

01st June 2018 No.52

Pines & Musizi most affected

TREE DEATHS!

Over the past months, UTGA received reports from several growers that their trees were drying up and dying. Complaints were received from the areas of Mubende, Kiboga, Nakaseke, Nakasongola, Luwero and Hoima among others. The complaints were mostly received during the early months of the year, mostly in the dry season but some went into the rainy season.

UTGA being a key member raised this as a contentious matter to the Commercial Forestry Research and Training (COMFORT) working platform as a key issue for discussion in their previous meeting with the aim of finding quick remedies to the problem. Some key highlights on the possible causes of the drying were highlighted by NaFORRI. These included; Pine Wilt Disease, Drought- relatively long dry spells, Site-species matching issues, Soil properties including clay hard pans, shallow soils, gravel, underlying rocks, Wetlands etc, Nematodes, Fungal infections and Pests and Untimely silvicultural operations leading to competition and tree stress.

Resulting from the COMFORT meeting, SPGS/FAO agreed to work closely with UTGA and NaFORRI to conduct a quick field assessment of the extent and likely cause of the problem.

Field assessments

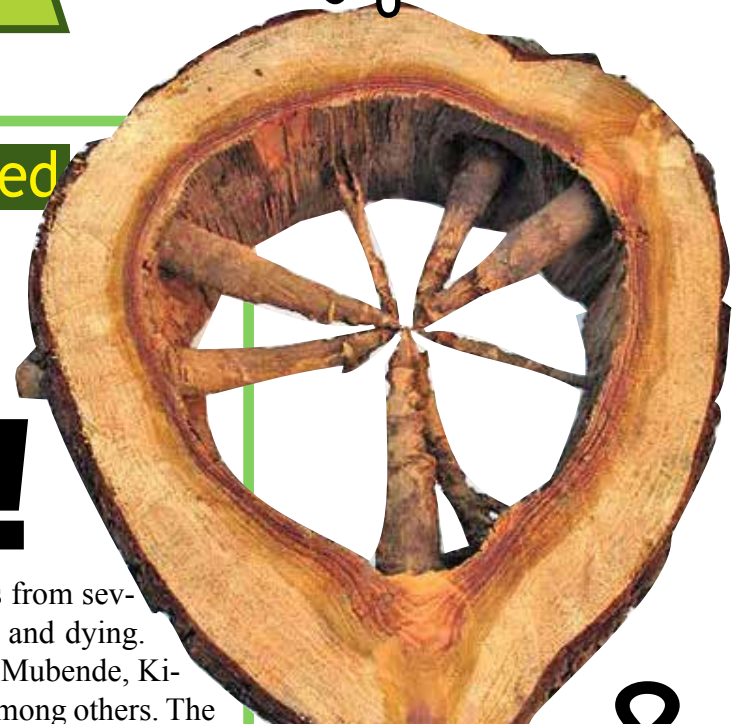
A team constituted of the SPGS Technical Advisor, a Pest and Disease Specialist from NaFORRI and the UTGA Program Officer conducted the assessment. A total of five plantations were sampled and visited in Mubende, Kiboga, Nakaseke and Nakasongola with the aim of;

- Identifying any trends of the problem
- Ruling out the likely cause(s) of the drying
- Identifying signs & symptoms of pest and disease presence
- Advising growers on the quick remedies to the problem.

Findings

From the field visits and interviews with growers, there seemed to be

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PRUNING & Why its important

In plantation forestry, quality sawlogs and peeler logs are developed through a process of pruning branches from standing trees. Pruning produces clear wood required for the production of high grade construction material, furniture, decorative veneer and plywood because of its high quality and excellent appearance.

There are two types of pruning: natural pruning and artificial pruning. As *Eucalyptus* and *Maesopsis eminii* trees grow, their lower branches usually die off slowly through physical and environmental conditions and this is termed natural pruning. If the dead branches are left on the tree for a long time, an abscission layer will form, and they will start falling off on their own. Clear wood (knot free timber) is produced from the sections where branches fall.

