



Teak Mekong Newsletter

April 2021- Volume 3(2)

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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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New dates announced for the XV World Forestry Congress!



TEAKNET Side Event

Mark your Calendars ! Join us in the TEAKNET Side Event at the XV WFC 2022 ! The Side Event is being co-sponsored by IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (IUFRO Div.5.06.02) and ITTO, Japan. We will bring together global teak sector partners and other forest stakeholders to review and analyze the key challenges facing the teak sector in the post-COVID scenario and ways to address these challenges.

Contact: Dr. S. Sandeep, TEAKNET Coordinator
E-mail: coordinator@teaknet.org

Reopening the call for abstracts for papers, posters, and videos

In light of the new Congress dates, the submission platform for papers, posters, and videos for XV WFC 2022 will be reopened from 28 April to 30 June 2021. We look forward to receiving more inspiring work from all around the world.

Submit a proposal for side event

In addition, those interested can still submit a side event proposal for the Congress. The submission platform will be reopened from 28 April to 30 July 2021.

For further details please visit: <https://wfc2021korea.org/index.html>



Training Workshop on Teak Plus Tree Selection, Seed Orchard Establishment and Agro-forestry

26-30 April 2021, PM Place Hotel
Phayao Province, Thailand

***“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 ITTO-Teak project team coordinated by the Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand in association with Royal Forest Department, Forest Industry Organization and Silvicultural Research Station, Phayao province is organizing a joint training workshop on Plus tree selection, CSO establishment and a field visit for the selected participants from various stakeholder groups. The trainees will be given hands on training by experts in the field with the help of PPT slides and demonstrations followed by group discussions. They will be given field demonstrations on the various plus tree selection procedures and CSO establishment for production of good quality teak trees. The proposed training covers the following topics among other things.

Session 1: Progress in teak genetic improvement in Thailand.

The participants will be briefed on the up to date of teak genetic improvement in Thailand.

Session 2: Plus Tree selection

Teak plus tree selection procedure will be presented to participants by power point slides and posters. Taken the genetic principle, “Plants with High Genetic Value would Inherit the Good Trait to their Offspring” the Plus tree, therefore must be carefully selected.

It covers:

2.1 Criteria for teak plus tree selection

2.2 Season for plus tree selection

After the power point presentation, participants will be divided into 3 groups. Each group will discuss on criteria for teak plus tree selection and come up with a one page plus tree record form that contains all necessary information. Open discussion will be done during presentation. After the session, all participants will learn how to select a plus tree.

Field Practice

In day 2, participants will have a chance to do real selection of teak in both old plantation at Sob plung teak plantation, and natural stand at ThamPha Thai National Park.



Seed orchard management

Session 3: Seed orchard establishment and management

Establishment and management of clonal seed orchard will be emphasized and discussed with the participants in very detail. Conditions for clonal seed orchard establishment of teak will be educated to participants as followed. Invited speaker from Mae gar silvicultural research station (Mae gar teak seed orchard) will present about activities run in Mae gar teak seed orchard. Participants will be divided into 3 groups; they will be given a hand out of plus tree number and history. There will be open discussion during the presentation.



Sample Plus Tree

Field trip

On day 2, there will be a field trip to visit the World's first CSO at Mae gar Silvicultural Research Station.

ITTO-BMEL Teak Project 2nd Monthly Webinar

Thursday, 25th February 2021

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam Time: 2:00 –3:30 pm,
Myanmar Time: 2:30-4:00 pm, Japan: 4:00-5:30 pm



Invitation 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 2nd Monthly Webinar Meeting
Thursday, 25 February 2021
Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam Times: 02:00 – 03:30 pm,
Myanmar Time: 02:30-04:00 pm, Japan: 04:00-05:30 pm



