

52% PERFORMANCE BY TREE FARMERS IN CFR

National Forestry Authority to revise licences & reallocate unutilised land

By Dennis D. Kavuma & C.D. Langoya

On Thursday 1st October 2015 at the City Royal Hotel in Bugolobi, UTGA organized a symposium for the Board, Committees and Founder Members. The theme was: **“Strengthening UTGA Membership and engagement with NFA on CFR land issues”**. In a presentation laced with figures and facts, the grower who represents UTGA on the NFA Board informed that NFA have done an assessment on tree planting in Central Forest Reserves (CFRs) and the findings are as follows:-
NFA allocated 111,397Ha to private tree farmers of which 57,550Ha has been planted. This represents 52% performance. There are 2,365 active farmers

who have planted trees compared to 3,616 private tree farmers who were allocated land to plant trees. This represents 65% level of

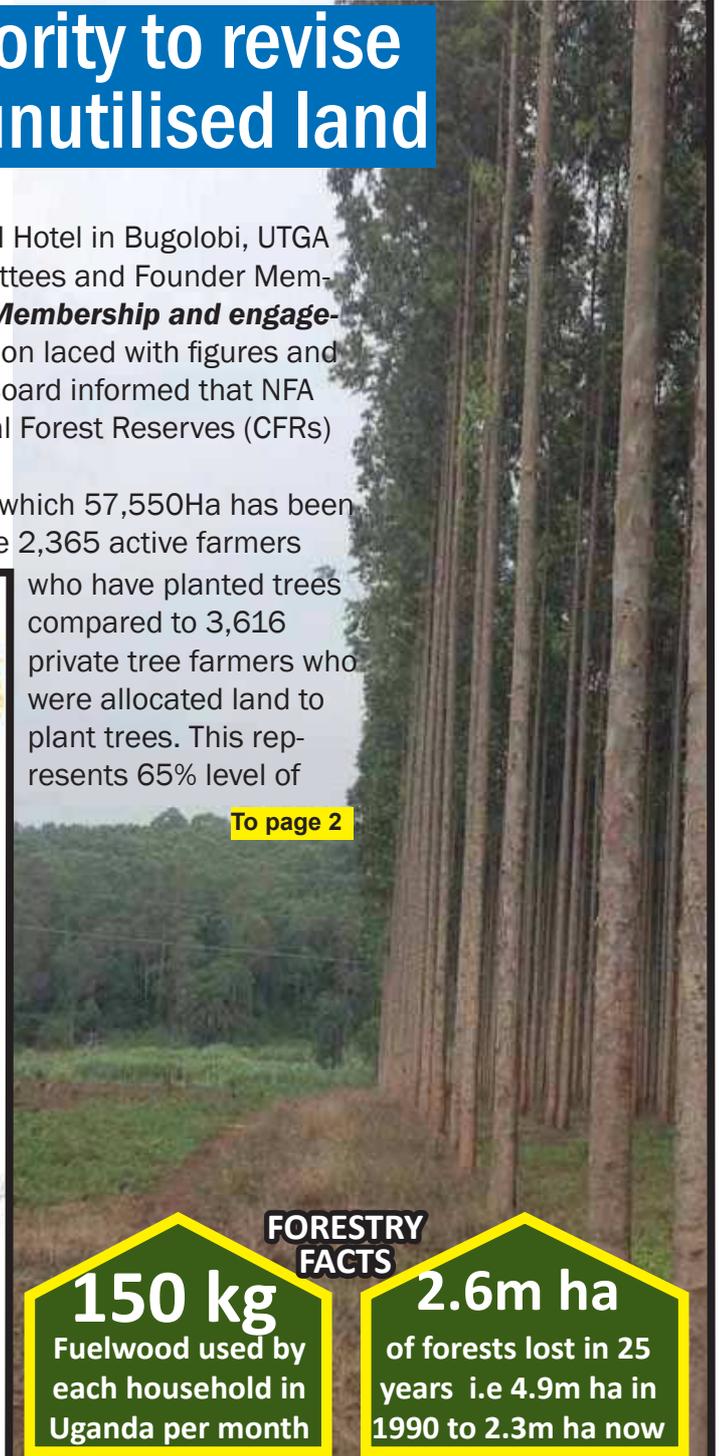
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UTGA MEMBER BENEFITS

