UTGA NEWS

18th October 2016 No.45

From Nursery to Sawmill

A grower Ponsiano Besesa receives map from the UTGA General Manager Dennis D. Kavuma

Mubende FSC Certification Pilot Growers meet on progress

Progress of FSC Group Certification Pilot in Mubende district-Uganda

On 30, September 2016, the six members in the FSC group certification pilot in Mubende cluster, held a meeting at UTGA, which focused on implementation of FSC standards in their plantations. UTGA management as

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EUCS UNDER ATTACK

Infestation by red gum lerp psyllid

Update on fight against Glycapis Brimblecombie in Uganda

There has been a constant outcry from the eucalyptus tree growers in Uganda that their plantations are under very serious attack from an exotic insect-pest referred to as Glycapisbrimblecombie (a new disease) which was observed in May, 2016. This pest is also called red gum lerp psyllid and is causing economic damage to Eucalyptus. Attacked trees get whitish dots which later become black spots; the tree turns yellow, experiences early leaf drop and drying off of the leading shoots hence heavy infestations leading to tree mortal-

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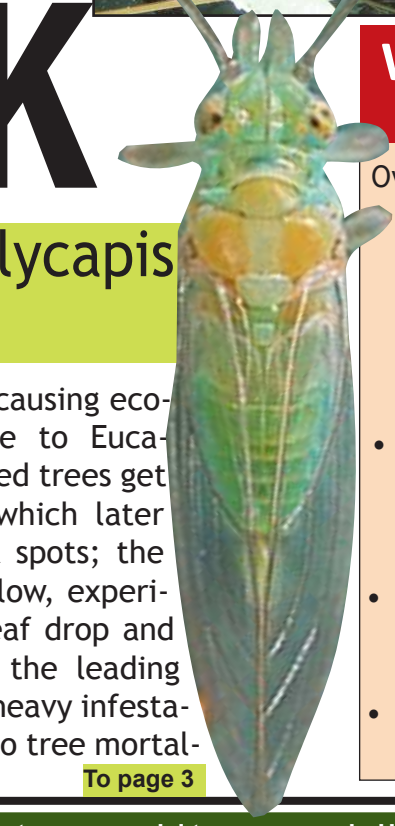

What hby as UTGA done?

Over the past 3 months, UTGA has:

- Visited some of the affected growers to carry out an assessment on infestation;
- Convened meetings with participation of stakeholders e.g Naforri, NFA & SPGS;
- Mobilised for funding to generate a biological solution;
- Amplified voice on incidence & infestation

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UTG-SACCO Benefits of to its members

Savings culture: Means members putting something aside for tomorrow, irrespective of how much they earn today, and their needs. It is was established that nobody can escape poverty and its various consequences without a savings habit. UTG-SACCO mobilizes members to save for the foresters' financial institution/Bank.

Access to loans: It's difficult for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, as it is for foresters to get loans from commercial banks. UTG-SACCO was established to help foresters access quick funds to enable them manage cash flow problems.

Individual participation: Members participate in the running of the business i.e during the AGM, and in the process, members acquire knowledge and expertise, which is also beneficial in running personal affairs.

Share of dividends: Unlike Commercial banks and other financial institutions, members of the cooperative share interest in form of dividends amongst themselves. For instance, members of UTG-SACCO have shared UGX 71,656,129 amongst themselves from 2011 to 2015

Corporate power: There are some things that a corporate body can achieve easily, which are nearly impossible for an individual. For-example if UTG-SACCO can negotiate lower bank interest rates on behalf of members.

UTG-SACCO facts and figures:

Membership	**58**
Share Capital	**UGX 128,451,059**
Savings	**UGX 78,564,162**
Networking	**UGX 207,015,221**
Loan portfolio	**UGX 138,283,762**

How to join UTG-SACCO

- Pay membership fee of UGX 100,000
- Buy shares each Ugx 20,000
- Contribute a monthly Ugx 50,000

All UTGA and SPGS members should join.

