Teak in Productive Landscapes: An Introduction to Global Efforts for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Teak Resources

Saffron Room | Wednesday | 25 Oct 2017 | 15:30–17:00
Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Organizers

International Teak Information Network (TEAKNET)
International Union of Forest Research Organizations Teakwood Working Party (IUFRO Div 5.06.02)

Supported by

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

APAFRI
About Asia Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC)

The 27th session of APFC was organized by the FAO of the United Nations and hosted by the Forest Department of Sri Lanka. APFC sessions are participated in by Asia and Pacific Country member country representatives, international organizations, NGO’s, academia, and private sector. “Forestry in a New Landscape”, the theme of the 27th Session of the APFC, aims to cover a range of related topics including climate finance, forest and landscape restoration, community based forestry and urban forestry. The 27th APFC was officially opened on 24 October in Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH), inaugurated by the President of the Republic of Sri Lanka, Mr. Maithripala Sirisena.

TEAKNET Partner Event

Teak (Tectona grandis L.f.) is recognized for its physical and aesthetic qualities as one of the most important and valuable hardwoods in the world. Although it takes only a marginal position in the volume of world timber production and trade, teak together with mahogany, red cedar and Indian rosewood are the tropical hardwoods most in demand for the luxury market and for heavy duty applications and takes the top rank in more than 20 countries. Economic value (including value of timber, pulp, food, wood energy, and non-wood forest products) is one of the main reasons for nominating the species as a priority for conservation and management.

For most of the countries - albeit being an introduced species - teak represents a good opportunity to produce quality timber and is a major asset for the forestry economy. Teak-based small-scale production systems enable farmers to diversify farm production, support food security, generate income and reduce financial risk and are an important alternative source of quality timber for wood industries. In the 27th Session of the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission meeting at Colombo during 23-27 October, TEAKNET organized the partner event with the financial support of FAO of the United Nations on the occasion of a Global Teak Study report published by IUFRO in its World Series Publications Volume 36 in June 2017.

Objectives

In view of the imminent threat of losing natural teak forests and in order to expedite the research results achieved so far, the international partners IUFRO, FAO, and TEAKNET promote the initiation and implementation of a global program for the conservation, improvement, development and sustainable use of teak genetic resources. Such Global Teak Support Program (GTSP) would contribute to preserving the native teak resources before further decline and sustainably managing planted teak forests for improved production and income generation. The partner event discussed the concept and important components of the global teak support programme encompassing the following main issues:
• Enhancing the conservation and sustainable management of existing native teak forests;
• Expanding the genetic resource base of planted teak forests in view of new challenges; and
• Strengthening international collaboration and regional networking in expanding national capacity for the conservation and sustainable management of teak resources.

Presentations

Delegates from Asia-Pacific region and from other regions converged for the event organized by TEAKNET in association with IUFRO, to discuss how best to further strengthen the understanding and knowledge of teak genetic resources, promote their sustainable use and management, and contribute to develop and promote in-situ and ex-situ conservation programs through development assistance and research collaboration.

Dr. Michael Kleine, Deputy Executive Director from IUFRO Headquarters, Vienna chaired the session, which was attended by over 26 participants from 15 countries. Following short presentations about the concept of a future global teak support programme and its important components related to natural teak forests; smallholder teak growing, genetic improvement, silviculture and wood quality, a panel of experts from ITTO, FAO, ICRAF and local research institutions deliberated on potential areas of work of a future global teak support programme.

Session Chair: Dr. Michael Kleine, Executive Director, IUFRO Headquarters, Vienna, Austria
Dr. Michael Kleine welcomed the gathering and briefed the audience about the concept of convening the partner event. He requested the invited delegates for the need for short presentations to have more time for panel discussion.

The following panelists made presentations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Presentation Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15:40-15:50</td>
<td>Yazar Minn, Assistant Director, Forest Research Institute, Yezin, Myanmar</td>
<td>Teak for the Rehabilitation and Restoration of Productive Landscapes.</td>
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<td>15:50-16:00</td>
<td>James M Roshetko, World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF), Southeast Asia Programme, Indonesia</td>
<td>The Significance of Planted Teak for Smallholder Farmers.</td>
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<td>16:00-16:10</td>
<td>KMA Bandara, Director, Sri Lanka Forestry Institute</td>
<td>Genetic Conservation and Improvement of Teak in Sri Lanka.</td>
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<td>16:10-16:20</td>
<td>PK Thulasidas, TEAKNET Coordinator, India</td>
<td>Teakwood Quality from Natural and Planted Forests.</td>
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Panel Discussion facilitated by Dr. Michael Kleine, IUFRO HQ, Vienna

16:20–17:00
- Kenichi Shono, FAO of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP), Bangkok, Thailand
- Steven Johnson, International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO, Japan)
- Yazar Minn, Forest Research Institute, Yezin, Myanmar
- James M Roshetko, World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF), Indonesia
- KMA Bandara, Sri Lanka Forestry Institute, Sri Lanka
- PK Thulasidas, TEAKNET Secretariat, India

Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks

The panelists answering questions from the audience
After the presentations, the panelists heard the audience comments on the major question- *In moving the GTSP forward what are essential areas of involvement and activities the project should pursue?* The panelists noted the comments and suggested the following major actions to be considered in a future global teak support programme.

