

# UTGA NEWS

11<sup>th</sup> July 2014

No.27

## PINE SEED ON SALE

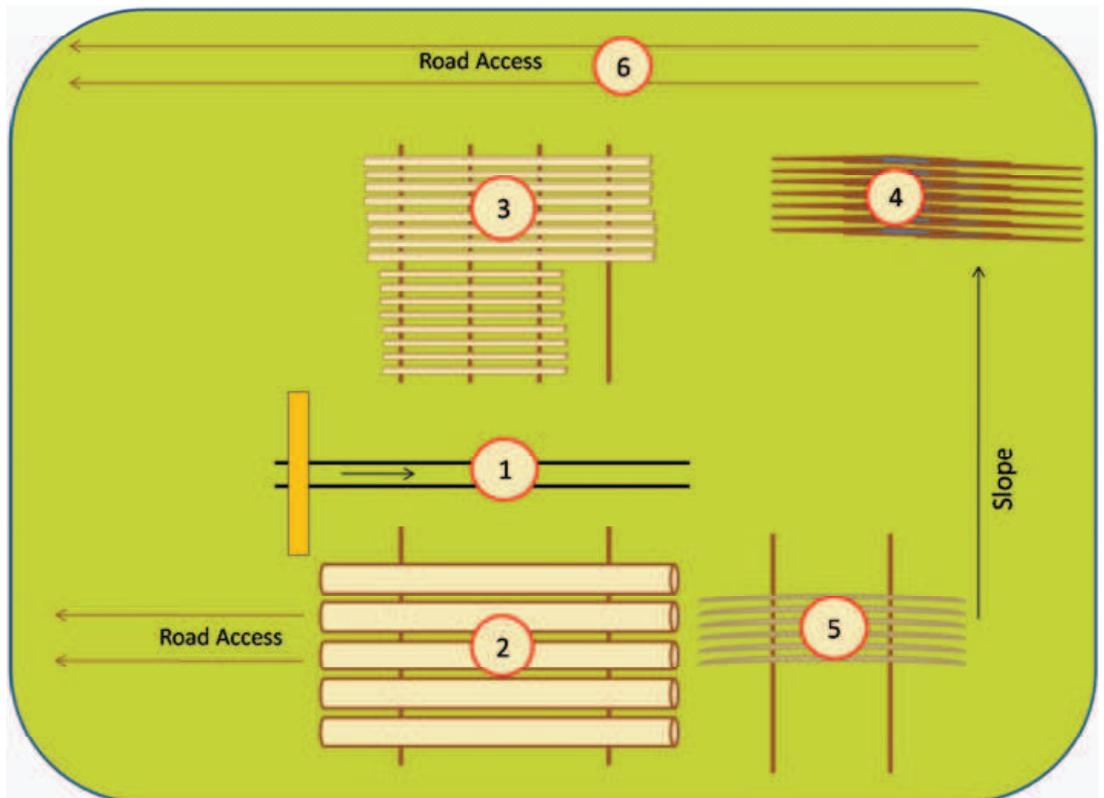
UTGA has high quality F2 Pine seed from Brazil in stock. For those who are interested, please contact the UTGA Secretariat.

Price: UGX 2,200,000

# PLANNING & LOCATING A PORTABLE SAWMILL

A number of UTGA Members have begun to or are planning to engage in processing their 2<sup>nd</sup> thinnings, which is a silvicultural treatment but can also be a commercial operation. A number of Members have purchased mobile sawmills and some have rented from those that had purchased earlier. For the sawmill operation to be

profitable, it must be efficient. A portable or mobile mill must be well planned and organised to ensure efficient and smooth flowing operations. This is especially important if the sawmill is stationary for an extended period of time. A well planned layout of the mill will improve profitability and minimise losses incurred



through double work and wasted resources.

There are seven components of the sawmilling operation, all of which are equally important. These are:

### 1. The Portable Mill

The mill must be centred on a level site allowing all components sufficient space.

### 2. The Log deck

The log deck is arranged perpendicular to the saw and is made from beams or debarked logs that are smooth and without branches in order to facilitate smooth rolling of logs for loading of the mill. The log deck is to be located on the uphill side of

It will soon be the dry season that for many timber growers is the 2nd fire season of the year. The fire season is a nightmare for tree Growers worldwide. It is a time during which commercial foresters are on the look out for any sign of smoke or fire which is the number one enemy of forest plantations. UTGA has been in contact with the Uganda Police on the need to work together on the issues of fighting forest fires.

### Water Source

It is important for plantations to have a water source that supplies water that can be used by the police fire trucks to fight and put out fires. Depending on the size and scale of the forest fire, it might be necessary for the fire truck to refill and so the nearer the source of water, the quicker the fire fighting, and lesser damage to the plantation.

