Report from the National dissemination and policy engagement workshop on identification of practical incentives for advancing sustainable Biomass Energy Production within Central Forest Reserves and Forest Landscapes in Uganda'.

Held on 7th October, 2020.

At Esella Country Hotel.

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1.0 Introduction

This report narrates the proceedings from the National dissemination and policy engagement workshop on identification of practical incentives for advancing sustainable Biomass Energy Production within Central Forest Reserves and Forest Landscapes in Uganda held on 7th October, 2020 at Essella Country hotel; the report further highlights the level of participation of stakeholders(*CSOs, ministries, Autorities/Agencies, Ministry departments, development partners and Academia*) in the workshop, the objectives of the workshop, the output to the workshop, the various presentations made by the panelists and researcher.

2.0 Background

The National Forestry Authority (NFA) as the custodian for management of Central Forest Reserves in Uganda, which cover 15% of the total forest estate is a key stakeholder and player to advance sustainable biomass energy production with the forest estate through collaboration and promotion of private sector investment. Besides, over the years NFA has allocated part of the land in the CFR for commercial timber production, for restoration and sustainable management of the CFRs.

However, it's also not clear whether there is proactive considerations for private investment in biomass energy on this land. The guidelines (legal frameworks) and practices seem to be silent on this initiative. Besides, the status of investment in sustainable biomass energy production within forest landscapes is not known and or documented

It is against this background that Environment Alert in 2019, commissioned a study on, *"Understanding the current status, emerging issues (challenges & opportunities) for advancing private sector investment in sustainable biomass energy production within central forest reserves and forest landscapes in Uganda*." This study was an output under the project titled, '*Increasing access to sustainable and Renewable energy alternatives in the Albertine Graben.' The project is implemented in partnership with WWF- UCO* with financial support from NORAD.

Overall objective of the study was to identify the underlying issues (challenges & opportunities), recommendations and actions for advancing structured investments in sustainable biomass energy production within central forest reserves and forest landscapes to contribute towards the huge national demands for biomass energy and one of the action was to hold a dialogue on identifying practical incentives on how to advance sustainable investment in the biomass production and utilization, this incentives would accelerate supply to counteract the spontaneous rise in demand for the renewable resource.

The study highlighted the underlying problem which included;

a) *The wide gap between biomass energy production (supply) and demand,*
b) *The unsustainable harvesting of natural forest resources resulting in deforestation and forest degradation which is caused by high population dependency on biomass energy,*
c) *Loss of forest cover due to unsustainable harvesting of forest products, forest clearance for agriculture, urbanization, industrial development;*
d) *Inefficient technologies in the production and use of biomass resources resulting in more trees cut.*
e) *Lack of dedicated and sustained investments in biomass production to replace the biomass harvested among others.*

All this information is contained in a policy brief[1] entitled *"Biomass Energy Supply and Demand Imbalance is a looming crisis, which needs urgent Investment*".

2.1 Objectives of the workshop

The objectives for this workshop were to;

a) Disseminate the findings of the study on, 'Sustainable biomass energy production within central forest reserves and forest landscapes in Uganda.

b) Identify and discuss practical incentives for advancing private sector investments in sustainable biomass energy production.

2.2 Methodology/ approaches

The approaches and methodologies employed for this workshop was guided by program[2] as indicated below;

a) On arrival all participants were requested to observe the SOPs and registration was done.
b) Power point presentations were made by the consultant on the study earlier conducted.
c) Panel discussion were conducted where a team of 7 resource persons shared about their experiences on some of the interaction they had with the prevailing incentives, how they are administered, their lessons learnt and recommendations and those participants who couldn't make it for the physically were engaged virtually via Zoom.
d) Reactions were given to the presentations made; this encouraged full participation of the audience;
e) Panel discussions were conducted to raise issues around the advancement of investment in Biomass production and utilization, these questions were responded to by the panelists;
f) A list of actions was drafted containing the suggested incentives, the responsible institutions was generated and presented to the participant who gave input to the document.

2.3 Workshop output

Recommendations from the study/policy brief disseminated among stakeholders and possible practical actions—at least one incentive e.g. on land allocation considered for implementation by key duty bearers.