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NFA fighting illegal logging

Uganda's suffers from a high rate of deforestation and forest degradation from 25% forest cover to the current 9%. Most of it is happening on privately owned forest cut down to pave way for agriculture and settlement.

The National Forestry Authority (NFA) is mandated to look after and manage Central Forest Reserves (CFRs). Yet forests under NFA suffer from encroachment

by timber cutters some of whom have been arrested and their tools confiscated.

On a visit to the NFA office in Kibaale, UTGA engaged the Sector Manager and were shown the results of work undertaken by the NFA staff there.



Illegal timber and poles from forest reserves



CONFISCATED: Army uniforms, axes and saws

WHY ARE TREES DYING?



a combination of factors leading to the drying up of the trees.

The most hit areas in Nakaseke (Wankweyo CFR) had had very many months with no rain.

Some signs of diseases were seen at some plantations. These included deformation of branches which could be due to Diplodia (a fungal infection), blue stain the drying wood, some resin pockets which could be a sign of the presence of nematodes. These interfere with the movement of water within the tree by damaging the vascular system hence the drying up of trees. However this can only be ruled out after samples have been tested in a laboratory.

All the affected plantations had not been thinned in time which might have increased competition leading to stress and drying up. Timely thinned compartments were not affected as much as un-thinned compartments.

Most of the sites were quite marginal with shallow soils, gravel, and too much clay that forms a clay pan during the dry season or underlying rocks. Most deaths were on trees planted on marginal sites.

The drying up of trees could be due to a combination of factors where those that are diseased were affected as a result of drought and related seasonal stress that increased their susceptibility to disease. In some places it was evident that soil factors were the source of tree death whereas others were due to stress from late thinning and prolonged dry spells.

Generally compartments that were affected, had received a 1st thinning but not 2nd and 3rd thinning and many were above 10 years.



The importance of

PRUNING

From page 1

The vigour of the trees and the density of the stand determine the rate at which branches die and fall off from the stem. Vigorously growing or widely spaced trees, take longer to drop their branches than closely spaced trees.

Natural pruning

Natural pruning may be assisted by knocking off the dead branches using a large wooden stick. This process is referred to as brashing. Edge trees normally develop large and persistent branches which do not fall off naturally thus have to be removed using a pruning saw.

In Teak and Pine plantations, if lower branches are not pruned, they tend to be persistent and eventually die from lack of light.

Artificial pruning

Artificial pruning is the removal of dead and live branches using a pruning saw, from the lower part



of the crown of a tree in shifts at predetermined times during the rotation of a tree crop.

The process of artificial pruning produces clear timber (knot free timber) from the basal sawlogs. The main objective of artificial pruning is to increase the value of saw logs by restricting the wood with knots to a central core (knotty core) of 10 cm in diameter and producing clear wood on the outer core. Artificial pruning can be carried out to a height, for example 2 m, 4 m and 6 m or to a diameter of 10 cm.

Pruning to a diameter (variable pruning height) normally works well for 1st pruning but is difficult to supervise. It prevents the over-pruning of suppressed and short trees which leads to a reduction in photosynthesis capacity. Pruning to a height has the disadvantage of over pruning short trees and under pruning tall trees but it is easy to supervise and monitor.

Pruning is a costly operation, which must be perceived as an investment to improve quality of the final timber product. Whilst the high costs associated with pruning operations are acknowledged, they are still justified in timber markets where there is good price for clear timber. In markets where no premium is paid for clear timber, it is not advisable to conduct pruning higher than 4m i.e. pruning for access and fire protection.



View from the Fire tower in Kirinnya plantation, Mayuge

NGP Tour - Uganda 2018



New Generation Plantations tour 2018 came to Uganda for the first time running from June 4th-8th, 2018. This was new territory.

The plantation industry in East Africa is in its infancy, but its potential is huge. Plantations can provide a route out of poverty for rural communities, contribute to moving fast-growing economies along a sustainable trajectory, take pressure off natural forests and restore ecosystems, and play a vital role in combating climate change. But there are also immense challenges, from attracting finance into a new, long-

term and risky proposition, dealing with complex land issues, social challenges and logistical difficulties.

