

Note No: 1:

Agenda for the first meeting at Doune on Friday July 20th.

1. Election of Chairman

2. BACKGROUND

(a) There is a shortage of good quality timber plantations which will become more severe due to the backlog of planting by the FD, and the allocation of land for settlement. If Kenya is to produce the timber/poles that are required then there needs to be a major change in the way that commercial forestry is carried out.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF NAME

4. PURPOSE

- (a) To promote commercial forestry.
- (b) To maximise the returns to farmers/investors
- (c) To be looked on as the voice that the Government has to listen to on Commercial forestry matters.

5. WHAT TO PLANT?

a) Mainly gum, (but not to exclude pine, cypress, grevillea etc)
Preference for Grandis where high and wet, and camaldulensis/grandis crosses for low and dry. However Saligna appears to be better than Grandis for timber.
Suitability of c/g crosses for timber/poles.

6. HOW TO PLANT

This is well understood

7. HOW TO PRODUCE WHAT THE MARKET WILL PAY MOST FOR?

a) The aim must be to produce trees for timber and/or poles. This will require an end tree population of around 500 stems/ha. Guidance needed on thinning. What size will it be most profitable to fell?
Who is competent to fell and transport?

8. THE MARKET.

- (a) Timber. Finlays sell well cured gum for sh17,000/cubic metre (sh40/board foot), same as pine and cypress. What can be done to get the market to accept gum as suitable for timber, roofing, floors, doors etc, and at sh40/board foot.
- (b) Poles. Sell mainly to KPL. (and some to Telkom??) How many and what size do KPL want year by year. Should the price they pay be linked to the cost of imported poles. Can G3 contract to supply poles. Who will treat them?

- (c) Firewood. Going rate seems to be about sh800/1000 tone. KTDA pay sh1100/cubic metre delivered and stacked at their factories. Said that preferable to go onto oil once the price of firewood exceeds sh4000/tonne. So the factories using firewood are making huge savings by doing so. How can growers/suppliers unite so as to get the price up?
- (d) Thinnings for posts for electric fencing

9. PROFITS

Needs to be an understanding of how much cash can be generated/ha/yr. Thinnings plus end crop, less cost of operations. Relate return from poles with return from timber.

10. OBSTACLES TO EASY AND EFFICIENT OPERATION.

The Government's policies hinder rather than help and the following should be changed.

- (a) Gov to auction its mature stands. Anyone to be eligible to bid
- (b) The ban on felling to be removed.
- (c) Nema/KFS/District Environmental Committees to have no jurisdiction over planting for commercial purposes, or felling.
- (d) No permit needed to transport poles or sawn timber. No Certificate of Origin. Gov to protect its own forests and stop theft/illegal extraction
- (e) Leasing of KFS land by private investors to be encouraged. Discussions on a draft lease agreement to be held. Who with?
- (f) Cash generated from the sale of trees to be exempt from tax
- (g) Planting grants from donors, or carbon credits to be obtained if possible.

11. Funding for G3

12. How will minutes be distributed and to whom?

13. Constitution of small exec committee

14. Date of next meeting to review progress.