## Advisory from the Uganda Police On Forest Fires



A poorly maintained forest road

### Accessibility

Access to the forest plantation is critical because in case of a forest fire, it allows unimpeded mobility of fire fighters and fire fighting trucks. It also enables the trucks to move in and out of the plantation especially for refilling them with water. UTGA urges its Growers to plan for and establish forest roads within their plantations and to make them as motorable

### Importance of roads in plantations

Roads are important to both young and mature plantations in the following ways;

- Easy link to the market, example after harvesting the mature trees, buyers might be interested to buy timber straight from the plantations;
- Transportation of seedlings from the mother gardens in various areas is made possible
- Saves time when loading and off loading timber because no time is wasted on creating road or trades for trucks to pass;
- Help in cross cultural communication. Example some plantations are located in remote areas so roads help investors to carry out their work easily;
- Ease transportation of timber from the plantation to the main road.

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the machine to facilitate easier loading. This deck must be well loaded with logs at all times to ensure a minimal time between loading of logs onto the saw bench. The log deck reduces down time for log loading and keeps logs off the ground to reduce soil/mud on the logs. It also facilitates log cross cutting and sizing of logs.

### 3. The product deck

The product deck is aimed at keeping product off the ground and on a level surface, it also serves to maintain sawn timber quality and improves the drying of the stock. The deck is to be solid and made from level beams. Sawn wood is separated by size and stored well spaced to aid efficient



The use of a mobile sawmill at Ponsiano Besesa's plantation

drying.

### 4. The waste deck

The waste area or deck is to be

well away from the saw and final products. The aim is to keep the waste tidy, which will improve efficiency of space

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There is continuous demand from UTGA Members to be introduced to tools that are both effective and efficient for a given task, while achieving high quality standards. Forest workers want tools that will enable them to complete jobs with as little effort as possible and that are dependable and safe to use.

The chainsaw is an appropriate machine that will be promoted in Uganda's commercial forestry sector. It is an important forest tool that may be used in thinning and harvesting operations. The chainsaw is a highly engineered machine with a high torque engine and a high power to weight ratio. It is designed for forest work such as felling, delimiting and cross-cutting. It is generally accepted that chainsaws combine high performance, effectiveness, efficiency and labour-saving solutions.

Although a chainsaw is an important tool in forestry, it can be ineffective, inefficient and dangerous if the wrong model of machine is used. Oversized machines tend to consume more fuel and lubricants and demand more effort from operators during use and transport. Thus, operators will carry out less work and suffer from extreme fatigue with an oversized machine. Therefore investors must select the right chainsaw model and cutter bar size for thinning and harvesting commercial plantations.

Through close co-operation with professional users all over the world, Husqvarna has developed a new chainsaw to meet the tough demands on quality, operational safety and user-friendliness. The new Husqvarna 562XP is a reliable all-round performer. Below is a comparison of the new Husqvarna 562XP and a Husqvarna 372XP.

## UTGA Members Test Chainsaws for Thinning & Harvesting



Walter Mapanda gives away a chainsaw to Otim of Global Woods

An outcome of the first Forest Fair organised by UTGA and SPGS in Uganda was that Husqvarna South Africa decided to avail two of its latest chainsaw models (Husqvarna 562 XP) for testing in Uganda's forest plantations. One was given to Global Woods and the other to New Forest Company for trials.

The Husqvarna 562XP is user friendly providing the very best in chainsaw ergonomics and safety. From the outside, it resembles any other chain saw but at a closer look, it has lots of new improvements. It has rapid acceleration and a high power output over a wide range of revolutions per minute (rpm) for felling and cross cutting. In addition, it is ideal for removing light to heavy branches. The 562XP is a classic chainsaw for commercial and professional chainsaw opera-

tions, equipped with ground-breaking design and innovative solutions for an efficient and convenient operation. The slim body combined with a high center of gravity and flat underside makes the saw easy to use. It is also available in a compact, low weight (5.7 kg) format.

The magnesium crankcase and clutch-cover help reduce weight and increase durability. The side-mounted chain-tensioner facilitates fast and easy tensioning. An air injection system cleans intake air and ensures longer intervals between filter changes. The Husqvarna 562 XP is equipped with an inertia-triggered chain brake as well as an excellent low vibration system. On the fuel delivery side, the carburettor is self-adjusting, which removes the problems associated with carburettor adjustments by unqualified people. The chainsaw has approximately 20% less fuel consumption and 60% less exhaust emissions. The silencer on the Husqvarna 562 XP is extra-large to reduce the operating noise levels. The Husqvarna 562 XP makes it possible for the chainsaw operator to use less energy on getting the job done in a safe manner and not protecting oneself and carrying extra weight. The 562XP is on the cutting edge of technology for chainsaws that are reliable with very low vibration levels, high power, low weight and easy care and maintenance.

