



Teak Mekong Newsletter

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TEAK Mekong Newsletter support and facilitates teak networking in the Mekong sub-region through ITTO member countries and partners, and support sharing lessons of the project results through short news release, occasional papers, project related teak-based research and development information. The bi-monthly newsletter is released online through TEAKNET webpage www.teaknet.org and co-hosted by Kasetsart University, Thailand.

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Teak Improvement and Resource Management Training



10-17 July 2021, Forest Research Institute, Yezin, Myanmar

“Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Management of Teak Forests and Legal and Sustainable Wood Supply Chains in the Greater Mekong Sub-region”

ITTO Project (PD-A/54-331)



Trainees at No. 7 Forest Research Station, Letpan Khon

Natural teak forest is dominant in Myanmar; and the country plays a significant role in the global teak trade. Myanmar has the largest area of natural teak forests (almost 50 percent of 29 million ha in the GMS) and is the number one producer of natural teak logs in the world. Natural teak forests are traditionally managed under the Myanmar Selection System (MSS)

and the Modified Myanmar Selection System (MMSS). These regulations are now considered outdated and need to be adjusted to cope with modern requirements. Planted teak area in Myanmar covers approximately 390,000 ha. Currently, the teak plantations are still young and produce only small- dimensional logs from thinning.

To establish a successful plantation, besides the silvicultural operations/ practices, teak resource management is of paramount importance. To get good quality source of seed/ seedlings, teak genetic resource conservation becomes the most important activity. This as a major objective in mind, Teak Improvement Technical /resource management training was organized by the Forest Research Institute (FRI), Yezin during 10-17th July, 2021 through the financial support of ITTO-Teak Mekong Project (PP-A/ 52-331) as part of the project outputs of Myanmar component.

This training aimed to upgrade the skill/ quality of the field level forestry staffs (Forest guard and Foresters) through demonstration lecture and practical operations. The training was opened from 10th to 13th July 2021 at No. 5, Forest Research Station, Moe Swe with 30 trainees and another training from 14th to 17th July, 2021 at No.7, Forest Research Station, Letpan Khone with 31 trainees. Altogether 61 trainees and there were trainees from Myanma Forestry School as well. Because of COVID -19 pandemic, all the lectures of the training were conducted through virtual ZOOM media. Only the practical operation was done at the trial plots of the Research Stations. The training was organized following the instructions for the COVID-19 protocol of the Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS).



Trainees at No. 5 Forest Research Station, Moe Swe

These trainings were about 4 days duration each with the following subjects taught in theory: Tree (Teak) Improvement, Forest soil properties, Teak Seed collection and storage, Nursery establishment, Grafting, Seed Production Area (SPA) establishment and Teak plus tree selection, Teak plantation growth and Volume Tables, and the Practicals of Teak Grafting. During the training, all the lectures were in Myanmar language. Practical training were conducted for the maintenance of clonal seed orchard (CSO) including some measurement of tree growth (diameter at breast height and tree total height), forest soil sample collection and testing soil texture, the selection of plus trees of teak and collection of buds.

Photo Gallery





Lectures-virtual (ZOOM) teaching



Virtual (ZOOM) learning at No. 5 Forest Research Station, Moe Swe



Virtual (ZOOM) learning at No. 7 Forest Research Station, Letpan Khon



Teak bud collection and grafting - Practical training

Report by

Dr. Zar Chi Hlaing, FRI, Yezin

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ITTO-BMEL Teak Project 9th Monthly Webinar

Wednesday, 27th October 2021

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

ITTO

Invites you to the webinar
ITTO-BMEL Project:
"Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Management of Teak Forests
and Legal and Sustainable Wood Supply Chains in the Greater Mekong Sub-region" (PP-A/54-331)

The 9th Monthly Webinar Meeting
Wednesday, 27 October 2021
Cambodia, Lao, Thailand and Vietnam Times: 02:00 – 03:30 pm,
Myanmar Time: 03:00-04:30 pm, Japan: 04:00-05:30 pm

Topic:
"Global Sustainable Wood use Initiative in Tropical Timber Producing Countries"
Ms. Akiko Tabata,
Wood Products Trade Office
Forestry Agency of JAPAN

Topic:
"Smallholder Group Certification"
Dr. Tran Lam Dong,
Silviculture Research Institute (SRI),
Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS)

The 9th monthly webinar series of ITTO-BMEL Project was conducted on 27th October 2021. Of the two topics of the webinar: **"Global sustainable wood use initiatives in tropical timber producing countries"** was delivered by Ms. Akiko Tabata of the Wood Products Trade Office, Forestry Agency Japan, and the talk on the 2nd topic **"Smallholder Group Certification"** was delivered by Dr. Tran Lam Dong of the Vietnamese Academy Forest Sciences, Vietnam. Moderator of the webinar was Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, Project Team Leader of ITTO Teak Mekong, Kasetsart University, Bangkok and Dr. Hwan-ok MA, ITTO, Japan gave an opening remarks.