3.0 Proceedings of workshop

The workshop registered a total of 26 participants (21 Males and 5females) ***See Annex I*** and these included representatives from the local government, the ministry of Energy and Mineral development, National Forestry Authority, Forest sector support department of Ministry of Water and Environment, Civil society organisations, Development partners, Private sector, media among others. All participants were able to give feedback, input and ably discussed about the issue at hand as shall be elaborated in the subsequent subsections. *The meeting was moderated by Dr. Joshua Zake (Ph.D.) the executive director Environmental Alert.*

[1] Further information about this document visit http://envalert.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Policy-brief-biomass.pdf
[2] The Programme is attached as Annex 2.

The meeting was brought to order by the Executive director who introduced the participants to the main purpose of the meeting being the dissemination workshop and policy engagement for the advancing private investment in biomass production and utilization, he further took the audience through the program for the day, and all the participants who were around introduced themselves which eased communication and interaction know who was around and which institution they represented.

Figure 1. Executive Director-Dr. Joshua Zake (Ph.D.) modulating the workshop.

Dr. Joshua Zake (Ph.D.) emphasized the need to observe the Sops to control the spread of the pandemic, he emphasized the need to sanitize regularly, and wearing the mask on top of other measure put in place by the ministry of Health such as physical distance. The Executive Director as well informed the participants of the policies that were adopted from our donor as being key and are in force, these include the No-plastic policy, Environment and social safeguards and to these he alluded that participants should respect each other's opinion and the dialogue should be conducted in a peaceful manner not violating the rights of others and in collaboration with the hotel, glasses were provided for drinking water to replace the plastic water bottles.

3.1 Opening remarks

The opening remarks were made by Mr. Mutebi Ibrahim—Manager Renewable Energy at WWF-UCO, he appreciated the participants for turning up for such a very important workshop, and he as well appreciated Environmental Alert for making it possible to convene such a great audience. In his remarks he identified the need to advance Renewable energy alternative technologies and increase access to these technology consumption, he highlighted the major determinant of the advancing biomass production being putting in place incentives in form of enabling policies and awareness to the availability of these incentives, thus he called upon the relevant ministries and agencies to give attention to the ever increasing demand for biomass with the increasing population since over 90% of the population depend on this energy—the biomass is reducing at a terrible rate yet the population is increasing as well as demand being at *44 million tons* of biomass leaving a big deficit to satisfy the demand at hand thus, he advised the workshop to direct discussion on how we are to advance on meeting this demand and it will require to go business as unusual.

Figure 2. Mr. Ibrahim Mutebi from WWF-UCO giving remarks during the workshop.

He encouraged the participants to give recommendations and the practical incentives are good but he emphasized the need to have sustainable and impactful incentives that would advance the production and encourage utilization effectively so to meet the demand.

There many meetings conducted in the boardrooms like the ones we held and many commitments have been laid but we have not followed up on such thus we need to follow-up on these commitments so to bring to life the advancement efforts towards biomass production and accelerate private investment.
He added that production of biomass is important but also investment in efficient technologies is key he later wished the audience a fruitful deliberation.

3.2 Presentation of the findings from the study—Key highlights from Mr. Levi . A. Etwodu

This segment was conducted by Mr. Levi.A. Etwodu who was part of the team that conducted the study.

In his presentation **Sustainable Biomass Energy Production—*Key findings from the study to advance Private Sector investment in sustainable Biomass Energy Production within Central Forest Reserves and Forest Landscapes in Uganda*.** Levi brought the audience to the fact that Uganda has a total of 8,079,622.1 ha of land available for forest landscape restoration of which Government through the Bonn Challenge is committed to restore 2.5 million hectares by 2030.

Figure 3. Mr. Levi Etwodu making a presentation on the finding from the study.

