



Teak Mekong Newsletter

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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.

For more information please contact,

P K Thulasidas
(thulasidas.teak@gmail.com) or
Yongyut Trisurat (fforyyt@ku.ac.th)



Federal Ministry
of Food
and Agriculture



Launching Workshop of ITTO-BMEL Teak Project Phase - II

**Promoting Quality Timber Production in Smallholders and
Community-based Teak and other Valuable Species Plantations
in the Tropics (PP-A/54-331A)**

**Rama Garden Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
11-14 October 2023**



Delegates and participants of the Launching Workshop

Smallholder timber plantations in the tropics have the potential to provide sustainable supply chains of quality timber based on increasing forest landscape restoration initiatives as well as to provide other ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and soil conservation, which can benefit both the local community and the wider region.

Smallholder systems account for approximately one-fifth of the global teak estate and are an important source of raw material for national and international teak industries. Despite widespread plantations, the productivity of planted teak is generally low, particularly in the plantations established by smallholders and local communities.

This is due to poor quality of planting stock, inadequate silvicultural practices, limited financing to produce quality timber, and weak marketing and value chains. Besides enhancing rural livelihoods, the development of smallholder agroforestry systems with teak and other valuable native tree species has a huge impact on environmental conditions and the supply of timber to the local industry.

This new project originated from the concept note (CN-23026) and received financing of US\$1,413,449 from the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in August 2023 is being executed by ITTO, Japan in 5 countries in Asia Pacific and Togo in W. Africa as detailed below.

Key activities include promoting financial schemes that invest in high-quality teak production with long rotations and provide access to voluntary carbon markets. Tapping into the carbon credit markets would provide additional incentives and support the global effort on climate change mitigation. Furthermore, it facilitates regional and international cooperation for sustainable smallholder plantations. Through the effective implementation of policies and the promotion of collaboration promotion, this project will contribute to improving the economic outcomes of smallholder and community plantations in the tropics.

Executing agency:	ITTO-Secretariat
Collaborating agencies:	<p><u>Asia- Pacific</u></p> <p>Cambodia : Forestry Administration</p> <p>Thailand : Royal Forestry Department/ Kasetsart University</p> <p>Vietnam : Administration of Forestry/Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences</p> <p>India : Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education</p> <p>Indonesia : Research Centre for Plant Conservation Botanic Garden and Forestry /National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)</p> <p><u>West Africa</u></p> <p>Togo : University of Lomé</p>
Duration	36 months
Budget	Total US\$ 1,413,449

The Project aims to significantly improve the production of high-quality timber from teak and other valuable species plantations established by smallholders and communities in the Asia-Pacific and West Africa. This will be achieved by promoting policies to secure high quality planting stock, adoption of best silviculture practices, access to financing to promote longer rotations, value addition, and improved timber legality.

The 3-year project began its operation from November 2023 with the conduct of Launching Workshop held at Rama Garden Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand during 11-14 October 2023. The Launching Workshop was held in hybrid mode with many of the participants joined onsite and others in online platform. The gathering brought together key stakeholders, experts, and partners who share their commitment to fostering quality timber production practices.

