

**News of  
Uganda's  
commercial  
tree planting  
fund for the  
private  
sector.**

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### Inside:

- Plantation Training Update.
- BIG (very big!) cheques presented to SPGS clients.
- Seed News.
- Pine Guideline published.
- Southern Africa safari.
- *And more...*



# SAWLOG PRODUCTION GRANT SCHEME

**April, 2005**

**IN CASE** you missed the first one, welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Newsletter of the Sawlog Production Grant Scheme (SPGS) – the commercial tree-planting fund set up by the European Union's Forest Resource Management and Conservation Programme (FRMCP). There is a lot to tell you about – so pour a cool drink, sit comfortably and enjoy. To combat the stereotypical, macho forester image, we have even gone to extraordinary lengths to find a glamorous, tree-loving lady for our cover picture!



*Richard Bakojja (centre) proudly posing in his excellent plantation of **Pinus caribaea** var. **hondurensis** in Kasana-Kasambya CFR, Mubende (seed from Queensland, Australia). Following advice from the SPGS Team, Richard quickly stepped up the weeding (and slowed down planting): the benefits are clear to see. On the left is Cornelius Kazoora (who insisted in being in very photo we took!). Cornelius is, however, an enthusiastic member of the SPGS Steering Committee and Director of Sustainable Development Centre. Right is Nina, Richard's daughter.*

**MARCH 16<sup>th</sup> 2005**, was a good day for the SPGS. We invited our Steering Committee to Kasana-Kasambya Central Forest Reserve, along with some of the private planters who have made a successful start to their ventures into commercial forestry. The press also turned up and despite the weather's attempt to dampen our enthusiasm, it was an excellent day.

The tour started at the 2-year old *Pinus caribaea* demonstration planting, established by the FRMCP in April 2003. We then visited the plantings of Major-General Wamala, who started planting in the Reserve in 2003 and had recently hired a bulldozer to clear land ahead of planting. We were all impressed by his commercial approach (see the photo on Page 2).

## MUBENDE SAFARI

(cont. from Page 1)

We discussed establishment costs and the need for investors to look seriously at how they handle their labour-force and also think about mechanising to reduce unit costs. *Pinus patula* had also been planted, which will not do well at such a low altitude – around 1200m above sea level (even though the trees look very good at this early phase).



Brenda Mwebaze shows her delight as she accepts a cheque from Christer Hermansson of the EC Delegation.

Then we toured Richard Bakojja's plantings, now very visible from the main Kampala-Mubende highway. Richard's plantations are now showing the benefits of a hard-fought campaign against very aggressive weeds. Richard's passion for trees came shining through as he told us about his venture into the world of commercial tree planting and it was obvious that Richard is

learning fast! He made a wise decision to slow planting down whilst he catches up on the backlog of weeding and at the same time gear up for planting later in 2005. This gives him time to mobilise labour and train a team in herbicide use (for pre-plant spraying). He is now aiming to prepare the land in good time so that he will be able to plant his trees as early as possible in the Sept/Oct 2005 rainy season.

Christer Hermansson from Uganda's EC Delegation (and an active member of the SPGS Steering Committee) was on hand to present some big cheques to three of the first group who successfully established tree crops under the SPGS (see photos this page). First to receive a cheque was Brenda Mwebaze, representing the Kamusiine Memorial Rural Development Pilot Scheme Tree Planting Association, which has successfully pulled together 22 landowners who are busy reforesting some of the bare hills around Bushenyi.

Busoga Forestry Co. (BFC) have been around since the mid-1990s in Bukaleba Central Forest Reserve, Mayuge District. It seems that the SPGS provided the incentive for them to really start planting

seriously. Under the guidance of Jossy Byamah (see photo below), BFC planted some 70ha in 2004 and they are now busy preparing to expand significantly over the next few years.



The third recipient was Richard Bakojja, who received the first payment (50% of Ushs600,000 per ha) for 70ha of *Pinus caribaea*.

As the group rounded off the day with a trip to the famous Nakayima tree on top of Mubende hill, there was a real feel that the SPGS has ignited an interest amongst many people in commercial tree planting in Uganda.

Although there is still a long way to go before Uganda has the plantation area it needs to meet its growing timber demand, the SPGS funds have sparked a green revolution.

## SPGS UPDATE

To date some Ushs 130 M (US\$75,000) has been paid out to 12 private planters under SPGS contracts. This covers the 1<sup>st</sup> payment (50% of Ushs 600,000) for 435ha of new planting. If current and pending SPGS clients plant according to expectations, over 4,000ha should already be covered by SPGS grant payments by 2006/07. This means that we are well on our way of meeting our target of 5,000ha of private sector planting. It also means that the time is approaching whereby we will have to suspend the signing of further contracts until *either* clients drop out of the system (through not planting as agreed) *or* more funds become available.



Mechanised land clearance by an SPGS client in Mubende (2004 Pine planting in foreground).

