



Inside this issue

IstWebinar Meeting: Update of project activity implementation of the ITTO-BMEL Teak in Asia Pacific and Togo (W. Africa)

A short activity report on ITTO-BMEL Teak Project implementation in Togo (West Africa) - Selected sites

Partner Event on teak at the IUFRO World Congress 2024

Teak Mekong Newsletter is re-named as ITTO-BMEL Teak Newsletter to reflect changes in the start of 2nd phase of the project since November 2023 for 3 years for implementation in 6 countries of Asia Pacific and Togo in West Africa. The newsletter support and facilitates teak and other tropical species networking and information dissemination in the Asia Pacific and West Africa through ITTO member countries and partners, and support sharing lessons of the project through short news release, occasional papers, project related research and development information. The bi-monthly newsletter is released online through TEAKNET webpage www.teaknet.org and co-hosted by Kasetsart University, Thailand.

For more information,

please contact PK Thulasidas (thulasidas.teak@gmail.com) or Yongyut Trisurat (fforyyt@ku.ac.th)











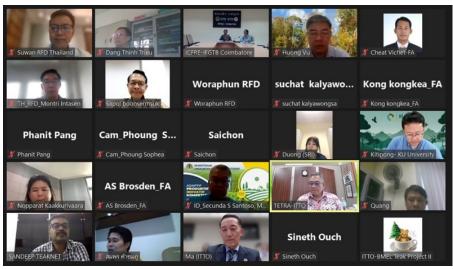
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1st Webinar Meeting



Date and Time: May 30, 2024 3:00 pm, Bangkok



Participants of the Webinar meeting

The 1st Webinar meeting of the ITTO-BMEL Smallholder Teak plantation project Phase II aimed at updating the project activities undertaken in the 6 participating countries was held at Bangkok, Thailand on 30 May 2024.

The project team consisting of national coordinators and consultants was self-introduced in the meeting. Altogether 29 delegates from the participating countries joined the meeting (List of participants in Annex 1). The agenda include 6 items as shown below.



ITTO-BMEL Smallholder Teak Project Phase II: 1st webinar to update the project implementation 30 May 2024



A draft agenda:

- 1. Introduction of the project team (e.g., National Coordinators, Project Staff, Consultants)
- 2. Status of MOUs signing and meetings/workshops
- 3. 1st progress report
- 4. Coordination with Thunen Institute of Forestry for data collection, etc.
- 5. Tentative schedule for PSC meeting and 1st Regional Workshop (including Theme and Venue)
- 6. Other business















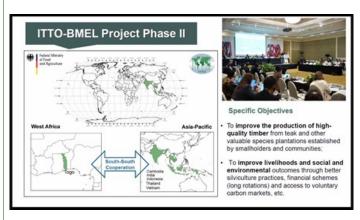
Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, Regional Project Manager, Kasetsart University, Bangkok

welcomed all delegates of



Welcome address by Prof. Yongyut Trisurat

the ITTO-BMEL smallholder teak project to the 1st Webinar meeting. Dr. Preecha Ongprasert (National Coordinator of Thailand), Dr. Tran Lam Dong (Deputy Director-General of VAFS, Vietnam), Mr. Chheang Dany (Deputy Director-General of Forestry Administration and National Coordinator of Cambodia). Dr. Kobsak Wanthongcha, Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University and Prof. KOKUTSE Adzo Dzifa (National Coordinator of Togo) could not attend the meeting due to prior commitments.

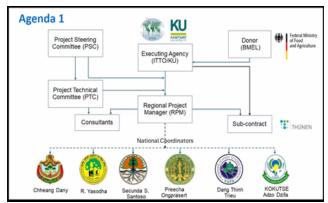


After the introduction, Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi, ITTO Projects Manager officially welcomed delegates and opened the webinar meeting. Dr. Tetra reiterated that the project started off its activity since



Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi, ITTO Projects Manager

Ist November 2023. Several events had taken place and significant progress has been achieved in Thailand, Vietnam and Togo for which the MoUs were signed in November 2023. In addition, the 1st bi-annual progress report was submitted to BMEL on 27 May 2024 with proposed budget modification from Thailand, Vietnam and Thunen Institute of Forestry, Germany. On behalf of ITTO, he conveyed ITTO's appreciation to Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Germany for its continuing support to ITTO, and also to the participating countries for making the project successfully undertaken.





