

Keep abreast with new developments in the commercial forestry sector

UTGA NEWS

14th April 2014

No.26

TEAK SEED ON SALE

UTGA has high quality teak seed in stock collected from Kilombero Valley Teak Co. in Tanzania. If interested, please contact the UTGA Secretariat.

Price: UGX 60,000

UTGA AGM & FORESTRY FAIR

Growers converge for Annual Meet



Agnes Kabwisho congratulates Richard Bakojja who was among the best customers



UTGA Members who attended the Annual General Meeting at City Royal Resort Hotel in Bugolobi

UTGA held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) for its Membership on Tuesday 25th March 2014 at City Royal Resort Hotel in Bugolobi. Before engaging in the formal AGM business, the new UTGA Patron Hon Dr. Martin Alier was introduced to the Members. In his speech he thanked the Growers for deciding to invest their money in a

venture whose returns are not immediate but which in addition to being commercial has environmental, and social benefits to the country. The Minister of State for the Environment who is also a UTGA Member made a presentation on the growing of Bamboo which she said has many uses and benefits including food, juice, furniture, charcoal,



Furniture made from eucalyptus and pine

Growers converge for AGM & Forest Fair

fertilizers, bicycle frames, briquettes e.t.c.

Forestry Fair/show

Running concurrently with the AGM and at the same venue was Uganda's 1st Forestry Fair. The aim of the fair/show was to showcase products and services along the Forestry value chain that are provided to the sector. Organised by both UTGA and SPGS, the show was also aimed at showing that plantations in the very near future will be able to supply Uganda with timber for roofing, furniture etc, poles (fencing, transmission etc) and fuel wood by way of charcoal and firewood. Some carpentry workshops that participated were able to exhibit products that are made out of eucalyptus and pine coming out of plantations. It is generally thought that most of the wood that will be used in Uganda and the whole region at large is going to be supplied from commercial plantations many of which have been established by UTGA Growers.

The Forest Fair accomplished the task of bringing together the various stakeholders that support the forestry sector, It



UTGA Members listen attentively

provided an opportunity for the public and UTGA membership to interact with Suppliers of forestry inputs from seed to finished products. Despite the short time the Suppliers had for preparation, more than 30 were represented including nurseries, forest contractors, government offices, equipment suppliers and secondary manufacturing producers. A varied and enthusiastic stakeholder group that looks forward to the commercial forestry sector becoming fully operative.

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The Echo products stall



Showgoers at the NFA tent



Modern carpenters are already using pine and eucalyptus to make various products



Hon Flavia Munaaba at the SPGS stall



The New Forests Company team at the Fair



Bird's eye view of Forest fair ground



A processor showing the operation of a portable woodland sawmill

Behind the scenes at the Forest Fair



Showcasing the LT15 Wood Mizer sawmill



Showcasing modern irrigation systems

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UTGA would like to thank the following participants:

Sawlog Production Grant Scheme (SPGS), City Royal Resort Hotel (the host), NFA, Balton Uganda, DFCU Bank, Twiga Chemicals, Bolton, Kungula Agrinsurance, New Forests Company Evonik Industries, Echo, Walnut Doors, Better Globe Forestry (Miti magazine), Hangzhou Agrochemicals, Wood



Furniture made from eucalyptus

Mizer, Nice House of Plastics, Agromax, Davis & Shirtliff, Uganda Carbon Bureau and Husqvarna.

Testimonials on Forest Fair

“An exciting and successful start. This fair being the 1st of its kind”
-Showgoer

“The fact that it is something relevant in the industry but had not been organized before! The turn up of exhibitors was good (If twice that number had turned up, there would have been no space!) The Minister of State for Environment was excited by the event. She picked lots of contacts for possible future engagement which was good for the exhibitors”. -Participant

“The idea of Forest Fair is certainly very good and should continue”.
-Showgoer

PAYMENT OF ANNUAL FEES

The Secretariat is very grateful to all Members who have paid their Annual Subscription fees for 2014 and arrears. This is to kindly remind all those that have not yet paid to do so. Payments for arrears can also be received in installments. Payments to meet the financial liabilities for the current year plus those made to cover arrears can be made at the:

1. The UTGA 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

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

Please 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



EX MINISTER LOSES FOREST TO FIRES

Former land, housing and urban development minister, Daniel Omara Atubo suffered losses after suspected arsonists set ablaze his 10 acres of pine trees in Otuke district.

The fire that also destroyed orchards and cassava gardens was allegedly set on Monday by a man the police identified as James

Atubo, 38 of Alela Village, Abongorwot Parish, Orum Sub County in Otuke district according to Atubo.

Atubo estimated the loss incurred to be between sh50-70m.

Otuke district police commander informed that setting fire to plants is contrary to section 329 sub section six of the penal code act.

