

he new National Timber Standard (NTS) for Uganda provide optimism for the wood value chain actors in Uganda. It is expected that the standards, once in operation, will go a long away in ensuring quality control, formalization of timber trade, and timber exports to better markets across borders.

However, the standard will need to be first understood and embraced by the various stakeholders along the wood value chain, for them to have the desired impact. This requires awareness at different levels as the NTS will help in the streamlining and strengthening of legal timber trade to make it more inclusive,

formal and orderly to enhance profitability for producers. It also requires further sensitization of stakeholders including government, civil society and private sector to understand their roles, responsibilities and benefits that accrue. Against this backdrop, Uganda Timber Growers' Association (UTGA) has commenced the process of making the standards better understood by its members and others and how they can use the same standards to their advantage in enhancing timber exports. A study was done by Dr Paul Mugabi as a first step in this process and he will make a presentation and take comments during the review session.