Ms. Akiko started her talk giving a historic background of Govt of Japan's contribution to ITTO in hosting the secretariat in Yokohama ever since it was established in 1986. Japan contributes funding to ITTO projects for the 'improvement of forest governance' in tropical wood producing countries. Its annual voluntary contribution to ITTO in the FY 2020 was around 1.08 million USD for projects besides the establishment costs.



Japan's Contributions to the ITTO

- Since 1986 the GoJ has been hosting the Secretariat of ITTO in Yokohama.
- The GoJ contributes funding to ITTO projects for the **improvement of forest governance** in tropical wood producing countries.
- Annual amount of voluntary contribution was **1.08 million USD** (865 thousand USD for projects and 211 thousand USD for establishment cost for ITTO in FY2020).

Seven on-going projects funded by FA

- Conservation of Cempaka Tree Species in **Indonesia**
- Improve Forest Governance in **Mozambique**
- Sustainable Management of Lesser-Used Timber Species in **Honduras**
- Improvement of Transparency in wood supply chain in **Guatemala**
- Human resource development for the "LSSC" in five Congo basin countries in **Africa**
- Strengthening SFM standards & Timber legality framework in **Myanmar**
- Analysis of timber legality assurance systems and good practices in **China** and **Vietnam**

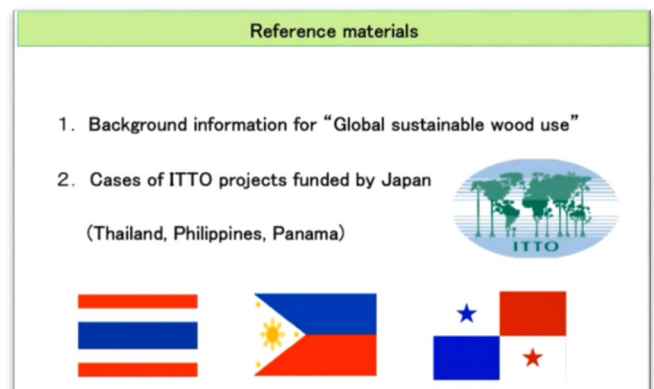
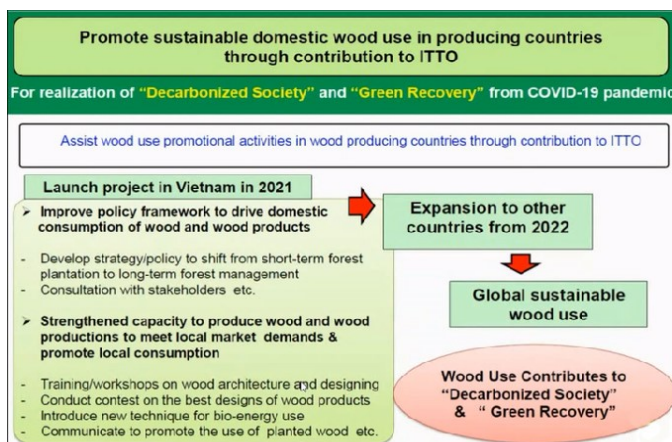
Sustainable forest management (SFM)

Sustainable supply Chains (LSSC)

Currently, the Forestry Administration is funding seven major projects through ITTO in different tropical counties like Indonesia, Mozambique, Honduras, Congo basin in Africa, Myanmar and timber legality assurance systems and good practices in China and Vietnam in areas that contributes to sustainable forest management (SFM) and sustainable supply chains.

For realization of a 'Decarbonized Society' and 'Green Recovery' from COVID-19 pandemic, the Forestry administration is assisting the producer countries in promoting sustainable domestic wood use through project contribution to ITTO.