For over 7 years, UTGA has been offering its Members comprehensive information and representation services. These include:-

- Lobbying for the sector/industry;
- Forest/field days for the clusters;
- Centralised Market intelligence & market development initiatives;
- Regular updates on roundwood prices;
- Discounted rates on chemicals;
- A voice to direct research & training;
- Centralised purchases on tools & equipment;
- Technical advice from professionals;
- Access to improved seed & planting material;
- Information on aspects along the value chain.



FORESTRY FACTS

150 kg
Fuelwood used by each household in Uganda per month

2.6m ha
of forests lost in 25 years i.e 4.9m ha in 1990 to 2.3m ha now

New fees for private tree farmers In CFRs

activity.

In essence, this means, over 1,200 tree farmers have not planted trees in an estimated area of about 56,000ha. Some farmers have acquired licenses while others have not.

Performance of land allocation

There are 213 farmers with 33,066ha who planted more than 50% of area allocated to them, and who have a license. 78 farmers with 9,213ha have licenses but have not planted anything.

There are 1,420 farmers (15,917ha) who planted more than 50%, but are without license. These one need to go to NFA and process to get them.

The areas not planted according to NFA include:

1. Muzizi River Range (19,476ha),
2. Budongo System Range (10,604ha),
3. South Busoga (7,180ha),
4. Lake Shore Range (6,530ha),
5. Kyoga Range (4,340ha),
6. Katugo (3,204ha),
7. Aswa River Range (1,489ha),
8. West Nile Range (1,357ha),
9. South Western Range (1,1,67ha).

NFA prepared tree farming licenses for farmers who had fulfilled the planting conditions of 51-100%, recorded by 2012, and list of 600 was submitted to the NFA Board and approved in August 2015. It was agreed that those who planted 20%-50% be given 2 years to meet the 50% target and above before being cleared.

Voluntary land return

NFA has proposed that those who have not met the target and think that they will not make it may voluntarily hand back to NFA such land

There is need for voluntary giving back land to NFA even for those who realise that the time within which to plant has elapsed before NFA takes over the unplanted lands.

For the tree growers who planted more area than had been allocated to them, the NFA Board agreed that the excess area planted should be within the threshold of (+ or -25%) of the originally allocated area.

Those who planted more than the threshold should have written to or asked permission from NFA for amendments and formalization of the area planted. However, they should invite NFA to verify the final area planted so that their license agree-

ment is amended to reflect what is on the ground. All tree farmers under licensing arrangement from NFA must ensure that all land dues are paid off. Those who planted more area than allocated will be assessed and will have to pay arrears of fees in the process of formalizing.

Revenue collection

Performance of revenue collection in the period (2007/8 to 2014/5 FY) was as follows:

Exceptional performance:

Aswa River Range(275%)

Very good performance:

Kyoga Range (100%),

South Busoga (96%)

Good performance

Budongo System (76%),

Muzizi River (76%),

Mafuga (73%)

Fairly done

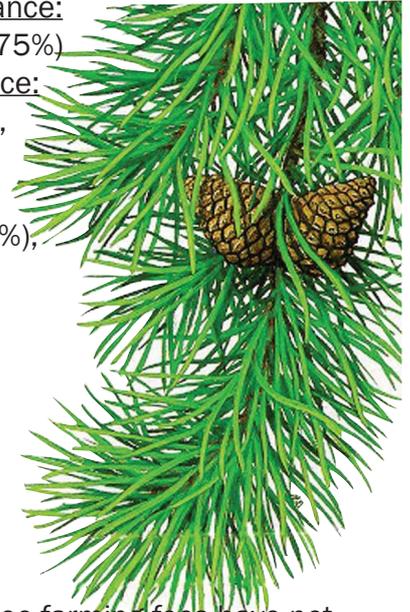
West Nile (67%),

South West (57%)

