Teaknet Bulletin

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Editorial

Greetings for the Year 2018!!

Teaknet enters the 10th year of publication in 2018 with new hopes and aspirations. When we look back at the year that passed by, we were successful in organising two Partner Events: one in Vancouver during June and another in conjunction with the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission meeting in Colombo during October for which a detailed report is presented in this Bulletin. In addition, we partnered with IUFRO and FAO to bring out a major global teak study report which has been published as IUFRO World Series Publication No. 36 and made available online.

Nilambur Teak, internationally known for its superior quality and elegant appearance has now entered the elite club of products with GI (Geographical Indication) tag. Nilambur Teak is the first forest wood product accorded with GI status in the world. A brief report of the achievement is being published in this Bulletin. Our regular column on the latest teak prices of plantation timbers imported to India is also included for the benefit of the readers.

We solicit your suggestions and feedback, contributions of news items of interest to teak growers/traders and researchers through our e-Newsletter.

With warm regards,
P.K. Thulasidas
TEAKNET Coordinator

A Very Happy & Prosperous New Year To All Our Readers
Kerala’s Nilambur teak, known internationally for its superior timber quality and elegant appearance, has been accorded with the Geographical Indications (GI) tag by the GI Registry of the Government of India. Nilambur Teak is the first forest wood product accorded with GI status in the world.

Due to its superior physical and mechanical properties, durability as well as aesthetic appearance, Nilambur teak was exported to England and other parts of the world since time immemorial. As its fame crossed the boundaries of India, Nilambur in Malappuram district of Kerala was christened as ‘Mecca of Teak’. The British were the first to identify the superior and unique quality of teak from Nilambur forests. Later, the region became the major supplier of quality teak in the world.
Nilambur teak plantations spread across an approximate area of 8760 hectares. The geographical boundary of Nilambur teak is limited to the forest areas, plantations and homesteads in Nilambur Taluk and nearby local self-government panchayat of Edavanna in Ernad Taluk of Malappuram district in Kerala, India as shown in the map.

Furniture products, sea going ships and vessels are manufactured from durable Nilambur teak. Sail boats and small ships (Dhow or ‘Uru’ as it is called locally) are made entirely of teak wood from Nilambur and is still continued to be built at ancient Beypore port in Calicut district, Kerala. The yacht industry in Europe still prefers the beautifully figured durable teak wood sourced from Nilambur. Nilambur teak is famous for its elegance, colour, class, grandeur, space durability, antiquity, grace and strength and hence acquired the worldwide reputation and acceptance.

Nilambur Teak Heritage Society in Nilambur is the proprietor of GI tag of this unique teak variety under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 of Government of India. The efforts for obtaining GI status was pursued by the IPR Cell of Kerala Agricultural University with the active support of College of Forestry of Kerala Agricultural University, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi, Forest Department of the Govt. of Kerala together with Nilambur Teak Heritage Society.

What is GI tag

GIs indicate goods as originating in a specific geographical region, the characteristics, qualities or reputation thereof essentially attributable to such region. GI-branded goods possess a recall value amongst consumers who essentially attribute these characteristics, qualities or reputation to such geographical origin.
The GI tag is an indication which is definite to a geographical territory. It is used for agricultural, natural and manufactured goods. For a product to get GI tag, the goods need to be produced or processed or prepared in that region. It is also essential that the product has special quality or reputation.

The superiority of teak from Nilambur and surrounding regions for shipbuilding and structural purpose are due to the large size and form of the tree, beautiful colour, workability and durability. Teak grows fast in Nilambur and yields large diameter logs. Nilambur teak wood has straight grains with golden yellow brown colour, often with darker chocolate-brown streaks. The durability of Nilambur teak is the result of synergetic effect of total extractive compounds especially the polyphenolic compounds mainly tectoquinone and naphthoquinone. Tectoquinone present in Nilambur teak (heartwood) is repellent to the dry wood termites. The resistance to fungal decay is mainly due to naphthoquinone and the hydrobophobic (water repellent) and antioxidant properties is due to caoutchoue compounds. The low shrinkage properties of Nilambur teak indicate its dimensional stability.

Benefits of GI tag

- GIs support and protect local production (as opposed to global production)
- Generate local employment
- They are mostly untouched by industrialisation, originating in villages or small towns.
- This identity helps in preventing misuse of a registered GI.
- GI tag boosts national and international marketability and thus helps in promoting economic prosperity of the producers of the region.
- GI tag protects consumer interest also

Community rights

GIs are important element of intellectual property rights (IPRs) under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. Thus, GI is governed by World Trade Organisation’s (WTO’s) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. India enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 for protection of unique traditional goods. A registered GI is a community property which belongs to the producers of the goods from the approved geographical area. It cannot be licensed or transferred to persons from other geographical locations. As proprietors, Nilambur Teak Heritage Society has future plans to utilize GI registration for enhancing marketability and fame of Nilambur teak, avoiding fake products.
Report of the TEAKNET Partner Event at the 27th Session of FAO Regional Forestry Commission Asia-Pacific