Programme Schedule

11 October, 2023	Part- I
Time	Item
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch at the Rama Garden hotel
14:00 – 16:30	Opening Ceremony
	Welcome remarks by Dr. Tetra YANUARIADI, International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), Japan Mr. Stephen Wagner, Representative of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) Mr. Bannarak Sermthong, Deputy Director -General, Royal Forest Department, Thailand Dr. Kobsak Wanthongchai, Dean, Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University
	Keynote Address
	Dr. Suwan Tangmitcharoen, Director of Office of Forest Development and Research, RFD on “ <i>Wood-based economy towards carbon neutrality and livelihood improvement</i> ”
	Project presentation
	Prof. Yongyut Trissurat, Regional Project Manager, ITTO-BMEL Project presentation: structure, objectives and workplan
18:30-20:30	Q & A and Closing
12 October, 2023	Part- II Meeting Managing Director of FIO
09:00 – 12:00	Discussion topics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience from large-scale commercial teak plantatin • International and national certification • Role of FIO as middleman to facilitate International trade for private sector and smallholder • Challenges and opportunities for carbon credits & Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) in Thailand
12:00-13:30	Visit to showroom of Forest Industry Organisation in Bangkok
13.30 – 14.30	Lunch
16:30	Travel to Thongphaphum District, Kanchanaburi province and stay overnight at Wachiralongkorn Hydro-power Guesthouse ,Thongphaphum District
13 October, 2023	Part - III Visit FIO's Teak Plantation
09:00- 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silvicultural practices, yield & cutting (rotation) • Clonal test (1st ITTO Teak Project) and growth performance at Kroeng Krawia Reforestation Station, Thongphaphum District
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13.00-15.00	Visit to smallholder plantation at Uncle San, Thongphaphum District
15.00-18.00	Return to Bangkok and stay overnight at Rama Garden Hotel
14 October 2023	Departure of international delegates

Day 1: Wednesday, 11 October

In the Opening Ceremony, Dr. Tetra YANUARIADI, ITTO Projects Manager, conveyed the regards of Mrs. Sheam Satkuru, Executive Director of ITTO, and thanked all honourable delegates, distinguished members attending the launching workshop of the ITTO-BMEL teak project entitled *'Promoting Quality Timber Production in Smallholders and Community-based Teak and other valuable Species Plantations in the Tropics'*, 2nd Phase of the previous 1st phase of the project on enhancing teak management in the Greater Sub-Mekong Region. Based on the outputs and the outcomes of the 1st phase of the teak project, ITTO believes, the evolving network is an appropriate approach to build stronger efforts in making the project's activities smoothly implemented across Asia-Pacific and West Africa. Furthermore, the project scope of the 2nd phase has been extended to include not only teak, but to other valuable species plantations in the tropics. This will give opportunity for the wood-based industries in the tropical producer countries to obtain information from the project to enable them to scale up their industry capacity and efficiency and in turn, will provide better opportunity to improve wood-based industry situation in the respective countries.



Welcome remarks by ITTO Project Manager, Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi

Mr. Stephan Wagner, Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), Germany extended (in absentia) his warm appreciation to all delegates and the project team for attending the launching workshop. The BMEL is positively impressed in the phase I project outputs implemented during 2019-2022, which significantly contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of teak forests and legal and sustainable wood supply chains in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

The ITTO-BMEL Project Phase II will build on the outcome and achievement of the project phase I to mainstream the production of high-quality timber from teak and other valuable species plantations established by smallholders and communities in the Asia-Pacific and West Africa. In addition, the project will address pending issues facing smallholder tree plantations such as accessing to optimized financial mechanisms to promote longer rotations, value addition, and improved practices in silviculture, timber processing and legality throughout the supply chains of smallholders and community-based teak and other valuable species plantations. The BMEL is pledged to provide grant of approximately USD 1.4 million or EUR 1.3 million through ITTO to support 5 countries in the Asia-Pacific and Togo in West Africa to implement the project for 3 years during October 2023-September 2026. He would like to thank you all six participating countries and acknowledge Thünen Institute of Forestry, Germany to carry out feasibility studies for financing schemes for smallholder teak plantations; and TEAKNET to promote regional and international collaboration, information sharing and knowledge management, networking, and outreach activities.



Dr. Kobsak Wanthonchai, Dean of Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University

Dr. Kobsak Wanthonchai, Dean of the Faculty of Forestry on behalf of Kasetsart University noted in his welcome remarks that the project scope and objectives are highly relevant to the vision and mission of Kasetsart University that aims to provide 'Knowledge of the Land and Natural Resources', to promote sustainable development and to improve human well-being in rural areas in Thailand and the Mekong Region, and contribute to several international

agreements and conventions such as UN SDGs 2030, the Bangkok's declaration on the BCG-Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model, which was adopted at the recent APEC meeting in Thailand, and the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, the project will significantly support the Thailand's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Roadmap and the National Forest Policy.

