

*This guideline explains what the Sawlog Production Grant Scheme is all about, how it works and the requirements for applying to the Scheme.*

*Further information can be obtained from the SPGS office or from the project's web-site – [www.sawlog.ug](http://www.sawlog.ug) See back page for details.*





*The excellent 2004 pine (Australian PCH) planting (1.5-yr old) at Global Woods Ltd., planting at Kikonda Forest Reserve, near Hoima. Global Woods won the coveted title of SPGS Planter of 2006 and planted 500 ha under the 1st phase of the SPGS (2003-06).*

### **1. What is the Sawlog Production Grant Scheme (SPGS)?**

The SPGS is a project supported by the European Union aimed at attracting the private sector to establish commercial timber plantations in Uganda. The SPGS provides grants and technical advice to private sector investors in timber crops.

### **2. How does the SPGS work?**

The planting subsidy is available as a non-refundable grant. There are, however, certain standards that have to be met before the money is disbursed and this will be verified by site inspections from one of the SPGS team. Technical advice is an important part of the SPGS, which runs practical training courses and publishes detailed plantation guidelines and a regular newsletter to assist growers at all levels of experience.

### **3. What has the SPGS achieved?**

In the first phase of the project (2003-2006), the SPGS has triggered a major interest in commercial tree planting in Uganda, with around 5,000 hectares (ha) established to the required standards by 38 contracted private sector 'clients', which included community planting associations to large scale investors in commercial forestry. The target for the current phase of the SPGS (2006-2008) is an additional 5,000ha of timber plantations established by around 70 contracted clients. Since the project's inception (2003), the quality of the plantations has dramatically increased due largely to the SPGS's enforcement of standards prior to payment, but also as growers have become more aware of the important silvicultural and management issues and the effect they have on their investment.

### **4. Why invest in tree plantations in Uganda?**

There are a number of good reasons why commercial tree plantations are a serious investment in Uganda - the main ones being<sup>1</sup> :

- There is a large shortfall of timber predicted in Uganda in the near future.
- There are excellent regional markets for timber and wood-based products.
- Attractive rates of return on ones' investment can be achieved provided the operation is planned and managed well.
- Conditions for tree growth are generally excellent over much of Uganda.
- There is plentiful land for tree plantations – both privately owned and in Central Forest Reserves that can be leased from the National Forestry Authority (NFA).

<sup>1</sup> See SPGS Plantation Guideline No. 1 - Investing in Commercial Tree Plantations in Uganda - for more details.

## 5. Where can I get more information on the investment aspect of commercial plantations?

See the following (all available from the SPGS office):

- SPGS Plantation Guideline No. 1 – *Investing in Commercial Tree Plantations in Uganda*.
- Private Sector Plantation Forestry: Improving the Investment Environment for Development in Uganda. LTS study carried out for the SPGS in July 2005.
- *UIA Guidelines on Investing in Forestry in Uganda* are also available on their web-site but are under revision (in conjunction with SPGS) and will be published later in 2007.

NB. All these documents are available free on the SPGS web-site or hard copies for US\$10,000 from the SPGS office.

## 6. What markets should I target?

The principle markets for products from commercial plantations are sawtimber, peeler (veneer) logs and transmission poles. Plantations may also yield (depending on species and market specifications) chip and/or pulp material, building poles and fuelwood. The SPGS only supports plantations grown primarily for sawlogs or large poles.

## 7. So why does commercial tree planting in Uganda need a subsidy?

Establishing good quality timber plantations requires a significant investment – most of which has to be made in the first few years, with the main revenue only coming later on. Because of the long-term nature of growing timber crops (and the inherent risks with any long-term crop), very few financial institutions are willing to fund such an investment. A state subsidy paid in the early years has been very successful in a number of other countries, in attracting private growers to invest in tree growing.

## 8. What does it cost to establish a timber plantation?

We have calculated that the average cost over a range of sites in Uganda is Ushs1.2M per hectare (ca. US\$675). This can vary considerably, however, as planting sites are not uniform. Ushs1.2M, however, takes into account seedling costs, good land preparation and thorough weed control before and after planting. Note that poor planning (especially delayed weeding) will sharply increase establishment costs<sup>2</sup>.



