

REPORT ON RTA WORKSHOP FOR COMMERCIAL FORESTRY - Thursday 25 March 2010

TOPIC: Private Public Partnerships in Commercial Forestry

Presenters

1. Drs. Diederik Deboer – Sustainable Development Center / Round Table Africa
2. Mr. Joseph Walusimbi – Doctoral student, Maastricht School of Management / East and Southern Africa Management Institute
3. Mr. John Sempebwa – Trade Policy expert, My Trader magazine
4. Mr. Sam Suuti Mukwaya – Senior Trade Promotion Officer, Uganda Export Promotions Board
5. Prof. Gombya-Ssembajjwe - Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation – Department of Forestry Management

Others in attendance

1. Mr. Kennedy Sejjemba – Doctoral Student
2. Ms. Mary Mukokoma – Doctoral Student, Public sector
3. Mr. Robert Akeny – Management Consultant and Doctoral Student, Public sector
4. Mr. Rolland Agaba – Msc, student, Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation – Department of Forestry Management
5. Mr. Robert Kakiram – ESAMI Uganda
6. Ms. Maureen Kyasimire – Uganda Export Promotion Board
7. Mr. Benard Tayebwa – RTA/ESAMI

Theme Structure

The Private Public Partnership theme was structured into three inter-related topics of discussion;

1. Responsible and sustainable development through encouragement and simulation of sustainable commercial forest management
2. Market accessibility for sustainably managed and produced forestry products
3. Inclusion of communities in commercial forestry value chains with an aim of poverty reduction

Presentations:

1. *RTA Sustainable Development Strategy; Projects and Progress* - Dirs. Diederik de Boer
2. *“The linkage between trade policy, poverty reduction and sustainable development ”* - Mr. John Ssempebwa, Trade Policy Expert, My Trader Magazine

3. *The External Trade Policy – Fostering Global market linkages* - Mr. Sam Mukwaya
4. Research Focus – “*Value Chain re-organization; How to leverage the Wood Industries in Uganda and Tanzania for global competitiveness and poverty reduction.*” – Mr. Joseph Walusimbi
5. Project Concept - *Public – Private Partnerships in Commercial Forestry* – Mr. Joseph Walusimbi
6. *Collaborative forest management practices* - Prof. Gombya-Ssembajjwe

Workshop Outcomes

The deliberations in the workshop centered on the challenges of integrating the three focus areas of the theme into a viable project as per the proposed framework presented before and during the workshop. In particular, the issues peculiar to the wood industry were pointed out as follows;

- Commercial forestry is a long term venture from growing to harvesting and thus opening up global markets to sustainably grown wood and sustainably managed wood products as a project would not be viable taking into consideration that those ideal products would not be available until a number of years later. More so, such ventures require large scale forestry growing investments that would not take into consideration the smaller growers who are of primary focus of development of an RTA project in terms of inclusion and poverty reduction.
- Inclusion of communities should be viewed as more viable through linkages that support the small holder forestry growing activities by way of opportunities for them to supply wood materials as raw products to the next level in the value chain that would then be processed into value added products that can then be marketed on a global scale.

With those 2 above issues in mind, the proposed design of a Public Private Partnership project in commercial forestry will be adapted in order for success in terms of achieving global market access for particular value added wood products. This is intended to benefit a particular group of forestry growers in terms of increased incomes from their wood harvests.