



TEAKNET Side Event

New opportunities for Teak sector in the post COVID-19 Scenario

Thursday, 5 May 2022 | 09:30- 11:00 AM

Organizer



International Teak Information Network

Co-organizers



IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div 5.06.02) International Tropical Timber Organisation, Japan

Session Chair: Dr. S. Sandeep, TEAKNET Coordinator

Co-chair: Dr. PK Thulasidas, Dy. Coordinator, IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div 5.06.02)

Teak (*Tectona grandis* L.f.) is one of the most valuable tropical hardwoods of the world. Natural teak forests are fast dwindling in its natural habitats and the genetic resource base is at high risk of losing its diversity. The importance of teak in family farming and forest conservation along with its prominent position in the global timber trade have resulted in the expansion of teak plantations in about 70 countries throughout tropical Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania. Teak takes only a minor position in the total volume of world timber production and trade, though it competes in the high value hardwood markets and is a major strategic element in the forest economies of many tropical countries. In most of the teak planted countries, smallholder teak plantations are considered a key resource base that provides alternate income and livelihood support to rural communities. Even

though social and economic disruptions of the COVID -19 pandemic had undesired effects on the global teak sector, the post COVID scenario also presents new opportunities that should be harnessed for the betterment of this sector.

As part of the sustainable management of teak resources, TEAKNET is currently collaborating with ITTO Japan in the implementation of ITTO Teak Mekong project in the Greater Mekong sub-region comprising 5 participating countries. The proposed teak session would also be an opportunity to highlight the achievements of the remarkable project results to the wider audience of the World Forestry Congress.

The specific objectives of the session are to address:

- ❖ Enhancing conservation and sustainable management of teak forests
 - ❖ Strengthening knowledge on community-based teak farming systems
 - ❖ Options to revive and improve the processing and trade of teak through innovative measures
 - ❖ Evaluate the expansion of legal green supply chains in main producer countries
 - ❖ Create networking opportunities for delegates at the XV World Forestry Congress
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