## BUYING POWER

In Jan.'s SPGS meeting, SPGS clients asked some very interesting and important questions – for example: “Why can't the NFA or SPGS buy machinery that could be hired out to private planters?” and “Can the NFA/SPGS bulk buy Glyphosate herbicide on behalf of private planters?” We replied then that it was beyond the current mandate of the SPGS to do this but that it needed further thought. We would be interested to hear your ideas on this.

## SEED UPDATE

One satisfying aspect of our job in managing the SPGS has been the acknowledgement by private planters of the importance of seed origin. Within just two years people are seeing for themselves the benefits of using ‘improved’ (i.e. genetically superior) seed. With the rapidly expanding planting programmes in Uganda - from both SPGS clients and the NFA - the demand for the imported seed is now very high – especially for *Pinus caribaea* var. *bondurensis* (PCH). We have heard from a number of you that the National Tree Seed Centre (who are now dealing with imported seed following on from the FRMCP) cannot meet demand and we are thus now working with them to try to alleviate the situation. Up until now, improved PCH seed was only available from seed orchards in Queensland, Australia. We have recently persuaded the South Africans

(Mondi Forests) to collect PCH seed for us from their orchards in Kwa-Zulu Natal and some 30 kg is expected any day from there. We are taking as much seed from Queensland as they can supply it seems! Their next collection is April/May 2005 and we will have it couriered here as soon as possible after that. Contact the NTSC for your seed on (041) 286 049. In anticipation of even great seed demand, we are also looking further afield for PCH seed: we will keep you informed.



Ugandan foresters admire a *Pinus patula* seed orchard in South Africa - during their safari in 2004.

## HEADING SOUTH FOR WINTER

In August 2004, the FRMCP's Chief Technical Advisor, Paul Jacovelli took a team of four NFA foresters to South Africa and Swaziland – a region where plantation forestry is really big business. The impact has been clear for all to see – most notably with the improvement in the NFA's plantations in Kyenjojo (under the guidance of Peter Ogwayi) and in Nakasongola (Moses Murrami). In May 2005, Bric Milligan (Plantations Advisor) will be

following in their footsteps, leading a team of six people to his old stomping ground. This time the SPGS will be well represented, with the Administrator, Allan Amumpe, included along with Brenda Mwebaze and Jossy Byamah. Brenda and Jossy were chosen from amongst the very early SPGS successful planters and we hope that it will spur them along to even greater heights. We will be repeating the trip in the next financial year (05/06) and will make places available for more SPGS planters: so all you need to do is wine and dine and lavish expensive gifts on impress the Team during our routine inspection visits.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

The SPGS Steering Committee meeting took place in Mityana on 17<sup>th</sup> March, following the field visits in Mubende. As usual it was a spirited affair, with excellent participation from Members. They are generally very pleased to see the Scheme up and running after a long gestation period and were very encouraged by the high level of interest. As well as discussing the proposed SPGS budget for the 2005/06 year, we thought the following points would be of interest to readers:

**Fiscal Consultancy:** The importance of this study has now increased as many investors are starting to look more seriously at the business aspect of their investment in commercial forestry.

The Steering Committee recommended that we now go ahead and recruit the best team for this. The team will comprise of two international experts – one in plantation forestry investments and one specifically in forestry incentives/fiscal matters – alongside a local consultant. When the Team are here (hopefully around June 2005), we are planning to hold a Workshop to hear their recommendations and we will invite SPGS clients. Allan will be in touch once we have dates and a venue.



*NFA staff and SPGS clients' staff listening attentively to Bric Milligan as he discusses weed control during the NFA/SPGS training course on Commercial Plantation Planning & Establishment in Oruha CFR, Kyenjojo in February, 2005.*

**Exchange Visits:** The Committee thought that 'exchange visits' – inviting SPGS clients to visit each others plantings - would be very beneficial to SPGS planters (and we certainly agree with them!). So they requested us to budget for organising a number of them throughout the next financial year.

**Office Support:** It was agreed that Allan needs some assistance to keep on top of the paperwork so we will be recruiting a keen graduate in the SPGS office from July 2005. This should improve the service to you from the Team.

## TRAINING

Have you sent your Manager/Supervisor on one of our basic silviculture courses yet? And if not, why not? The courses are very practical and get people thinking about

planning and establishing plantations – ***not just tree planting***. As you can see from the photograph of the last course in Oruha (Kyenjojo District), our classroom is very well equipped!

The next introductory course (entitled Commercial Plantation Planning & Establishment) is on **17<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2005** in Kyenjojo.

You only pay for transport, accommodation and subsistence: we provide expert tuition for free. One or both of the Technical Advisors – Paul and Bric - are actively involved, along with the NFA's Plantation man, Israel Kikangi. Contact Allan as soon as possible to book a place well in advance. Then on **17<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2005**, we are planning the first course on Plantation Maintenance, which will cover post-plant weeding, protection, yields, thinning and pruning. Trainees should have attended the Introductory course first.

**So don't miss out on this opportunity for your key staff to learn about the techniques that will lead to fast growing, high yielding plantations.**

## PLANTATION GUIDELINES

Hopefully you have all received the 1<sup>st</sup> batch of 4 Guidelines that we sent out earlier this year (if not contact Allan – see details on back page).

