National Forestry Resources Research Institute

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE NATIONAL FORESTRY RESOURCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE (NaFORRI) TO THE FORESTRY SECTOR IN UGANDA

"Contributing to sustainable utilization of forest resources to reduce poverty in Uganda"

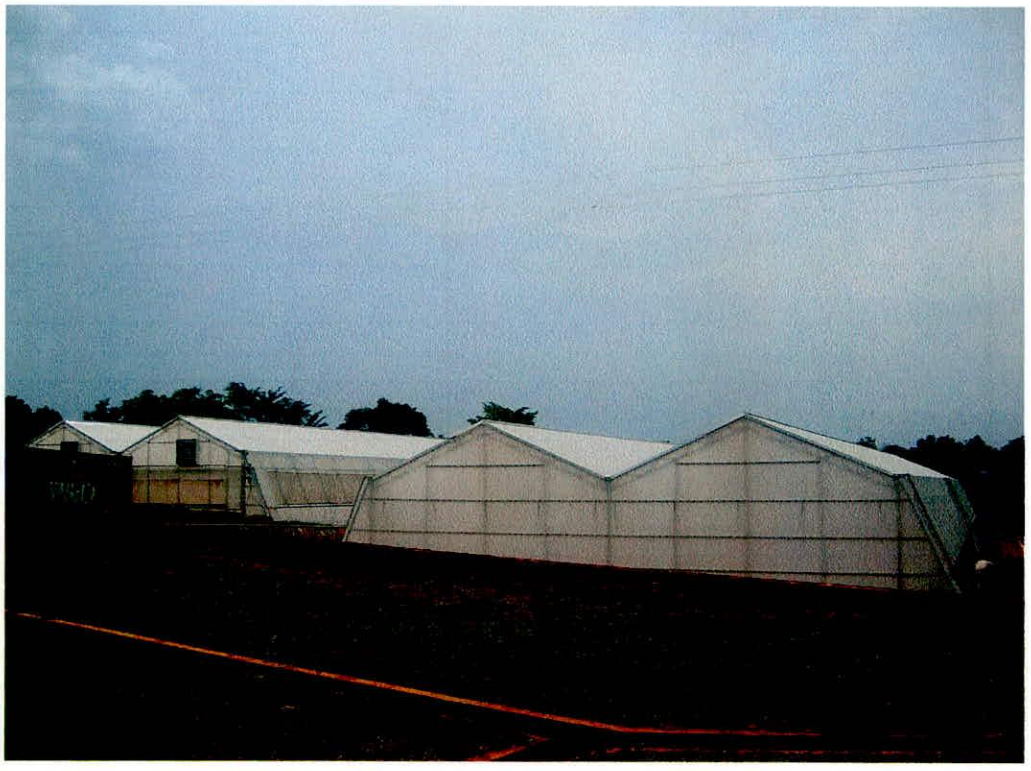
1 INTRODUCTION

The National Forestry Resources Research Institute (NaFORRI) of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) is the successor of the Forestry Research Centre (FRC) was established in 1954 at Nakawa. The new NaFORRI headquarters is located 12 km on Mukono – Kayunga Road. The mandate of NaFORRI is to undertake research in all aspects of forestry in order to generate technologies, information, practices and knowledge which are essential for managing and utilizing sustainably existing natural forests on the one hand and creating and managing new forests on the other. NaFORRI is also an important source of information for policy advice in the forestry sector and other government ministries for comprehensive development planning. Forests provide a variety of products and services such as protection of water catchments of the nation, sinking carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, ameliorating micro climates and enhancing agricultural productivity in many ways. Research for development in the forestry sector is therefore aimed at increasing the benefits derived from forestry resources. This is in direct support to the Uganda Government policy framework of Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP). Eradicating poverty is urgent and it is a moral duty essential for the sustainability of our planet, the earth. This is in line with the current forestry policy, which aims at balancing forestry production to meet both domestic and export demand for forestry products, while protecting and conserving the natural resources base, and forest ecosystems. The policy emphasizes sustainability of economic and environmental benefits and the promotion of the understanding of forestry through research and awareness creation.



Newly constructed laboratories at NaFORRI headquarters

Through sustainable management forestry contributes directly to sustainable development. This is development, which is economically viable; environmentally friendly and responsible; beneficial to society; and balances present and future needs for forestry resources. NaFORRI defines sustainable forestry management as the best available practices, based on current scientific and traditional knowledge, which allow multiple objectives and needs to be met, without degrading the forestry resources. The Institute focuses research in the areas of: farm forestry; natural and plantation forest management; forest products, integrated pest and disease management; biomass energy and gender issues in forestry.



Newly constructed greenhouses at NaFORRI headquarters

2 CURRENT RESEARCH

NaFORRI research efforts are designed to enhance conservation, sustainable management and efficient utilization of forest resources. Specifically, research is focused on developing technologies, information, practices, and knowledge that will (i) promote productivity of natural forests, (ii) create alternative sources of wood and non-wood forest resources outside natural forest and (iii) promote efficient harvesting, processing and utilization of forest resources.

3. CONTRIBUTIONS TO FOREST SECTOR

Through her research efforts and partnerships, NaFORRI has contributed the following technologies and practices to the development of the forestry sector in Uganda

- Revised Inventories of major natural forests
- Developed approaches for recruitment, regeneration and maintaining dynamics for normal forests
- Identified species and provenances for plantation forest development

- Developed approaches (Silviculture) for establishment and management of plantation forests.
- Identified species for on-farm tree growing.
- Adapted temperate fruit trees: apples, nectarines, cherries etc in highlands of Uganda. Identified economic non-wood products such as gums and resins.
- Developed control methods for cypress and pine wooly aphid in conifer plantations
- Basic management of eucalyptus Blue gum chalcid
- Demonstrated and matched superior hybrid eucalyptus clones for various agro-ecological zones
- Developed and promoted the technologies for conservation, sustainable management and efficient utilization of forestry resources
- Developed and promoted agroforestry technologies for sustainable land use

For more information please contact the Director, National Forestry Resources Research Institute P.O.Box 1752 Kampala.

It is indispensable that we must use natural resources such as forests for our very existence; but the big question is "How wisely are we or should we use them? This should be in our minds as we celebrate the commissioning of the new NaFORRI headquarters.