And he emphasized that dedicated biomass energy plantations could be part of this important intervention to establish at least 133,000 ha per year with potential of generating 20- 30 million m^3 of wood biomass to supplement the natural wood stock from the forested areas. He furthermore highlighted that the Biomass energy contributes over 88% of the total country's primary energy thus investing in this energy is a great deal to the country and meeting the ever increasing demand in the nation's ever growing population (3.2% population growth rate); He noted that the standing wood biomass is estimated at 284.1million tons (355.125 million M3) and the sustainable forest capacity to supply wood biomass is about 26 million tons equivalent to 32.5 million m3 of raw wood per annum. This represents 57% of the wood biomass annual demand creating a negative balance on the biomass energy equation—the deficit was estimated at 26.6 million M3 in 2019 and expected to reach 50million M3 by 2030; He highlighted that the land allocated for biomass production is under-utilized—that out of the 196,882 ha of land only 82,710ha of area is planted constituting only 42% of the total areas allocated, this may be attributed to high cost on investment and low incentives to attract the farmers/investors. However, he underscored the high investment of commercial tree planting both for industrial wood production and pole and fuel production and zero investment in biomass and restoration and the major sources of biomass being plantation and farm trees.; In his parting

shots, he indicated that the use of biomass energy by the population and industry will remain significant in the medium and long term (2020-2040) and this calls for changes in the policy, legal, financing and institutional arrangements to address the barriers that limit sustainable biomass energy production, Improve the investment environment for the private sector in biomass energy production through market-based incentives, improved governance and information.

NOTE: for more information See annex III

3.4 Reactions and responses from the presentation.

Table 1. Showing the reactions and responses from the presentation made by the consultant.

Reactions	Responses
i. The community members prefer exotic tree species and some of these trees don't work well in some soil's types of Uganda ii. Most of the people who would be targeted for biomass production and promotion lack investment knowledge and skills and this is contributed largely by low levels of research in the sector. iii. Land use and planning in Uganda is a big challenge that the report should have highlighted among the challenges. iv. Among the recommendations there is need to involve the Universities to do the research in this subsector. v. The study didn't look at the value chain analysis which is key to understand the major constraints along the value chain. vi. The combined biomass strategy between MWE and MEMD was finalized. vii. Ministry of trade industry and corporative should be brought on board to discuss how to ease importation barriers of some biomass input. viii. Are there some innovative finance mechanisms to promote these initiatives	i. The need to change attitude and focus of people to invest in biomass production. ii. The study was limited only looking at 'Understanding the current status, challenges & opportunities for advancing Private Sector Investment in sustainable Biomass Energy Production within Central Forest Reserves and Forest Landscapes in Uganda and didn't look at the value chain analysis however there have been a number studies conducted especially on charcoal by SPGS and a study on forest landscape restoration by IUCN and MWE has detailed what kind of tree grows where and in which region is available these reports are available maybe dissemination is a challenge. iii. A comparative study on the social-economic implication of biomass investment should be conducted—we need to do a business analysis and valuation of biomass energy investment in order to give a priority-value scale in some biomass investment e.g. biomass energy production vs sugarcane production.

4.0 Panel discussions

This session focused on presentation by panelists on what they consider as practical incentives, they shared experiences, lessons, and recommendations on how to promote private sector investment in biomass energy production within the central forest reserves and forest landscape in Uganda as highlighted below.

4.1 Dr. Simon Kizito (Ph.D.) from school of Environmental and Geographical Sciences (SFEGS)—Makerere University.

Dr. Simon shared on experiences and lessons from other countries on application of incentives for advancement of investment in sustainable biomass production and utilization and in his presentation he mentioned that the 4 major challenges of Uganda are; High *population growth rate which is an opportunity too!; High influx refugees; High dependence on its natural resources, land and vegetation including forests; Lack of diversity of energy sources, this manifests in lack of access to existing alternatives and thus overdependence on biomass as the main source of energy for HHs ((90%) and rural economy (78%) culminating in heavy forest cover loss.*

He pointed out that for sustainable biomass production, incentives could be viewed as **policy instruments** that increase the **comparative advantage** of forest plantations and thus **stimulate investments** in plantation establishment and management for energy production and these maybe Direct incentives(*seedlings and fertilizers, loans etc*), Indirect incentives(*variable incentives or Enabling incentives*), Fiscal incentives or Non-fiscal incentives and one of the strategies in place to advance biomass production is the support of farmer managed natural regeneration (FMNR) - World Agroforestry Centre in collaboration with World Vision + NFA as a partner in Nakasongola, Kibaale, Kotido and Abim.

For incentives to work, there is need to set up strategies and targets to be achieved in a given period of time.

Table 2. Some countries that have efficient incentive models.

