

# COMMERCIAL FORESTRY TRAINING NEEDS IN EAST AFRICA

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# History of Commercial Forestry

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- Limited commercial forestry in the region over the past 30 years
- Forestry training institutions focused more on natural forests
- Marginal government funding of the sector





# Ugandan Plantation History

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- Oldest plantations planted in the 1970's
- Little silviculture in these plantations hence low yield
- Wasteful harvesting techniques
- Lack of practical training commercial plantation forestry
- Resulting in limited hands-on skills for the foresters

# Training - What, Why, Who & Where?

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## What is Training?

“A planned process to modify attitude, knowledge or skill behavior through learning experience to achieve effective performance in an activity or range of activities”

- **Purpose** – develop the abilities of the individual and satisfy the current & future needs of the organisation



# What kind of training?

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- Practical silviculture training
- Forest certification standards
- Contractor training
- Nursery management
- Business skills for investors
- Harvesting and utilization
- Research and development
- Pest & disease identification & management

# Plantations, nature conservation, ...sustainability question

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# Why Training?

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- Skills transfer
- Sharing of knowledge and/or experiences
- Improvement of standards
- Increase plantation yield
- Technology improvement
- Build a sustainable industry



# Who needs training

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- Forestry professionals
- Plantation labour
- Investors
- Contractors
- Academicians
- Policy makers
- Community members





## Uganda 2004 to-date

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- Plantation establishment on the increase
- Improvement in understanding of silviculture standards
- Talk of FSC certification
- Increasing need for skills transfer
- More specialized training being requested - business skills, Labour management, etc



# Our training institutions

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## **Makerere University**

- Faculty of Forestry & Nature Conservation
- Offers Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral studies in Forestry
- Also does research



# Training institutions

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## **Nyabyeya Forestry College :–**

- Certificate courses
- Diploma courses in Forestry

# Training with SPGS

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- Recruited forestry graduate trainees
- Subjected to immense training & mentoring by our TA's, lots of commercial forestry exposure
- Practical training courses in plantation planning & establishment, plantation maintenance, fire protection
- Specialized contractor training started - outsourced



# Challenges

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- Ensuring young people are educated, and trained long, broad & to high standards
- Employer commitment
- Individual responsibility
- Need for modern, relevant, comprehensible qualification system
- Need for high quality information & advice – employers & individuals
- Research and development program – national, sector & local level



# Way forward

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Growing number of people & organizations committed to creation of world class workforce.

- Need to support & nurture these people & organizations
- We need to share knowledge