Contact: Moses Kasirivu,
Address: UTGA office, Plot 116 Bukoto St.
Tel: 0776-191414/0701-109440

Participants during the final session of the workshop

FSC Hold Smallholder Workshop For Southern & Eastern Africa

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Africa organised a two-day Southern & Eastern African Workshop on New Approaches and Innovations for the design of a Smallholder Certification system.

The expert engagement workshop was held on 13th-14th September 2016, at New Africa Hotel, Dar-es Salaam, Tanzania.

The participants came from all continents with varying backgrounds yet ranging contribution on smallholder livelihoods and forestry projects.

The workshop was informative and worthwhile with many topics covered where the presenters shared their expertise on adaptations within the smallholder system design, new solutions, ideas, innovations, approaches and innovations that help to build systems that address challenges of smallholders.

Participants were able to share and discuss their smallholders' certification experiences and responsible forest management including an understanding of the various challenges/ barriers to smallholders' certification in Eastern and Southern Africa sub-regions given the variety of different smallholders.

Participants listen to Joachim Meier-Dörnberg from FSC International

This was one of such consultative workshops that FSC is going to have around the world and it is expected that afterwards, there will be some reflection of ideas generated and possibly a development of tools for review.

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Fight against Glycapis Brimblecombie


Details of infested leaves

ity. Unless the pest is controlled, it may wipe out Eucalyptus in Uganda thus; leading to serious economic losses, wood shortages and environmental degradation. Basing on this background UTGA Secretariat engaged stakeholders like NaFORRI, NFA & FAO/SPGS who converged with the UTGA Technical Committee members to forge a way on how to mitigate further spread of the disease. Unfortunately, it was discovered that its spread was rampant because in had been reported in some districts. To assess the rate of infestation before coming up with intervention mechanisms, a field trip to some eucalyptus planters within the districts of Mpigi, Masindi and Kyankwanzi was organised by UTGA. The findings were as follows:- The pest has been observed to be very aggressive in infested areas and is spreading rapidly. There is need for this pest to be controlled because it is a threat to Eucalypts in Uganda estimated at over 10,300 ha (NFA 2009). The pest is a risk to economic gains among Eucalyptus growers in addition to the environmental degradation that it may cause. Therefore; an immediate inter-


A grower looks at a dying tree

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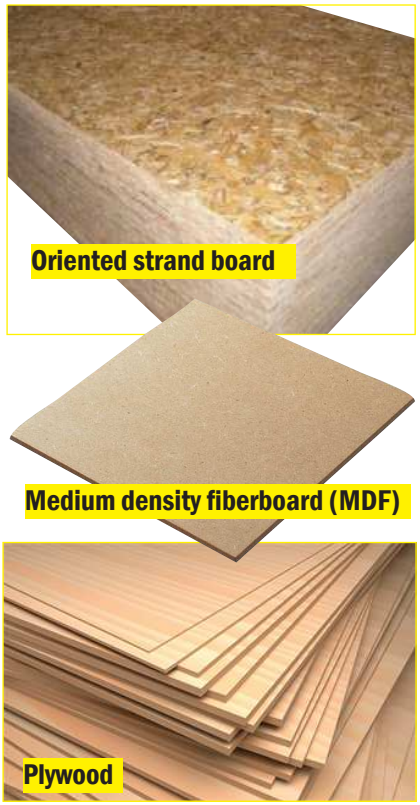
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT: Engineered Wood

Wood is a porous and fibrous structural tissue found in the stems and roots of trees, and other woody plants It has been used for thousands of years for both fuel and as a construction material. Wood has been an important construction material since humans began building shelters, houses.

New domestic housing in many parts of the world today is commonly made from timber-framed construction. Engineered wood products are becoming a bigger part of the construction industry. They may be used in both residential and commercial buildings as structural and aesthetic materials.



Engineered wood

Engineered wood products, glued building products "engineered" for application-specific performance requirements, are often used in construction and industrial applications. Glued engineered wood products are manufactured by bonding together wood strands, veneers, timber or other forms of wood fiber with glue to form a larger, more efficient composite structural unit.