Poor performance

Mbarara (47%),

Katugo (41%)



NFA says that “The tree farming fees have not been revised for the last 10 years”. The new annual tree farming license fees approved by NFA board in May 2015 are as follows:

Class A: Old rate is 22,300, New rate is 30,000/=

Class B: Old rate is 14,900, New rate is 20,000/=

Class C: Old rate is 9,900, New rate is 13,400/=

Class D: Old rate is 6,600, New rate is 8,900/=

The class is dependant on location and remoteness of the CFR.

Period of licences

Time consideration was based on the number of rotation and the NFA board agreed that two rotations would be ideal in general principle for large scale tree planting.

For areas below 25ha which are grouped under small scale, these were given one rotation. Those above 25ha are considered large scale and were given two rotations.

The NFA Board in August 2015 approved the following time frame for holding a license:

- Long term crops (like pines and teak) were given 2 rotations of 25 years each.

Observations @ S.W. Uganda Cluster forest day in Kabale



By William Mawenu

UTGA organized a cluster meeting for the growers in the South Western Uganda cluster between 23rd-25th September 2015 in Makanga, Kabale district. The meeting attracted tree growers from Masaka, Mbarara, Ntungamo, Isingiro, Bushenyi, Rukungiri and Kabale. The 2-day meeting put emphasis on aspects of thinning and pruning and how those operations would improve the quality of tree plantations in Uganda. The first day included an excursion into the plantation jointly owned by the Cluster Head Mr Alex Basigire and his brothers. The owners shared the history of their work and information learned through experience. Currently they are doing some processing using a mobile sawmill. Some of the fears, observations and remarks made by growers in this meeting included;

- Thinning and pruning is delayed or not done at all because these operations are considered expensive by tree growers and yet there are

no revenues that are accrued as a result of the operations.

- Some growers think that thinning and/or pruning reduces the growth rate of trees and yet trees grow faster when they are in large numbers.
- Some growers think that thinning or pruning does not enhance growth of the plantation or in any way add value to the forest or the future products (e.g. timber) to be derived from the forest.

Way forward

Thinning and pruning are silvicultural operations which must be undertaken irrespective of whether money will be earned from the operations or not. These operations reduce competition among trees and should be done on time in order to enhance the growth rate of trees. If done on time, thinning and pruning operations will improve the quality of the forest and ensure that high quality products are produced which can attract premium prices on the market. UTGA is working with growers to put in place a system that will help them to collectively benefit from joint market development initiatives.



Hon. Prof ephraim Kamuntu opens the MWE Joint Sector Review

MWE Hold Joint Sector Review

By Dennis D. Kavuma

The 7th JSR for the water and environment sector took place from 6th to 8th October 2015 at Hotel Africana, Kampala. The theme for the review was *"Maintaining Investments for Better Sector Service Delivery"*. The Joint Sector Review (JSR) is a forum for performance assessment, setting of priority actions/undertakings and provision of policy guidance to the water and environment sector. The review is guided by an annual Sector Performance Report, and a pre-determined theme originating from emerging sector policy and/or strategic issues. The review allows a broad spectrum of stakeholders to get an insight into, discuss, and influence sector developments. The JSR draws conclusions and makes recommendations on the overall key issues in the sector. Any binding decisions during JSRs such as key actions or undertakings for the forth-coming twelve months or beyond, are subject to formal endorsement by the Water & Environment Sector Working Group. The JSR critically examines the achievement of annual targets for the key sector performance indicators, agreed actions and attainment of undertakings for the previous year(s), and also formulates new undertakings to be implemented during the following year(s). The timing of the JSR is linked to the commencement of preparations for the next national budget cycle and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

