ITTO-TEAK IN MEKONG

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Promoting legal and sustainable value chains important for sustainable trade of teakwood beyond COVID-19 pandemic, says Dr. MA Hwan-ok, Senior Project Manager, ITTO Japan while delivering a talk in the Teaknet Webinar held on 24 Nov.2020. The COVID-19 badly affected the medium and long- term tropical timber production, consumption and trade. It is anticipated that the recovery process may take longer time than expected.

Speaking at the 7th of the series of Teaknet webinar organised by the International Teak Information Network- India, Dr. Ma touched upon the trends of the international tropical timber trade flows (both timber logs and sawnwood) and policies, various timber certification and legality initiatives, a short review of the global teak study and the ITTO supported project on Legal and sustainable teakwood supply chains in the greater Mekong-region.

In the global impact of COVID-19 pandemic, Is wood be part of the solution in future? Yes, Teak can become a bridge between the green recovery process on account of its carbon benefits, versatility, reuse capability and aesthetics, and for a sustainable future. The various international trade policies and regulations such as US Lacey Act, EU Timber regulations, the recent Chinese Forest Law Amendment 2019 etc was elaborated in the lecture. Many forest investment companies and public sectors in many countries follow the two int'l certification schemes: Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), the two voluntary tool for promoting SFM and trade.

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.

For more information please contact,

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The total net certified forest area in the world as on 2019 was about 426 million ha, however, the proportion of the certification of tropical forests is very low.

The various timber legality verification systems initiatives of Indonesia, Myanmar and Lao PDR was highlighted in the talk. Teak being a major valuable timber species grown in over 70 tropical countries and its natural distribution in the 4 tropical countries has been drastically reduced and its broad genetic resource base has been threatened. ITTO Japan is implementing a 3-year project to promote legal and sustainable teak supply chains in the greater Mekong region since March 2019 in the 5 Mekong countries, viz; Myanmar, Thailand, Vienam, Lao PDR and Cambodia.

The key messages of the talk includes among other things:

⇒ Promotion of a legal and sustainable trade of teakwood

Long-term gains beyond the COVID-19 pandemic; a sustainable wood for a sustainable world.

Partnerships between governments in tropical timber producing and consuming countries to enhance the trade's positive impact on legal compliance and SFM.

⇒ Assistance for capacity building

Lack of capacity to cope with teakwood legality in many tropical countries.

Support to digitalization of timber legality assurance systems; innovation to teak silviculture and quality product development.

⇒ Effective forest policies and legislation towards inclusive and integrated teak-based SFM

In revision of forest legislation, avoid legislative overreaching and enhance provisions for inclusive participation of stakeholders, transparency and accountability.

Certifications of smallholders' teak plantations by local governments.

Definitely, Teak can serve as a bridge to the green recovery and the future!!!

Watch Webinar in the youtube channel of TEAKNET

Training Programme on
Clonal Propagation of Teak

27-31 August, 2020
Forest Research Institute, Yezin, Myanmar

Senior officials from FRI, Trainers and Trainees at the Opening ceremony

The ITTO Teak project of **"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),** Myanmar Component is being implemented by the Forest Department with a three year plan. In accordance with the project activity 2.1 to promote conservation and sustainable management of teak forest and to support local communities and Forest Department's staffs through establishment of demonstration plots and field trainings, the training course on **Teak Clonal propagation techniques** in tree improvement was organized from 27 to 31 August, 2020 at Forest Research Institute, Yezin and at Forest Research Station No. 5 Moeswe, Oattarathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw.

Mr. U Aung Thu, Director, Forest Research Institute delivered the opening speech. A total of 20 trainees of which twelve were Forest Rangers from Forest Research Institute and eight local people from the project area participated.

Opening speech by Mr. U Aung Thu, Director, Forest Research Institute

The training module included lecture, practical demonstration and field work. The following topics were covered in the training.