Particle board

Particle board is a waste-wood product made by heat pressing wood chips, sawmill shavings, or even sawdust and resin together. To make the end product water resistant, fireproof, and/or insect-proof chemicals are used including wax, dyes, wetting agents, and release agents. After the resin, chemicals, and wood scraps have been mixed together, the liquid mixture is made into a sheet. The weight of the wood chips is evenly distributed to make sure the finished board is not top heavy. Compression is applied to the particle board sheet multiple times to create the tightest possible bond between the resin and the wood bits. A popular type of particle board that you may see is **oriented strand board (OSB)**. This wood composite is very important to home and commercial engineers for structural purposes. Oriented strand board is easily identifiable by its manufacturing process that layers strands of wood in specific orientations. Most home and commercial builders use OSB particle board for floor and wall bases.

OSB, oriented strand board, is an engineered wood particle board that is formed by adding adhesives and then compressing the wood flakes together.

<u>Advantages</u>

- Low Cost
- Light-Weight
- Perfect for Ready-Made Furniture

<u>Disadvantages</u>

- Low Strength - Cannot Support heavy loads

	OSB	MDF	Plywood
Elements	Rectangular shaped wood strands layered in specific orientation and combined together with wax and resin adhesive.	Wood fibers got by breaking down hardwood and softwood residuals are combined using wax and resin and heat pressed.	Thin sheets of veneer are glued together.
Construction	Outer layers are aligned parallel to the strength axis of the panel and inner layers are aligned perpendicular to the axis.	Uniform, smooth and free of knots and grain patterns.	Odd number of layers with grains of adjacent layers at right angles to each other. Face veneers are higher grade than the core veneers.
Uses	Roofs, Walls, Subflooring	Cabinet construction, crafts, Moldings/trim work, shelving and bookshelf siding.	Roofs, Walls, Subfloors, Boxes, Packages, Sports equipment, Musical equipment, Playground equipment, High-end loud speakers.

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Fighting Glycapis Brimblecombie

vention on control measures and sensitization is required. A concept note has been drafted by National Forestry Resources Research Institute (NaFORRI) which is in contact with Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute of South Africa (FABI) and intends to introduce the parasitoid P.bliteus to control the pest in Uganda. The Concept Note has been submitted to FAO/SPGS III project for possible funding to facilitate management of the pest.

Trees beginning to dry up

Yellowing of the trees

Information sharing and updates

Meanwhile for the purposes of information sharing, pest alerts were sent out to all tree planters, prospective and environmental related policy makers / ministries among others.

NaFORRI will lead this research and collaborate with the following institutions; UTGA, FAO/SPGS, NFA, Makerere University College of Environmental Sciences at national level; Forestry and Biotechnology Institute of South Africa (FABI) for biological control agents and Forestry Invasive Species Network for Africa (FISNA) which is a network that coordinates the collection and dissemination of information relating to forest invasive species in sub-Saharan Africa for sustainable forest management and conservation of biodiversity at regional level.

However; this is to inform all commercial tree growers that even-though Contact and Systematic chemicals are available on the market but wide spraying is dangerous, not economically and ecologically sustainable. Its use could be limited to nurseries and seed orchards upon the pest observation and only in the right dosage. It is only biological control intervention which seems to be the most appropriate control option as it is self-sustaining. Therefore; upon receiving the required financial resources, the importation of the Biological control agents will be immediately done, reared and released within the 8 weeks' time and thereafter monitor the progress.

It should also be noted that before and after the release of the Biological control agent, there shall be at least two sensitization meetings about the use of chemicals in areas where biological control agents would have been released to caution members not to spray otherwise they will also kill the biological control agents.

UTGA Secretariat therefore calls upon all members to remain calm and continue informing the concerned parties about the happenings as we lay strategies to solve this over pressing issue.

NOTICE

TOOLS FOR SALE

Diameter tapes - 2mtrs at UGX40,000/piece

Calipers - 46cm at UGX 180,000/piece

Bahco pruning saws – high pruning at UGX 104,000/ piece

Lasher pruning saws at UGX 50,000/piece

N.B Prices apply for UTGA Members only

SEED ORDERS FOR 1ST PLANTING SEASON 2017

Members interested in purchasing Eucalyptus seed from South Africa and Pine seed *(Pinus Caribea)* from Australia and Brazil for the 1st Planting Season of 2017, to send their orders to UTGA to allow for timely preparations.