Minister Kamuntu launches National Programme supported by UN-REDD

By Dennis D. Kavuma

Uganda's Joint UN-REDD National Programme was launched by The Minister of Water & Environment, Hon. Prof Ephraim Kamuntu on Friday October 30, 2015 at Kabira Country Hotel, Bukoto, Kampala. UTGA has been participating in the process and preparation of Uganda's National REDD+ Strategy. The overall goal of the Joint National Program is to enable Uganda to be ready for REDD+ implementation, including development of necessary institutions, policies, instruments and capacities, in a collaborative and leveraging with the other REDD+ readiness partners. The other partners are World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, Austrian Development Agency and Government of Uganda. The UN-REDD Programme (UNDP, FAO and UNEP) supports nationally-led REDD+ processes and promotes the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, in national and international REDD+ implementation. The Objectives of the launch were; to ensure that the MWE (FSSD) and the entire project team and support structures have authority over and ownership of the program; to ensure understanding of the Program's goal, objectives and expected outcomes plus roles and responsibilities of all involved parties; to enable a clear understanding of the concept of adaptive management including technical and administrative implementation procedures; to discuss project results, matrix and implementation strategy, collect information and make adjustments.

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NFA sets New fees

- Short/medium term crops (poles, firewood for crops like eucalyptus) were given 2 rotations of 12 years each.
- Those with mixed crops were given 2 rotations of 25 years each but the long term crops must constitute more than 70%.
- In the case where land allocated to the licensee is not in use according to the management plan, the licensee will pay 50% for its being under-utilized/not used (to address the challenge of land speculators).

Transfer of licences

The transfer of licence is possible based on the value of the plantation (species, age and distance from the major city - Kampala).

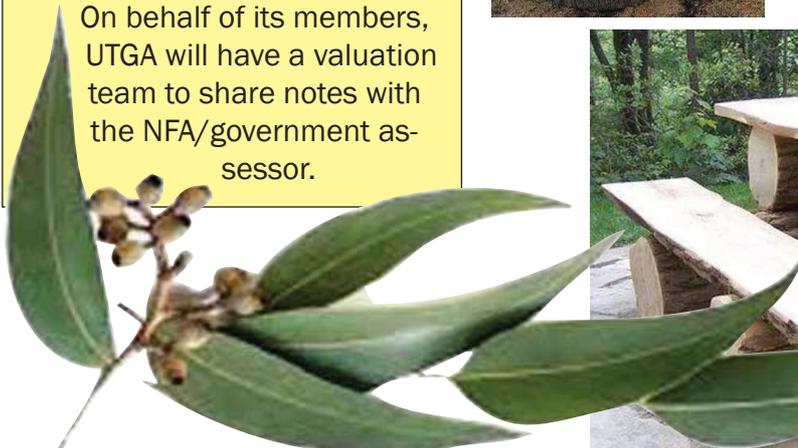
Guidelines for valuing tree plantations for tree farmers are being prepared. The guidelines will help in for example transferring interests in planted forests to third parties.

A proposal for the introduction of license transfer fee (about 1% of the value of the crops) has been made and this has been approved by NFA board.

On behalf of its members, UTGA will have a valuation team to share notes with the NFA/government assessor.

Creative products from pine

By Dennis D. Kavuma



Sawmilling key ingredient in attempts to preserve forests

The world's cumulative focus turned to Durban recently where the UN's World Forestry Conference, the first in Africa, saw 4000 participants from 142 countries convening to discuss the way forward in the sustainable use of the world's forest riches. Despite on-going attempts to find a balance between the three pillars of sustainability: economic opportunity, social equity & the need to preserve the world's forests, a defining and readily adaptable strategy remains elusive.

The discussions at both the World Forest Conference and the DANA Africa Timberland and Wood Processing Investment Conference that preceded WFC, predictably focussed on exploring new or redefining mitigation and adaptation strategies that has increased sustainability as its core focus. Both events took place in Africa, which served to position the continent at the apex of discussions on sustainability in general and forests specifically but also highlighted the challenges that it faces in preserving and re-growing its forests into the future. Sawmilling and sustainability seem to be at odds with one another, sawmilling often typecast as the anathema of efforts to ensconce sustainability in forests.