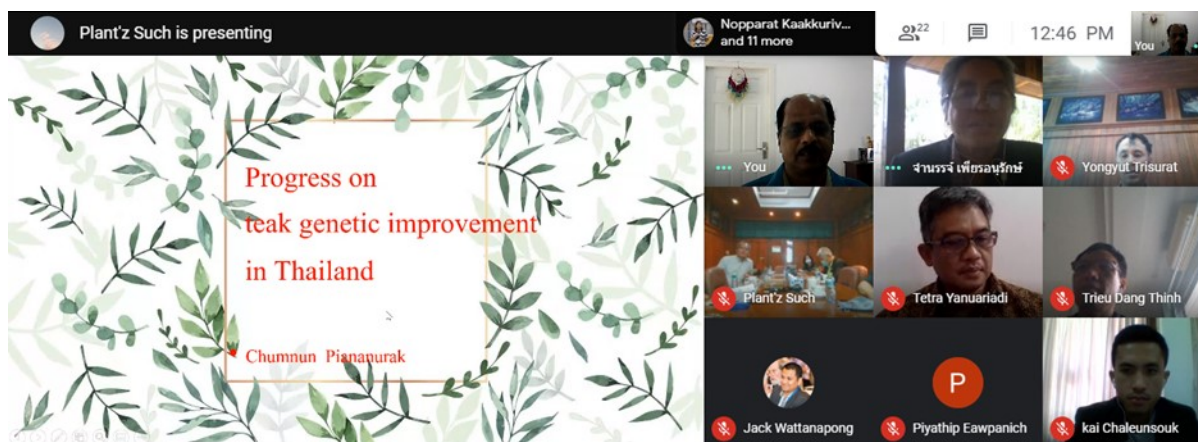
**“Progress in Teak Genetic Improvement
in Thailand”**
Mrs. Chumnun Piananuruk,
Production of good-quality planting material Consultant



“The Teak Farm in Cambodia”
Mr. Uriah Cassuto, Head Agronomist.
Mr. Omri Gonen, Administrative Manager

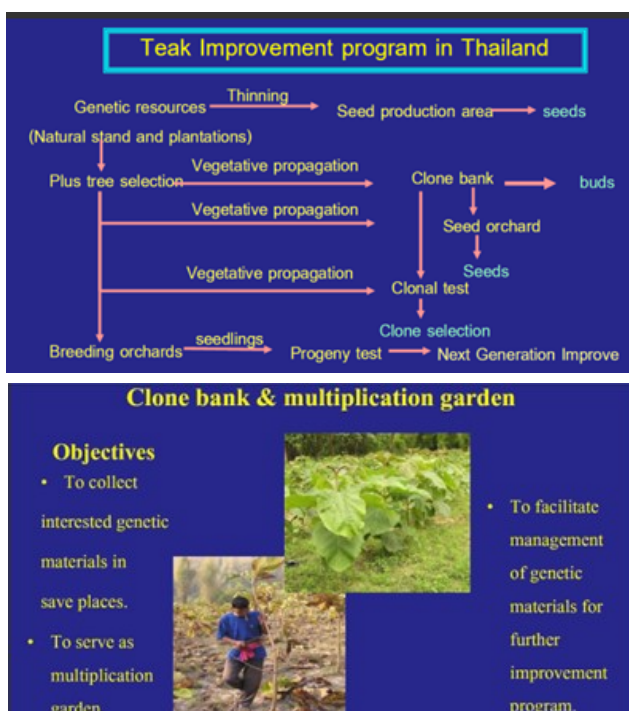
TEAK FARM
Innovative Agroforestry

The 2nd in the series of Monthly Webinars planned by the ITTO-BMEL Project team coordinated by the Kasetsart University was conducted on 25th February 2021. The Webinar was moderated by Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, Regional Project Leader of ITTO Teak Project, Kasetsart University, Thailand. Opening remarks was delivered by Dr. Hwan-ok MA, ITTO, Japan. In this webinar, two talk was delivered: ‘*Progress in Teak Genetic Improvement in Thailand*’ by Mrs. Chumnun Piananuruk and the second on ‘*Teak Farm in Cambodia*’ by Mr. Uriah Cassuto and Mr. Omri Gonen.



The first presentation was made by Mrs. Chumnun Piananurak

She touched upon the basic principles of plus tree selection and genetic improvement programmes started early 1960's in Thailand and its current scenario. Some highlights from her presentation are shown below.

