



**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

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## Teak Session in IUFRO 2024 under Technical Session T2.29

### Strengthening Teak Forest Management for Sustainable Teakwood Supply Chains and Trade

#### Organizers



***IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div5.06.02)***



***International Teak Information Network (TEAKNET)-India***



***International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), Japan***

#### Session description

The exceptional quality of teak timber (*Tectona grandis* L.f.), its high value in the global timber market, the available superior quality planting stock and the standardized protocols for establishing teak plantations, have made teak one of the most important species for planting across 70 tropical countries. Teak plantations according to various estimates cover between 4.4 to 6.9 million ha and the global trade of teak roundwood as per the recent ITTO report is around 1.02 million cu.m per year on average and the demand is predicted to

rise in the coming years.

Considering the declining supply from natural teak forests, the long-term prospects for plantation-grown teak appear promising. However, much controversy has arisen in several countries by the promotion of teak plantation investments based on unrealistic yield projections and pricing scenarios giving opportunities to exaggerate rates of return on investments. Besides, there exists no common international log grading rules in most exporting countries and the measuring units and volume of log dimensions are different that further complicate the situation. The quality of teakwood originating from intensively managed planted teak forests has improved where superior planting material and good management practices are applied. One increasingly important consideration influencing the trade of plantation-grown teak is forest management certification and legality issues; the legal source and supply chain control need to be strictly enforced. Establishing transparent and traceable timber supply chains will provide teak growers more opportunities to participate in global markets. In many tropical countries smallholders and farmers own planted teak forests. Innovative simplified certification systems need to be applied for smallholders' who are unable to bear the high transaction costs involved in the existing certification system. In addition, teak plantations have high potential in sequestering carbon and contribute to Forest Landscape Restoration, in particular on degraded lands. The session will examine the current international situation with respect to the supply of quality plantation teakwood from sustainable sources.

Major objectives are:

- Strategies for improving the productivity of teak plantations owned by commercial entities and smallholders, while conserving the existing teak genetic resources in natural forests.
- Expansion of teak trade from legally harvested and sustainably managed sources.
- Options to establish international log grading rules based on a uniform definition of log dimensions and measuring units.
- Develop R & D innovation in processing technologies and design for quality teak products from short rotation plantations.
- Opportunities and challenges of smallholder's teak production systems to attain certification requirement.

### ***Session chairs***

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### **Co-chairs**

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