Although Africa has access to huge indigenous timber resources and favourable climatic conditions to support re-forestation efforts, the economic momentum from this abundance of timber remains weak or inconclusive. This is the result of the log export, low local beneficiation model in Africa. Of the roughly five million m³ of timber harvested annually in Africa, only some 12% or 600 000 m³ is beneficiated on African soil. The remaining 4 400 000 m³ is shipped out of Africa for beneficiation elsewhere. Africa therefore remains locked into its role as timber primary product supplier instead of developing advanced timber economies that can beneficiate and replant the resource to support a burgeoning yet flourishing population and ongoing efforts to preserve Africa's timber resources going forward.

Unlocking timber potential of Africa

A democratised sawmilling landscape where sawmillers have access to affordable modern sawmilling technology that makes it possible to cut logs into quality sawn material for local and export purposes is part of the solution.

An important aspect of judicious forest management practices also involves the establishment of a modern, forward thinking and professional sawmilling sector. Africa was and continues to be flooded with obsolete or poorly supported sawmilling equipment that does not answer to the needs of the sector. A key example of this is timber recovery statistics. Recovery in layman's terms mean to reduce waste by cutting or recovering the most sawn timber possible from the available log volume. Another important element in the search for a modern sawmilling sector in Africa is to match modern technology with affordability.

Adapted from Forestry South Africa newsletter Issue 47 and edited for the UTGA News readership

Forestry tit bits

Sub-standard poles threaten forestry business

Under-treatment is such a serious problem that it could threaten the future of the entire wood-treatment industry in South Africa. This cautionary note from Bertus follows reports that large quantities of poles, in some cases the majority, are failing after only a few years due to under-treatment and the poles not meeting the relevant specifications. Some very large buyers, including government parastatals, are announcing that they are already considering switching to alternatives as a result. Under-treatment is widespread in all African countries including South Africa, and is affecting the sustainability of timber industry, says Bertus. "We need a strong, sustainable industry in Africa, and we need to compete with the rest of the world. It is unacceptable to sell sub-standard products in Africa, just as it is unacceptable anywhere else."

Part of the problem is that some procurement companies are buying from backyard operations as these offer more attractive pricing, but the consequence is timber that fails after only a few years. Buyers must be absolutely sure they are purchasing from reputable, accredited sources, and realise that they get what they pay for, says Bertus. At the same time, some plants are under-treating in order to cut costs and push out large quantities of product quickly. "Under-treatment will save you only two- to four-percent of your costs in the short term, but it could cost your entire busi-



Prices of wood/Timber /Poles around markets in Kampala

By Lwanga Mwangala

We will regularly provide a summary of prices for timber/wood/poles around Kampala so that our Members can do a trend analysis

Market	Type of wood	Specification	Price
Kireka	Eucalyptus-Hand cut	6*2*10	7,000
Kireka	Eucalyptus-Hand cut	4*2*10	5,500
Kireka	Eucalyptus-Hand cut	4*3*10	7,000
Kireka	Eucalyptus-Hand cut	3*2*10	3,500
Kireka	Eucalyptus -Machine cut	6*2*12	13,000
Kireka	Eucalyptus -Machine cut	4*2*12	10,000
Kireka	Eucalyptus -Machine cut	4*3*12	13,000
Kireka	Eucalyptus -Machine cut	3*2*12	6,500
Kireka	Pine-Machine cut	6*2*14	17,000
Kireka	Pine-Machine cut	4*2*14	13,000
Kireka	Pine-Machine cut	4*3*14	17,000
Kireka	Pine-Machine cut	3*2*14	8,500
Bweyogerere	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*2*10	6,000
Bweyogerere	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	6*2*10	8,000
Bweyogerere	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*3*10	8,000
Bweyogerere	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	3*2*10	4,500
Seeta	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*2*10	6,000
Seeta	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	6*2*10	8,000
Seeta	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*3*10	8,000
Seeta	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	3*2*10	4,000
Seeta	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*2*12	8,000
Seeta	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	6*2*12	13,000
Seeta	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*3*12	13,000
Seeta	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	3*2*12	6,000
Mukono	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*2*10	5,500
Mukono	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	6*2*10	8,000
Mukono	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*3*10	8,000
Mukono	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	3*2*10	4,000
Ndeeba	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*2*10	7000

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PAYMENT OF ANNUAL FEES

The Secretariat is very grateful to all the members who have paid their Annual Subscription fees for 2014 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. Payments to meet the financial liabilities for the current year plus those who have arrears can be made at the:

1. Office

A receipt is availed immediately.