- Introduction to tree improvement programme,
- Application of genetic knowledge for conservation of teak genetic resource
- Plus Tree selection & Clonal Seed Orchard
- Establishment of Teak Hedge Garden & Clonal propagation
- Soil & Fertilizer application
- Pest management

Lecture on Introduction to tree improvement programme & Application of genetic knowledge for conservation of teak genetic resource

Field work on selection of plus tree at Forest Research Station No. 5 Moeswe

Practical demonstration on Plus Tree selection methods

Field work on establishment of Teak Clonal Seed Orchard

Practical on planting grafted teak plants

Distribution of training certificates

Practical demonstration and field work on establishment of Teak Clonal Seed Orchard in the project area was given to the participating trainees. They got an opportunity to study the clonal propagation techniques for tree improvement programme. The successful trainees were given participation certificate.

Report by
Dr. Zar Chi Hlaing & Mr.U Aung Thu
Forest Research Institute, Yezin
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Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

ITTO

FOREST

Minutes of the Project (Virtual) Technical Meeting of

"Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Management of Teak Forests and Legal and Sustainable Wood Supplies Chains in the Greater Mekong Sub-region"

(ITTO Project PD-A/54-331)

Date: 10th September 2020

Time: 09:00 – 11:00 am

Venue: Forest Research Institute, Yezin, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

The Project Virtual Technical Meeting was held on 10th September, 2020 at the Meeting Room of Director's Office, Forest Research Institute, Yezin from 09:00 - 11:00 am.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss the planned activities as envisaged in the project from July to December, 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The list of participants attended the meeting is listed as ANNEX - 1.

Programme Schedule

Time	Agenda
10:00 – 12:30 h	Welcome remarks by Mr. Ngwe Thee, Deputy Director, Forest Research Institute, Forest Department Opening remarks by Dr. Hwan-Ok MA, Projects Manager, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) Presentation on the activities of Teak Genetic Conservation/ Tree Improvement Team by Team Leader, Dr. Thant Shin, Assistant Director, Forest Research Institute Presentation onthe activities of Forest Management/ Timber Legality Team by Team Leader, Dr. Tual Cin Khai, Assistant Director, Forest Research Institute Closing the meeting

Welcome remarks

Mr. Ngwe Thee, Deputy Director of Forest Research Institute, Forest Department delivered the welcome remarks on behalf of the National Coordinator of Myanmar component who was away attending another important meeting of the Forest Department. He thanked ITTO for organizing this project virtual technical meeting at FRI. He elaborated the project management/ organizational structure of Myanmar Component that comprises three Teams: Secretariat Office, Teak Genetic Conservation/ Tree Improvement Team and Forest Management/ Timber Legality Team. The project implementing activities was being postponed due to the COVID-19 conditions, and informed that the project teams was doing their level best to achieve the targeted planned activities. He said that the two Consultants were already assigned for the Myanmar Component and they started their works. Last week, there was a virtual meeting: Timber Legality at the headquarters of Forest Department in which the senior officials from Forest Department, representatives from Myanma Timber Enterprise (MTE), Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC), Private sector, ITTO and the Consultant #4 for Timber Legality participated. There was also a meeting with Consultant #1 for Teak Genetic Conservation and the project team members which was very useful for the future project activities related to teak genetic conservation. He wished that this project virtual technical meeting would support and the fruitful suggestions and recommendations would help to plan future implemention of project activities of Myanmar Component.

Opening remarks

Dr. Hwan-ok Ma, Projects Manager of ITTO, Japan delivered congratulatory remarks. He expressed his heartfelt appreciations to Forest Department, Forest Research Institute for the long standing cooperation and partnership with ITTO. He pointed out that the Timber Legality Meeting was very interesting and good discussion with all who were working on the timber legality activities in Myanmar. The Project Virtual Technical Meeting will support the proactive and valuable suggestions and recommendations to successfully achieve project's targeted activities of ITTO Teak Mekong project.