Status of MoUs signing and meetings/workshops

Four countries (Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Togo) already signed MoUs with ITTO and started to implement the project activities. India and Indonesia are in the final process of signing the MoU. Dr. R.Yasodha, the National Coordinator of India, informed the meeting that the signing will be done very soon. Dr. Secunda S. Santoso, Indonesia also notified the meeting that the working committee submitted its recommendation to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.



Key meetings/workshops conducted in the last 6 months include:

1) A Hybrid Launching Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand held on 11-13 October 2024.



 Participation and presentation at 59th session of the ITTO Council Meeting at Pattaya, Thailand to share the achievements the project phase I, activities of project phase II and arranged an exhibition.



- 3) Organized an online Launching Workshop on 25 January 2024 after submission of the Inception Report to ITTO. The meeting discussed about collaborative approach to implement the project by the 6 participating countries and work with the Thunen Institute of Forestry, Germany on data collection and field work.
- 4) Developed the Project Website which included background information of each participating country, key activities and expectations. The website will get regular update every two months, the activities undertaken by the participating countries to share the information to the teak community.
- 5) Dr P.K. Thulasidas (Consultant#5 Information Management) published 2 issues of ITTO-BMEL Teak Newsletters. The next issue will be published in early June 2024.



1st Bi-annual Progress Report

The 1st Progress report (1 Nov 2023 – 30 Apr 2024) was submitted to ITTO on 22 May 2024 and ITTO after review forwarded it to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) on 27 May 2024. The report carries activities that were implemented in 4 countries, namely Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Togo. Physical activities from India and Indonesia were not included due to delayed MoUs signing. Thunen Institute of Forestry also proposed to postpone planned budget during November 2023 – April 2024 to July 2024 to match field work activities. The progress report and budget modification have been submitted to BMEL for consideration and approval.



Status of Consultants recruitment

Technical field	Scope	Duration	Potential institution/ individual	Host country	Status
Consultant #1 Quality Plant-	International	4 months	Mr. Cheat Vichet	Cambodia	Recruited
ing Material			Research Centre for Plant Conservation Botanic Garden and Forestry /National Research and Innovation	Indonesia	Not started
			Dr Phan Minh Quang, Silviculture Research Institute, VAFS	Vietnam	Recruited
			Dr Esse AYIGA	Togo	Recruited
Consultant #2: Field training	National	3 months	Mr. Phoung Sophea	Cambodia	Recruited
in seed production/ nursery mgt/ silvicultural practices			Dr. Vu Dinh Huong, Forest Science Institute of South Vietnam	Vietnam	Recruited
			Mr. ASSI Hèmou	Togo	Recruited
Consultant #3: Legality	International	4 months	IGES	ITTO	
Consultant # 4: Efficient teakwood transportation and processing	National	2 months	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nopparat KAAKKURIVAARA Faculty of Forestry, KU	Thailand	Recruited
Consultant #5: Information management	International	Package	Dr. P.K. Thulasidas	ITTO/KU	Recruited
Consultant # 6:	International	3 months	TBD	India	Not started
Value chains			TBD	Indonesia	Not started
			Mr. Kitipong Tangkit Faculty of Forestry, KU	Thailand	Recruited
Consultant # 7: Teak strategy development	International	6 months	Dr. Hwan-ok Ma OJEong Resilience Institute, Korea University, Seoul, Korea	ITTO	Potential candidate
Sub-contract with the Thünen Institute of Forestry, Germany	International	package	Thünen Institute of Forestry	TIF- Germany	MoU signed



Progress of demonstration plots and on-going field activities

Cambodia: Ms. Sopheap Lim presented the activity report from Cambodia. The Cambodia submitted inception report and progress report, currently hiring a national consultant to start working from June with rainy season.