**Outcomes and Conclusions**

1. Improve the conservation and management of natural teak forests in its native habitat
   - Assistance to countries with natural teak forests to improve the conservation and management of teak;
   - Identification of important natural teak resources for *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation;
   - Establish additional teak seed stands and seed orchards in areas (not yet covered);
   - Further improve documentation and statistical database on natural teak resources.

2. Assist in the conservation and improvement programmes of teak genetic resources
   - Assist in the establishment of international provenance/progeny trials for germplasm conservation as well as to develop base populations for teak improvement programmes in the respective countries;
   - Develop and test selection criteria for young teak trees showing better wood quality parameters;
   - Continue to support countries in their genetic research and improvement programs through training and development of adequate protocols;
   - Promote teak clonal forestry plantations for fast-growing industrial stands for enhanced yields.
3. Support good management practices in planted teak forests
   - Further investigate the impact of silviculture stand management on teak wood quality;
   - Promote selection of plus-trees with superior wood quality;
   - Develop and test selection criteria for young teak trees showing better wood quality parameters;
   - Test the feasibility of establishment and management of mixed species plantations with teak.

4. Promote small-scale teak production by smallholder farmers
   - Development of a network of teak smallholders for gaining access to good germplasm material;
   - Establish demonstration and training on improved teak stand management (spacing/thinning);
   - Promoting wider spacing and intercropping (with agricultural and short rotation timber crops) for smallholder teak;
   - Develop extension and training manuals and dissemination material (bulletins);
   - Develop farmer extension programmes which can help spread good teak management in a cost effective manner.

5. Improve the international marketability of teak
   - Develop a consistent and coherent international log and lumber grading system for teak including log grading rules for smallholder grown teak;
   - Establish market knowledge systems and links to smallholder teak growers (group marketing);
   - Further test and develop DNA fingerprinting for tracing legal/illegal sources of timber extraction (Timber-tracking);
   - Promotion of certification standards for timber production by local communities (group certification);
   - Work through country partners to lobby World Customs Organization to develop a specific export code for teak timber.

6. Strengthen TEAKNET as international teak information network and partnership platform
   - Improve statistical database on teak resources, production and trade;
   - Conduct systematic review on past research and development on teak – to include white and gray literature;
   - Monitor genetic improvement programmes and international trade of selected superior clones;
   - Provide impartial cost-benefit analysis for potential investors into teak plantations.

The session wrapped up with event speakers found it very successful the initiatives of TEAKNET, IUFRO and FAO to carry forward the key messages evolved to include it in the development assistance and collaborative future GTSP programme for the sustainable management and conservation of teak genetic resources in its native and planted teak forests regions.
Exhibition Booth

TEAKNET in association with IUFRO set up an Exhibition booth at the APFC meeting venue at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) from 23 to 27 October during the days of Commission meeting for greater visibility, interaction and communication with forestry community at large.

Field visits

The organisers arranged field visits on 26th October to two places:

- Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage & Cane Manufacturing Zone at Wewaldeniya and
- Dombagaskanda Rain Forest Reserve, home garden at Kurana & Plywood factory at Kandnapitiya.

The 27th Asia Pacific Forestry Commission meeting came to a close on 27 October evening with the Secretary of the APFC, Mr. Thomas Hofer announced the august gathering to meet again in Seol, South Korea during 2019 for the next APFC session and Asia Pacific Forestry Week.

Report by

PK Thulasidas, TEAKNET Coordinator and Coordinator, IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div5.06.02) & Michael Kleine, Deputy Executive Director, IUFRO HQ, Vienna
The President of the Republic of Sri Lanka, Mr. Maithripala Sirisena inaugurates the 27th APFC Session

Dr. Michael Kleine, Deputy Executive Director IUFRO HQ, Vienna, Austria on global teak support programme (GTSP)

Presentation by Dr. PK Thulasidas, TEAKNET
Cultural Programme

Goyam Kavi – Traditional Sri Lankan dance during the harvest season

Dombagaskanda Forest Reserve

Field Trip to Ingiriya Rain forest Reserve

Field visit to homegarden in Kurana Village

Visit to Rubberwood based plywood factory