### A comparison of Technical Data

Technical data	562XP	372XP
Engine Power (kW/rpm)	9600	9600
Fuel tank capacity (L.)	0.65	0.77
Oil tank capacity (L.)	0.35	0.42
Saw without bar, chain and empty tank (kg)	5.7	6.1
Sound level [dB(A)]	106	103
Vibration levels at front handle (m/s <sup>2</sup> )	2.7	3.5
Vibration levels at rear handle (m/s <sup>2</sup> )	3.2	4.0
Recommended bar length (inch/cm)	15"/38	15"/38

# UTGA PHASE II and the BRIDGING PERIOD

In May 2014, UTGA was evaluated by an external Consultant from Finland Thomas Selanniemi together with a local Forest Consultant Steve Nsita. The main conclusions (C) and recommendations (R) are as follows:

C-1: The organization is up and running, albeit with some difficulties, especially in terms of generating own revenues. Informed partnerships between UTGA and other players in the sector are just being explored. The strategic direction charted out in its organizational development plan provides a foundation on which to build UTGA further.

C-2 The levels of performance were set too high in the given project time frame. In addition, the project design did not prepare UTGA early enough (by recruiting a sufficient number of staff) to optimize on the benefits from the numerous short-term TA inputs.

R-1 Phase II of the project is highly relevant and

preparations are to be completed as soon as possible. To avoid a gap between Phase I and Phase II it is recommended that funds should be allocated from RNE to allow for a Bridging Period.

R-2 The present Programme Application Document requires review and improvements. Utilize the preparation process to secure involvement and ownership of the UTGA Board and Members. Restructure the PAD and include any information that at the moment is missing.

R-3 Improve project design elements into components and result areas and re-structure the Log Frame accordingly. Revisit the outcomes from each component to ensure that they are realistic and achievable during the 4-year Phase II period.

R-4 Attach an up-dated UTGA business plan to the PAD to clearly show risk management when it comes to the financial sustainability of UTGA.



CTA and consultant discuss with Richard Bakoja



Thomas talks to a UTGA Member Seith



Thomas and Warren talk to Sylvia Ayebele the Manager of Ferdsult Engineering

R-5 The proposed UTGA-Phase II Programme and the SPGS-Phase III Project are complementary. Design project management mechanisms to ensure cooperation, information sharing and coordination in implementation between the two programmes. UTGA has already launched a team of Consultants to make revisions to the original application and the conclusions and recommendations are being addressed by both the Secretariat and Board. By mid-August, a draft PAD and Business Plan will be made available to the Board for an opinion and it is anticipated that by the end of August the documents together with a revised Budget will be presented to the Royal Norwegian Embassy for adjudication and approval.

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utilisation and facilitate easy loading when removing waste. In some cases the waste can be burned. Keeping it well away from the final product reduces the risk of fire damage. Using a deck system simplifies waste management.

## 5. The side board deck

Side boards contain significant timber and in many cases can be re-sawn. The sideboards with potential recovery timber are to be well stacked in a place where they can be easily reloaded for resawing. These side boards can be resawn when there is a break in log supply from the forest.

## 6. Road access

Road access facilitates efficient loading and offloading of logs and produce. Most loading activities are manual. In order to maintain efficient operations, road access to the delivery/collection points must be short in order to minimise time for these activities. It is economical to maintain these access roads in a good condition to ensure permanent, all weather access to sites.

## Slope

It is of value to consider the slope as moving material

downhill is often easier than uphill and can significantly impact on operations. The slope must be slight to moderate.

## Space

Sufficient space is required to maintain functionality of the site with suitable area allocated to each of the components discussed above. It is recommended that a plot with a minimum of 50m by 50m is allocated to the sawmill site, with the ability to expand depending on the scale of operations.

## Safety

Sufficient space is also critical to have sufficient working space for labourers. Keeping the site clean will facilitate safe working and moving of materials around the site. Prevention and preparedness for fire must be considered. Having suitable sand and water available to combat fire mitigates the risks of potential damage and injury. Storage of fuel, equipment and chemicals must be removed from the immediate operation area for safety and control purposes.

*For more personalised support and advice, members are urged to contact 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.

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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](mailto:dennisk@utga.ug).

## Forestry News

### Forest and Landscape Restoration

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in partnership with the Government of Uganda are partnering to undertake a Restoration Opportunity Assessment for forest and landscape restoration that contributes to multiple sustainable development objectives. In order to kick-start this process, a stakeholders workshop was organized targeting key stakeholders in the Environment and Natural Resources sector in Uganda. UTGA was part of the stakeholders invited on 6th June 2014 to participate in the workshop to facilitate planning and initial consultations for the assessment process, and how this will inform the restoration process for Uganda.

### TEAK SEED ON SALE

UTGA has high quality teak seed in stock. For those who are interested, please contact the UTGA Secretariat.

**Price: UGX 60,000 per kg**

### ADVERTISING RATES FOR UTGA NEWS

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Front page strip	60,000/=
Quarter page	100,000/=
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Contact: Uganda Timber Growers Association (UTGA)  
P.O.Box 75063 Kampala.  
Tel: 256-785-343564  
Email: [info@utga.ug](mailto:info@utga.ug)  
Website: [www.utga.ug](http://www.utga.ug)

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