Optimizing the Benefits of Clonal Eucalyptus in Uganda

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Introduction: The Eucalyptus clones were introduced by NaFORRI in Uganda from South Africa. They offer a sustainable and environmentally sound way of meeting the growing demand of fuel-wood and other wood products for the country. These clones contribute to the potential of improving the prosperity of smallholder farmers, national economies, and sustaining productive ecosystem services in Uganda. Eucalyptus hybrid clones grow in different agro-climate zones across the country (Fig. 1). The twelve Eucalyptus clones introduced in 2002 were site matched according to the different agro-climatic zones basing on performance and physical characteristics. Recommendations were made on which clone performs well in each zone.

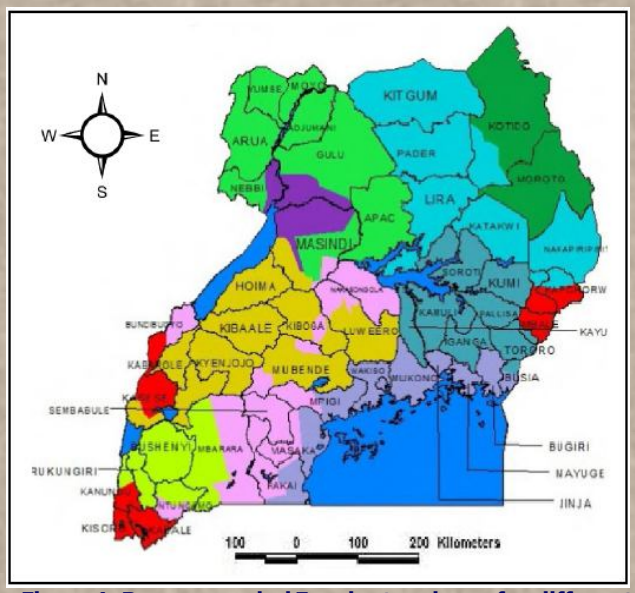


Figure 1. Recommended Eucalyptus clones for different agro-ecological zones of Uganda

- No trial in this area
- GC 550, GC540., GC784, GC550, GC796, GU609, GU7, GU8
- GC550, GC784, GC514, GC796, GU21
- No trial in this area
- No trial in this area
- GC550, GC784, GC514, GC578, GU21
- GC514, GC540, GC784, GC550, GC796, GU609, GU7, GU8
- GC550, GC540, GC784, GU7, GU8, GU609, GU607
- GC550, GC540, GC784, GC514, GC796, GC578, GU7, GU8
- GC550, GC540, GC784, GU7, GU8, GU609, GU21

Rotational end use of clones

Rotation	End use(s)
>1 years	Firewood
2-6years	Building poles, fencing posts and firewood
6-8 years	Electricity poles, telephone poles, and firewood
8 plus	Timber and firewood

Cost of products from eucalyptus

Item	Cost (UGX)
Fire wood (per m3)	30,000 - 35,000
Building poles (per piece)	3,000 - 5,000
Fencing posts (per piece)	3,000 - 5,000
Telephone poles (per piece)	50,000 - 100,000
Electricity poles (per piece)	80,000 - 150,000
Timber (8 yr. old pole = 30 pcs of 4" x 2")	165,000 - 210,000







Conclusion:

Clonal eucalyptus is important to Uganda's economy, environment and peoples' livelihoods. This is due to its high carbon sequestration potential and ability to produce high volumes of utilisable products in a short time. Its introduction in Uganda has mainly been due to wood deficit – resulting from loss of natural forests, decreasing farm areas, increasing urbanization and the rising need for construction materials. It is recommended to always seek professional advice before buying and planting clonal eucalyptus since they are site specific.