Presentation on the activities of Teak Genetic Conservation/ Tree Improvement Team

Dr. Thant Shin, Assistant Director of Forest Research Institute, Forest Department and Team Leader of Teak Genetic Conservation/ Tree Improvement made a presentation on proposed project activities of his team. He pointed out that the project activities implemented by his team during Jan to July, 2020 postponed the activities due to COVID-19 Pandemic such as training, excursion, data collection related to the teak genetic conservation activities, and also the practical demonstration works. Then, he presented the planned activities from October to December. Establishment of gene bank is one of the major activities envisaged in which three plans with different clones from 7 regions were included.

The activities as per the work plan includes establishment of gene bank such as re-selection of existing plus tree, its mapping and preparation of stock plants for grafting. The renovation of mist chamber was needed for grafting which was also one of the main activities for the teak hedge garden. The presentation of Dr. Thant Shin is attached to the meeting minutes as ANNEX -2. After his presentation, Dr. MA discussed upon this presentation and made the recommendations.

Presentation on the activities of Teak Genetic Conservation/ Tree Improvement Team by Team Leader, Dr. Thant Shin

Presentation on the activities of Forest Management/ Timber Legality Team

Dr. Tual Cin Khai, Assistant Director, Forest Research Institute made a brief presentation on the activities of Forest Management/ Timber Legality Team. He mentioned the new members of this team, and some of the activities the two teams will be engaged together. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is prohibition for the government staffs to travel outside Nay Pyi Taw which was the main obstacle for implementing the activities at the project area, especially at the Letpan Khon Research Station that is is located outside Nay Pyi Taw area. He presented the implemented activities including demonstration plots related to the team activities. Also, he described the planned activities from September to December, 2020; mainly the maintenance of demonstration plots that is located in Nay Pyi Taw area, and establishment of smallholder farmer group in Moe Swe Village. He presented the village meeting with the communities of Moe Swe Village which was an activity under 2.3: the establishment of smallholder farmer group. Dr. Tual Cin Khai's presentation is attached as ANNEX- 3. Dr. MA made the recommendations upon the presentation.

Presentation on the activities of Forest Management/ Timber Legality Team by Team Leader, Dr. Tual Cin Khai

Discussion and Recommendations

The Project Virtual Technical Meeting made the following key recommendations:

1. Revise the budget plan based on the planned activities
2. Support the establishment of gene bank with a due review to the three options (e.g. Option A - 42.5 Acres for 17 groups, Option B – 18.7 Acres for 7 groups and Option C – 11.25 Acres)
3. Review the application form for the establishment of an UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve for a 100 years old teak plantation site (Brandis plantation) from UNESCO website and collect relevant information by the end of Feb 2021
4. Include a supporting member from Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC) in the working group 2 promoting forest management and timber legality
5. Consider organizing a monthly virtual (on-line) technical meeting on timber legality in Oct – December 2020
6. Try to include bamboo in teak-based agroforestry demonstrations in Moe Swe Station under Activity 2.3. Technical information on a mixed plantation of teak and bamboo should be obtained from Dr San Win.

The Project Virtual Technical Meeting came to a close by 11:00 am (Myanmar Time).

Government representative

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Mr. Ngwe Thee
Deputy Director, Forest Research Institute
Forest Department

ITTO representative

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Dr. Hwan Ok Ma
Projects Manager
ITTO

ANNEX - 1. Participants of the Project Technical Meeting

No.	Name	Position	Department
1.	Mr. Ngwe Thee	Deputy Director	Forest Research Institute, Forest Department
2.	Dr. Hwan-ok Ma	Projects Manager	International Tropical Timber Organization
3.	Dr. Thant Shin	Assistant Director	Forest Research Institute, Forest Department
4.	Dr. Tual Cin Khai	Assistant Director	Forest Research Institute, Forest Department
5.	U Aung Zaw Moe	Research Officer	Forest Research Institute, Forest Department
6.	Dr. Mu Mu Aung	Research Officer	Forest Research Institute, Forest Department
7.	Dr. Zar Chi Hlaing	Staff Officer	Forest Research Institute, Forest Department

ANNEX - 2. Presentation of the activities of Teak Genetic Conservation/ Tree Improvement Team by Team Leader, Dr. Thant Shin, Assistant Director, Forest Research Institute

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)