*Paul Jacovelli (SPGS CTA) at one of the practical training courses run by the SPGS aimed at planters' Field Managers and Supervisors.*

## 9. How much funding does the SPGS provide?

The full SPGS payment is Ushs600,000 per hectare (ca. US\$337), which is estimated at 50% of the average establishment costs for commercial tree planting in Uganda. This is a flat rate that applied countrywide so growers have to be aware that in some areas establishment costs may be higher than others. In addition to direct planting grants, the SPGS also subsidizes practical training courses, organizes regular field excursions and has produced a series of practical plantation guidelines which are available free of charge.

## 10. Do I receive the money up-front?

No. Sorry, but for obvious reasons you have to start with your own money and then you will receive the grant in two (with *Eucalyptus*) or three installments (other species) but only after inspection to ensure the agreed standards have been met. The first payment will be made within 6 months of initial planting to encourage clients to continue. The next payments are paid in the second season following planting and the final one in year 2, provided you have continued to manage your plantations as prescribed in the Management Plan and according to the SPGS standards.

<sup>2</sup> Further details are given in SPGS Plantation Guideline No. 4 - Productivity & Costs.

### 11. What are the standards?

The full SPGS Guidelines (available from SPGS office and from [www.sawlog.ug](http://www.sawlog.ug)) have more details but the key standards are as follows: using only improved seed as recommended; land preparation and planting according as agreed in the management plan (with particular attention to environmental and silvicultural issues); achieving a minimum of 80% survival after planting; weeding to an acceptable standard and protecting the crop from grazing animals and fires.

### 12. How do I sign up with the SPGS?

Following consultation with SPGS staff (and a site visit where appropriate), you will be required to prepare a Management Plan, which should outline your proposal and prove that you understand the commitment. The Plan covers operational details as well as environmental and social issues. Once the Plan is approved by SPGS staff – and provided there are funds available for the SPGS to commit itself - a contract is drawn up. All clients enter into contract with the GoU Uganda represented by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Water and Environment (the parent GoU Ministry of the SPGS) and then you can start planting!

### 13. What does the Management Plan entail?

For easy of evaluation, SPGS team developed a

standard management plan outline to guide all applicants. It is available on the SPGS website. In summary it covers:-

- a) *Ownership goals and management objectives: this is the heart of the plan and describes what you want to gain from your investment.*
- b) *Area description: a legal description of your land location and acreage and a map.*
- c) *Maps: help to describe the property and resources and may include topographic maps, soils maps, cover type or stand maps, and aerial photos, if available.*
- d) *Resource inventory data: descriptions of key features e.g. water bodies, wildlife, vegetation, soils, topography and access.*
- e) *Management recommendations: detailed management options and how they relate to ownership goals and objectives.*
- f) *Activity schedule for recommendations: specifies a timeline for management activities as well as the projected costs/resource requirements.*

### 14. Does the SPGS provide support for this planning phase?

This is a preliminary albeit important aspect to the prospective investor. The SPGS will only engage you in discussion, and where possible provide reference of institutions/persons who can be contracted to help you with your management plan.

### 15. How much technical support does the SPGS provide?

A reasonable amount of technical support is available depending on size and location of your plantation. Normally, someone from the SPGS team will visit the proposed planting site with the investor and once contracted under the SPGS, routine site inspections are made at approximately 3-6 month intervals, depending on the size of the plantation development.



*Brenda Mwebaze, Secretary of Kamusiime Association proudly posing amidst their excellent 15 month old pine (PCH from Australia) planting in the hills of Bushenyi. Kamusiime are a group of 22 small landowners who pool their resources and successfully established 100 ha in the SPGS's 1st phase (2003-06).*

One of the experienced Plantation Technical Advisors will normally be present at these visits and a detailed report is given to the planter to encourage improved standards. Further inputs are available (e.g. mapping and management plan work) from the NFA's Technical Services Division.

### **16. Will the SPGS finance plantations for small poles and fuelwood?**

No. The SPGS can only be accessed to fund planting for timber and large poles. With some species (especially eucalypts), however, the thinning operations (which are essential to produce a good timber crop), will yield small poles and fuelwood during the life of the crop.