Key activities: Cambodia

- Submitted Inception Report, 1st Yearly Plant of Operation (11 Decd. 2023) and 1st Project Progress Report (30 Apr. 2024)
- Participated in the Project Inception Meeting (Online Meeting 25 Jan. 2024)
- Recruited Consultant#1: National Consultant on Production of Good-Quality Planting Material and Consultant#2: National Expert on Field Training Silvi-culture after received "NOL from ITTO on 9 May 2024.
- The measurement of the existing teak demonstration plots is about to start in early June 2024, while the establishment of demonstration plots for the other indigenous native value species are considering in Kmapong Cham and Kampang Speciatrophysics



Thailand component presented by Prof. Yongyut notified that an exhibition for awareness raising during IDF 2024 was held in Kanchanaburi Province; Organized 1st Training session on silviculture with participants from the smallholder plantation to improve the silvicultural practices in smallholder plantations. Ms. Somporn (Head of Silvicultural Research Station) informed the meeting regarding the maintenance of existing clonal plots and planned to do the clonal test in smallholder plantation in 2 sites (Chiang Mai and Kanchanaburi). The activities will start during the rainy season which began already.

Key activities: Thailand



Viet Nam: Dr. Dang Thinh Trieu, National Coordinator, Vietnam briefed the key activities undertaken during the reporting period from November 2023- April 2024.

Key activities: Vietnam





Togo component was presented by Prof. Kokou, University of Lome. The main activities include evaluation of the mixed Teak and Khaya plantation to improve the project activities due to the monoculture practice on teak plantation. Togo also used drones to evaluate the health conditions of teak plantations (a short article of Togo component is given separately in the newsletter).



IUFRO 2024 World Congress

IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div5.06.02) in association with ITTO, TEAKNET and FAO Rome is jointly organizing a side event on "Strengthening Teak Forest management for Sustainable Teakwood Supply Chains and Trade" at the IUFRO 2024 Congress during 23 -29 June 2024 in Stockholm, Sweden. The teak session is scheduled on 28 June from 08:30-10:30 hrs (CEST). Five delegates of the project team will be participating and make oral presentations (see the programme schedule given separately in the newsletter).



Coordination with Thunen Institute of Forestry, Germany for data collection, etc.

The project arranged an online meeting with Thunen Institute of Forestry on 22 April 2024. The meeting was attended by 1) Dr. Hwan-ok Ma; 2) Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi; 3) Mr. Ramon (ITTO); 4) Prof Yongyut Trisurat; 5) Dr. Sven Günter, Head of the Unit Forestry Worldwide; and 6) Dr. Eliza Zhunusova, Senior Scientist | Socio-Economic and Livelihoods Analysis. Thunen Institute of Forestry already signed MOU with ITTO. They already initiated to recruit new staff to conduct the micro-finance activity and fieldwork by July 2024. Prof. Yongyut Trisurat mentioned that the 6 participating countries do not have the budget for activities related to micro-finance and supporting fieldwork. Dr. Tetra notified the meeting that ITTO will discuss this in detail with Thunen and put them in the ToRs.

Tentative schedule of PSC meeting and 1st Regional Workshop

The meeting discussed the schedule and venue of the 2^{nd} PSC meeting and 1st Regional Workshop.

Delegates agreed to organize both the meetings in Thailand during September 2024 as per the tentative schedule shown below:

16 September 2024 : Arrival of delegate in Bangkok

17 Sept 2024 : PSC meeting

18 Sept 2024 : 1st Regional Workshop

19-20 Sept 2024 : Field excursion

21 Sept 2024 : Departure of delegates

Regarding the Regional Workshop, all delegates are invited to share and propose themes and sub-themes either to Prof. Yongyut Trisurat or Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi to finalise. Dr. Suwan Tangmitcharoen, Chair of PTC, proposed an excursion to Prae and Nan Provinces in northern Thailand.