She cited recent launch of project in Vietnam in 2021 and expansion plan to other countries starting 2022 thereby strengthen the capacity to produce wood to meet local market demands and promote local consumption. She concluded her talk by giving the future action plans on the global sustainable wood use and ITTO projects in Thailand, Philippines and Panama.



The 2nd talk was delivered by Dr. Tran Lam Dong, Director of Silviculture Research Institute, VAFS, Hanoi on 'Smallholder Group Forest Certification in Vietnam'.



The two major objectives of the pilot models of PEFC/VFCS (Vietnamese Forest Certification Scheme) was to formulate guidelines for implementation of SFM in smallholder group certification in Vietnam and to recommend suitable linkage models for group certification.

Dr. Dong gave a brief introduction about the smallholder forest owners in Vietnam. There are about 1.5 million forestry households and approx. ~2 million commercial plantations and average area per household is 1-2 ha. The major commercial species is Acacia and Eucalypts with a cutting rotation of 4-7 years. The MAI is about 15-20 m³/ha/yr. The income obtained is around 350-450 USD/ha/yr. About 70% is wood chips meant for exports and 30% veneer and small-log materials for domestic use.

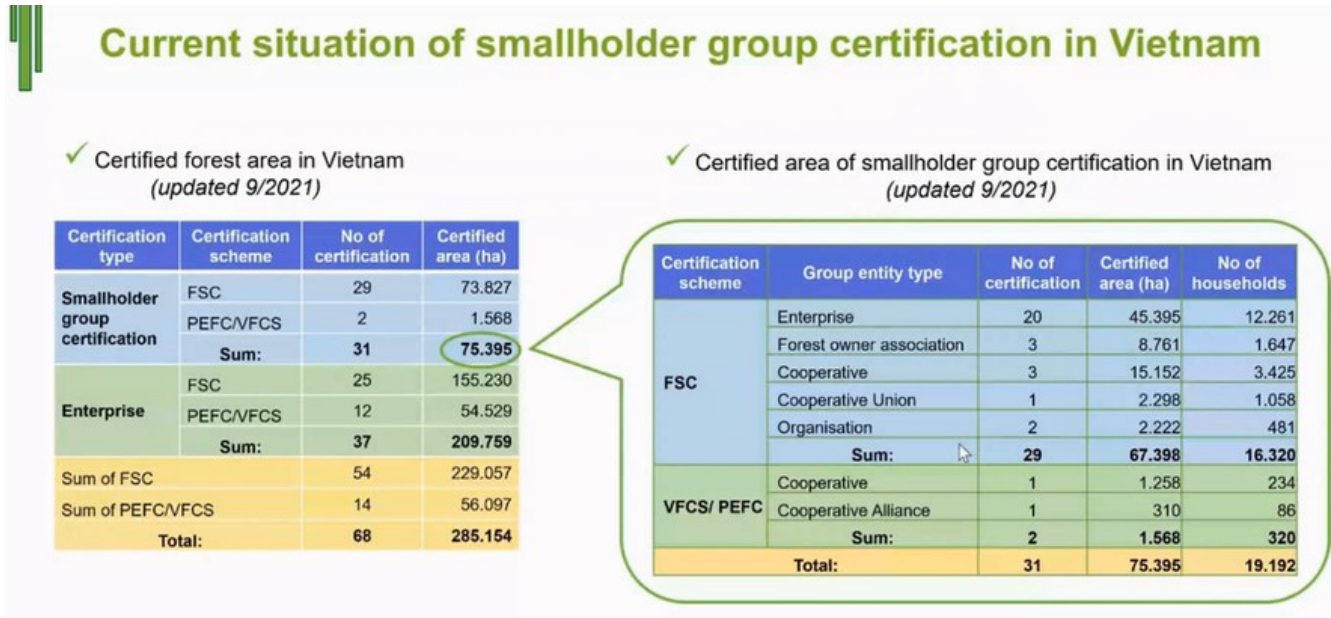
Project introduction

- **Project title:** "Smallholder group forest certification in Vietnam, development of pilot models of PEFC/VFCS group certification"
- **Funded by:** Program of Science and Technology for Rural Renovation, MARD
- **Objectives:**
 - ✓ To identify the difficulties and challenges of smallholders in implementation of SFM
 - ✓ To develop the guidelines for implementation of SFM and smallholder group certification
 - ✓ To develop 02 pilot models of PEFC/VFCS (Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme) smallholder group certification in Yen Bai and Quang Tri province; Linking with enterprises to create a supply chain of wood processing materials
 - ✓ To recommend the suitable linkage model of smallholders for group certification
- **Implementing time:** 01/2020 – 6/2021