### **17. What is the minimum and maximum area funded under the SPGS?**

Over a 2-year establishment period, the minimum planting area funded is 25ha, the maximum is 500ha. Whether further contracts could be offered to those who have succeeded with their first one, will depend on the amount of funding the SPGS can attract in the future as well as the performance of other SPGS clients.

### **18. The SPGS only supports rich people doesn't it?**

Not true! The list of clients supported from 2003 to date represents a real cross-section of society – both large and small investors – the vast majority being Ugandans with land holdings from 25-100 ha. The SPGS has also encouraged small landowners to join together to reach the minimum (see point 19) or else to join together and apply for the SPGS community support (see point 20). The SPGS strongly believes that it is healthy to maintain a balance between the large commercial growers and numerous small and medium sized planters. The larger growers are able to invest more in terms of technology and staff development and will be the ones that will set up modern utilization plants as the country's timber crop matures. All the commercial tree growers under the SPGS – big and small - are providing many thousands of rural jobs too.

### **19. Can I join together with other landowners to make the minimum area?**

Certainly – and we actively encourage this, provided the group form a formal Association or Partnership and have one elected representative who will head the group. A living example is Kamusiime Memorial Rural Development Pilot Scheme, a community-based organization in Bushenyi District. It was formed in 1998 by 22 members of whom 14 are women. Kamusiime planted 100ha from 2003-06 under the

SPGS and have a further 50ha contract under the second phase. They have achieved excellent standards of plantation establishment to date.

### **20. If I do not have 25ha, can the SPGS help me?**

The SPGS has a very active programme to support communities who want to plant timber crops but do not have sufficient land to access the SPGS grant. Interested parties are encouraged to group together in a formal Association who can then apply to the SPGS for assistance in the form of free seedlings and on-site technical advice. The SPGS has finite resources, however, and thus prioritises community support to



*Part of the Busoga Forest Company Ltd's management team in front of their 2.5 yr. old pine (PCH from Australia seed) in Bukaleba Forest Reserve, Mayuge. BFC have planted 500 ha under the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the SPGS and are planning to plant another 500 ha under phase 2.*

areas close to where the more commercial planters are based.

### **21. Do I have to be Ugandan to access the SPGS?**

No. So long as you are serious about the venture and have met the criteria laid out in the SPGS contract, it doesn't matter where you are from – Uganda needs timber urgently! Note that only private sector individuals, companies or formal Associations are eligible for the SPGS grant.

### **22. What happens if I do not achieve my planting targets as laid out in my contract?**

Already in the 1st phase of the SPGS's operations, we have had contracted clients who a). didn't plant at



*A PCH demo planting at Oruha Forest Reserve, Kyenjojo: 26 months old, from Australian seed. Margaret Bamukyawa is the representative of very active community planting in Luweero (supported by the SPGS): she was attending a SPGS Plantation Establishment training course in 2005.*

## 26. What conditions are attached to CFR leases?

You have to pay an annual fee to the NFA for the license to plant trees in a CFR: the amount has been calculated in relation to the distance from Kampala and ranges from Ushs22,300 per hectare per year (up to 15kms from any Town Council or City) to Ushs 6,600/ha/yr (over 150kms from Kampala). Further details on the license agreements and the schedule of payments for licenses are available from the NFA.

all; b). didn't reach their planting targets or c). did not reach the agreed standards. In the first case the contracts were cancelled and the funds offered to others. In the case of those who didn't reach their targets or standards, many contracts have been revised to mutually agreeable levels and funds reallocated to other planters. The SPGS funds are thus competitive: clients who do not perform are dropped from the Scheme. Where unforeseen circumstances delay planting (e.g. poor rainfall), this is taken into account but most poor performers are due to either a lack of matching capital (or commitment) from some 'investors' or can be put down to poor planning.

## 23. Can I plant on my own land using SPGS funds?

Yes. Private landowners can access the SPGS provided you can prove to us that you have either the Title Deed to the area to be planted or a letter from the Local Authorities confirming the ownership of the land in question.

## 24. Can I plant in a Central Forest Reserve?

Yes. Many Central Forest Reserves (CFRs) around the country - under the management of NFA - are being made available for private planting. Long-term licenses are being offered in selected CFRs to encourage serious private sector investment in timber plantations. For further details contact the NFA staff in their regional offices or at NFA's HQ in Kampala.