Mr. Bannarak Sermthong, Deputy Director-General of the Royal Forest Department of Thailand conveyed his great pleasure to represent 5 countries in the Asia-Pacific and Togo in West Africa to deliver Opening Remarks in the Launching Workshop of the ITTO-BMEL Teak Project Phase II. He noted that smallholder timber plantations in the tropics have the potential to provide sustainable supply chains of quality timber based on increasing forest landscape restoration initiatives as well as to provide a huge impact on environmental conditions such as carbon sequestration and soil conservation and other ecosystem services, which can benefit both the local community and the wider region. The Government of Thailand amended the Business Security Act of 2018 to allow use of perennial plants as assets for business transaction and initiated Tree Bank system in early 2010. However, tree collateral roll-out and uptake by small-scale producers is limited due to loan intricacies such as the requirement of private land ownership for most schemes.

The ITTO-BMEL Teak project Phase II is highly relevant to forest resources management in Thailand that aims at contributing to happiness, prosperity and sustainability for Thai people in accordance with the 20-Year National Strategy (2018-2037) and the Bio-Circular-Green Economic Model or BCG. The Royal Thai government has promoted the BCG model as a new economic model to transform Thailand to a value-based and innovation-driven economy. The model also conforms with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is adopted at the recent APEC meeting in Thailand. On behalf of the six participating countries, he expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to Kasetsart University to serve as the Regional Project Manager to collaborate the implementation of this project with various stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific and West Africa. He thanks ITTO and the BMEL for constant support to the RFD. It is hoped that the Launching Workshop is fruitful and gain valuable suggestions from all onsite and online delegates to guide the effective implementation of the project in the next 3 years.

The Launching Workshop was accompanied by the photo session and self-introduction of the participants joined onsite and online. There were altogether 51 delegates (online 15, onsite 36) attended the meeting.



Opening Remarks by Mr. Bannarak Sermthong (middle), Deputy Director-General of the Royal Forest Department



A view of the audience at the Launching Workshop

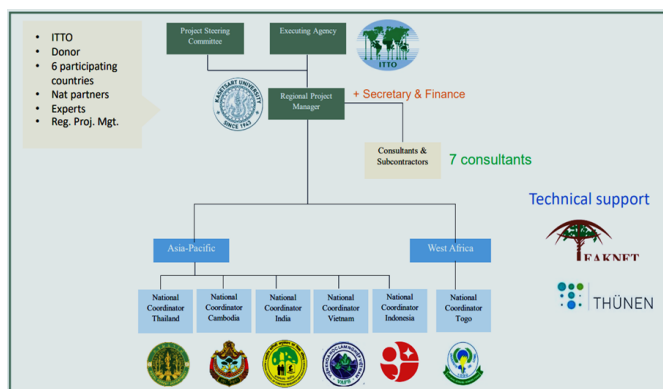
Keynote Address: The Keynote Address was delivered by Dr. Suwan Tangmitcharoen, Director of Office of Forest Development and Research, RFD on the topic *“Wood-based economy towards carbon neutrality and livelihood improvement”*.



Dr. Suwan started his presentation by highlighting wooden house (Wood City) to mitigate GHG emission and compared its contribution with other materials used in manufacturing and construction sectors such as concrete and metal. During a visit to Sweden prior to the Workshop, he had an opportunity to explore sustainable forest management and wood city scheme implemented in Scandinavian countries. He talked about the 20-years National Strategy, especially the NRE and forest sector in Thailand. This strategy aims to increase forest and green cover to about 55% by 2037. Of this figure, 35% is allocated for natural forest (conservation areas, protected areas); 15% for production forests (tree and rubber plantations); and 5% for green areas in residential and urban areas). To achieve the production forests, approximately 26 million ha or 4.2 million ha for reforestation is required. An important mechanism to achieve the above target by Thai Government is the promotion of wood industry through BCG model. The wood industry will contribute to environment, economics and social sectors.

