INCENTIVES TO BIOMASS PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION
“AN EXPERIENCE FROM MUBENDE LOCAL GOVERNMENT”

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Introduction

- The high population increase has led to deforestation thus reduction in biomass
- There is thus encroachment on both forest reserves and forests outside protected areas;
- Trees are cut down for firewood, timber, and charcoal as more land is opened up for farming and settlement
- Charcoal production is more common in forests around urban centres of Mubende to meet the local energy demand.
- However, commercial charcoal burning has spread to other government, public, and private forests especially those of savannah woodland areas
The charcoal from savannah woodland tree species such as *combretum* has a higher demand because they produce better charcoal.

A lot of charcoal from these forests is sold along the Mityana-Mubende highway.

The increase in the population especially in the urban areas has encouraged charcoal production since it is the cheapest and more reliable source of cooking energy.

The reduction in biomass is more escalated by the demand for industrial and furniture, timber.

The building for new industries, residential, commercial and institutional buildings such as school, hospitals, churches and civic centres to grow in both urban and rural areas.
Forestry is crucial to the lives of people of Mubende, especially the poorest sections of society. Studies show that nearly 15% of the total population in Mubende depend on these resources for livelihood. About 76% of villages in Mubende were involved in selling some tree products, mainly poles, timber, firewood and charcoal and mainly marketed on-farm and in town markets. Thus the biomass forms part of the livelihood of the great majority of population, mainly in the informal economy.
incentives to advance private sector investment in biomass production and utilization

- Public investment in forestry as a means of poverty eradication is strong in most areas of the district.
- Many people depend on forestry for all or part of their livelihoods and energy needs.
- The district through its funds and donors placed emphasis on promoting sustainable utilization of the natural resources especially forests.
Incentives cont

- Form financial year 2008/2009 the district instituted the tree fund from local revenue.
- Assorted seedlings worth 10,008,000 were supplied to tree farmers.
- In collaboration with NFA we have distributed hitherto assorted tree seedlings as well.
- With Support SCC Vi Agroforestry communities were given tree seedlings for energy production and also taught and built energy saving stoves.
- The district still budgets and implements this as a major output area.
- Under the LVEMP II energy saving stoves were constructed institutions and trainings held.
Incentives cont

- Under the green charcoal project the district distributed about 1.4 million seedlings for biomass production
- Through the GCP we provided 84 units of casamance kilns
- We also gave one retort Kiln of the biomass farmer
We trained and provided full briquerring machines to 3 community groups.
The District has further put in place mechanisms for associations in through which they benefit. (Charcoal Producers, tree planters)
We support private nurseries materials and technical support.
Next financial year we shall procure Casamance kilns.
We are identifying biomass planters to support with planting materials.
Under DDEG, the district established a tree nursery to raise assorted tree seedlings for distribution.
We also procured surplus seedlings for institutions (Churches, schools, HC).
Bottlenecks to advancement of the incentives

- The land tenure system: Under the Mailo land tenure system, which is most widespread in Mubende, it is rather hard to control the high rate of deforestation.
- The land owners do not allow tenants to plant trees once planted are considered to be land lords
- Women who are most affected by depleted biomass do not own land
- Most land owners perceive indigenous trees best for biomass as of low economic value and the very existence of the trees, a denial to the economic survival of the owners.
- Furthermore, Mubende District is largely an agricultural district with over 78.2% of the population engaged in peasant farming
Cont’.

- Insufficient funds:- as noted most the funds were donor funds.
- The budget to natural resources department is very meager
- Demand driven initiatives are usually hard to influence. Tree planters prefer what the market demands and provides quick returns
- Politically motivated planning and budgeting influences the investment options
- Insufficient planting material seedlings to cater for all categories
Recommendations to enhance access available incentives by the private sector

- Increase funding to local governments inform of conditional grants
- Budget prioritization toward support of biomass production
- Including biomass indicators in the PBS
- Mainstream biomass initiatives in government programs such as Youth livelihood program (YLP), Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP)
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- Ensuring land security especially those on Mailo land the provision of certificates of occupancy to tenants
- Registration of private forests as required by the National forestry and tree planting Act and regulation 63 of the NFTPR 2016
- PPP i.e CFM