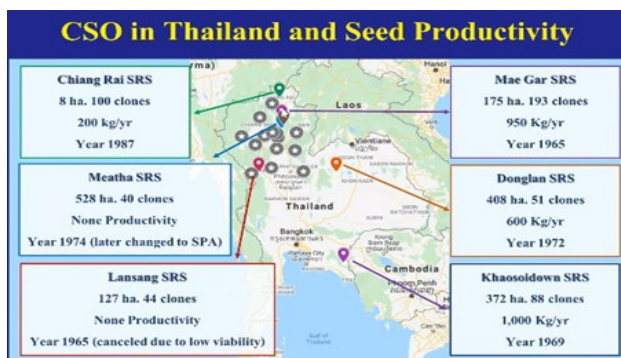
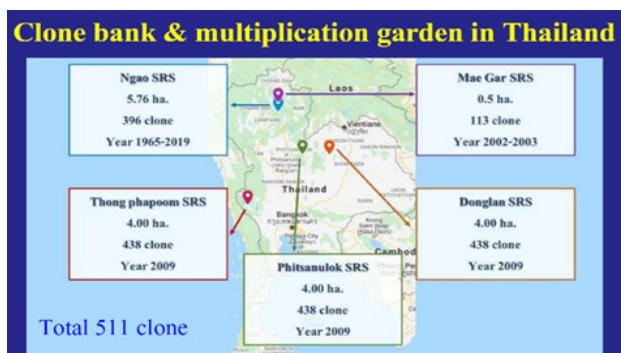


The Plus trees were planted in a total of 5 clone banks across the country, a total of 511 plus trees. When plus trees were selected, only phenotype could be evaluated.

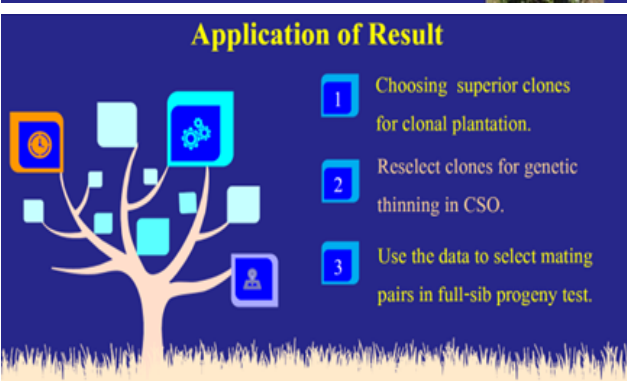
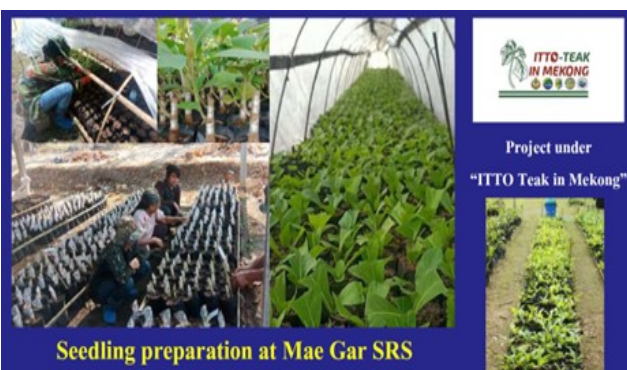
Plus tree selection			
Criteria			
Growth	Stem quality	Wood quality	Health
- Diameter DBH	- Clear bole	- wood colour	- no sign of pest & disease
- Height	- Small branches <1/4 of stem	- wood density	
- Commercial height >15 m.	- Straightness of Axis	- wood grain	
	- Buttress, low		

- ### Clone Bank Establishment & management
1. Propagate plus trees by budding or cutting.
 2. Prepare planting site as ordinary plantation.
 3. Plant seedling spacing 2x2 m. 1 row for 1 clone, number of ramet per clone depend on future use.
 4. Sequence of clone number is advised for convenient future management.
 5. Mark Clone number on concrete post in front of each planting row and keep planting lay out in office.
 6. Regularly monitor and remove shoot sprout from below budding part where painted with red colour.
 7. Pruning shoots every year to keep the materials in the garden juvenile.