The study tour was co-hosted by the New Forests Company (NFC) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF Uganda). The New Forests Company, one of East Africa's few private plantation (or "greenfield forestry") companies and guests from around the globe shared own experiences and ideas.

The overarching question of the tour was how to use responsible plantation forestry as an engine for sustainable development at scale in Africa. A question-based approach was used to generate discussions and solutions and they included barriers to sustainable greenfield plantation forestry, innovative financing solutions that



Participants of the tour at the Forest lodge



A field visit to outgrowers of NFC



Kirinya plantation, Mayuge: Participants enjoy the scenery atop the rocks



can scale up sustainable plantation forestry in Africa, how plantation companies can partner with communities to Create Shared Value, by reducing business risk, improving rural livelihoods and achieving economic success, partnerships between plantation forestry industry, civil society and national governments to drive macroeconomic development and the role plantation forests play in combatting illegal logging.

901 households who had encroached upon the forest reserve illegally were removed by the government from land which is now home to NFC's plantations at Namwasa. The mediation process was long and arduous and NFC agreed to provide the affected communities with a development grant.

Since the plantations have been established, the natural forest within the reserve has been making a comeback, along with the biodiversity it supports. NFC has made immense contribution to the communities and a level of trust and goodwill has been developed. But there's an awareness of the need to move from CSR to CSV – creating shared value as was seen at the Kirinya plantation. The case for plantation forestry at scale is a compelling one. Africa is already facing a timber deficit, and its remaining forests becoming increasingly degraded, planting trees is essential to tackling climate change and the most cost-effective technology for taking carbon out of the atmosphere. And, it was clearly the hope of a better future.

References for this were made to a blog article of a participant at the study tour, Barney Jeffries.

NGP Study Tour - Uganda 2018



Summarized presentations at the end



After Lunch and discussions at the Mabira Forest Lodge



Hosts and visitors engage in a fast & furious dance fest

NFSS for Uganda launched




Hon Sam Cheptoris launches the NFSS for Uganda

Before 1950, half the country was forested. By 1990, this had fallen to 25% while currently, its estimated to be about 9% and still declining alarmingly. Forest degradation and deforestation is happening in both protected areas but mostly on private estate. Illegal logging, clearing for agriculture and charcoal burning are the main cause of this sad state of affairs yet Uganda has one of the highest population growth rates in the world.

Uganda's Minister of Water and Environment, Hon Sam Cheptoris in the presence of Kim Carstensen, Director General of FSC, officially launched the National Forest Stewardship Standard for Uganda.

"Uganda produces the best documents yet other countries implement them," the Minister said sarcastically. The new FSC standard can help to guide the long road to sustainable forest management and UTGA and its growers will be there to support. It's a product of a 10-year bottom-up process by the Standard Development Group (SDG) to translate the principles of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) into procedures and indicators customised to Uganda. The standard will provide a guide or benchmark for responsible forest management in the country.



UTGA
Uganda Timber Growers' Association

UTGA MODEL NURSERY

We Offer

- Quality Seedlings
- Eucalyptus clones
- Seed Sales (Pinus Caribaea Brazil f.2 (PCH), Eucalyptus Grandis S.Africa f.2, & Several Indigenous Tree species.
- Training on best Nursery Practices
- After sales service on planting and plantation establishment

Seedlings /clones	Price (UTGA members)	Price (UTGA Non members)
GU's	600	700
GCs 796, 550, 578, 514	450	500
Indigenous species	400-1200	500-1500
Pine Seedlings	450	500
Eucalyptus Grandis S.Africa	250	300
Fruit seedlings	1300	1500

*** Price discounts available for early & paid bookings

LOCATED AT KIWAWU, 37km along the Kampala-Mityana highway (26km from Mityana town)
Contact us on: 0788 027 265 0750 957846 0785 343564