Phrae is recognized as the home of teak in Thailand and a lot of teakwood industries are operating in the province. Large-scale commercial teak plantations owned by Sri Trang Company and smallholder plantations are found in Nan province. Thus, the excursion will be fruitful to witness activities from upstream to downstream industries. It was informed that the 5th World Teak Conference will be held in Kerala, India in September 2025. In addition, the 2nd Regional Workshop is planned in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in 2026.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Tetra YANUARIADI from ITTO expressed their appreciations to Prof. Yongyut Trisurat for organizing the 1st Webinar Workshop. He also informed in the Meeting that TEAKNET (Dr. Sandeep) will receive the financial support from the Government of Japan through ITTO to organize the 5th World Teak Conference in 2025 and to implement the Sustainable Wood Supply chain in India. The meeting adjourned at 16.15 h with an vote of thanks to ITTO, Kasetsart University and all online and onsite delegates for various productive discussions towards the effective implementation of the project.



Annex- 1. List of delegates attended the 1st Webinar

No	Name-surname	Country	Note
1	Dr. Hwan-ok Ma	ITTO/Japan	Ex-ITTO Projects Manager
2	Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi	ITTO/Japan	ITTO Projects Manager
3	Dr. S. Sandeep	India	TEAKNET Coordinator
4	Dr. P.K. Thulasidas	India	TEAKNET/ Consultant #5 -Information Management
5	Ms. Sopheap Lim	Cambodia	Deputy National Coordinator, Forest Administration (FA)
6	Mr. Pang Phanit	Cambodia	Secretary, Forest Administration (FA)
7	Ms. Kong Kongkea	Cambodia	Forest Administration (FA)
8	Ms. AS Brosden	Cambodia	Forest Administration (FA)
9	Mr. Sineth Ouch	Cambodia	Forest Administration (FA)
10	Mr. Cheat Vichet	Cambodia	Consultant #1- Good quality planting material
11	Mr. Phoung Sophea	Cambodia	Consultant#2 – Field training silviculture
12	Dr. R. Yasodha	India	National Coordinator, ICFRE-IFGTB Coimbatore
13	Dr. Rekha Warrier	India	Project Investigator, ICFRE-IFGTB Coimbatore
14	Dr. Secunda S. Santoso	Indonesia	Interim National Coordinator, Ministry of Environment and Forestry
15	Prof. Yongyut Trisurat	Thailand	Regional Project Manager, KU
16	Dr. Suwan Tangmitcharoen	Thailand	Chair, Project Technical Committee, RFD
17	Mr. Sapol Boonsermsuk	Thailand	Member of Project Steering Committee
18	Mr. Suchat Kalyawongsa	Thailand	Member of Project Steering Committee
19	Mr.Montri Intasen	Thailand	Member of Project Steering Committee
20	Dr. Nopparat Kaakkurivaara	Thailand	Consultant#4- Efficient wood transportation, KU
21	Mr.Kitipong Tangkit	Thailand	Consultant#6 – Value chains, KU
22	Dr. Woraphun Himmapan	Thailand	Forestry Official, RFD
23	Dr.Dang Thinh Trieu	Vietnam	National Coordinator, VAFS
24	Dr. Vu Dinh Huong	Vietnam	Consultant#2 – Field training silviculture, VAFS
25	Dr. Le Van Quang	Vietnam	VAFS, Hanoi
26	Mr. Nguyen Thuy Duong	Vietnam	VAFS, Hanoi
27	Prof. KOKOU Kouami	Togo	Ember of Project Steering Committee, University of Lome
28	Ms. Saichon Mutarapat	Thailand	Project Secretary
29	Ms. Suchnart Suyarat	Thailand	Project Finance

Report by Dr. Yongyut Trisurat & Dr. P. K. Thulasidas



A short activity report on

ITTO-BMEL Teak Project implementation in Togo (West Africa) - Selected sites

Prof. Kouami KOKOU & Prof. Adzo Dzifa KOKUTSE University of Lomé, Togo

In Togo, ITTO-BMEL Teak Project Phase II is being implemented by the Forest Research Laboratory at the University of Lomé in collaboration with the Office de Dévelopement et d'Exploitation des Forêts (ODEF) under the Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources. Specific objectives outlined in the project include the conservation of teak and other valuable species genetic variation, support for smallholders and local communities in plantation management, and promoting timber legality compliance. Additionally, mapping stakeholders, producing outreach

materials, facilitating teak networking, and organizing regional workshops are key components.