Country	Strategies or targets	Incentives
Kenya	increasing tree planting at farm level to 10% by 2030	a) Direct support to out grower tree schemes by central gov't (technical advice on forestry practices, provision of planting material & contractual wards b) promoted efficient management of woodlands and rangelands (thru-enrichment planting, controlled harvesting for charcoal and provision of more efficient charcoal kilns) c) Promotion of Use of alternative biomass energy technologies (Gasification, briquetting, biomass pellets as alternatives to charcoal). d) zero rate on import duty and VAT exemption on renewable energy equipment; a) exemption from tax on interest paid on loans from foreign sources; b) exemption from payment of stamp duty in respect of certain instruments; c) exemption from withholding tax on payments made to a non-resident for specific services rendered under a power purchase agreement
USA	Funding programs target; R&D of new technologies and investment in and use of renewable	a) Tax credits are available for those who produce energy from forest residues and woodlot to generate electricity. b) Grants for Small Enterprises, Training, and Outreach c) Federal gov't assist agricultural producers and rural small businesses in planning and preparing feasibility studies for

	forms of energy.	renewable energy projects
Indonesian	Reducing the net income of investment to about 30	a) Indonesia also gives income tax incentives for renewable energy industry as Direct Fiscal Incentives b) Income tax incentives, VAT incentives, and also custom incentives. c) VAT incentives given for import of machine and equipment, either in form of Completely Build Up or Completely Knock Down. But, spare part is excluded from this incentive. d) Custom incentives are also given for renewable energy industry in order to boost investment in this sector.

For more information see Annex IV

4.2 Mr. Issa Katwesige Principal Forest Officer Forest Sector Support Department, Ministry of Water and Environment;

Mr. Isa shared on current incentive mechanism are as provided in the policy and legal framework to advance private sector investment in sustainable biomass production.

In his presentation Mr. Issa Kawesige added his voice to the previous presenters that there is a High population dependency on biomass energy, loss of forest cover due to unsustainable harvesting of forest products, forest clearance for agriculture, urbanization, industrial development; inefficient technologies in the production and use of biomass resources resulting in more trees cut and above all the lack of dedicated and sustained investments in biomass production to replace the biomass harvested.

Figure 4 Mr. Issa Katwesige FSSD making a presentation

Demand for charcoal and fuel-wood is fast increasing due to population growth, increased urbanization and the development of cottage industries in Uganda

In hia presentation he discussec the current consideration to be undertaken by FSSD which include but not limited to;

a) Mass National Tree Planting – One Ugandan, One Tree.
b) Assignment of a single central control with oversight for commercial woodfuels, to avoid current overlaps and duplication
c) Development of enforceable packaging standards for charcoal, with uniform bag weights and consistent fees
d) Expanded technical and financial support for commercial tree growing on private land, from which woodfuels are a merchantable by-product since dedicated 'energy plantations' are not commercially competitive at present;
e) Greater support for industrial use of fuel wood, pellets and wood chip for thermal applications, with incentives to convert fossil fuel systems, to create a consistent market and investment incentive for sustainably sourced wood fuel;

More information see Annex V

4.3 Commissioner, John Tumuhimbise—Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD).

Commissioner discussed the current incentive mechanism as provided in the policy and legal framework to advance private sector investment in sustainable biomass energy utilization (efficiency and effectiveness)

In his presentation Mr. John pointed out that the biomass energy sub sector is largely informal; and this has brought about a low national profile and many look at it as a less profitable venture compared to other economic sector—it has been refered to as a disadvantaged subsector and requires affirmative actions.

He continued to say that there is low research and development around Biomass and this has brought a big information gap to inform comparative investment in biomass subsector and other sectors.

Figure 5. Commissioner John Tumuhimbise making a presentation.

The legal framework and governing policies are generic and not specific to biomass production and investment (example NEAC, Forest and Tree Planting Act, Land Act, etc)

He discussed the requirements for financing and incentives to advance private investment in biomass production and utilization and are;

i. Sustainable production of biomass feedstock which has a high return on investment.
ii. Modern technologies and equipment for efficient charcoal production.
iii. MEMD increasing the demand for Biomass energy as MWE through FSSD and NFA to concentrate on the supply.