UTGA PAID FOR FORESTRY SERVICES

UTGA Office offers the services below for Members at subsidized rates

- Forest Plantation valuation
- Technical onsite trainings and advise
- GIS Mapping
- Forest Management Plans and guidance on how to draw them
- Forest Inventory

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**

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FOREST ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTAINANCE FOR EUCALYPTUS SPP FOR FOUR YEARS

ESTABLISHMENT

Year of trees	Activity	Variation of Months	Cost Ugx(ha)	Remarks
Year 1	Site manager	All seasons	500,000 per month	Per month. Supervising the day to day activities on the plantation to ensure quality of work and standard is achieved
	GPS survey and Compartmentation	In the beginning	50,000	Using a GPS to produce a clear site map
	Bush clearing	Dec -Jan	300,000	Cutting &piling
	Seedling booking	Jan -Feb		You are required to deposit a certain amount of money
	Land Preparation	Jan-Feb	200,000	Cutting trees & burning
	Lining out and pitting	Mar -Apr	170,000	Proper specimen
	Pre-plant Spray	Mar-Apr	250,000	Equipment, water and Chemicals inclusive(non- selective) this helps to suppress weeds for a longer period
	Pre –plant termite control	Mar-Apr		
	Planting	Mar-Apr	150,000	According to SPGS and NFA standards
	Patrol men	All seasons	250,000per month	To keep the plantation safe from fire outbreak & vermin
	Survival Count	Apr-May	10,000	Stock checking to ensure that the stocking is okay
	Beating up	Apr-May	150,000	Replace seedlings that died in order to achieve the desired stock

MAINTANANCE

Spot weeding	May -June	120,000	Create a clean spot of 1 metre radius from the tree to avoid competition for nutrients and light between trees and weeds.
Slashing	Jun -July	150,000	To reduce competition of weeds and trees for nutrients and light
Post -plant spray	Jun -July	270,000	Chemical weeding
Post -plant termite control	Jun -July		

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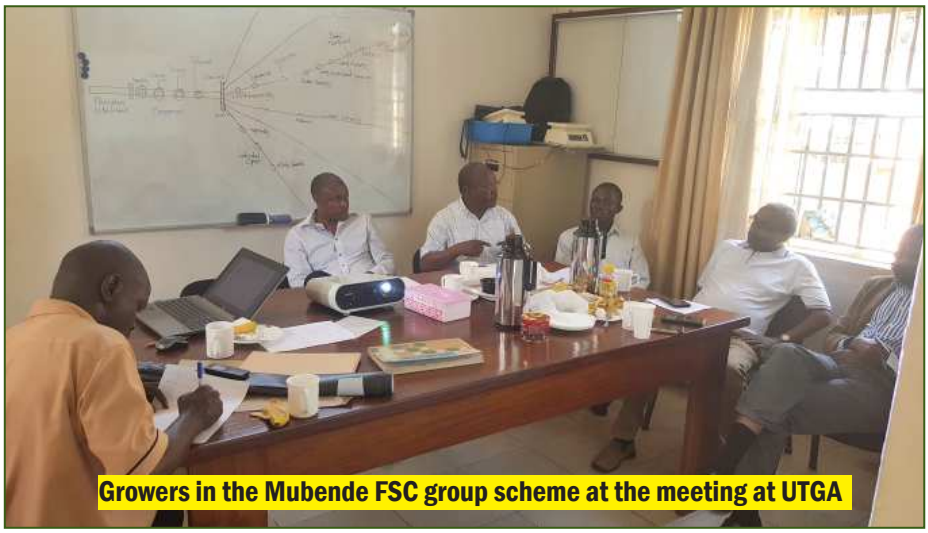
Mubende FSC Certification Pilot Growers Meet



Growers in the Mubende FSC group scheme at the meeting at UTGA

the group managers of FSC in Uganda, presented the areas which were not well attended to by the planters versus the required standards by the ten principles of FSC. These called for Corrective Action Requests (CARs). A summary of CARs were raised and analyzed for each individual member's plantation. Some of the CARs were failure to properly manage the communities that are adjacent to the plantations, poor management of waste, lack of protective gear to workers and absence of records in respect of management of the plantations as per their submitted forestry Management Plans (FMPs).

