Mainstreaming High Quality Timber Production from Planted Teak Forests and Efforts for Conservation of Teak Genetic Resources

Organizers

TEAKNET (International Teak Information Network)

IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div.5.06.02) International Union of Forest Research Organizations

Supported by

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Report by

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Background

Given the importance of teak (*Tectona grandis* L.f.) for forest conservation and management and its prominent position in the global timber market and trade, has resulted in remarkable expansion of teak plantations in about 70 tropical countries with the objective of producing and supplying large volume of superior-quality teak timber in the shortest possible time. At the same time, 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 Global Teak Study published by IUFRO in 2017 highlighted the importance of addressing these key issues related to genetic resources conservation, sustainable management, economics, production, markets and trade and the report also provides policy recommendations and guidance for future work in promoting sustainable management of natural and planted teak forests in the tropics.

Objectives

In view of the continued decline and lose of biodiversity of the natural teak gene pool, ITTO-TEAKNET- FAO are pursuing to implement a Global Teak Support Program (GTSP) with financial support of the Government of Germany for the sustainable management and genetic conservation of teak resources of natural and planted teak forests first in Mekong Sub-region and later extend to Africa and Latin America.

Against this background, the session addresses the following key issues:

- Present options of high-quality timber production in planted forests as a component of forest landscape restoration.
- Strengthen the understanding and knowledge of teak genetic resources, promote their sustainable use and management.
- Review and improve the existing silvicultural systems and practices for better stand management on teak wood quality.
- Review the international marketability of teak, among others.

On the occasion of FAO’s 4th International Congress on Planted Forests, 23-27 October 2018, Beijing, China, the International Teak Information Network (TEAKNET) and IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div 5.06.02) with the support of FAO Regional Office for Asia Pacific (FAO RAP), Bangkok, co-hosted a high level Partner Event on Teak “Mainstreaming High Quality Timber Production from Planted Teak Forests and Efforts for Conservation of Teak Genetic Resources” at Room 302A, China National Convention Centre on Tuesday 23rd October.

The IUFRO Executive Director, Dr. Alexander Buck delivered the keynote address and took the opportunity to emphasize that teak resources is at stake and on continuous decline in all its natural habitat and with IUFRO initiative, a panel of teak experts met in Vienna in December 2016 to chalk out long-term conservation strategies that lead to the IUFRO publication of a Global Teak Study Report in 2017.
Presentations

The half-day afternoon session comprises a panel of high level speakers from Inter-governmental organisations, researchers and forestry professionals from universities and academia, private teak investment companies, non-governmental organisations etc. from Asia Pacific, Latin America, Africa and European countries. The first two sessions was chaired by Benjamin Caldwell, FAO-Rome and Kenichi Shono, FAO RAP-Bangkok, respectively. The Panel discussion that followed was moderated by Tetra Yanuaridi, ITTO-Japan. The session was attended over by 35 delegates from 20 countries.

A total of 10 papers were presented besides posters.

- Thulasidas PK, TEAKNET Coordinator, India

- Tetra YANUARIADI, Project Manager, ITTO, Japan
  Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Management of Teak Forests and the Legality of Wood Supply in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.

- James M Roshetko, Agroforestry System Scientist, World Agroforestry Centre, ICRAF, Indonesia
  Smallholder Farmers Contribution to Planted Teak.

- Zar Chi Hlaing, Staff Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar
  The growth of Teak (*Tectona grandis* Linn.f.) Plantations in Myanmar: Preliminary Case Study on Bago Yoma Range, Myanmar.
The session covered wide aspects of teak silviculture, nutrient management, smallholder agro-forestry systems, forest landscape restoration and economic benefits to farmers, need for legality issues and sustainable extraction,
conservation strategies, among others. After the presentations, the Panelists invited comments from the audience on the major question – *GTSP to implement and take it forward, what are essential areas of involvement and activities that Teaknet Partners should pursue? What are the modalities necessary for consolidating efforts?* The Chairman informed that the following key messages evolved will provide substantial input while implementing the global teak support programme.

**Outcomes and Conclusions**

1. Strengthen international collaboration and regional networks on forest genetic resources.
2. Monitor genetic improvement programs and international trade in clones.
3. Improve the management of natural and planted teak forests towards long-term sustainability.
4. Support high-quality timber production in planted forests through supply and exchange of superior quality germplasm material.
5. Support small-scale teak production systems for smallholder farmers with improved planting stock and better provenances.
6. Further investigate the impact of silvicultural management and pruning system on teakwood quality.
7. Improve the international marketability of teakwood products from legally harvested and sustainably managed sources.
8. Provide impartial and unbiased cost-benefit analyses for potential investors.
9. Improve statistical information on teak roundwood production and trade.
10. Strengthen TEAKNET as a global teak network platform for consolidated information sharing.

The session wrapped up with event speakers hailed the initiatives of ITTO-TEAKNET-IUFRO and FAO partnership to carry forward the key messages evolved to include it in the collaborative GTSP program for the sustainable management and conservation of teak genetic resources in the Mekong Sub-regions.

The Post-Congress Excursion of 4th Planted Congress on 26-27 October offered participants to select two routes. The Northern Line offered visit to the planted forests for public welfare and ecological protection in Hebei province, and those delegates choose Southern Line will visit the commercial and industrial plantations in the Hainan province.
Photo Gallery

Opening Ceremony of 4th ICPF

View of the Audience

Opening Remarks of the Partner Event by Dr. Benjamin Caldwell, Planted Forest Officer, FAO HQ, Rome

Presentation by Dr. Zaizhi Zhou, Professor, Research Institute of Tropical Forestry, China

Dr. James M Roshetko, Agroforestry System Scientist, World Agroforestry Centre, ICRAF, Indonesia

Discussion Forum of the Partner Event
To view more pictures of the Partner Event kindly visit TEAKNET FB page