In his presentation, Mr. John pointed out some incentives and gave recommendations for the advancement of private sector investment in biomass production and these are;

i. Government support inform of provision of lands, seedlings and technical support.
ii. Support from climate financing (NAMAs, CDM projects)—to upscale initiatives from Green charcoal.
iii. The Creation of Uganda Energy Credit Capitalization Company (UECCC), UDC/UDB has enabled the provision of concessionary financing to the energy sector and he is optimistic that biomass energy initiatives can as well benefit from such financing.
iv. He recommends that idea of tax holidays for investors in biomass stock production, dedicated energy farms and forestry

For more info see Annex VI.

4.4 Paul Buyerah Musamali, Director Policy and Planning, National Forestry Authority (NFA)

Mr. Paul discussed the current incentives that NFA is promoting to advance private sector investment in biomass production. In his presentation, Mr. Buyerah stressed out a big concern of the decreasing forest cover of 10% as by 2017 from 24% in 1990 this is caused the illegal activities carried out in the central forest reserves and the local government forests such as illegal timber production, charcoal production, turning forests into plantations among others; below are some of the current incentives, challenges faced by NFA and the corresponding recommendations.

Incentives under NFA;

i. Land licensing and allocation through CFM agreements for biomass production below market rate (UGX 70,000 - 100,000):
ii. Provision of Quality seed and seedlings (Eucalyptus- grandis and camaldulensis, bamboo, Pinus Caribeae, native species like Maesopsis (Musizi).
iii. Provision of extension services such as CFR land marking, Construct access roads.
iv. Carbon credits in Rwoho-Bugamba CFR;
v. Technical advice in the field and through published guides, data and information on site and species matching: Guidance on poles management, Pest management, Tending, Fire management.

For more info see Annex VII

Figure 6 Mr. Buyerah Musamali; making a presentation.

4.5 Mr. Lotet Ronald District Natural Resources Officer—Mubende Local Government;

Mr. Lotet Ronald discussed about the current incentives that local government is promoting to advance private sector investment in biomass production and utilization.

In his remarks he noted that the reduction in biomass in his district is more escalated by the demand for industrial spaces and furniture, timber, hospitals, churches and civic center's being raised in both urban and rural areas.

Current Incentives to advance private sector investment in biomass production and utilization in Mubende local government

i. From financial year 2008/2009 the district instituted the tree fund from local revenue
ii. Assorted seedlings worth 10,008,000 were supplied to tree farmers this was possible with collaboration with NFA

iii. With Support from SCC Vi Agroforestry communities were given tree seedlings for energy production and also taught and built energy saving stoves
iv. Under the LVEMP II energy saving stoves were constructed institutions and trainings held
v. Under the green charcoal project, the district distributed about 1,4 million seedlings for biomass production, provided 84 units of casamance kilns and a retort kiln to one biomass farmer.
vi. Provided technical support to the farmers on how to manage nursery beds.
vii. They have plans to purchase more casamance kilns
viii. Under DDEG, the district established a tree nursery to raise assorted tree seedlings for distribution

For more info see annex VIII

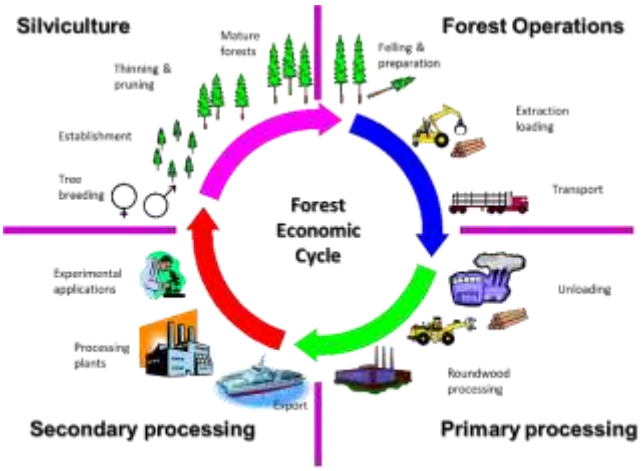
4.6 Mr. Bakojja Richard Biomass-energy farmer—Mubende District.