Project Activities for genetic conservation and tree improvement

Sr.	Project Activity	Peroid	Remark
1	Revitalization of teak hedge garden (1.8) Acres Weeding, Fertilizer Application, Shooting counting)	Feb, 2020 – Mar, 2020	Implemented
2	Training for establishment of teak hedge garden	Mar, 2020	Implemented
3	Training for clonal propagation of teak	Jul, 2020	Implemented

Postponed Activities due to COVID-19

- Training for genetic conservation of teak
- Excursion to 100 year old teak plantation (Brandis Plantation)
- Data collection of stand characteristics, social and historical information for proposing a regionally/ globally recognized site.
- Practical demonstration for the activities of the seed production areas establishment.

Plan up to December, 2020

Output 3: Regional and international collaboration, information sharing and knowledge management networking, policy development and outreach on the sustainable management of teak forests, including sustainable use of teak genetic resource have been strengthened

Activity 3.1: Produce and disseminate outreach and training material on the conservation and sustainable management of teak forests and legal and sustainable supply chains (regional scope)

Sr.	Activity	Oct	Nov	Decem
1	Producing video clips for vegetative propagation of teak			
2	Publication of manual for vegetation methods and selection of teak plus trees.			

Considerations for Establishment of Gene Bank

Teak Genetic Conservation and Tree Improvement Team

Genetic diversity of Myanmar Teak Population

Sr.	Group	Locality	Genetic Diversity	Genetic Variation
1	Aung Lan	Ayeyarwadi	High	Different
2	Pegu	Southern Region (East Pegu)	High	Moderately Different
3	Phyu	"	Moderate	Different
4	Taungoo	"	Moderate	Different
5	Tharyarwady	Lowerr Region (West Pegu)	Height	Different
6	Letpantan	Lowerr Region (West Pegu)	Height	Different
7	Yangon	Lower Region	Height	Moderately Different
8	Hmawbe	Lower Region	Height	Moderately Different
9	Tharsi	Middle Region	Height	Moderately Different
10	Taungdwingyi	Middle Region	Height	Moderately Different
11	Kathar	Upper Region	Height	Moderately Different
12	Pinlebu	Upper Region	Height	Different
13	Thabatekyin	Upper Region	Height	Different
14	Gangaw	Upper Region	Height	Different
15	Pyinoolwin	Upper Region/ Eastern Region	Height	Different
16	Naungcho	Eastern Region	Height	Different
17	Hlaingbwe	Southern Region	Height	Different
18	Mawlamyine	Southern Region	Height	Different
19	Kawkarate	Southern Region	Moderate	Different

Suggestions from National Consultant

- Genetically, 19 groups of teak have been suggested
- Gene Bank should be established based on the plus trees selected on each region
- Economic considerations should not be given the priority, genetic variation between different region should be prioritized.

Plan A (Optimum 18 Clones from one region) (Spacing 30 x 30). 48 individual per acre.

Sr	Region	Selected Clones	No. of Ramet for each clone	Total Ramet	Acre
1	Ayeyarwaddy	18	18	324	6.75
2	Lower				
	East Bago	18	18	324	6.75
	West Bago	18	18	324	6.75
	Yangon	18	18	324	6.75
3	Central	18	18	324	6.75
4	Upper	18	18	324	6.75
5	Eastern	18	18	324	6.75
6	Southern	18	18	324	6.75
7	Other	10	10	100	2
		118	118	2692	42.5

Plan B (10 Clones from one region) (Spacing 30 x 30). 48 individual per acre.

Sr	Region	Selected Clones	No. of Ramet for each clone	Total Ramet	Acre
1	Ayeyarwaddy	10	10	100	2.08
2	Lower				
	East Bago	10	10	100	2.08
	West Bago	10	10	100	2.08
	Yangon	10	10	100	2.08
3	Central	10	10	100	2.08
4	Upper	10	10	100	2.08
5	Eastern	10	10	100	2.08
6	Southern	10	10	100	2.08
7	Other	10	10	100	2.08
		70	70	900	18.72

Plan C (6 Clones from one region) (Spacing 30 x 30). 48 individual per acre.