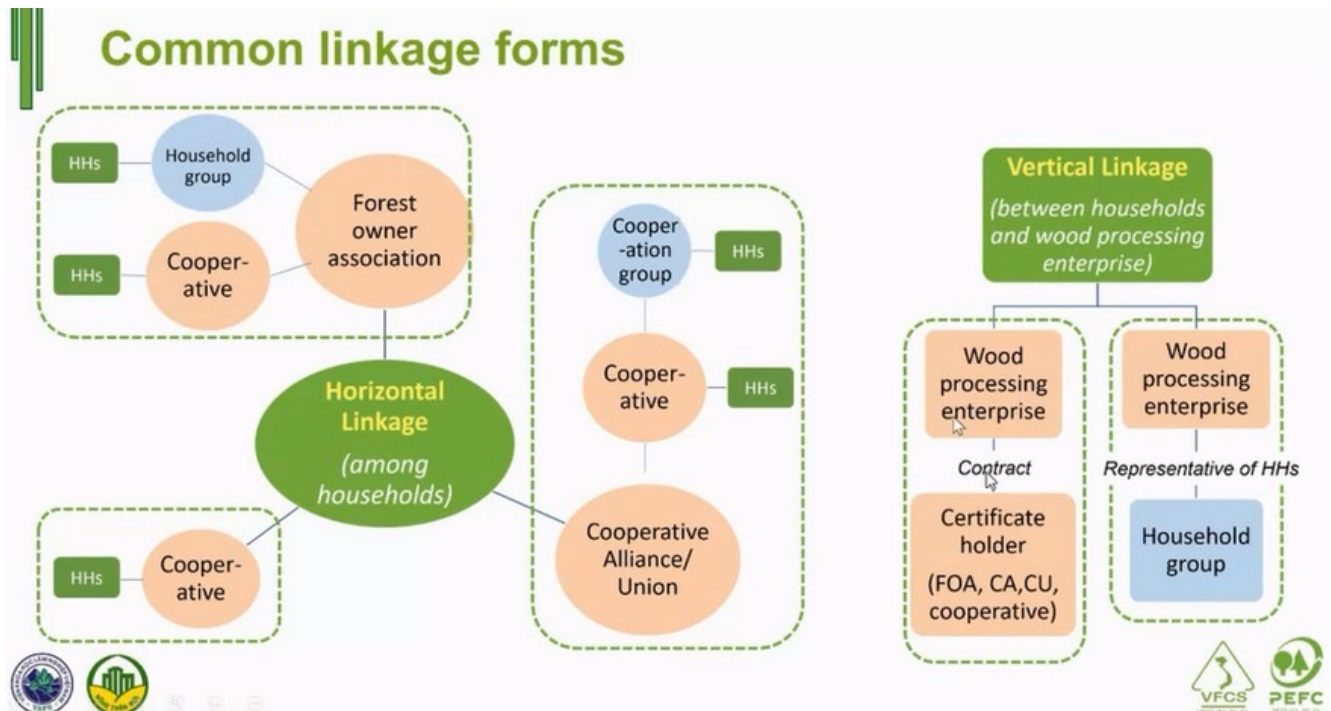
Dr. Dong elaborated the difficulties and challenges in implementing the SFM in the country owing to fragmented small-scale land owners having lack of awareness and compliance about SFM coupled with multiple factors of access to scientific support and availability of high quality seedlings. The smallholders are finding it difficult to obtain soft loans and a stable market for their wood products.