UTG SACCO HOLDS AGM



UTG-SACCO held its 3rd Annual General Meeting on the 28th of March 2013 at Protea Hotel Kampala. The Treasurer Mr. Douglas Ssendagire Kabenge announced a 41% growth of share Capital from UGX 40.5m in 2012 to UGX 57.32m in 2013, a 109% growth of Members' deposits from UGX 14.99m in 2012 to UGX 31.28m in 2013 hence a core Capital of UGX 88.6M. He further announced a growth of 24% in Net profit for the year 2013 from UGX 9.25m in 2012 to UGX 11.52m in 2013. Accordingly members shall share the profit

and this money shall be transferred to their respective savings accounts. However he announced a -21% drop in advances to members from UGX 50.25m to UGX 39.46m in 2013. There was 276% increase in cash generated from operations from UGX 11.4m in 2012 to 20.11m in 2013 with an increase of 1,016% in cash and cash equivalents from UGX 3.3m in 2012 to UGX 36.19m in 2013. He therefore called upon members to utilize UTG-SACCO services and encouraged other UTGA Members to join in order to create better financing options.

The **NEED** to develop Contractors

Part of UTGA's mandate is to create an atmosphere conducive for its Members to establish, manage and harvest commercial forest plantations. One sure way of doing this is to support the development of contractors who provide an important array of services along the value chain. Owing to this, contractors were also allowed to join UTGA as Associate Members just like Nursery Operators. Along the way however and in spite of the certification scheme put in place by UTGA and SPGS,

the services of some contractors have not been well appreciated. On the other hand at their last meeting, contractor expressed concerns about their business relationships with their clients, the investors. Here below is an outline of the concerns of each. In order to get solutions to these challenges, the first step has been to bring them out. UTGA and SPGS will work with both in order to support the development of genuine and professional contractors.

Concerns of Investors

- Some contractors offer poor service in the field;
- Some contractors do not want to commit to a sole client;
- Some contractors are thin on the ground;
- Some contractors are very expensive;
- Some contractors use unprofessional workers;
- Some contractors are poor at keeping records;
- Some contractors are poorly equipped;
- Some contractors have limited knowledge and experience in such aspects as harvesting;
- Some contractors receive money and offer no service (cheating);

Concerns of Contractors

- Some clients are reluctant to engage in long term engagements;
- Some clients do not want to sign contracts;
- Some clients don't pay;
- Some clients don't pay on time or the rated as agreed;
- Some clients and their supervisors connive to take our workers;
- Some clients have limited commercial forestry knowledge;
- Some clients insist on giving wrong advice in field;
- Some clients are too busy to effectively monitor the activities;
- Some clients are rude and have poor or no communication with their workers which poisons the work environment;

Tentative 2014 Training Plan

	COURSE	DATE	LOCATION
1	Teak Silviculture	7th - 11th April	Arua
2	Chain saw	31st March- 11th April	Luweero
3	Sawmilling	26th April - 4th May	Wakiso
4	Clonal Nursery management	5th -8th May	Kabanyolo
5	Weed control	19th -23rd May	Gulu
6	Pruning and Thining	9th -13th June	Mubende
7	Contractor development	21st -24th July	Kabanyolo
8	Plantation planning	18th-19th August	Kiboga
9	Productivity and Work study	20th August	Kiboga
10	Health and Safety	21st August	Kiboga
11	Environment Management	22nd August	Kiboga
12	Inventory and Mensuration	(20th -31st Oct)	Luweero

Forestry News

World Forestry Day

UTGA was part of those organisations that participated wholly in celebrations to commemorate World Forestry Day. In Uganda week long celebrations included a conference on Forest Governance Dialogue and launch of the ICT platform to monitor forest illegalities on Tuesday 18th March 2014, an FSC consultative meeting on Wednesday 19th March 2014 and the main celebrations in Mpigi on Friday 21st March 2014. These were organised by FSSD on behalf of government, civil society and the private sector.

CFM in CFRs

The African Union for Conservationists working with the RUFORD Foundation held a half day workshop on Thursday, 27th March 2014 at the Ministry of Water and Environment to promote Collaborative Forest Management in degraded forests in Central Uganda. Using their vast experience working with communities adjacent to the Central Forest Reserves This project is aimed at finding solutions to a better CFM arrangement.

Advisory

UTGA recommends that all Members should always buy their herbicides from Hangzhou Agrochemicals (U) Ltd. situated on Plot 56/58 7th Street Industrial Area, Kampala Tel:0414-252295/0757-771330

Early last year, I set out to do 2nd thinning on my 1st planting in Mpigi. This plantation stands on

approximately 100 ha, putting all blocks together and was about 9 years old. Just as all of you would be excited to emerge out of this exercise with a bank account in excess of a hundred million, so was I with an expectation of actually an amount slightly more than three hundred million. So am I a millionaire, or did I pick up the three hundred million? You will have the answer after reading this.