The measures suggested to correct the mistakes were pointed out to them by UTGA so that all of them may move at the same pace as we move towards getting an FSC certificate. All the members appreciated the work done and the strategic importance of FSC in commercial forestry management.

Dr Bahigwa and Mr Ponsiano Besesa received maps from UTGA which detail their plantation establishment. It was agreed amongst all members to continuously improve their investment by working against an FSC work sheet which was designed by UTGA. This will ensure that all of them follow similar standards in managing the business.

It was agreed that mock-audits will be carried out under the supervision of UTGA as they get ready for the international FSC audit. UTGA will continue to give support to the growers till they get the FSC certificate. That is targeted for 2017.

UTGA as the group managers are fully available to support the members in the pilot until an FSC certificate is received. It is expected that as we move, other growers will want to join this UTGA FSC group scheme for the small and medium scale growers. It is also expected that certification will add value to future market requirements as the group certificate will be proof of responsible management.

Press Digest

Degradation threatens water scheme

Residents of Manafwa district have been cautioned to desist from the degradation of Mt. Elgon slopes and water catchment areas, for it is likely to lead to disaster. The State Minister for Environment, Dr. Mary Goretti Kitutu, appealed to the local leadership to engage communities so that they can appreciate the benefits of wetlands. "If people want to have cheaper and affordable water, then they should protect water catchment sources to reduce the cost of treatment," Kitutu said... the main challenge affecting the scheme is the degradation of the mountain slopes which has made it difficult to maintain water quality in terms of treatment.

Climate change a big threat to food security

One of the biggest issues related to climate change is food security. The world's poorest many of whom are farmers, fishers and pastoralists, are hit hardest by higher temperatures and increasing infrequency in weather related disasters. "Uganda is experiencing signs of climate change, increasing temperatures and un reliable rainfalls. It's expected to increase the frequency and intensity of droughts, floods, and landslides which will significantly impact on livelihoods of those who largely depend on agriculture and natural resources. FAO have said this year's World Food Day is devoted to analyzing how food and agriculture should evolve in order to face the impacts of climate change.

Manual Skidding a real challenge

Lessons from a grower doing 2nd thinning of 40ha of Pine in Nakaseke district

Extraction of wood using a sulky

Thinning as a silvicultural practice must be carried out by commercial tree growers because of its advantages like allowing space for proper tree growth. UTGA has been negotiating for a market for Members' thinning. Hence it is required that growers mark, thin and skid the logs to roadside to allow for convenient loading. However, there are presently challenges which planters do face in the process. Some of these are;

Shortage of manpower

Many people in the area are cattle keepers. They are not interested in providing manual labour which they consider cumbersome. Therefore labour is imported from distant districts like Rukungiri. The cost incurred starts with advance payment for their transport and money to leave with their family. Payments are effected without knowing the efficiency, commitment or productivity of this imported labour.

High costs

Owing to the high demand yet low supply of labour, the cost gets high. Skidding a tree from the forest for a distance of 100meters to a collection center costs UGX 1,200 on average. The cost of skidding two (200) trees at second thinning costs 240,000 per ha. The cost of skidding trees from 40 ha works out to shs 9,600,000(1,200*200*40).The cost is higher than an average of ushs 8,000,000 charged for felling, cross cutting and debranching 200 trees per ha.

There are additional costs involved including feeding, PPE, health & safety. Some of the labourers take alcohol during the time for work Others propel their social lives which compromises their productivity. Once paid for previous work done means a mini holiday for feasting till their last penny is spent with several days away from work, a reduction of supply of already limited labour. Such spikes in displine at work, prolongs work schedules at the plantation, increases costs and breeds inefficiencies. These gaps in productivity due to lags in forest operations lead to net losses to the farmer as a result of the moisture lost when the wood is left longer on the forest floor.

