GATSBY CLUB TREE PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT TO THE 13TH UGT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON THE 2nd OF NOVEBER 2010

1.0 Introduction

The report covers progress for the period of the last two quarters. The activities for the two quarters have been mainly to sustain production. The performance for the period was generally not good. Planned targets were not realized at all the three clonal nurseries. 5 clones have been sold to the public for planting.GC550, GC796, GC578, GU7 and GU8.

The target for cuttings was put at 660,000 and only 535,747 cuttings were realised. This led to a shortage of 124,253, which is 18.8% variance. Similarly, there was a 38% production of rooted plantlets below the quarterly target. The nurseries planned to produce 472,000 rooted plantlets but only realised 291,406 plantlets, a variance of 180,594 plantlets. The shortfall has been attributed to the Kifu nursery that experienced a lot of ramet mortality and very low coppicing.

The rooting level of the clones dropped significantly for all the clones in the nursery at Kifu. Great stability and improvement in the rooting has been noted in the Kabarole and Mbale Nurseries.

2.0 Quarterly comparative performance:

2.1 Production of rooted plantlets

Table 1: Comparative Quarterly Production of Rooted Plantlets over the Years

Nursery	Quarter	Year 2007	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Total
Kifu	Jan-march	4,208	47,172	23,252	20,445	95,077
	April- June	8,791	48,370	31,886	12,910	101,957
	July -Sept	12,271	45,148	21,420	10,950	89,789
Mbale	Jan-Mar	-	26,310	55,701	66,171	148,188
	April-June	-	65,060	68,646	60,250	193,956
	July -Sept	-	65,882	73,033	85,226	224,141
Kabarole	Jan -March	-	45,460	47,613	67,388	160,461
	April- June	-	22,283	87,823	48,911	159,017
	July -Sept	-	23,742	72,420	68,887	165,049
Overall	Jan-Mar		118,942	146,660	154,009	384,606
	April-June	7,683	135,713	188,355	122,071	441,299
	July -Sept	12,271	134,772	166,873	165,063	478,979

As seen from the figures in the table above the production of rooted plantlets is below that of both the previous quarter and the similar quarter last year for the Kifu Nursery. The production for Mbale Nursery in this quarter was above that of both the previous quarter and the similar quarter last year although that of the previous quarter was slightly lower than that of the preceding quarter. This is also true for Kabarole Nursery.

The main reason for this kind of trend at the three nurseries has been the requirement to focus on the promotion of a number of clonal varieties drop some clones like GC578 and GU609 at Kabarole which have not shown a lot of potential. Also some clones like GC784 and 540 have shown a lot of susceptibility to blue gum chalcid especially in Mbale and at Kifu. However individual nursery managers have given varying reasons including but not limited to old ramets, dry conditions, very wet conditions, dropping some clones from production and low capacity to sell the produced clones like in Kabarole for the previous quarter.

2.2 Number of Plantlets Sold and Planted and Number of Buyers

Table 2: Comparison of Plantlets sold and planted and number of buyers

	Quarter	2008	2009	2010	2008		2009		2010	
					M	F	M	F	M	F
Kifu	Jan-march	0	38,052	12,655	0	0	15	1	5	0
	April- June	44,107	34,952	15,500	3	3	24	0	12	0
	July -Sept	25,553	28,686	10,204	8	0	15	1	22	2
Mbale	Jan-Mar	0	2,643	61,137			9	0	30	2
	April-June	25,600	73,028	73,034	27	0	86	4	24	3
	July -Sept	16,575	22,238	60,775	84	1	119	4	21	3
Kabarole	Jan -March	-	11,196	15,409	1	0	7	0	4	1
	April- June	14,066	15,544	22,057	5	2	6	1	4	2
	July -Sept	3,182	31,462	30,598	6	1	6	0	7	1
Overall	Jan-Mar	0	113,051	89,201	1	0	31	1	39	3
	April-June	84,106	158,832	110,591	35	5	116	5	40	5
	July -Sept	45,310	82,386	101,577	98	2	140	5	50	6

M = males and F = females

There was some increase in the number of plantlets sold during the previous quarter for all the nurseries compared to the quarter before. However, for the last quarter apart from Kabarole, the sales for the other nurseries have been lower than the previous quarter. This probably is because most part of the country has been dry most the last quarter.

