Towards Sustainable Development of the Global Teak Sector in a Changing World

Saturday, 5 October 2019, 08:30- 10:30 hrs

Report by PK Thulasidas¹, Mario Tomazello Filho² and Gilles Chaix²
¹Coordinator, ²Dy. Coordinators; IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div5.06.02)

Teak (Tectona grandis L.f.) is one among the major tropical hardwoods with high demand in the international markets due to its multifaceted wood quality traits that last for centuries. The natural teak forests are fast declining in its native range and the long-term market prospects of plantation grown teak appear promising provided if the wood quality can be improved through the use of superior planting material, proper site selection and best management practices. They need to be managed following a well-defined operational regime to achieve the desired production goals. Teak plantations according to various estimates cover between 4.4 to 6.9 million ha and the global trade of teak roundwood is more than 1 million cu.m on average. In the future, public and private teak producers and processors will increasingly pursue voluntary certification schemes to meet environmental, social and economic standards of responsible forest management and gain better access
to high-price in timber markets. High-yielding forest plantations must be integrated into the wide context of forest landscapes and thus contribute to its restoration as well as the achievement of the global development agenda, particularly SDG 15. The teak session convened during IUFRO World Congress in Curitiba deliberated on the current international situation with respect to the supply of quality plantation teakwood from sustainable sources that can be geared up to meet the rising demand of hardwoods.

The major objectives were:

- Strategies for the sustainable management and conservation of teak genetic resources of both natural and planted forests;
- Production and distribution of genetically improved planting stock to smallholders for quality teak timber and livelihood enhancement;
- Develop appropriate processing technologies for quality teak products;
- Expansion of teak trade from legally harvested and sustainably managed sources.

IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div5.06.02) in collaboration with International Teak Information Network (TEAKNET) and FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand successfully organized a partner event on teak during the IUFRO World Congress on 5 October 2019 from 08-30 – 10.30 hrs at Expo Unimed, Curitiba, Brazil. The theme of the event was "Towards Sustainable Development of the Global Teak Sector in a Changing World" which was attended over by 50 participants from across different countries around the world. The session was chaired by Prof. Mario Tomazello Filho, University of Sao Polo, Brazil and co-chaired by Dr. Gilles Chaix, CIRAD, Montpellier, France.

Programme

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<td>Dr. Michael Kleine, Dy. Executive Director, IUFRO HQ, Vienna, Austria</td>
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05 October 2019, Saturday
08.30-10.30 hrs

Session Chair: Prof. Mário Tommasiello Filho, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil
Dr. Gilles Chaix, CIRAD, France

Co-chair : Dr. P.K. Thulasidas, TEAKNET, India
| 08.40-08.50 | Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Management of Teak Forests and the Legality of Wood Supply in the Greater Mekong Sub-region  
*Tetra Yanuariadi, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Yokohama, Japan* |
| 08.50-09.00 | Improving structural diversity of teak monocultures and economic implications  
*Rasoul Yousefpour, Chair of Forestry Economics and Forest Planning, University of Freiburg, Germany* |
| 09.00-09.10 | Growth Performance and Physical Properties of 15-year old TEAK Clones from Kerala, India  
*Thulasidas P K, Kerala Forest Research Institute, India* |
| 09.10-09.20 | Growth performance of 18 years old Teak of different planting stocks  
*Zar Chi Hlaing, Forest Research Institute, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar* |
| 09.20-09.30 | Development of sustainable livelihoods for forest fringe communities from Teak plantations in Ghana  
*Valerie Fumey Nassah, Forestry Commission, Ghana* |
| 09.30-09.40 | Technological characterization of *Tectona grandis* sawing wood waste and considerations of its potential uses  
*Marina Coelho, Universidade de São Paulo, Piracicaba, Brazil* |
| 09.40-09.50 | Strategies and practices to manage teak plantations in south China  
*Zaizhi Zhou, Research Institute of Tropical Forestry, CAF, Guangzhou, China* |
| 09.50-10.10 | Discussion |
| 10.10-10.20 | TEAKNET towards the Development of Teak Sector  
*Sreelakshmy MP, TEAKNET, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi, India* |
| 10.20-10.30 | Wrap up and Closing Remarks |

In the opening remarks, Dr. Michael Kleine, Dy. Executive Director, IUFRO HQ, Vienna touched upon the collaborative teak research support program IUFRO was coordinating with TEAKNET in the sustainable management of teak resources worldwide and the subsequent IUFRO Publication on global teak study. He emphasized the need for extending the teak project now pursued by ITTO, Japan in the Mekong subregion to Africa and Latin American countries in the next stage. Dr. Gerhard Dieterle, Executive Director of ITTO in his facilitation address shared his experiences while working in Togo on smallholder teak farming systems and the profitable teak marketing value chain. Recognizing the need for large-scale collaboration on teak resource enhancement, he outlined the recent launch of the ITTO teak project March this year in the Mekong sub-region covering 5 countries for a period of 3 years with the financial support of Govt of Germany.
Opening remarks by Dr. Michael Kleine, Dy. Executive Director, IUFRO HQ, Vienna
Felicitatation address by Dr. Gerhard Dieterle, Executive Director, ITTO, Japan

Following the short presentations and case studies, the participants urge the policy makers, teak researchers and scientists, international organizations, the private smallholders to work together to ensure the conservation of teak genetic resources and adopt appropriate processing technologies for sustainable timber production that offers socio-economic development of the rural communities while promoting green and legal teak supply chains. The session adopted the following key messages obtained from these deliberations:

1. Scaling up efforts to conserve teak genetic resource and enhance sustainable management of both natural and planted forests through strengthened international and regional cooperation, partnership and networking with priorities on joint research and development programs, improved capacities of governments, local communities and small holders in teak resource development, green and legal teak supply chains, and wider genetic exchange program.

2. Promoting productive legal teak timber production and processing to increase economic return and funding availability for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services and benefits for socio-economic development of the rural communities.

3. Emphasizing international teak research on cloning method to promote breeding programs for producing outstanding genotypes with durable wood of enhanced yield and shorter rotation that benefits teak investment.

4. Improving silviculture practice of teak plantations from selection of suitable sites to thinning and harvesting techniques to ensure increasing productivity, stand quality and value chains for economic viability and its impacts on community income generation and job creation without reducing efforts to promote environmentally sound management.
5. Widening teak stakeholders’ participation and encouraging the formulation of sustainable global teak strategies and recommended actions at the Fourth World Teak Conference (Accra, Ghana, August 2020) and further scaling up international collaboration, partnerships and networking to promote the contributions of sustaining teak forests and teak products.

Photo gallery

Tetra Yanuariadi, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Yokohama, Japan
Rasoul Yousefpour, Chair of Forestry Economics and Forest Planning, University of Freiburg, Freiburg,

Thulasidas P K, Kerala Forest Research Institute, India
Zar Chi Hlaing, Forest Research Institute, Myanmar
Valerie Furney Nassah, Forestry Commission, Ghana

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View of the Audience

Participants of the event