UTGA has negotiated for an industrial market for logs paid per ton and so the faster the logs are ferried to the market after harvesting the higher the price. Any delays in the forest will lead to loss of moisture and weight. That aggravates the net loss of value. Security for the trees that have been cut and left in the forest is very critical but also an extra cost. There have been reports of connivance with the forest labourers which has sometimes led to theft of trees and logs. It is even more challenging in cases where the planter does not stay at the plantation to personally supervise and oversee the operations.

Way forward

The above experience must be reversed to ensure that returns from the sold wood are realised by the grower. In the case of thinning, the grower should get some revenue that at least is able to cover their thinning and operational costs. UTGA would like to recommend

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Manual Skidding a real challenge

to its members as follows;

- Advance planning for all activities in commercial forestry management including thinning so that the implementation of all necessary operations is in place before work commences. This should include supply of labour.
- There is need to train labourers for skidding and loading logs onto trucks.
- Development of harvesting contractors in each cluster to supply all labour required for carrying out all operations is of utmost importance.
- UTGA will continue to negotiate for industrial markets for Members wood and to keep them informed about market prices.
- There is a necessity to employ skilled managers at the plantations to enhance supervision of all operations in order for members to realize returns.
- There is need to begin planning for mechanization of operations.

Conclusion.

Nakaseke district like other areas faces a challenge of availability of labour for skidding operations in the plantations. Presently, the available work force is highly ineffective and costly. The working culture is wanting, yet work should go on. Thinning must not be hindered by these challenges. Workable solutions on a case by case basis have to be sought to support growers. The good news is that it is possible to recover the cost of thinning from sales and some little return on investment can be realized.

Prices of wood/Timber /Poles around markets in Kampala

We will regularly provide a summary of prices for timber/wood/poles around Kampala to help Members do market trend analysis

Market	Type of wood	Specification	Price
Ntinda	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*2*14	10,000
Ntinda	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	6*2*14	15,000
Ntinda	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*3*14	15,000
Ntinda	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	3*2*14	7,500
Ntinda	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*2*10	5,500
Ntinda	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*3*10	7,500
Ntinda	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	6*2*10	7,500
Ntinda	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	3*2*10	4,000
Ntinda	Eucalyptus-Hand cut	4*2*12	7,500
Ntinda	Eucalyptus-Hand cut	4*3*12	11,000
Ntinda	Eucalyptus-Hand cut	3*2*12	6,000
Ntinda	Eucalyptus-Hand cut	6*2*12	11,000
Ntinda	Pine-Machine cut	4*2*14	10,000
Ntinda	Pine-Machine cut	4*3*14	16,000
Ntinda	Pine-Machine cut	3*2*14	8,000
Ntinda	Pine –Machine cut	6*2*14	16,000
Ntinda	Face- Board	9*1*14	25,000
Ntinda	Eucalyptus building poles	22 Feet	2,800
Namanve Park	Pine-Machine cut	4*2*14	14,000
Namanve Park	Pine-Machine cut	6*2*14	18,000
Namanve Park	Pine-Machine cut	3*2*14	9,000
Namanve Park	Pine-Machine cut	4*2*12	11,000
Namanve Park	Pine-Machine cut	6*2*12	13,000
Namanve Park	Pine-Machine cut	3*2*12	9,000
Namanve Park	Face Board	9*1*14	28,500
Namanve Park	Eucs-Machine cut	4*2*14	10,000
Namanve Park	Eucs-Machine cut	6*2*14	14,000
Namanve Park	Eucs-Machine cut	4*2*12	8,000

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Engineered Wood

- Not as Eco-Friendly as Wood Furniture
- Expands or Discolors Due to Moisture

MDF

Medium density fiberboard (MDF), is an engineered wood product that is created by the breaking down of wood residuals into fibers and then combining it with wax and resin to form panels. Both softwood and hardwood are used to manufacture MDF. Generally denser than plywood, this composition creates a stronger material for building.

Advantages

- Low Cost
- Very Smooth, No Splinters
- Easy to Paint
- Easy Cutting
- Denser and Stronger than Particle Board
- Composed of Small Wood Fibers So there is No Wood Grain

Disadvantages

- MDF is Dense, Making it Heavy
- Cannot Be Stained
- Can Dull Blades Quickly

Plywood

Plywood is a sheet of manufactured material that is formed from thin layers of wood veneer tDifficult to Cut

Difference Between OSB board, MDF board and Plywood

The differences among OSB board, MDF board and Plywood are shown in the comparison table within this article.