2. By Direct Debit to the Bank

Account, a receipt is written after confirmation with the bank and scanned to the Payee.

3. Mobile money to 0785-343564

Charges for withdrawing must be included in the amount sent, a receipt is written and scanned and sent to the Payee.

4. Collection of payment

A call/email may be made to the secretariat for Members in and around Kampala. UTGA Staff will pick the payment from agreed location and a receipt availed immediately.

Payment of the Annual fees is highly appreciated and allows for the efficient running of the Secretariat, facilitating and supporting UTGA activities. Be informed that the Association currently provides the following services directly to its Members:-

- Forest Valuation, a paid for service at cost;
- Specific needs-training required and requested by Members;
- Technical forest visits to Members plantation to offer onsite advice;
- Direct lobbying on aspects that touch on commercial forestry
- Importation of specialised forest tools and equipment that may not be in Uganda.
- Importation of improved, high quality seed

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Sub-standard poles a threat to forestry business in Africa

ness and even the industry in the long term, because buyers will switch - in fact, some already are switching - to alternatives to timber," says Bertus.

Inspection

This problem is intensified by inspection bodies certifying treated timber as compliant with the relevant standards when it is not, as they fail to check whether the timber was properly treated. This gives management of the timber plants a false sense of security, an oversight that will come back to bite the plant at some point, says Bertus. "Some parties are blaming the preservatives themselves, such as CCA or creosote, for the failure of treated poles, without looking at why the poles are failing," he says. "It's not the chemical that is to blame, but under treatment or poor preparation of the timber before treatment. The problem relates not to the preservative but to the application.

It is said that CCA has the longest track record of all wood preservative chemicals, having been in use since 1939, and that when it is used properly, it results in poles lasting 25 - 40 years.

Quality control

Rigorous quality-control procedures must be implemented at each treatment plant to ensure that proper treatment takes place. Some buyers are already using Securus AT and XRF machines to test whether the proper solution strength has been prepared. Another extremely helpful tool is Quadra, a digital timber treatment book, which monitors and keeps records as to whether the timber was properly treated. We encourage customers to make use of this technology so that they can prove to their customers that their timber was properly treated.

It is the responsibility of individual companies, and that of the industry collectively, to ensure proper treatment takes place, says Bertus. "We must continually ask ourselves, 'Are we producing quality treated timber?'

"We will only start to find solutions if we answer this question honestly." **Adapted from Forestry South Africa newsletter**

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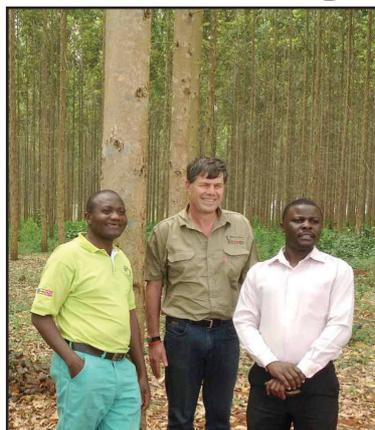
Timber Prices in Kampala