## 25. Is land still available in CFRs?

Yes. NFA periodically runs adverts calling for people to apply for tree planting licenses. Contact the NFA directly for further information.

## 27. Where should I

### locate my plantation?

Plantation location is important for three main reasons:

- The potential of the land to support high yielding tree plantations<sup>3</sup>.
- The distance from the main market(s) - and usually this means Kampala. As plantations are developed around the country, however, sawmills will undoubtedly be developed in the focus areas (i.e. regions where large plantation developments are underway by both NFA and private sector e.g. Nakasongola, West Nile, Mubende, Mbarara, Jinja etc.).
- The size of the potentially plantable land - since this had implications for economies of scale for many operations (e.g. where mechanization could be considered). The costs of protecting small, isolated stands over the whole rotation will also be extremely high.

## 28. What security will I have over my crop in a CFR?

Once you have received the full SPGS payments (no later than 2 years after planting), the crop is yours - whether on private land or in a CFR. Provided you pay your license fee (if in a CFR), the SPGS has no interest in your crop other than hope that you will continue to manage it well and eventually harvest timber from it.

## 29. Will I receive any further support from the SPGS after the first 2 years?

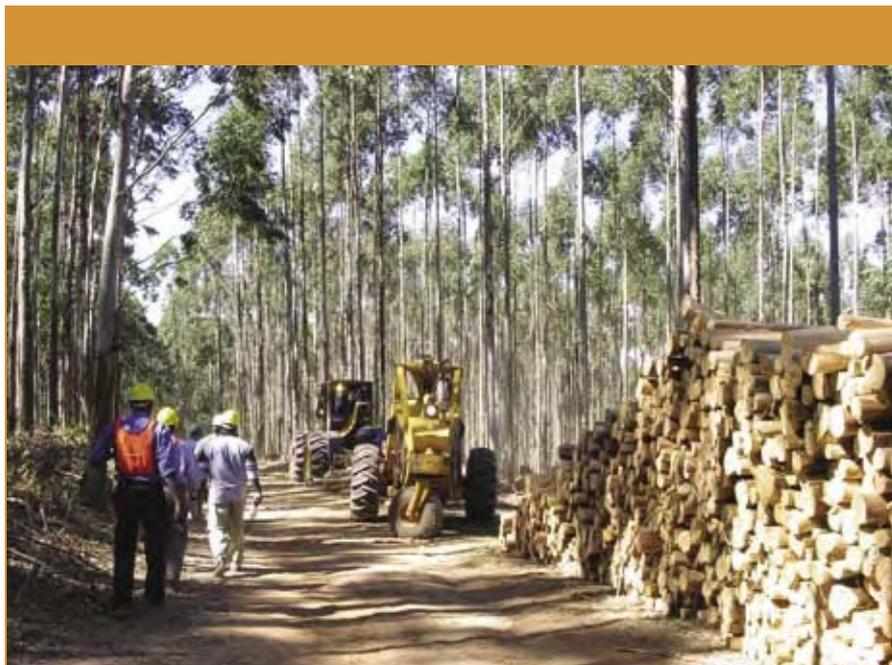
This will depend on the future of the SPGS once the current EU funding finishes in Dec. 2008. It is hoped that the Scheme will continue beyond then to offer

<sup>3</sup> Refer Plantation Guidelines Nos. 5 - Tree Species and 6 - Site-Species Matching.

not only planting grants but also technical advice to private investors. To obtain the best returns on their plantation investment, it will be particularly important for investors to thin and prune their crops at the appropriate time and also to protect them from fires<sup>4</sup>. The current SPGS is also offering a small grant for clients who prune and thin their crops on time (NB. available on first come, first served basis). All SPGS clients - past and present - will also receive regular copies of Guidelines and Newsletters too, to keep everybody informed of any developments.

### 30. What tree species are supported under the SPGS?

The species permitted at present are *Pinus caribaea*, *Pinus patula*, *Cupressus lusitanica*, *Eucalyptus grandis*, *Maesopsis eminii* (Musizi), *Tectona grandis* (Teak) *Terminalia* and *Araucaria* spp<sup>5</sup>. Other species will be considered, however, provided the primary objective is growing timber. The SPGS will also from time to time change their rules on permitted species and seed sources as information becomes available from trials in Uganda or elsewhere. Care must be taken, however, to only seedlings from the SPGS approved seed sources (which for most pines and Eucalypts means imported from seed orchards). Contact the SPGS for advice on species and/or seed before you make a costly mistake.