Genotypic property of the clone could be evaluated through clonal test. There were 3 clonal test sets conducted in Thailand, the first one using the budding techniques for propagation for 100 clones, and tested only one site. Later, when rooted cutting of teak are well practiced, there was a new set of testing using a total of 400 clones, divided into 4 years, 100 numbers per year and planted in 4 sites, and the last set of 100 numbers was taken up as part of the ITTO-Teak Mekong project, propagated and planted in 2021. There were a total of 256 plus trees used in the CSO.



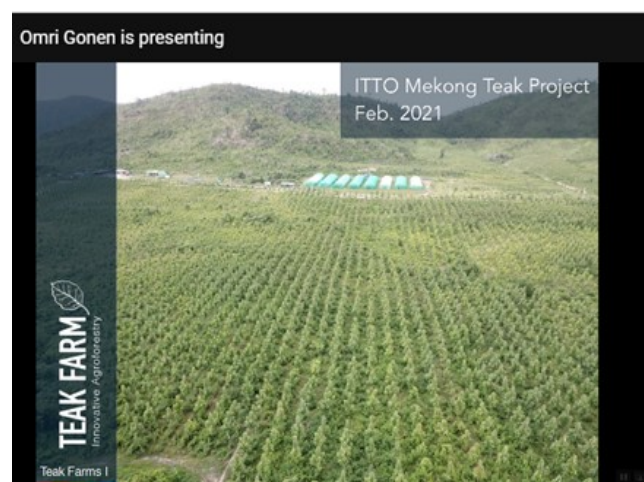
Progeny test using 2 types- full-sib progeny and half-sib progeny tests were employed. These tests are considered as a genetic improvement process which results in better genetic quality trees. The good quality offsprings could be propagated for high genetic value plantations or for a higher improvement program.



Since there are improved genetic materials available for public, it is recommended that the ITTO Teak in Mekong project supports farmers to produce high quality teak.

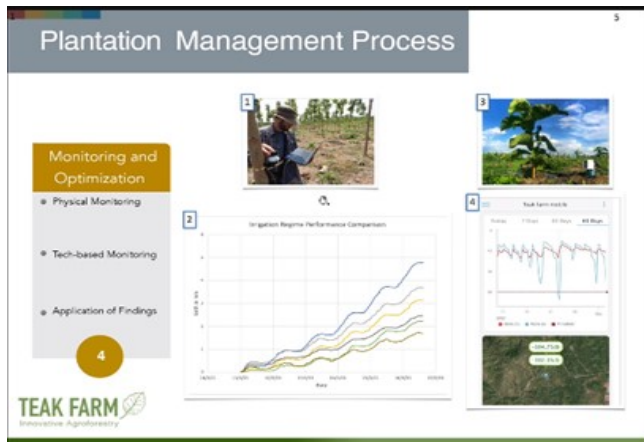
Teak Farm in Cambodia

The second presentation was on 'Teak Farm in Cambodia' by Mr. Uriah Cassuto.

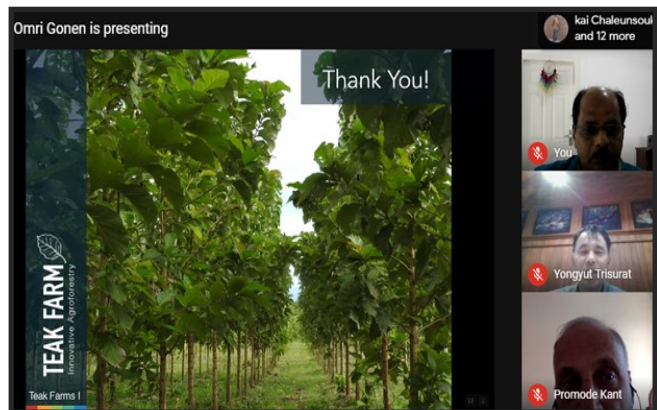


The main goal and special feature of the Teak Farm is the use of intensive irrigation system and agricultural practices to maximise the diameter growth of teak at 6-7 years and harvest it.

He highlighted the various plantation management process adopted to achieve the goal right from soil testing to irrigation, mulching, pruning and thinning and following other silvicultural practices.