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

NURSERY INFORMATION

UTGA currently has various seedlings which are ready for planting for the coming planting season Aug-Nov These are:-

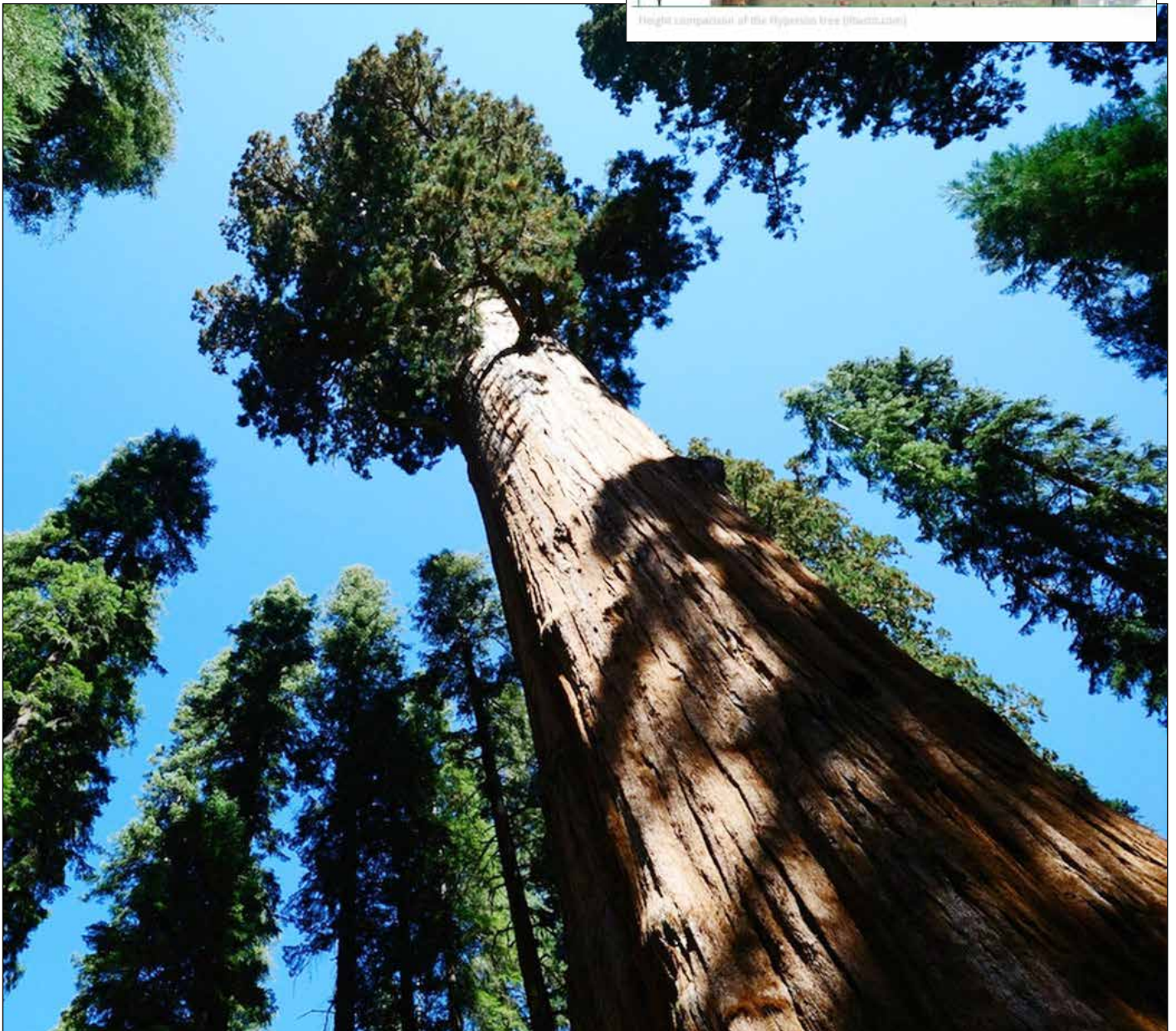
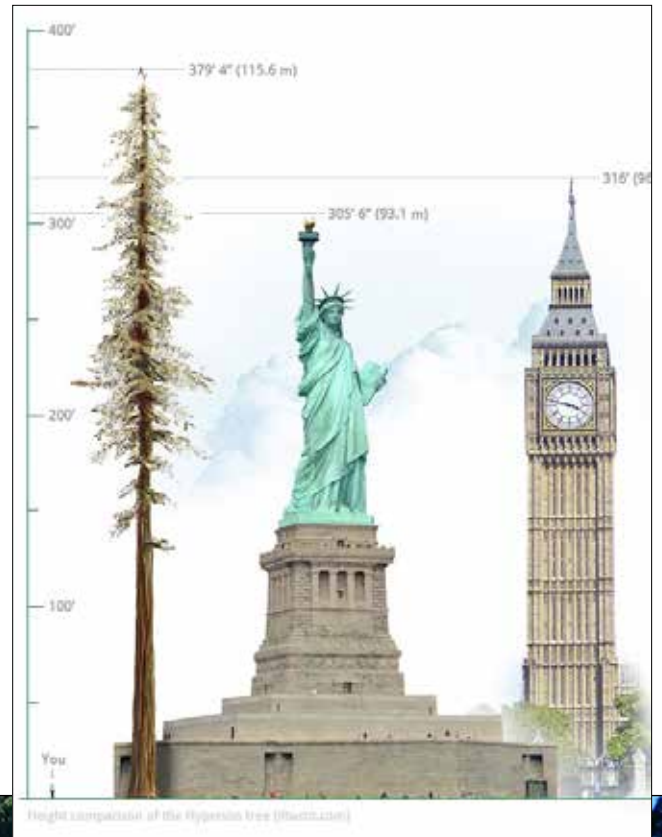
1. Pinus caribaea seedlings (Australia)
2. E.grandis seedlings
3. Clones (GU'S and GC'S)
4. Musizi seedlings
5. Melia seedlings
6. Gmelina seedlings

