (Subject Matter Experts). He will service our East African clients from his base in Uganda. CMO can now confirm that he will share office space with Uganda Timber Growers Association (UTGA) in Kampala. UTGA is an independent private sector association that brings together commercial timber growers from all over Uganda, big, medium and small in order to enable the sharing experiences and lobbying for viable commercial forestry sector in the country. Ruddolph can be contacted at ruddolph@cmogroup.net or +25 67 8422 7628. The office location and address is as follows: Uganda Timber Growers Association (UTGA)

P.O. Box 75063, Kampala

Plot 116 Bukoto Street, Kamwokya

UTGA ADVISORY!

Fire, Fire, Fire!



Dear Members

The fire season is here! It's that time of the year to think about taking extra caution to protect your forest plantations against fire. Ensure that no fire enters your plantation but if it happens, you should have capacity to stop it.

What you should do

- Open all your fire breaks and ensure good access to your plantation.
- Prepare your fire fighting tools/equipment (fire beaters, fire pumps, pangas, hoes, rakes) and have water readily available.
- Strengthen your community relations-talk to everyone who may possess any risk including squatters if any and all your neighbours.
- Sensitize and alert your workers.
- Encourage your workers to be vigilant.
- Have a good communication system
- Ensure minimal fuel load on forest floor.
- Chemical weeding & slashing is discouraged at this time; pruning and thinning should be controlled.
- Avoid Careless use of fire (unattended fire) and Smoking in plantations
- Avoid fueling machinery in the forests
- Display plantation managers contacts for use in case of fire incidences
- Use road signage where possible e.g.
 - NO SMOKING,
 - YOU ARE ENTERING A FIRE FREE ZONE
 - DON'T LEAVE FIRE UNATTENDED TOO
 - NO WAY THROUGH
- The fire season goes on till February and these are very critical as many people tend to then relax.

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

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.

Contact: Uganda Timber Growers Association (UTGA)

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