*An 8-yr. old Eucalyptus grandis crop in Swaziland being thinned to leave the final crop of sawlogs. The SPGS has taken 3 groups of people (mostly private sector) since 2004 to see large scale commercial forestry in Southern Africa.*

### 31. What species can I grow on my land?

This will depend on the locality of your site, the soils and the objectives of your venture. Before you start looking for the species to grow, consult Plantation Guideline No. 5 – *Tree Species for Commercial Timber Production in Uganda* - or ask the SPGS for advice.

Two species account for the bulk of the timber plantations to date – namely, *Pinus caribaea* var. *hondurensis* and *Eucalyptus grandis* (the latter on better sites).

### 32. Does the SPGS support Eucalyptus planting?

Yes.... but only if your objective is to grow timber and/or large poles. Eucalypts (especially *E. grandis*) are

likely to become major timber crops in Uganda since they can produce sawlogs in almost half the time (8-12 years) compared with pines and other species provided they are established and managed well. The final SPGS payment for *Eucalyptus* planting will only be made after you have thinned the plantation, showing that you are growing for timber (NB. this first thinning will normally take place only 2 years after planting, assuming the crop has been well established and using improved seed).

### 33. Do I have to start my own nursery?

Before rushing to start your own nursery, we would strongly recommend that you read SPGS Plantation Guideline No. 7 – *Tree Nurseries: the Key Issues*. This will help you make the decision as to whether it makes sense to establish your own nursery or to purchase your seedlings from one of the growing number of commercial nurseries (both NFA and private ones) around the country.

Wherever your seedlings are coming from though, ensure that you verify the seed source first (see point 34) or you could invalidate your contract.

<sup>4</sup> For further details see *Plantation Guidelines No. 26 – Thinning Plantations to Maximise Sawlog Production; No. 27 – Pruning For High Quality Timber and No. 18 (v.3) – Fire Protection.*

<sup>5</sup> *Pinus oocarpa* was on the original SPGS list but is not now recommended for planting until better seed sources can be identified.

### 34. What seed is recommended?

From the start, the SPGS has insisted that its clients use only certain seed sources – nearly all from improved sources. By improved we mean seed produced from tree breeding programmes, where the parent trees have undergone rigorous selection for superior traits – most notably fast growth, good stem form and resistance to certain pests and diseases. This is why seed from advanced breeding programmes (e.g. Forest Plantations Queensland’s pine work since 1950’s) is so expensive. Many studies have shown, however, that investing in improved seed makes sound business sense. Below is the SPGS’s latest list of approved seed sources: if you want to plant other timber species (or seed origins), obtain approval from the SPGS first.

### 35. Why does Uganda have to import costly seed?

From around the 1960’s, the Ugandan Forest

Department (UFD) initiated a series of trials and introductions of likely timber species throughout the country – this included many tropical pine species. It is now clear that many of these initial introductions (using unselected seed from natural populations) were not from the best provenances (i.e. seed sources). It is also a sad fact that nearly all of these trials and block plantings have now disappeared so that virtually all of the superior individual trees that might have been used for a breeding programme, have long since been turned into planks!

### 36. Are there no plans to raise our own seed here?

The NFA has very few seed stands, and those it has are all thinned from plantations and not otherwise ‘improved’. There is no formal Tree Improvement Programme currently in Uganda. The SPGS initiated discussions at the National Plantation Seminar in mid-

2006 by getting the key players together and this will be pursued in 2007. It will undoubtedly be many years before Uganda can produce its own superior breeding material: in the meantime commercial growers have to rely on imported seed.