Sr	Region	Selected Clones	No. of Ramet for each clone	Total Ramet	Acre
1	Ayeyarwaddy	6	10	60	1.25
2	Lower				
	East Bago	6	10	60	1.25
	West Bago	6	10	60	1.25
	Yangon	6	10	60	1.25
3	Central	6	10	60	1.25
4	Upper	6	10	60	1.25
5	Eastern	6	10	60	1.25
6	Southern	6	10	60	1.25
7	Other	6	10	60	1.25
		54	90	540	11.25

Plan up to December, 2020

Output 1: The Conservation of teak genetic resources, sustainable management and use of natural teak forests and market access of teak from legal source have been apporved.

Activity 1.3: Conserve teak genetic variation through improved management of existing seed production areas, seed orchards, provenance/ progeny trial, **and establishment of gene bank**

Sr.	Activity	Oct	Nov	Decem
1	Decision making for gene bank (plan A, B or C ?)			
2	Reselection of existing plus tree based on genetic variation			
3	Data base for selected plus tree			
4	Preparation of "stock plants" for grafting			

Renovation of mist chamber is needed for grafting

ANNEX - 3. Presentation of the activities of Forest Management/ Timber Legality Team by Team Leader, Dr. Tual Cin Khai, Assistant Director, Forest Research Institute

Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Management of Teak Forest and Sustainable Wood Supply Chains in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (PP-A/54-331)

Teak Forest Management & Teak Wood Legality

Tual Cin Khai
Assistant Director
September 10, 2020

Myanmar Component

3

National Coordinator Mr. Aung Thu-1, Director
(Alternative; National Coordinator Mr. Ngwe Thee, Deputy Director)

Secretariat Office
1. Dr. Tual Cin Khai, Assistant Director (AD)
2. Dr. Zar Chi Hlaing, Staff Officer
3. Ms. Su Myat Hinn, Range Officer

Teak Genetic Conservation/ Tree Improvement Team	Forest Management/ Timber Legality Team
1. Dr. Thant Shin, AD (Team Leader)	1. Dr. Tual Cin Khai, AD(Team Leader)
2. Dr. Mu Mu Aung, AD	2. Mr. Tin Moe, AD, FD Head Office
3. Mr. Aung Zaw Moe, AD	3. Dr. Phyu Phyu Lwin, Staff Officer
4. Ms. Tin Tin Mu, Assist. Res. Officer	4. Ms. Su Hlaing Htun, Range Officer

Objectives

Output 1:	Output 2:	Output 3:
Conservation of teak genetic resources, sustainable management and use of natural teak forests and market accesses of teak from legal sources	Community-based and smallholders teak forest management and agroforestry systems have been strengthened	Regional & international collaboration, information sharing and knowledge management, networking, policy development and outreach on the sustainable management of teak forests
3 Activities	**4 Activities**	**4 Activities**
A 1.1 Demonstration plot	A 2.1 Support local (Demonstration plot)	A 3.1 Disseminate outreach
A 1.2 Legality(*Consultant*)	A 2.2 Value chain	A 3.2 Regional WS
A 1.1 Teak generic	A 2.3 Agroforestry	A 3.3 Support networking
	A 2.4 Policy option	A 3.4 Sharing lessons

4

Outputs and Activities

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Output 1	**The conservation of teak genetic resources, sustainable management and use of natural teak forests and market accesses of teak from legal sources have been improved.**
A 1.1	Establish demonstration plots for sustainable teak forest management systems & Pilot silvicultural system: ▪ Teak-based agroforestry practices, ▪ On-farm teak growing for livelihoods of local communities/ smallholders, ▪ CF User Group
A 1.2	Review and analyze opportunities (**Consultant 4)**
Output 2	**Community-based and smallholders teak forest management and agroforestry systems have been strengthened with improved legal and sustainable supply chains**
A 2.1	Support local communities and smallholders through establishment of demonstration plots and field training on the following subjects: ▪ Seed production/ nursery techniques, ▪ Silvicultural practices and improved stand management, ▪ Minimizing harvesting loss, and Supply chains and marketing
A 2.3	Establish teak-based forest user groups for the sustainable use of teak forest resources and agroforestry