Several sites across Togo were selected for the project's activities. The Forest Research Laboratory's site in Zogbepime monitors seven teak provenances and two local species, *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Khaya* spp., intended to serve as seed orchards, and provenance/progeny trials/clonal plantations for the project (Figure 1, Photo 1 & 2).

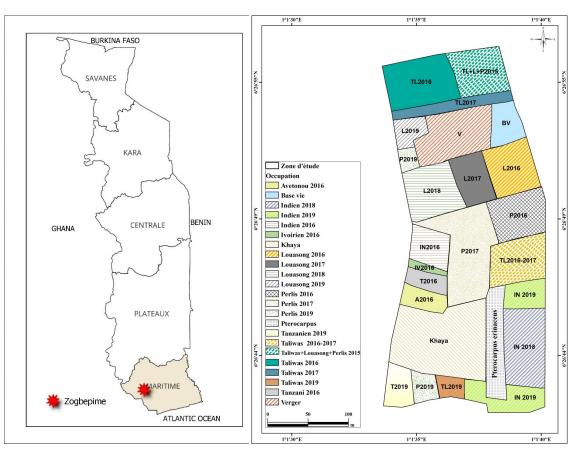


Figure 1: Zogbépimé Forest Station (6°27' and 6°33' N latitude and 0°54' and 1°3' E longitude)

IN: Indian; 2. T: Tanzanian, 3. IV: Ivoirian; 4. P: Perlis, 5. TL: Taliwas; 6. L: Louasong; 7. A: Avétonou; Number following the Letter are the year of plantation





Photo 1: Luasong Provenance from Malaysia (2016)

At the Ativémé site, ongoing silvicultural research is being monitored and evaluating the effect of the association between *Tectona grandis* and *Khaya* spp (Figure 2). Additionally, the forest stations managed by ODEF at Avétonou, Tchorogo, Asrama, and Tététou are vital locations where seed orchards of teak and *Cedrela odorata* are monitored. Trials involving *Pterocarpus erinaceus* are also being conducted there. Furthermore, within the Togodo wildlife reserve, the project monitors seed orchards of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*. These sites were selected for Advanced Breeding Trees (ABT) collection in the project's efforts to conserve genetic variation and support the sustainable management of teak and other valuable species plantations in Togo (Figure 3) in the forests of Tchorogo, Avétonou, Asrama, Tététou, Togodo.

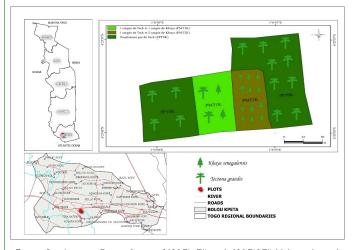


Figure 2: Ativémé Forest Station (6°25'13" and 6°25'27" N latitude and 1°06'34" and 1°07'05" E longitude).



Photo 2: Provenance from India (2018)

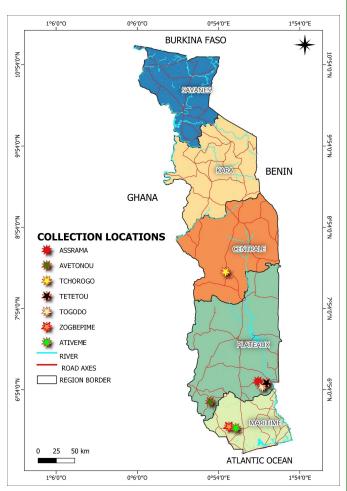


Figure 3: Sites surveyed for the selection of Plus Candidate Trees



Partner Event on Teak at the IUFRO World Congress 2024



XXVI IUFROWorld Congress

23-29 June 2024, Stockholm, Sweden

PARTNER EVENT

UNDER THEME 2: TOWARDS A RESPONSIBLE FOREST BIO-ECONOMY

SESSION T2.29

Strengthening Teak Forest
Management for Sustainable
Teakwood Supply Chains
and Trade