Mr. Bakojja Richard is one of the beneficiary Sawlog production grant scheme by FAO this incentive was the support for plantation maintenance also in the year 2015 Under the GCCA project, he benefited as a biomass tree planter under this project, he planted 5ha Eucalyptus and 5 Grevelia sp intended for biomass
He benefited from the district with a retort kiln which he built in his plantation ever since then he has managed to produce about 1000 bags of charcoal out of tree thinning which he believes this technology can reduce the pressure on the natural forests and wood lands with regard to energy demands.
In 2016 Under the Green charcoal project Mr. Bakojja was give 4 casamance Kilns to boost his efforts in efficient conversion methods and because of this merged as a model farmer in the district as his farm act as a demonstration site.

For more info see Annex IX.

4.7 Mr. Henry Ahimbisibwe—SPGS//FAO

This was conducted online via Zoom, he gave a background of Sawlog project grant scheme being a joint initiative of the Government of Uganda and the European Union and it has so far gone through two phases and now phase three is under implementation. This project is implemented with an ***Objective;*** To provide technical and financial support to commercial tree planters, rural communities, public and private institutions as a means of attracting investment in commercial forestry and increasing income in rural communities.
He explained the ***forest economic cycle*** which they follow in their incentive model.



"*The forest economic cycle starts with research and development here tree breeding is done to establishment when the trees grow, they are transported for round wood processing the wood is exported for experimental application*"—**Mr. Henry Ahimbisibwe**

Incentives employed by SPGS

i. Plantation establishment & maintenance grant (conditional)

ii. Practical trainings in plantation development and maintenance
iii. Research & Development (working with NAFORRI)
iv. Enhance access to quality tree seedlings through Nursery certification
v. Provision of tree seedlings to communities and institutions
vi. Technical guidelines (commercial timber plantation and biomass energy plantation establishment guidelines)
vii. Follow-up on provision of land by NFA (Tree Planting Licenses) to farmers

For more info see Annex—X

5.0 Plenary discussion

This session was conducted to gather feedback and dialogue on the pertinent issue on table—advancement of private investment in biomass production and increased utilization of biomass energy.

The discussion and reactions came from the presentations made by the panelist and the discussion was guided by question from the audience to the panelists. This session is summarized in the **Table 3**.

Table 3. Showing a summary of the reactions and responses from the plenary session.

Reaction/ Issues	Response
a) What technologies are suitable for sustainable biomass utilization promoted by Ministry of Energy and Mineral development?	According to Commissioner John Tumuhimbise, most of the technologies for sustainable utilization of biomass energy are pilot technologies and some fail whereas others are have worked and presented for up scaling.
b) Do we need to introduce a special fund to attract and promote investment in Biomass production by the private sector?	*It is a good thing to create a special fund to support wood energy initiatives but we should as well make use of the available funds like the energy fund, climate change fund, funds provided by UDB among others and it is important to look at the set financing modalities, who contributes to the other, how are they managed etc*"—Commissioner John
c) What are the recommendations to ensure sustainable charcoal burning since It is the major contributor to biomass reduction.	The Uganda charcoal challenges need to have a sector regulation to guide the sustainability of charcoal production, standards have to be put in-force
d) Monitoring and supervising activities and initiatives are lacking at the district local government.	There is a challenge of staffing capacity in the local government, the generality of having Environmental officers crossing to forestry or the other way around leaves the initiatives to follow-up on forestry issues in turmoil thus this need to be checked and addressed
e) People prefer exotic trees more than the indigenous trees which have a high biomass and people complain of making losses when they get into the subsector. They tend to venture into other biomass production such as sugarcane other than woodlots.	Investment in biomass is still a challenge and this is because of low research and development in the subsector—there is a lot done in the subsector but little is documented to motivate the private sector to do investment. Also there is need to do a business case to create a comparative investment to assess the profitability of the business
f) Some of the initiatives to promote tree planting is growing trees for boundary marking and this is critical	According to Mr. Issa, having the tree work as boundaries has a risk factor of fire hazard, these trees are highly flammable and in case of the fire, they can burn the whole areas being protected.

and can be persued by Ministry of Water and Environment-MWE.	
g) What Is the success rate of the technology provided to the biomass farmer?	"*As indicated most of the technologies were pilot and so was mine and the technology fairly worked but not to the desired capacity*"— Mr. Bakojja. Thus, there is need to do technology transfer that can efficiently support production of charcoal sustainably example is the Armco Kiln technology promoted from South Africa. These technologies are cheap and save our forests a big deal if introduced

6.0 Conclusions

The engagement was successful and the objectives were realized as the study finding were disseminated and practical incentives to advance biomass energy production and utilization were identified as highlighted in table4 below.