Consultants

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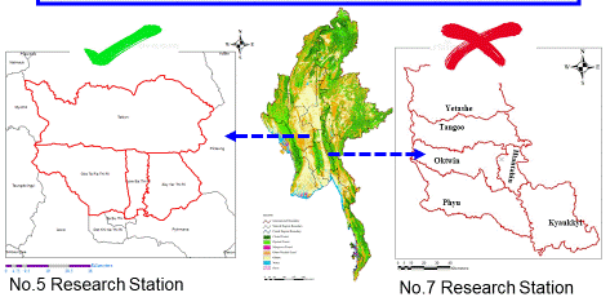
Technical field	Scope	Ref. to Activity Framework	Duration	Institution/ Agency	Host country
Consultant 1 Teak genetic resources conservation	Regional	Activity 1.3	2 months	Dr. Thwe Thwe Win, Professor, UFES	Myanmar
Consultant 2: Production of good-quality planting material	Regional	Activity 1.3	3 months	Ms. Chumnun Piananurak Freelance	Thailand
Consultant 3: New management system for natural teak forests	Regional	Activity 1.1	2 months	Dr. Nikhom Laemsak KUFF	Thailand
Consultant 4: Legality, certification, sustainable supply chains, log tracking	Regional	Activity 1.2	2 months	Mr.Taiji Fujisaki IGES	Myanmar
Consultant 5: Field training in Seed production, Nursery, Silvicultural Practices, Stand Mgnt	National	Activity 2.1	3 months	Mr. Tosporn Vacharangkura Freelance	Thailand

Current Condition in Project Areas

7

Covid 19 Second Wave
- Prohibition of travel to Nay Pyi Taw
- Prohibition of Nay Pyi Taw Staff from travel



No.5 Research Station
Moe Swe, **Nay Pyi Taw**

No.7 Research Station
Letpan Khon, **Bago**

FY 2019-2020 - Activities

No.	Month/ Year	Workshop/ Meeting	Trainings/ Excursion	Demonstration Plots/ Field Work
1.	March, 2020	(1) Inception Workshop @ FRI (2) Project Technical Meeting @ FRI	(1) Teak Grafting	**Letpan Khon (Bago)** • Agroforestry (3.5 Ac)
2.	April, 2020	(3) Village meeting (@ Moe Swe Village)		
3.	May, 2020	(4) Consultants Interview @ FD		
4.	June, 2020	(5) Project Progress Meeting (Online) @ FRI (6) Village meeting (@ Lepan KhonVillage) (7) Forest Department Meeting @ Pyay Township		**MoeSwe (Nay Pyi Taw)** ✓ Teak Stump Trial ✓ Teak Provenance Trial ✓ Teak Planting Stocks Trial ✓ Teak Plantation & ANR Trial
5.	July, 2020		(2) Teak Hedge Garden Training	
6.	Aug 2020		(3) Agroforestry (4) Tending operations	
7.	Sept 2020	(8) Timber Legality Meeting		

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FY 2019-2020 – Plan up to December

No.	Date	Workshop/ Meeting	Trainings/ Excursion	Demonstration Plots/ Field Work/
8.	Sept 2020	✖	✖	**Moe Swe (Nay Pyi Taw)**
9.	Oct 2020	✖	✖	✓ Teak Stump Trial ✓ Teak Provenance Trial ✓ Teak Planting Stocks Trial ✓ Teak Plantation & Assisted Natural Regeneration Trial
10	Nov-Dec 2020	?	?	▪ A 2.3 Established teak-based forest user group

Activity 2.3: Establish teak-based small farmers CF User group

Moe Swe (August 27, 2020)

A 2.3:Teak-based small farmer CF User Group

- 10 CF User groups members
- 2017 CF (Teak)

Activity 2.3: Establish teak-based small farmer CF User Group

- **CF= 12.34 ha in total**
  (Minimum 0.4 ha)
  (Maximum 2.8 ha)
- **Agroforestry ;**
  (teak+ ground nut)
  (teak+ green gram)
  (teak + elephant foot yam)