28 JUNE 2024

08:30 - 10:30 AM (CEST) Room: K21

Organizers

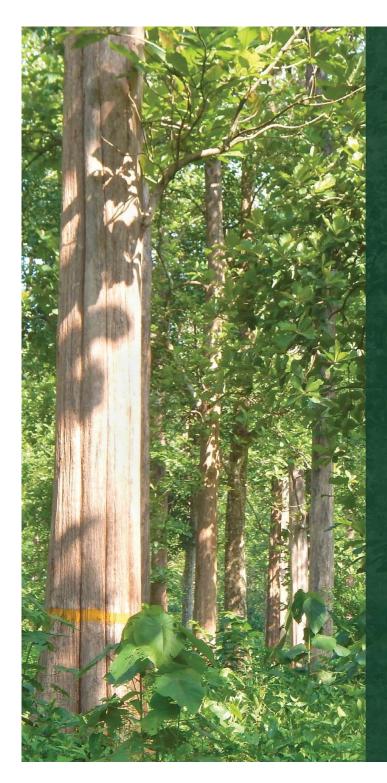












Background

eak's (Tectona grandis L.f.) exceptional quality and global demand have positioned it as an important species for planting across 70 tropical countries, with plantations covering 4.4 to 6.9 million ha. The global trade of teak roundwood, averaging 1.02 million cu.m per year, and the demand is predicted to increase in the coming years. Despite declining natural supply, plantation-grown teak holds promising long-term prospects, although controversies arise from exaggerated investment projections. The absence of common international log grading rules and varying measurement units further complicates matters. However, the quality of teakwood from well-managed planted forests has improved with superior planting material and silvicultural practices.

Forest management certification and legality enforcement are increasingly crucial for plantation-grown teak trade, necessitating strict control over legal sourcing and supply Establishing transparent traceable timber supply chains can offer teak growers more global market opportunities. In many tropical countries, smallholders and farmers own teak forests, requiring innovative simplified certification systems to alleviate high transaction costs. Additionally, teak plantations play a significant role in carbon sequestration and Forest Landscape Restoration, particularly on degraded lands. The session will delve into the current international scenario regarding the supply of quality plantation teakwood from sustainable sources.



Objectives

- Strategies for enhancing productivity of commercial and smallholder teak plantations while conserving genetic resources in natural forests.
- Expanding teak trade from legally harvested and sustainably managed sources.
- Establishing international log grading rules with uniform log dimensions and measuring units.
- Developing R&D innovations in processing technologies and design for quality teak products from short rotation plantations.
- Assessing opportunities and challenges of smallholder teak production systems.

Programme Schedule

Friday, 28 June 2024 | 08:30 - 10:30 AM (CEST) | Room : K21

Session Chairs: Dr. PK. Thulasidas, Dy. Coordinator, IUFRO Teakwood Working

Party & Former TEAKNET Coordinator, India

: Prof. Mário Tommasiello Filho, University of São Paulo, Brazil

Time	Title
08:30 - 08:40	Introduction Opening Remarks : Dr. Michael Kleine, Dy. Executive Director, IUFRO HQ. Vienna, Austria
08:40 - 08:50	Global Teak Resources and Market Assessment 2023 Sandeep S, TEAKNET Coordinator, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi, Kerala, India
08:50 - 09:00	Promoting Legal and Sustainable Supply Chains for Sustainable Global Teak Markets Hwan -Ok MA, Former ITTO Senior Project Manager, and Resource person, ITTO-BMEL Teak Project
09:00 - 09:10	Development of Smallholder Teak Plantations in Vietnam Dong Lam Tran, Deputy Director – General, Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences, Hanoi, Vietnam