Although some people assume that OSB, MDF and plywood are the same thing, they are different in their construction, uses and strength. They are all engineered woods that are used in construction projects but they are not interchangeable. Contractors and carpenters are able to guide in deciding which boards would be best for the project one may have in mind.

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Namanve Park	Eucs-Machine cut	6*2*12	11,000
Namanve Park	Eucs-Machine cut	4*2*10	6,500
Namanve Park	Eucs-Machine cut	6*2*10	12,500
Bwaise	Eucalyptus –Machine cut	4*2*13	6,500
Bwaise	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	3*2*13	4,500
Bwaise	Eucalyptus –Machine cut	6*2*13	9,000
Bwaise	Eucalyptus –Machine cut	4*3*13	9,000
Bwaise	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*2*10	4,000
Bwaise	Eucalyptus –Machine cut	3*2*10	3,000
Bwaise	Eucalyptus –Machine cut	6*2*10	6,000
Bwaise	Eucalyptus-Machine cut	4*3*10	6,000
Bwaise	Pine-Machine cut	4*2*14	7,000
Bwaise	Pine-Machine cut	4*3*14	10,000
Bwaise	Pine-Machine cut	6*2*14	10,000
Bwaise	Pine-Machine cut	3*2*14	5,000
Bwaise	Pine-Face board	9*1*14	20,000
Bwaise	Pine –Face Board	8*1*14	17,000

Additional notes

Wood is generally cheaper in Bwaise compared to other wood markets in Kampala.

An FVR full truck of Eucalyptus logs costs 2,200,000 delivered in Kampala.

An FVR Truck of Pine wood cost 1,300,000 delivered in Kampala.

Prices of wood are likely to go up as we enter the oncoming rainy season.

Eucalyptus poles for scaffolding especially from first thinning costs UGX3,000 on average.

A word from NAFORRI

Converting wood waste into alternative products for additional income generation and sustainable utilisation of tree resources in Uganda

By Peter Kiwuso

In the course of harvesting and processing wood into wood products, large quantities of wood residues such as saw dust and short and small dimensional pieces of wood are generated as wastes. In many cases these are left at the sites because of transport costs and become environmental hazards and poor aesthetics.

In other cases they are burnt in the vicinity of the wood factories emitting dangerous gases into the atmosphere.

Underutilisation of wood waste is mainly attributed to inadequate awareness on wood waste products, their conversion technologies as well as markets.

The resultant effect of not utilising wood wastes has contributed to over exploitation of forestry resources as people have to keep on going back to the forests for products that could even have been got from waste wood.

The heavy reliance on the standard timber sizes and length, leaving out short and small dimensional timber pieces, has led to frequent cutting of tree resources contributing to the current degradation of Uganda's forests. However, there are technologies that can utilise wood waste for production of valuable products.

NaFORRI under Competitive Grant Scheme is implementing a project "Converting wood waste into alternative products for additional income generation and sustainable use of tree resources in Uganda". Specific objectives of the project include:

1) To convert wood wastes into assorted high value products;
2) To develop platforms for demonstrating wood waste conversion technologies; and
3) To establish a production and training centre for wood waste utilisation at NaFORRI.

This project will employ existing technologies to convert wood wastes into assorted commercial wood products.

Recommendations

Recommendations from this project could result into sustainable utilisation of tree resource. We shall always keep you updated on the project progress.

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Engineered Wood

It really comes down to what you are building and the conditions the material will be used in. When building cabinets one can use any three of these wood composites. Most people will go with plywood for the cabinet frame because it holds screws well and takes paint and stain well.

The plywood's multiple wood layers make the cabinets lightweight, yet strong and durable. But on the other hand, a shelving unit could be built with MDF to save money.

Conclusion

As seen from the preceeding, one can use any type of manufactured wood for many projects, but keep weight, material strength, clean cutting, and possible water damage in mind.

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, and news.

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