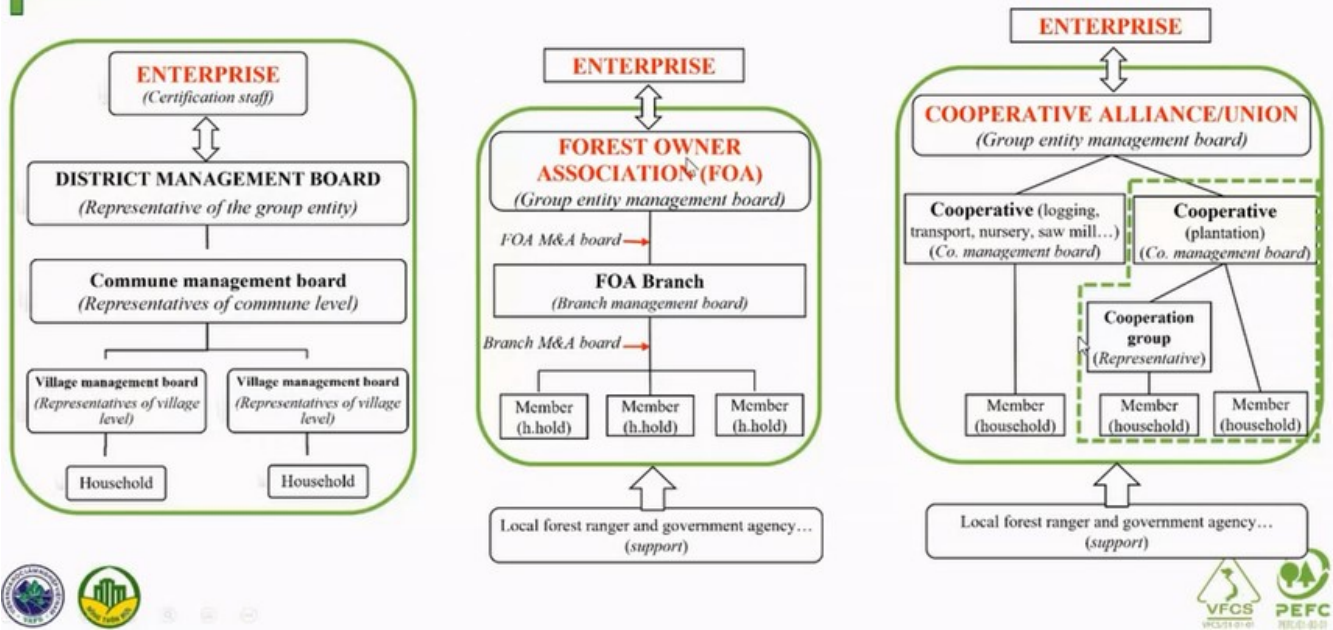
To overcome these difficulties, the only solution suggested is to link the smallholders as group certification. Presently, there are about 31 nos of smallholder groups with approx. 75,000 ha are FSC certified in Vietnam that includes the pilot models of cooperative and cooperative alliance- PEFC/VFCS as shown in the below slide.



The common linkage groups of the farmers and the vertical linkages with wood processing industries and the Common Group Management Structure are shown in the below slides.



Common group management structure



The major advantages of linkages and limitations are depicted in the below slide.

In order to overcome these challenges and limitations, two pilot model group certifications PEFC and VFCS were attempted in two provinces in Vietnam and the procedure followed is shown below.

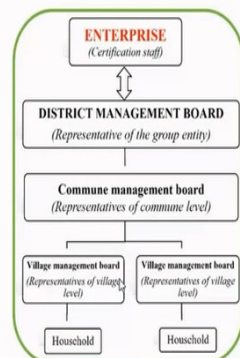
Linkage form (enterprise is the group entity)

• Advantage

- Company funds for certification
- High demand for development of stable certified plantation area

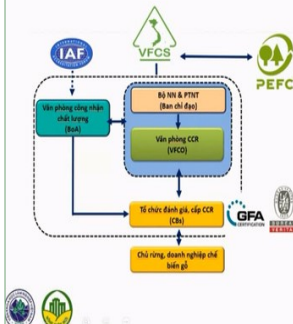
• Limitation

- Forest owners depend on enterprises to maintain certifications
- Exclusive purchase of certified wood
- Group management depends on the local state authority
- Pay less attention to SFM but only need certification
- Difficulty in group expansion due to the dependance on the demand of the enterprise



Development of pilot model

• Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme (VFCS)



• Procedure



Field activities in Trung Tam commune, Yen Bai province



Guidelines for development of SFM and training manuals were prepared for the different aspects of group certifications and field oriented training were organised for the farmer groups in two locations.

In Vietnam, the VFCS certification is still new with almost all enterprises and smallholders forest owners in Vietnam. Also, the high cost of implementation of SFM and FC in the country.

The recorded presentation is available with Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, ITTO- Teak Mekong project leader

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