

Recognition, Identification and Management of Pests and Diseases of Tropical Plantation and Forest Trees

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The IUFRO Working Party on Diseases of Tropical Trees (WP 7.02.07) organized a workshop for foresters, forestry researchers and other stakeholders on diseases of trees on 3-7 May 2010. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the Sawlog Production Grant Scheme (SPGS) in Kampala, Uganda, and the Makerere University. A total of 37 participants from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, South Africa and Australia were present at the workshop.

The week-long program comprised formal presentations, a field visit, laboratory exercise and open discussion on lessons learnt and the way forward. The field trip to The Green Resources' Busoga Forestry Company, a commercial tree grower (supported by the SPGS since 2006) in Bukaleba Central Forest Reserve in Mayuge district allowed participants to observe the current tree pests and diseases issues in the region addressed during the workshop. Participants were shown what symptoms to look for to identify trees with disease and pest problems, as well as how to evaluate the severity of the problem. Discussion also focused on practical methods to limit pest and disease spread and the close interaction between good forestry practices and tree health.

The Workshop offered a valuable platform for international debate on the tree pests and disease problems across the region, their impacts, and how to develop sustainable control strategies. The meeting was especially valuable since it included private timber growers, foresters from commercial companies, extension agents, forestry researchers, university researchers and government representatives. This diversity of people allowed for



*Participants looking at termite damage to the roots of a eucalypt tree
Photo by Jolanda Roux*

the development of a better understanding between the different sectors of forestry in the challenges faced by all. It was noted that the threats of tree pests and diseases faced in the different countries across the African region were very similar and that these pests and disease pathogens have no respect for borders.

Finally, it was clear from the feedback that participants greatly appreciated the idea of talking about tree pests and diseases within the region, with many proposing to make it an annual event in order to exchange ideas, especially on new case studies and new happenings with pests and diseases around the globe.