To provide support:
Agri-crops, seedlings, fertilizer technical …

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Thank you very much

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13

Training Workshop on

Certified Teak Wood from Smallholder Plantations using C&I Approach

26-28 August 2020, Nan Province, Thailand

Dr. Nopparat Kaakkurivaara
Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, Thailand
Email: ffornrm@ku.ac.th

"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

Workshop participants and resource persons at Nam Nan Hotel, Nan Province

Background and rationale

The ITTO Teak Project in Mekong sub-region aims to enhance the efficiency of natural teak forest management and forest plantations through the legal and sustainable wood supply chains while improving national economy and local communities' livelihood in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.

During 2018-2019, the Royal Forest Department (RFD) and ITTO jointly implemented "Forestry Certification and Chain of Custody (C&I and CoC) Project" in plantations, forestry and community forests. As part of Thailand Component of the ITTO Teak Project in Mekong sub-region, a 3-day workshop was conducted on ***"Certified Teak Wood from Smallholder Plantations using C&I Approach"*** during 26-28 August 2020 in Nan Province, northern Thailand in order to adopt the guidelines for implementation.

Teak Smallholder Enterprise in Nan Province was selected as a pilot site for this purpose. It is anticipated that the results of this workshop will be upgraded to Thailand Forest Certification System and used for smallholder plantations across the country.

The workshop was organized with the following objectives:

- To ensure an understanding of sustainable forest management standard and C&I and CoC scheme.
- To promote participatory process of systematic data acquisition and data management in C&I and CoC scheme.
- To promote the pilot smallholder plantations community enterprise that has been certified according to sustainable forest management standard.

The workshop/lecture contents include the following topics:

- Overview of sustainable forest management
- Trend of forest certification
- Thailand's Criteria & Indicator for sustainable forest management
- Preparations for certified forests
- Theory and practices on data acquisition, documentation preparation and record keeping

Mr. Sapol Boonsermsuk, Director of Office of Forestry, Foreign Affairs, Royal Forest Department and Thailand National Coordinator of the ITTO Project delivered the opening speech and inaugurated the Workshop. He appreciated ITTO, Japan and BMEL, Germany for providing financial support.

Dr. Nikhom Laemsak, Asst. Prof. (Consultant, New Management System for Teak), Dr. Nopparat Kaakkurivaara, Asst. Prof. (Consultant #6, Field Training in Harvesting and Minimize Loss) and Dr. Suthep Chankhieo (Guest Instructor) handled different sessions in this training workshop. Among the total of 30 participants, smallholder teak farmers dominated by 20 persons followed by field staffs of Forest Industry Organization (5 persons) and the relevant staffs from RFD (5 persons).

Lectures and group work on Thailand Forest Certification (C&I)

Lectures on overview of sustainable forest management, national wood demand and supply, trend of forest certification and Thailand's Criteria & Indicator for sustainable forest management were demonstrated on the first day, 26 August 2020. Field practices on data acquisition was conducted on the second day. Field activities included tree measurement, soil sample collection and physical & chemical and water quality analyses using field tool kits.

Multiple sample plots of 10 x 10 m^2 were laid out to collect plant and wildlife diversity in teak plantations and semi-natural areas. Documentation and statistical analysis (timber volume) and record keeping, as well as CoC of timber delivered from local sawmill were conducted on the last day. Trained students of the Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University and the project staff assisted the participants in their tasks. Additional data collection is being planned in September 2020 to fill the data gap.

Field data collection at Teak Smallholder Enterprise in Nan Province and observation at local sawmill

At the close of the workshop meeting, trainees were well equipped and gained the required knowledge and understanding of the criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management of their own forest plantation according to the C&I. All the more important is that a group of trainees has been set up for pilot community enterprises that will be certified according to national C&I. Certificate of attendance to the participants was given away at the end of the training.

Log volume measurement

(*Photo credit:* Extension and Training Office, Kasetsart University)

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