Thus, there is need to make follow-ups on some of these incentives recommended with the various duty bearers and responsible stakeholders.

The dialogues session was a session of learning from each other as ministries, Academia and private sector shared experiences, challenges and how they are solved at different level and the major challenge highlighted was about limited funds to implement the different strategies in place to ensure sustainable private investment in biomass production and utilization.

7.0 Way forward

Alist of incentives was generated from the dialogue and corresponding action including the responsible institution/stakeholder and presented in a table, as shown below in **Table 4**.

Table 4 showing the identified Incentives, actions needed to advance biomass investment and stakeholders/institutions responsible for advancing these incentives.

Incentives	Actions	Responsibility	Who else should be engaged
i. Tree Seedlings and fertilizers	Provide free tree seedlings with regeneration potential to farmers for purposes of advancing forest landscape restoration and provision of forest products including biomass.	National Forestry Authority	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries, National Environment Management Authority, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. Forestry Sector Support Department,
ii. providing guidance through training and forest extension services and increasing access to land within the reserve, which can be dedicated to tree planting for biomass production through co-	Conduct Joint venture/management with formal charcoal producers, local CFM within the forest reserves. Conduct training to farmers on modern biomass energy farming techniques	National Forestry Authority	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries, National Environment Management Authority, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. Forestry Sector Support Department, District Forest Services

management/CFM arrangements			
iii. Modern equipment for the products	Providing standardized equipment to the actors at a free or subsidized cost.	Ministry of Science and technology,	Private sector, Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. Forestry Sector Support Department, and National Forestry Authority
iv. Provision of licenses to plant in CFRs and local government forests.	Review the policy to remove bureaucracies in obtaining licenses	National Forestry Authority, Forest Sector Support department.	National Environment Management Authority, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. Forestry Sector Support Department, District Forest Services
v. Enforceable packaging standards for charcoal.	Develop and implement the National charcoal standards	National Forestry Authority, Forest Sector Support department, Uganda National Bureau of standard	National Environment Management Authority, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. Forestry Sector Support Department, District Forest Services
vi. Government financial institutions provide financial services and benefits to local companies engaged in biomass production	Provide financial in form of soft loans support to the tree growers.	Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development, National Forestry Authority	National Environment Management Authority, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. Forestry Sector Support Department, District Forest Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda Energy Credit Capitalization Company, Uganda development bank
vii. Tax exemptions	Revise the policy to provide tax exceptions on inputs, interest loans, withholding tax, VAT, stamp duty tax holidays to biomass investor etc.	Uganda Revenue Authority,	Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development, Civil society Organizations, Development partners, National Forestry Authority, Forest sector support department, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development.
viii. Market expansion for biomass energy	Provide greater support for industrial use of fuelwood, pellets and wood chip for thermal applications.	Ministry of Trade, Industry and cooperatives , ,	National Forestry Authority, Civil Society Organizations, Uganda National Bureau of standards
ix. Research and development in the biomass subsector	Allocate funds specifically to carry out research and development to generate information necessary for wise investment into the subsector	Academia	Civil society Organizations, Development partners, National Forestry Authority, Forest sector support department, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development.

8.0 Closing remarks

The closing remarks were made by Mr. Maate Jockus the district Natural resources officer from Bundibugyo Local Government. In his remarks he appreciated the participants for keeping around to the end of the workshop and for observing the workshop guidelines in light to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

He expressed his pain about the alarming degradation of the central forest reserves in Bundibugyo and 15years ago NFA tried to stop an establishment of an estate in one of the forest reserve ever since then these efforts from the Authority have withered away and this is a challenge to the district local government.

He relayed his concern to commissioner John Tumuhimbise (MEMD) about the district energy office, his question was to get clarification on which office is Energy coordinated at the district, thus he requested the commissioner to make consultations with the district local government and write an official letter to clarify this confusion at the district.