Ndeeba	Eucs-Machine cut	4*3*10	8,000
Ndeeba	Eucs-Machine cut	6*2*10	8,000
Ndeeba	Eucs-Machine cut	4*2*12	8,000
Ndeeba	Eucs-Machine cut	6*2*12	12,000
Ndeeba	Eucs-Machine cut	4*3*12	12,000
Ndeeba	Pine-Machine cut	4*2*13	9,000
Ndeeba	Pine-Machine cut	4*3*13	14,000
Ndeeba	Pine-Machine cut	6*2*13	14,000
Bwaise	Eucs-Machine cut	6*2*14	10,000
Bwaise	Eucs-Machine cut	4*2*14	7,000
Bwaise	Eucs-Machine cut	4*3*14	10,000
Bwaise	Eucs-Machine cut	3*2*14	5,000
Bwaise	Pine machine cut	4*2*14	8,000
Bwaise	Pine machine cut	6*2*14	10,000
Bwaise	Pine machine cut	3*2*14	5,000

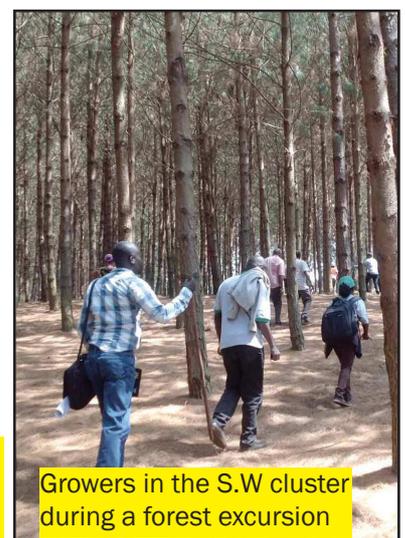
Additional notes

- A Eucalyptus building pole of one and half years old (First thinning) attracted ushs 1,000 while in the plantation in a distance of not more than 160 KMS from Kampala. If it was delivered to Kampala by the seller, it went for an average of ushs 2,200
- An FVR vehicle of Eucalyptus fully loaded and delivered to Kampala by the seller cost ushs 1,800,000. A similar vehicle bought from the plantation in a distance of not more than 160KMS from Kampala, cost an average of between ushs 500,000 and ushs 700,000.

Happenings in the sector



Forest expert Michal Brink (C) is joined by Walter Mapanda and Josephat Kawooya for a forest walk



Growers in the S.W cluster during a forest excursion

Africa's starring role in 14th WFC

Delegates from 40 African nations bolster "people and forests" agenda

The 14th World Forestry Congress has endorsed the Durban Vision 2050 for Forests and Forestry, placing people and food, water and climate security center-stage in the future management of forests, Durban Vision 2050 contains three key elements:

- Forests comprise more than the sum part of their trees. They are fundamental to food security, rural livelihoods, biodiversity and potable water;
- The increasing human population requires integrated approaches to landscape uses to address the drivers of deforestation; and
- Forests are an essential solution for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The 14th World Forestry Congress, the first to be held in Africa, was hailed in its final plenary today by delegates and organisers – including the hosts, the South African Government and the Food and Agriculture Organisation

of the United Nations – as a resounding success.

There was a record level of participation (+3900 delegates), including representatives from more African countries (40) than ever before. More than 500 speakers had their say, and more than 800 scientific papers were presented (30% of which were presented by Africans, a record). Besides the Durban Declaration, delegates attending the final plenary of the Congress also adopted forestry messages to the United Nations General Assembly summit on Sustainable Development Goals and to the United Nations climate change talks in Paris, in December.

South African Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Senzeni Zokwana described closing the congress a painful event. The congress had addressed real issues affecting Africa and the

world at large, he said, congratulating organisers for including the youth in its deliberations. One of the major issues raised by the congress was the poor manner in which forestry's value was communicated to citizens. The organisers, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN had committed to addressing this concern, Minister Zokwana said. At a closing dinner hosted by the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government, the 2015 Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award was conferred on Gertrude Kabusimbi Kanyangi in recognition of her efforts to promote the conservation and sustainable use of her country's forest resources.

The award, established by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), recognises extraordinary efforts by individuals to improve and sustain forests and the people who depend on them. It is named in memory

of the late Kenyan environmental activist, Wangari Maathai, a champion for trees and forests and the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

Sent by Gaster Kiyingi who was at 2015 WFC



Albert Luthuli International Convention centre, venue of 2015 WFC

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.

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