Programme Schedule Contd... 26th IUFRO World Congress | 23-29 | June 2024

Friday, 28 June 2024 | 08:30-10:30 AM (CEST) | Room : K21

09:10 - 09:20	Effect of Topographic Conditions on Teak Heartwood Quality in Mountainous Area Simone Vongkhamho, Forestry Research Center, National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute, Vientiane 01170, Lao PDR	
09:20 - 09:30	Trends of trade and market access of tropical timber and timber products Tetra Yanuariadi, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Yokohama, Japan	
09:30 - 09:40	The future is genomic: rapid clone selection for teak productivity and value Andrew Callister, Treehouse Forest Research, Check, Virginia, USA	
09:40 - 09:50	Strengthening Smallholder Community-based Teak Plantations In Thailand Yongyut Trisurat, Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand	
09:50 - 10:00	Heartwood production and density of 22-year-old teakwood from fast-growth plantations: a comparative study across three locations in Brazil Mario Tomasiello Filho, Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture, University of São Paulo, Brazil	
10:00 - 10:10	Intensely Managed Teak Plantations - Quality of Teakwood & Common Grading Rules for Teak Logs Praveen Angusamy, Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra (FDCM) Ltd., India	
10:10 - 10:20	Reducing Initial Stocking Rates in Smallholder Teak Woodlots: Results of a Nelder Wheel Experiment in Northern Lao PDR after 15 Growing Seasons Outhai Soukkhy, Northern Agriculture and Forestry College, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Luang Prabang Province, Lao PDR	
10:20 - 10:30	Discussion	
Wrap up and Closing Remarks / Group Photo		



POSTER SESSION (1)



Programme Schedule

Friday, 28 June 2024 | 12:30 - 13:15 PM (CEST) | Poster 21

Session Chair: Dr. S. Sandeep, TEAKNET, KFRI, India

Co-chair : Dr. P.K. Thulasidas, Dy. Coordinator, IUFRO Teakwood

Working Party, India

Time	Title
12:30 - 12:35	X-ray Densitometry and Tree-Rings Applied in Growth Reconstruction of Tectona grandis Mário Tomasiello Filho, Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture, University of São Paulo, Brazil
12:35 - 12:40	On-farm Thinning Trials in Smallholder Woodlots of Teak: Intensive Early Thinning Improves Productivity Outhai Soukkhy, Northern Agriculture and Forestry College, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Luang Prabang Province, Lao PDR
12:40 - 12:45	Teak Plantations in Mixture with Native Species in Tropical Latin America: Growth, Management, Economics and Carbon Sequestration Rasoul Yousefpour, Institute of Forestry and Conservation, John Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, University of Toronto, Canada
12:45 - 12:50	Sustainable Development of the Global Teak Sector: Adapting to Future Markets and Environments Sreelakshmy, M. P., TEAKNET Secretariat, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi, Kerala, India
12:50 - 12:55	Sustainable Teak Harvesting and Regeneration Practices: Pivotal in Attaining the Economic, Social and Environmental Gains Chandrasekaran Bala, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Amravati Forest Division, Forest Department, Maharashtra, India
12:55 - 13:00	Thinning of Teak Forests - A Key to a Productive, Sustainable and Profitable Forest Praveen Angusamy, Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra (FDCM) Ltd., India
13:00 - 13:15	Discussion
Wrap up and Closing Remarks	





ABOUT IUFRO WORLD CONGRESSES

IUFRO World Congresses are among the largest global forest-related events. They attract more than 3000 participants, including representatives from academia, governments, industry, NGOs and civil society, from all world regions.



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ITTO –BMEL Teak Newsletter is a bi-monthly electronic newsletter of the Project Team which is intended for circulation among the stakeholders of global teak sector. The views expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization. The readers are welcome to express their opinions or pass on information concerned with teak. However, we reserves the information on the project and publishing through this newsletter for our esteemed readers.

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