He declared the workshop closed at exactly 5:20pm

Figure 7 Mr. Maate Jockus making closing remarks during the workshop.

Box 1 About Environmental Alert.

Environmental Alert (EA) was founded in **1988** and in **2018 marked 30 years** of contribution to improved Livelihoods and development in Uganda through several interventions in sustainable agriculture, Environment and natural resources management. EA is officially registered with the NGO Bureau as a Ugandan non-governmental organization, incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. EA is governed by an independent Board that is responsible for providing strategic oversight of the organization including ensuring its integrity as a voluntary service organization.

This profile presents more information about EA's competences, experiences and achievements over the Years.

Vision-'*Resilient and dignified communities, managing their environment and natural resources Sustainably.'*

Mission – '*EA exists to advocate for an enabling environment, sustainable natural resources management And food security for targeted communities through empowerment and policy engagement.'*

To accomplish its mission, EA specializes in policy engagement for better policies and delivery of services to poor communities in both rural and urban environments. EA undertakes structured service delivery mobilizing communities and facilitating development of their skills, approaches and technologies for the sustainable management of their agricultural systems, natural resources and Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities and services. Furthermore, this interaction generates experiences, lessons and facts Which inform EA's issue based advocacy agenda at the community, local, national and international levels.

EA is establishing an **Agribusiness and Incubation Center** on a **10 acres piece of land at Kyevunze Village in Wobulenzi in Luweero district off Bombo road**. Currently the center has various crop enterprises including: *eucalyptus, bananas, and coffee*. The objective is develop it as a self-sustaining entity for income generation and demonstrating appropriate environment and natural resources management technologies, innovations and practices to the community and the wider public.

EA, as a host of the Secretariats of major national CSO Networks
EA has vast experiences in mobilizing and coordinating stakeholders for issue based joint engagements in the agriculture, environment, natural resources, water, sanitation and renewable energy sub-sectors. These include;
i) The **Environment and Natural Resource-CSO Network** (ENR-CSO Network);
ii) The **Uganda Forest Working Group** (UFWG);
iii) The **Standards Development Group**;
iv) The **Promoting Local Innovations for sustainable agriculture and sound Natural Resource Management (PROLINNOVA) Network – Uganda**
v) **Renewable Energy CSO Network in Uganda.**

H) EA is a member to several **CSO networks at national and local levels** for effective issue-based policy engagements to deliver common interests and goals through collaboration for tapping into synergies and pooling resources. These CSO networks include:
i) *International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)* - https://www.britannica.com/topic/International-Union-for-Conservation-of-Nature ;
ii) The Uganda National Committee for the IUCN;
iii) *The Global Environment Facility CSO Network* - http://www.gefcso.org/www.gefcso.org/index.html;
The *Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO)* - http://oilinuganda.org/civil-society-coalition-foroil/;

iv) The *National NGO Forum* - http://www.ngoforum.or.ug/ ;
v) *Participatory Ecological Land use Management (PELUM) Uganda* - https://www.pelumuganda.org/
vi *The Land Actors Platform hosted at PELUM Uganda*;
vii) *The Uganda NGO Network on Water and Sanitation - http://www.uwasnet.org/Elgg/address* ;
viii) *The Southern Voices on Climate Change Adaptation* - http://www.southernvoices.net/en/ ;

for more information about Environmental Alert please visit www.envalert.org

Annexes

Annex I-ATTENDANCE LIST

Annex II—Programme for the workshop.

tentative programme.pdf

Annex III—Presentation by Mr. Levi Etwodu.

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Annex IV—Presentation by Dr. Simon Kizito(Ph.D.)

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Annex V—Presentation by Issa Katwesige.

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Annex VI—Presentation by Commissioner John Tumuhimbise.

NATIONAL DISSEMINATION AN

Annex VII—Presentation by Mr. Paul Buyerah Musamali

Incentives to Private Sector Investments i

Annex VIII—presentation by Mr. Lotet Ronald

Mubende-Local-Government-Presentati

Annex IX—presentation by Mr. Bakojja Richard.

Bakoja presentation--Farme

Annex—X –presentation by Mr. Henry Ahimbisibwe.

Practical incentives for biomass energy |