The plantation is now in its second year of growth and the results obtained so far were promising. Their aim is to harvest the trees at 6-7 years time with increased diameter of trees by the adoption of intensive irrigation and farming systems.



ITTO-BMEL Teak Project 3rd Monthly Webinar

Monday, 29th March 2021

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam Time: 02:00 –03:30 pm,
Myanmar Time: 02:30-04:00 pm, Japan: 04:00-5:30 pm

The poster invites you to the webinar for the 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 3rd Monthly Webinar Meeting is scheduled for Monday, 29 March 2021, from 02:00 – 03:30 pm (Cambodia, Lao, Thailand and Vietnam Times) and 02:30-04:00 pm (Myanmar Time) and 04:00-05:30 pm (Japan).

Two speakers are featured:

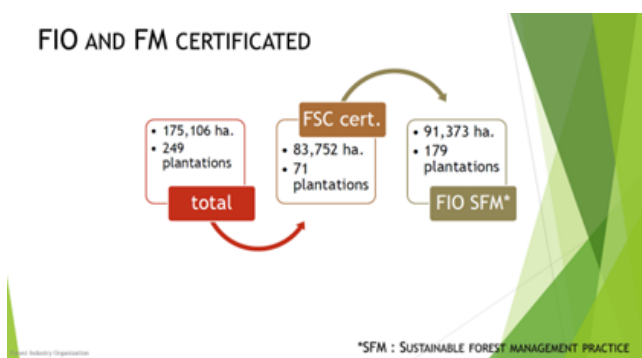
- Ms. Petama Subwial,** Supervisor of R&D Division, Forest Industry Organization: FIO, Thailand. Topic: "Teak Plantation Certification in Thailand".
- Mr. Bouchanth LATTANAVONGKOT,** Deputy-Director of Luang Prabang Forestry Office, Lao PDR. Topic: "National Forest Certification in Lao PDR".



The 3rd in the series of monthly webinar was held on 29th March 2021. The topics included in the webinar were: *'Teak Plantation Certification in Thailand'* by Ms. Patama Subwilai from Forest Industry Organisation, Thailand and the second talk, *'National Forest Certification in Lao PDR'* by Mr. Bouchanth Latthanavongkot, Deputy Director of Luang Prabang, Lao PDR.

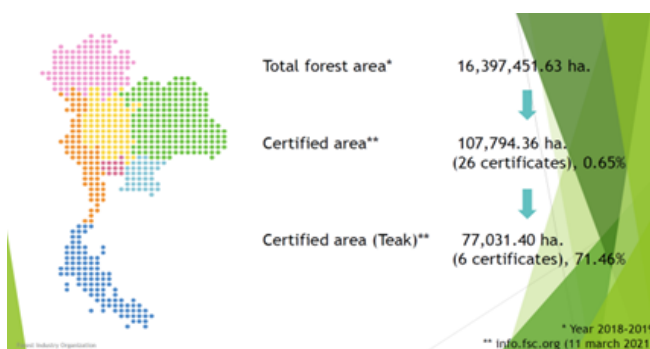
The first presentation was made by Ms. Patama Subwilai on Teak Plantation Certification in Thailand. The Forest Industry Organisation (FIO) is involved in the certification process of teak plantations managed by them. Ms. Patama talked about the various certification process for the sustainable forest management of planted forests.

Thailand Industrial Standard Institute (TISI) has set a TIS 14061 (for sustainable forest managements system: SFM) since 2004. Together with chain of custody (CoC) TIS 2861 was set in 2016. TIS 14061 and TIS 2861 were national standards that already have been endorsed by The Programme Endorsement for Forest Certification (PEFC). In 2018, ITTO has supported the Royal Forest Department (RFD) of Thailand for developing criteria and indicators (C&I)/CoC for sustainable management of plantations and community forests.