Species	Origin	Price (Ushs)	Expected (per kg*)	Notes
PCH	FPQ , Australia	2,000,000	35,000	From clonal seed orchards.
PCH	Brazil	850,000	20,000	Seed production stands.
PCH	South Africa	?	25,000	V. limited availability.
<i>P. oocarpa</i>	Brazil	850,000	25,000	Local POO not recommended.
<i>P. patula</i>	NFA SW Ug.	500,000	35,000	Improved seed from RSA due 2007.
<i>E. grandis</i>	Fort Portal	90,000	150,000	Seed stand. NB. Uncleaned seed.
<i>E. grandis</i>	South Africa	5,500,000	2,000,000	Seed orchard NB. Cleaned seed.
Musizi	Uganda	50,000	400	No improved seed available.
<i>Terminalia spp.</i>	Uganda	50,000	3,000	No improved seed available.
Hoop Pine†	Kifu CFR	n/a	3,000	Unimproved.
Hoop Pine	FPQ, Australia	n/a	3,000	Seed orchard seed due later in 2007.

\* Always check with seed supplier first (from germination tests).

1 Forest Plantations Queensland (formerly Dept. of Primary Industries).

† *Araucaria cunninghamii*.

### 37. Where do I purchase the recommended seed?

From the NFA’s National Tree Seed Centre (NTSC) or import yourself but remember to ensure that wherever it comes from, it complies with the SPGS rules: a Certificate of Origin should always be requested.

To import seed, an Import Permit (from the Ministry of Agriculture) and a Phytosanitary Certificate (from the supplier) will be required. Over the last 3 years, the NTSC (working closely with the SPGS) has imported pine seed (mostly *Pinus caribaea*



The surge of planting in Uganda is creating many rural jobs. The SPGS has been raising awareness of social (and environmental) issues as it looks towards stricter international standards.

var. *hondurensis*) from Australia (Forest Plantations Queensland), South Africa (Mondi) and Brazil (Shuckhar Seeds). *E. grandis* seed has been imported from South Africa (Mondi). Further details are available in SPGS Guideline No. 8 – *Tree Seed for Commercial Plantations in Uganda* or from the SPGS team.

### 38. Can I grow agricultural crops with the trees to reduce establishment costs?

No. This practice known as 'taungya' over the past 20 years or so in Uganda has - almost without exception - failed to produce decent timber plantations largely because the people growing their food crops have no interest in the trees. Thus the SPGS does not allow its planters to use taungya. We allow you to clear land and plant food crops for no more than one year ahead of tree planting but once the trees are planted there must be no crops cultivated. The only exception to this rule is with Musizi (*Maesopsis eminii*) or *Terminalia* spp., when planted at wider spacings (e.g. 4x4m or more); then specific (i.e. low) crops can be grown in the inter-row (but not within 1m either side of the tree seedlings).



Here Bric Milligan (SPGS Technical Advisor) and Allan Amumpe (Project Manager) explain the need for improved weeding to a client in the early days of the SPGS. Regular on-site visits are an important part of the SPGS's success.

### 39. Where can I get more information on tree planting?

The SPGS has become the principle source of information on matters relating to commercial plantations in Uganda. The project has two Technical Advisors with many years experience in the world of commercial plantation forestry and now has a team of five graduate foresters rapidly building up their knowledge base in order to advise planters. The SPGS has published many practical Plantation Guidelines - available free from the SPGS office and on its web-site – [www.sawlog.ug](http://www.sawlog.ug) The project also produces an informative, full-colour Newsletter every two months and this is widely distributed (free of charge).

### 40. Does the SPGS offer any training?

Yes. The SPGS run a series of practical training courses, which are very relevant to private tree growers (priority is always given to SPGS clients and community leaders where the project is supporting tree growing).



*Eucalypts are encouraged under the SPGS and should be attractive to the growers who have better quality land since they mature much quicker than pines. This thinning operation in the 2-yr. old *E. grandis* crop of Ferdult Engineering Services Ltd. in Mukono, has produced a good crop of building poles.*

Courses are run throughout the year and to date have included:

- Plantation Planning & Establishment (4 days).
- Plantation Maintenance (4 days).
- Fire Protection (1-2 days).

Where there is an obvious need (or a request from the public), the SPGS will always consider organizing other courses too. We strongly advise all SPGS clients to either attend themselves or send their staff on these courses as they teach people how to attain the standards expected under the SPGS. SPGS clients are eligible for subsidized places on these courses (normally expert tuition is provided free and the clients pay for accommodation, food and transport to and from the venue).