I contacted a friend, Elvis Mulimba, a fellow tree grower and UTGA Member who owns and is running the services of two wood misers. He agreed to bring one of them to my plantation to begin converting my trees. The next day, the wood miser true to its design, started throwing out plunks of 4x2x12 ft. I called in a timber dealer from Ndeeba, a suburb of Kampala renowned as a timber hub and market. On a reconnaissance visit before this exercise, this dealer had sworn to his ancestors when he surveyed the trees that I was worth more than 300 million from the 2nd thinning.

Upon arrival, he let out a big cry wondering what material we were made of to be cutting a length of 12 ft as opposed to 14 ft which the market is in need of. I pleaded that given the diameter of the logs; they would yield only 2 pieces of 4x2X14 ft instead of the 6 pieces of

MY CATASTROPHE-SECOND THINNING DISASTER

A grower's testimonial



A grower Robert Bariho giving advice to fellow growers

the same that were 12ft long. The machine operators were at hand to help me get the guy off his balance confirming that the machine had a maximum span of 12 ft. The dealer wasn't done though, "its 14 ft or peanuts he insisted, 12 ft will be paid for as fagi (rejects)" he cried. Elvis offered the services of the other machine which can convert planks longer than 14ft. So I told the dealer to relax, "we are not a simple lot", I bragged. At this point, I knew my UGX300million catch would go down by a few tens of millions and accepted the fate. Believe me, the big wood miser is a log guzzler. In just a day, all the logs extracted from about 2 ha were gone and upon receiving the

news, I started lining up trucks to ferry the timber to the dealer in Ndeeba. Remember I

didn't want the guy to cut into my millions with him coming to collect the timber himself. The workers on site advised me to delay sending the trucks and at once, I was convinced some one was helping them selves on my hard earned timber. I hurried to the plantation only to be met with the biggest pile of makoka (off cuts) I have ever seen, with only about 250 pieces of 2x4X14 planks. The operators took no time to pump reality into my head, informing that a truck load needed about 850 pieces. At this rate, a truck load needed about 3 to 4 days work. This time, I was not going to go to my Elvis for any bail out, and how was I go-

ing to pay for his machine charges any way. Then I looked at the squad of 30 Bakiga who had been ferried in from Kelele-Kabale to extract the logs to the machine moving distances of up to 300 meters. You should ask my mentor why I didn't have access roads here. These Bakiga would never have stepped on my plantation to get me borrowing money to pay for pulling logs of which about 70% were waste (Off cuts). I had to contend with the bitter truth then. The 300 million was a myth and with a market for 14 ft length, only a mad planter would proceed in this direction. Then as if Dennis Kavuma & team at UTGA were watching from some hidden point, a mourning tour was

Advice from a tree grower

arranged for UTGA members to come over and offer their condolences, but more importantly advise to avoid such a calamity at their plantations. They didn't disappoint and came in good numbers, and as the bereaved, I had my fair share of consolation.

So what do you think happened to the rest of the thinnings after here, simple, I called in the informal traders from Bwaise, another wood hub in Kampala to come in and fell the marked trees, fill their trucks and pay me a paltry UGX 850,000 only. Believe me, its no fan at all watching 2 truck loads carrying away a hectare of thinning, but in the circumstances, it was the best.

So my colleague billionaires take note of my woes and get these free bits of advice below:

1. Right from land preparation, ensure that you have access roads within your plantations.
2. Plant the right seed for good formation logs.
3. Weed your young trees appropriately to attain straight logs suitable for logging.
4. Prune at the right time to avoid dead notes at log sawing.



It is important to get your seedlings from a certified nursery in order to get logs of good form and structure at harvest

5. Prepare appropriately for thinning by putting everything that is required in place.
6. Do 1st and 2nd thinning at the right time to harvest good quality and quantity.
7. Make effective fire breaks to avoid wild forest fires that may lead to extinction of your billions.
8. Be good to your workers and neighbors to help protect your forest from intrusion and fires.
9. Join UTGA to benefit from subsidized services, a common voice, networking, deliberate collaboration and maximized returns.

The writer Robert Bariho is a grower and Member of UTGA

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 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.

New UTGA Board Member elected

Mr. Moses Obeta, a grower from West Nile was on 25th March 2014 elected by Members to the UTGA Board to replace Trinity Ceaser Draceabo who ceased to be a UTGA Member and subsequently the Board. Moses has established plantations of teak and Pine.



Moses Obeta

F2 PINE SEED

All those interested in buying F.2 *pinus caribaea* seed from Brazil and have not yet sent in their orders should do so by mail to caroln@utga.ug or call 0785-343564 to place their orders.

The price per kilogram for this seed will be communicated very soon to all those who already made their bookings with the and commitments should be made at the Secretariat. The seed is expected in early May.

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	60,000/=
Quarter page	100,000/=
Half page	200,000/=
Full page	300,000/=

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