We therefore inform all tree growers to make orders/bookings with us in advance for proper planning to avoid inconveniences.

The World's Tallest Tree

The tallest trees in the world are redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*), which tower above the ground in California. These trees can easily reach heights of 300 feet (91 meters). Among the redwoods, a tree named Hyperion dwarfs them all. The tree was discovered in 2006, and is 379.7 feet (115.7 m) tall.

Found in Redwood National Park, the goliath tree Hyperion, was discovered by two hikers. To gain its official title, Hyperion was measured precisely by a team of scientists from Humboldt State University, using the highly complicated and technical method of climbing the tree and dropping a (really long) tape measure down its trunk. To gain some sense of perspective, an image of some famous tall landmarks helps to create comparisons.



UTGA Partners with UMEME in their *Go Green Campaign*

In April 2018 UTGA joined UMEME Ltd in its “Go-Green” campaign, a CSR project. The campaign focuses on supporting institutions to establish woodlots for their future benefits with particular interest in primary schools. Umeme’s other interest is to give back to the community where beneficiary schools are on the grid. UMEME uses this as an opportunity to establish safety clubs in schools to create awareness on safety issues surrounding the use of electricity. UTGA identified Kyankowe Primary School in Mityana as a possible beneficiary and worked closely with UMEME to support the establishment and maintenance of a clonal eucalyptus woodlot and a fruit orchard for the school. Apart from ensuring that the woodlots were planted with quality planting materials and to recommended standards, UTGA will continue monitoring and providing technical backstopping required for raising these woodlots to benefit the school.