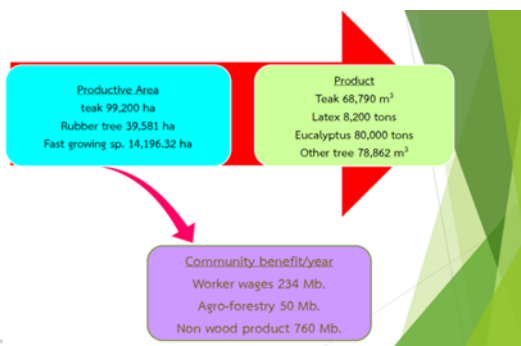
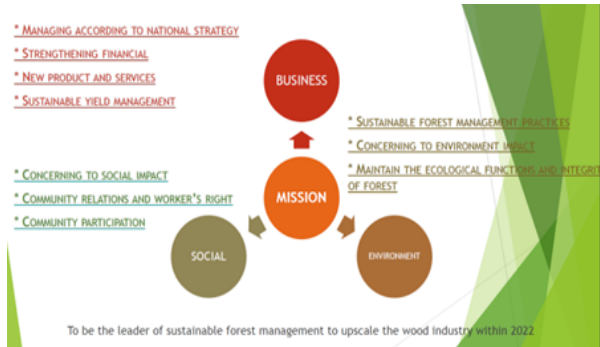


Forest certification in Thailand

- ▶ National standard : TIS 14061 (FM) and TIS 2861 (CoC) → PEFC
- ▶ Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)



Teak plantations are the most certified areas. It was revealed that about 77,031 ha of teak plantation under the Forest Industry Organisation (FIO) in Thailand is certified as per the latest update available.



Pros

- Improving operations and better control on production processes
- Better sale price
- Improving image
- Alternative market , more choice

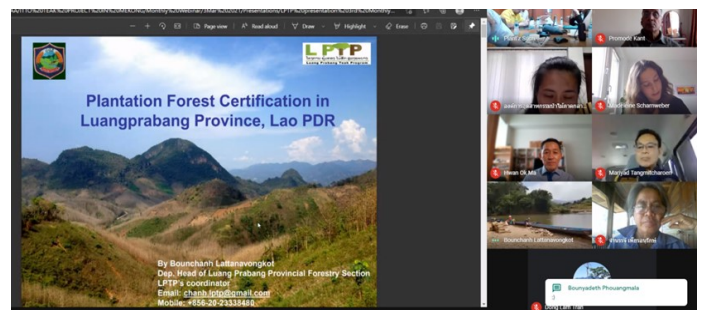
Cons

- The fees paid to certifier body to audit
- Investment on staff training, machinery and extra operations
- Relevant's understanding

The mission and aim of sustainable forest management in Thailand is to become the leader in wood industry by 2022. The pros and cons of achieving SFM was elaborated.

National Forest Certification in Lao PDR

The 2nd talk was delivered by Mr. Bouchanth Latthanavongkot, Deputy Chief of Forestry Provincial Office of Luang Prabang, Lao PDR on '*National Forest Certification in Lao PDR*'. He spoke extensively on the village forest management planning and certification implemented in Luang Prabang (LPB) province.



Teak forest resources in LPB province is almost 30,000 ha belong to private smallholder growers which was poorly managed and are unproductive, poor seed sources and lack of awareness about the proper thinning regime for profitable earnings.

4

Forest Certification

FSC certified for both natural forest (production forest) and plantation

□ Production forest certified:

- ✓ Bolikhamsay production forest with area of **52,207.90** ha, Expiry Date 2022-03-01 (FSC 2021)

□ Plantation Forest Certification

- ✓ Burapha Agroforestry Co., Ltd. certified by FSC with area of 52,207.90 ha; Expiry Date: 2023-03-21; (FSC, 2021)
- ✓ Stora Enso Co., certified by FSC with area around 3,000 ha;
- ✓ Sun Paper plantation: 200,000 ha is certified?? (but product line in China is FSC CoC; certificate No.FSC-C117308)

5 Small Holder Forest Certification

Luang Prabang Teak Program (LPTP) established in 2008 in Kokngiew village as a pilot program for FSC certification as first community forest project certified in Laos (4 villages) in 2011

□ LPTP is a partnership between:

- ✓ Teak farmers in Luang Prabang Province and the Lao government (provincial forestry section)
- ✓ proposed for forest certification with successful and **achieves FSC Certificate in 2011**
- ✓ **Decided not to extend the FSC certificate due to no premium for certified wood and high cost**

□ Recently LPTP still keeping sustainable forest management (SFM) as LPTP's management system maintained according to FSC principles:

- ✓ Total number of members: 646 with 1,016 plots (registered)
- ✓ Total area 730.5 ha

The main objectives of LPTP was to improve the socio-economic benefit of smallholder teak farming, environmental responsibility including SFM goals and forest certification.