23-27 October 2017
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Background

In the 27th Session of the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission 2017 meeting at Colombo, Sri Lanka during 23-27 October, TEAKNET organized a Partner Event "Teak in Productive Landscapes: An Introduction to Global Efforts for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Teak Resources" with the financial support of FAO of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia Pacific, Bangkok. The event was organized in association with IUFRO Teak wood Working Party (Div 5.06.02) and Asia Pacific Association for Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), Malaysia. The 27th session of APFC was organized by the FAO of the United Nations and hosted by the Forest Department of Sri Lanka. "Forestry in a New Landscape", the theme of the 27th Session of the APFC, aimed at covering a range of related topics including climate finance, forest and landscape restoration, community based forestry and urban forestry. APFC sessions had participation from Asia and Pacific country representatives, international organizations, NGO’s, academia, and the private sector. APFC was officially opened on 24th October in the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) and was inaugurated by the President of the Republic of Sri Lanka, Mr. Maithripala Sirisena.

Read more on page 6
TEAKNET Partner Event

Teak (Tectona grandis L.f.) is recognized for its physical and aesthetic qualities and as one of the most important 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 forest 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.

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 GTSP 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. He welcomed the gathering and briefed the concept of convening the partner event. 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.

Read more on page 7
### Programme Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Chair</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 15:30-15:40| Dr. Michael Kleine, Executive Director, IUFRO Headquarters, Vienna, Austria    | Michael Kleine, IUFRO HQ, Vienna, Austria  
*Global Teak Support Program – Addressing Current Challenges of Natural and Planted Teak Forests* |
| 15:40-15:50| Yazar Minn, Assistant Director, Forest Research Institute, Yezin, Myanmar      | Yazar Minn, Assistant Director, Forest Research Institute, Yezin, Myanmar  
*Teak for the Rehabilitation and Restoration of Productive Landscapes* |
| 15:50-16:00| James M Roshetko, World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF), Southeast Asia Programme, Indonesia | James M Roshetko, World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF), Southeast Asia Programme, Indonesia  
*The Significance of Planted Teak for Smallholder Farmers* |
| 16:00-16:10| KMA Bandara, Director, Sri Lanka Forestry Institute                           | KMA Bandara, Director, Sri Lanka Forestry Institute  
*Genetic Conservation and Improvement of Teak in Sri Lanka* |
| 16:10-16:20| PK Thulasidas, TEAKNET Coordinator, India                                     | PK Thulasidas, TEAKNET Coordinator, India  
*Teakwood Quality from Natural and Planted Forests* |

#### Panel Discussion facilitated by Dr. Michael Kleine, IUFRO HQ, Vienna

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Panelists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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

After the presentations, the panelists heard the comments from the audience 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.

The panelists answering questions from the audience
Outcome 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;
   - 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 grey 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 the participants hailed 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 and IUFRO jointly 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

On 26th October, the organisers arranged field visits for the APFC delegates to the following places:
• Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage & Cane Manufacturing Zone at Wewaldeniya and
• Dombagaskanda Rain Forest Reserve, home garden at Kurana & Plywood factory at Kandnapitiya

During the APFC session on 27th morning, Dr. PK Thulasidas, Teaknet Coordinator presented a brief report on the wide ranging activities of TEAKNET being supported by FAO RAP. The Forestry Commission meeting concluded in the evening with Mr. Thomas Hofer, Senior Forestry Officer and Secretary of the APFC, announcing the conduct of next APFC session and the Asia Pacific Forestry Week in Seoul, South Korea in 2019.

Report by
PK Thulasidas, TEAKNET Coordinator

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**Photo Gallery**

Bandaranaike International Convention Centre - The

The President of the Republic of Sri Lanka, Mr. Maithripala Sirisena inaugurates the 27th APFC Session

View of Audience

TEAKNET Partner Event

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

Presentation by Dr. PK Thulasidas, TEAKNET

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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
Prices of Plantation Teak Imported to India

<table>
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<th>Country of Origin</th>
<th>Logs</th>
<th>US$ per cu.m C&amp;F</th>
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<td>Angola</td>
<td>389-574</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>350-400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
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<td>Brazil</td>
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<td>Cameroon</td>
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<td>Congo D. R.</td>
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<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
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<td>Uganda</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania sawn</td>
<td>307-613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda sawn</td>
<td>680-900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil squares</td>
<td>333-556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador squares</td>
<td>333-454</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nigeria squares</td>
<td>434-517</td>
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Variations are based on quality, lengths of logs and the average girth.

Courtesy: ITTO TTM Report 21(23): 1-15 December 2017

Editorial Committee
Dr. P.K. Thulasidas
Dr. E. M. Muralidharan
Dr. S. Sandeep

Teaknet Bulletin is a quarterly electronic newsletter of TEAKNET brought out through its website. It is intended for circulation among the members of TEAKNET and other 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 of value to teak growers, traders, researchers or others concerned with teak. However, TEAKNET reserves the right to choose the contributions for publishing and also to make necessary editorial modifications in the articles in consultation with the authors.

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