Staff of UMEME & UTGA plant trees together with pupils from Kyankowe Primary School

UGANDA'S INDIGENOUS TREES

Match the *to the wood*





UGANDA'S INDIGENOUS TREES

Match the tree to the wood



Status of timber prices in Uganda

Current Average retail prices for Pine and Eucalyptus Timber			
Timber Size (inch)X(inch) X (ft)	Timber prices (Ugx)		
	Pieces/M ³	Price Per Piece (Ugx)	Price Per M ³
4x2x14	45	12,500	562,500
6x2x14	30	20,000	600,000
3x2x14	60	9,000	540,000
6x1x14	60	9,000	540,000
4X3X14	30	21,00	615,000
9X1X14	40	22,000	860,000
8X1X14	45	16,000	720,000
10X1X14	36	25000	900,000
2X2X14	90	8,500	765,000
3X3X14	40	15,000	600,000
12X1X14	30	33,000	990,000
8X2X14	22	35,000	770,000

Timber trade is now booming in Uganda like never before. With the scarcity of timber from indigenous species on the market and increase in demand for sawn timber within the region, the future for commercial species is bright.

Timber dealerships have seen a

flurry of new investment with an influx of traders from the region and investors from around the world who have expressed interest in timber processing and value addition.

Within the period of one year, there has seen a steady rise in prices for sawn timber of Pine and Eucalyptus.

It is expected that timber prices for

these two species may increase by up to 20% before the year ends, if the trend continues.

The table above shows current average price for Pine and Eucalyptus timber for common dimensions in the major markets around the country.

Most dealers derive the prices of other dimensions from these.

New Forests Company supports UTGA nursery



Through the process of establishing the UTGA Model Nursery, appreciation goes out to the New Forests Company (NFC) for their support towards the construction of both the nursery beds and the tunneling shade for production of eucalyptus clones.

NFC has offered all the treated posts (an equivalent of 130 treated poles) required for construction of nursery beds at no cost. It's an honour to receive this great contribution from NFC.

Actions speak

louder than words



Summary of UTG-SACCO Annual Report

The Year 2017 was challenging for the economy on the whole. The financial sector and the economy were characterized by slow growth resulting into poor repayments which hindered portfolio growth of the SACCO. However, we managed to overcome some challenges and remained profitable. Ultimately our resilience made us even more confident and relevant to our members.

Funding and Financial Performance

While it was planned in 2017 to increase SACCO Savings by 35%, SACCO savings increased by 9.4% to UGX 19,102,847 from UGX 17,462,616. This is a good achievement but below the target mainly because most members did not abide by the AGM resolution of compulsory Savings. Going forward all members are meant to save UGX 50,000 every month.

Share capital

While 40% increase of member's shares Capital were projected for 2017, this component grew by 54.1% from UGX 152,492,529 to UGX 235,072,632. Direct sale of shares to members were UGX 42,309,779 while UGX 40,270,324 were as a result of transfers from Savings Account to share Account. We are grateful to members who established standing orders. The selling of Shares in the 2017 AGM realized UGX 10,050,000.

Loan portfolio growth

While the EXCOM projected to increase loan portfolio by 25%, the outturn for 2017 was an increase of 52% from UGX 134,913,982 in 2016 to UGX 204,084,363 in 2017. The SACCO's annual total disbursements increased by 27.4% from UGX 233,100,000 to UGX 297,000,000. The portfolio at risk remains below 0.5%.

Challenges in 2017

- a) Challenging economic environment: There was instability in the banking system which contributed to low consumer confidence. GDP growth declined to 3.2 percent. These economic challenges affected our members causing late loan repayments, low savings and low share purchases.
- b) Slow membership growth: The UTG-SACCO membership growth has been slow even if a resolution at the AGM that each member attracts at least one new member to the SACCO. There were projections to recruit at least 10 new members yet only 6 joined the SACCO.
- c) Low adherence to compulsory monthly savings: A resolution was made at the AGM that each member of the SACCO MUST make a compulsory Saving of UGX 50,000 per month. Some members are not complying which leads to slow growth of the savings portfolio. In 2017, the SACCO only collected UGX 10,013,847 as direct savings from members instead of UGX 41,400,000. Members are encouraged to make standings orders for the compulsory monthly savings to our Account 2215600011 at Centenary Bank Corporate Branch in the name of Uganda Timber growers Cooperative Saving and Credit Society.

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 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.

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