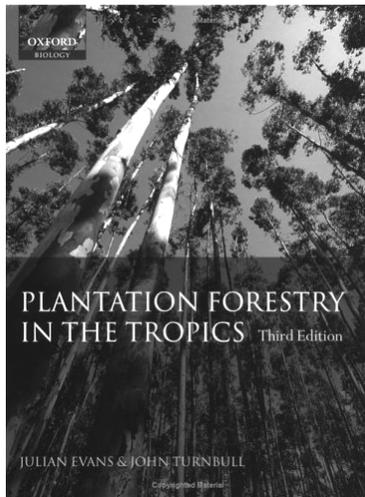
The latest one has just rolled off the press and it should be of interest to all commercial tree planters: *No. 12: Establishment & Management of Commercial Pine Plantations in Uganda*. Others should be available soon too, including: *Tree Species for Commercial Timber Plantations; Plantation Planning & Establishment Costs; Planting with Aquasoil; Land Preparation; Fire Protection*.

## PLANNING & TIMING!

How many times have we uttered those words on our site visits? Answer: many. As we are now in one of planting seasons in most areas of the country, we find many people still frantically preparing land for planting and phoning around to try and purchase seedlings.

Such poor planning inevitably means that there is no time to pre-plant spray, pits are rushed and seedling quality is often compromised. Planting will then often be late in the rainy season: all these add up to high costs and poor establishment.

The NFA are in a position to accept your seedling orders from their main nurseries but you have to order 6 months in advance and pay a 30% deposit.



We recently imported a number of copies of a very interesting book from the UK and thought that you would appreciate hearing about it.

### **Plantation Forestry in the Tropics**

(3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) by Julian Evans & John Turnbull (2004) is published by Oxford University Press and costs £50 (+ postage).

The book's sub-title – *The Role, Silviculture, and Use of Planted Forests for Industrial, Social, Environmental and Agroforestry Purposes* - makes clear that it is not just about timber plantations either. After an introductory section, which highlights the need for plantations and summarises the present status of plantations in the tropics, the second part looks at the social and economic aspects of plantations.

The authors emphasise the importance of careful planning for both large and small-scale tree planting projects and also stress how plantation development can significantly aid economic development in developing countries. The real meat of this book, however, is in Part III – entitled Plantation Silviculture. This section provides excellent advice on species choice, plant production, plantation establishment (land preparation, weed control, fertilisation etc.), thinning, pruning, crop protection and rotation length.

This new edition includes a chapter on clonal forestry, which is fast becoming the normal method of plantation establishment in the tropics and sub-tropics. The fourth and final section of the book focuses on the role of tree plantations in rural development – in particular in agroforestry systems and for soil protection. The final chapter is an excellent summary of the risks associated with plantations and also addresses the issue of long-term productivity. All in all, this book is essential reading for all students and managers of tropical tree plantations.

*Should any of you like us to purchase this book, let us know and we will bring more over and pass them on to you at cost price (<Ushs200,000).*

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## **NFA LICENSE WOES**

Many people (including hopeful SPGS clients) are still awaiting news from the NFA about their license applications for planting in Central Forest Reserves (CFRs). The SPGS Team are part of the Committee going through the 850 new applications. As you can imagine this takes some time. Then there is the not insignificant matter of 2,684 licensees for tree planting inherited from the Forest Department's days to sort out. So please bear with us: we want to encourage private people to plant in selected CFRs but we need to ensure the conditions are right first. Interestingly, a recent NFA study found that only 23% of the 2,684 licensees had grown trees compared with 61% growing 'other' crops (maize, tobacco etc.).

**And finally** – a plea: when coming to visit either Allan or the Technical Advisors in Kampala, please phone first to make an appointment. We are on safari a lot and we don't want you to waste your trip.

### **Community Planting**

You might not know but the SPGS recently employed two Community Planting Officers – **George Gaway** and **Anaclet Ntege**. George is a Forestry graduate from Makerere, who was one of the Trainees from the FRMCP's training programme whilst Anaclet worked for over 10 years in Bugamba for the Forest Department. Their job now is to encourage communities to establish plantations – for both fuelwood and timber. Following requests from communities, they have recently been to Luweero and Rakai and are heading to Mbale and Mayuge soon. We shall ask them to report progress in future SPGS Newsletters.

**SPGS CONTACTS** Allan Amumpe (SPGS Administrator); Paul Jacovelli (TA) & Bric Milligan (TA): c/o National Forestry Authority, Plot 10/20 Spring Road, P.O Box 70863 Kampala, Uganda. Email: [spgs@nfa.org.ug](mailto:spgs@nfa.org.ug) [paulj@nfa.org.ug](mailto:paulj@nfa.org.ug) [bricm@nfa.org.ug](mailto:bricm@nfa.org.ug)  
**Tel:** 031 264 035/6 **Mob (Allan)** 078 673 899 **Fax:** 041 342 607.