On the other hand when similar quarters are compared for the previous and current years, Kifu recorded a 56% reduction in sales while Kabarole registered a 42% increase. There is also a significant increase in the Mbale sales.

Sales / Revenue

NURSERY	PLANNED	ACHIEVED	VARIANCE	%VARIANCE
Kifu	47,883,150	8,996,400	-38,886,750	-81.3
Mbale	50,400,000	46,833,150	-3,566,850	-7.1
Kabarole	67,200,000	18,495,500	-48,704,500	-72.5
Total	165,483,150	74,325,050	-91,158,100	-55.1

A total of 165,483,150/= million were planned for the last two quarters. However only 74,325,050/= million was realised. This is only 47% of the planned revenue. Kifu registered the biggest shortfall due to lack of merchantable stock. Kabarole registered the second biggest shortfall for two main reasons. Firstly the available stock could not be sold during the quarter due to drought spell in the country and secondly it had to give about 24,000 plantlets for the establishment of Kabanyolo Mother garden and replanting of Kifu.

2.3 Percentage rooting of clones

There is a break through in the rooting of some of the clones like GC550 and GC540 which had been branded as hard to root clones especially at Kabarole and Mbale clonal nurseries. In addition the rooting for the GU7 and GU8 seem to be stabilising at these nurseries. GCs 540 and 784 were also rooting well but have shown a lot of susceptibility to the Blue Gum Chalcid.

The table below shows the percentage rooting for the current and previous quarters.

Table 3: Showing Percentage Rooting for the Two Successive Quarters in 2010

Clone	**Kifu**		**Mbale**		**Kabarole**	
	Last qtr	**This qtr**	**Last qtr**	**This qtr**	**Last qtr**	**This qtr**
	Jan-march	Apr-Jun	Jan-march	Apr-Jun	Jan-march	Apr-Jun
GC796	84	55	68	67	73	72
GC578	77	58	68.5	68.5	69	70
GC 796/2	NA	NA	NA	NA	70	72
GU7	25	22	53	50	59	64
GU8	60	25	53	51	59	60
GU609	36	25	0	0	NA	NA
GC 784	0	0	63	0	NA	NA

GC 550	38	25	63	57	61	70
GC 540	16	0	63.5	0	62	69
GC 514	50	0	NA	NA	NA	NA

The percentage rooting dropped for all the clones at Kifu. In Kabarole and Mbale the rooting seems to be stable with some improvement in some of the clones.

2.4 Results from the Quarterly Activities

- Expanded the mother gardens with mainly the best clones as per the trials assessment. The three nurseries now hold 46,346 ramets.
- Have better knowledge and better results from tunneling technology through standardizing rooting media and conditions for the various clones and this has increased the rooting ability.
- Have rooted 357,228 plantlets raising cumulative production to 1,668,727 plantlets.
- Sold 212,168 plantlets raising the total number of plantlets sold to 998,500 to date.
- Attracted 25 new growers (20 men and 5 women) leading to 520 growers (482 men and 38) women growers to date.
- 321.54 ha planted leading to approximately 899ha assumed cumulative planting

3.0 Other Developments

3.1 A memorandum of understanding has been concluded between Kyembogo DATIC and Uganda Gatsby Trust. The project has facilitated two sittings which resulted into setting agreeable terms and the signing of the MOU. This progress now enables the project to do more marketing and to put some infrastructure like sign posts and electricity supply to the nursery.

3.2 The project has finally been registered as limited company under the name 'Gatsby Tree Resources Limited. A three year business plan draft has been done.

3.3 The project has been allocated 2 acres of land at Kabanyolo for setting up another regional clonal nursery to support research and development.

A mother garden is being established and so far 13,500 ramet plants have been planted. A pit latrine is being constructed and fencing is going on.