#### **41. When does the SPGS end?**

The current SPGS is scheduled to end in December 2008. Unfortunately, the EU will not be funding projects directly under the 10th EDF (their funding round from ca.2009 onwards). The success of the SPGS to date however, combined with an enormous demand from potential private planters, is building a powerful case to source other funds to continue the project beyond 2008.

#### **42. And beyond 2008?**

In early 2007, the project team are developing a Concept Note and formulating a strategy to promote the Scheme to likely funding sources. There has already been considerable interest in the project from the Commonwealth Forestry Association, the World Bank, FAO, the South African forest industry and Kenya—all of whom believe that it is a working example of a scheme that is achieving results and is proving a very cost-effective way of engaging the private sector to plant trees on a commercial scale. It could be replicated elsewhere. The SPGS Newsletters (and website) will have the latest information on progress with obtaining further funds.

#### **43. What happens after the end of the current phase of the SPGS?**

Even if there is no extension of the SPGS beyond 2008, all SPGS contracts with planters will be honoured

even if this goes into 2009 (as it might with people still planting under contract in late 2008). Planters will only be paid, however, when their plantations meet the stipulated establishment standards.

#### **44. Is it true that the SPGS is currently fully subscribed?**

Yes. The funds for planting grants from the EU are all committed at present but (as explained earlier), we are investigating likely sources of additional funding.



*Mohammed Ssekyewa (2nd from right) with his enthusiastic workers in his pine plantation near Masaka. Mohammed has planted over 80 ha under the SPGS and has also mobilized the adjacent community to plant as well (also supported by the SPGS).*

If additional funds are secured, new contracts will then be considered. Otherwise we cannot immediately offer any financial assistance at the moment. Only when further funding is secured will the SPGS be able to offer new contracts. The SPGS will review all new applications on their merit and will consider:

- current clients who have succeeded in the first phase and who have more land to plant;
- and new clients who meet the requirements regarding land, sound management plans etc.

Aspiring SPGS clients are being advised to submit their completed applications so they can be considered once further funds become available.

**45. If I start planting in anticipation of signing an SPGS contract, will I be considered if the SPGS receives further funding?**

Clearly those people who had demonstrated their commitment by planting to the SPGS's required standards would be favourably looked on but there can be no promise of funding until a contract is signed. Contracts cannot be retrospective either – thus the SPGS cannot pay for crops planted before the contract was signed.

**46. What is the relationship between the NFA and the SPGS?**

Up until late 2006, the NFA was the official Supervisor of the SPGS. In its second phase, however, since SPGS deals solely with the private sector, it is now administered separately from the NFA, with its own office and staff employed by the SPGS. The Supervisor of the SPGS is now the Head of the Forest Inspection Division of the Ministry of Water and Environment. The SPGS, however, still maintains a good working relationship with the NFA, the lead organization in the sector.

**47. What is the relationship between the SPGS and the Uganda Timber Growers' Association (UTGA)?**

UTGA is an independent trade organization formed late in 2006, to represent the interests of commercial private tree growers.

The SPGS supports the idea of such an organisation and is looking forward to working together in 2007/08 to support UTGA where requested.

**48. Where do I get more information on the SPGS from?**

The main source of up to date information is the bi-monthly SPGS Newsletter and the quarterly Client's meetings. If you are not registered on our database, please do so to continue receiving our publications. You can also visit our web site [www.sawlog.ug](http://www.sawlog.ug) where all back-issues are available to view or download.

For more information or to arrange a meeting with the Project Manager or Technical Advisors, contact details are on the back page.



*One of the SPGS clients' field trips (organised every 3 months) - this one near Jinja in Jan. 2007. These trips are important ways of learning new techniques (in this case high pruning) as well as seeing good and bad practices from each others' plantings.*



The Sawlog Production Grant Scheme has supported commercial tree planting by the Private Sector in Uganda since 2003. Some 5,000 hectares has been funded in the 1st Phase (2003-06), and further 5,000 ha is underway (2006-08).

Support to communities is an important part of the SPGS' activities. The Bushenyi Community Group (pictured above) is one of many supported in 9 Districts in 2006 by the SPGS. Over 240,000 seedlings have been supplied to these community groups, who have also received technical advice from the project.