8 Teak Forest Resources Context

□ Planted forest (monoculture) which almost all belong to private as well as smallholder growers within contexts of:

- ✓ Poor management: low productivity, thinning from above, poor genetic stock
- ✓ Poor understory: susceptible to fire and erosion
- ✓ Teak plantation and wood sales not compliant with national laws and regulation
- ✓ Low prices and lack of negotiation power



11 LPTP's Activities 2008-2020

Maintain LPTP's management system base on SFM and international forest certification principles:

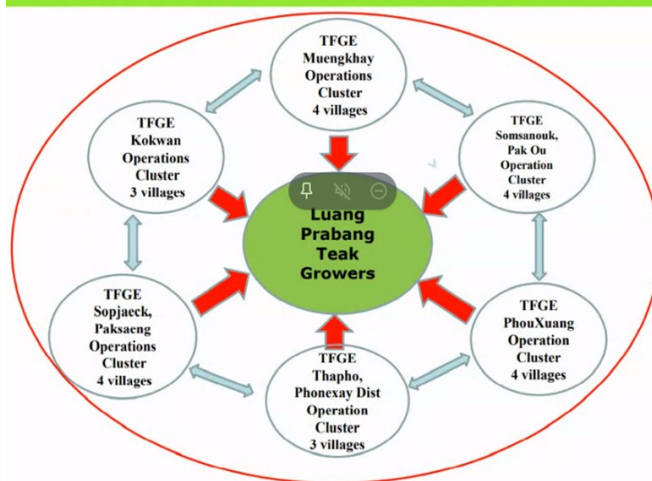
- Expand and support Teak Farmer Groups
- Provide trainings to teak farmers (SFM, teak markets, environmental management)
- Capacity building for:
 - ✓ District authorities to administer teak registration
 - ✓ Farmers on SFM as develop forest management plans
- **Establish plantation models for:**
 - ✓ thinning, pruning, and harvesting demonstration
- Forest management monitoring
- Facilitate wood sales (marketing and sales support):
 - ✓ Marketing and sales support
 - ✓ Farmer capacity building on wood sales by volume instead of standing tree; increase sale value for timber
- Facilitate Plantation Registration Process (Certificate issued by DAFO & PAFO)

Secured land tenure and user-rights are essential for teak plantations. Now, smallholders' are unable to accommodate the current international forest certification systems due to high transaction costs involved. Now the farmer groups adopted the Forest Certification just as a guideline to improve the forest management of the smallholder teak plantations.

LPTP's Certification Lessons

- Forest Certification just a guideline to improve forest management for the farmer groups; and,
- Established strong due diligence system for wood sales;
- Traders are an important part of the supply chain;
- Forest certification for smallholders is complex, is not economical and does not guarantee a reliable market;
- Legal compliance for plantation grown wood is expensive – FSC 'premium' does not add value;
- It is not necessary for good marketing;
- Responsibly managed plantations in Laos (by smallholders) will only be achieved when value is created for the farmer;

20 Idea for TFG Networking



What should be the future of teak in Luang Prabang ? Avoiding the 'middle man' in the log trading, now the farmer groups are marching ahead keeping the LPTP system expand to more areas of smallholder teak plantations and establish their own wood sales depot and community business enterprises. They plan to set up farmers networking group for group marketing of teakwood products and better earnings for a sustainable livelihood. The teakwood products are mainly sold in the domestic market.



ORGANIZERS



International Teak Information Network



Forestry Commission Ghana



International Tropical Timber Organisation



International Union of Forest Research Organizations



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

WITH THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT OF

The 4th World Teak Conference which was scheduled to take place from 23-26 August 2021 stand postponed amid the resurgence of COVID-19 pandemic. We are watching the situation and a new date will be announced later.

For WTC updates please visit: <https://www.worldteakconference2020.com/>

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