He reiterated that wood city concept can absorb carbon in plantation areas and in the buildings. With advanced and innovative engineered wood construction technology, 15-18 floors of wooden buildings have been made possible in many countries across the globe. He mentioned that teak is the most common priority species for forest industries and planted forests in Thailand. The country has natural teak forests and abundance of genetic diversity, but there are obstructions such as availability of good quality planting materials for plantation development, and forest certification problems etc.

Prof. Yongyut Trissurat, Regional Project Manager, Kasetsart University, then presented the Structure, Objectives and Work plan of ITTO-BMEL Teak Phase – II. The project aims to contribute to increasing the economic and social contributions of smallholder teak and other valuable species plantations in the tropics to facilitate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for a sustainable future. More specifically, to improve the production of high-quality timber from teak and other valuable species plantations established by smallholders and communities in the Asia Pacific and West Africa; and to improve livelihoods and social and environmental outcomes through better silviculture practices, efficient wood transport and small-scale processing, financial schemes to invest in quality timber production from long rotations and access to voluntary carbon markets, as well as regional and international collaboration for sustainable smallholder plantations.



The lessons learned in the 1st phase of the project was highlighted in promoting the sustainable management of natural and planted teak forests with establishment of demonstration plots for conservation of genetic resources and capacity building of key stakeholders in the Mekong sub-region to improve legal and sustainable supply chains for sustainable production and consumption. The project was implemented in 5 countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (2019-2022) supporting the participating countries' policies and strategic goals of promoting sustainable management of teak resources and the afforestation efforts in public and private land; promote and assists in value chain process in wood industries and biodiversity based economic development; certification and legality of sustainably produced timber including small- and medium enterprises. Taking learning lessons of the first phase of this project, the 2nd phase of Project (2023-2026) is implemented that is fully aligned with the political and economic priorities of its member countries in the Asia Pacific region and Togo in W. Africa.

Dr. Hwan-ok Ma, Office-in-Charge of Forest Management Division, ITTO who joined the meeting online congratulated the success of the Launching Workshop. He apologized that he could not join the meeting in person due to prior commitments and other business trips. He appreciated Kasetsart University for facilitating the launching Workshop in a short-time. He appreciated the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMEL), for continuing to support the project. Special thanks to Stephan Wagner for internal arrangement.

After the close of the Opening Ceremony, Professor Yongyut Trisurat briefly outlined the field visits program on 12-14 October 2023.

Day 2: Thursday, 12 October 2023 | 09:00- 12:00

In the morning the delegates visited the Managing Director of Forest Industry Organization (FIO) to discuss:

- 1) Experience from large-scale and commercial teak plantation;
- 2) International and national certification;
- 3) Role of FIO as middleman to facilitate int'l trade for private sector and smallholder; and
- 4) Challenges and opportunities for carbon credit & CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism).



Discussion with Managing Director, FIO at his office in Bangkok

In the evening the participants travelled to Thongphaphum District, Kanchanaburi province and stay overnight at Wachiralongkorn Hydropower Guesthouse for the next day field visit.

Day 3: Friday, 13 October 2023 | Field trip - 09:00- 12:00

On Friday morning, the delegates visited FIO's Teak Plantation (Kroeng Krawia Reforestation St.) located at Thongphaphum District, Kanchanaburi Province. Delegates discussed with Head of Kroeng Krawia Reforestation Station on silvicultural practices, yield & thinning and cutting rotation.



Group Photo



Visit to FIO's teak plantation and depot

In addition, delegates had also got an opportunity to visit the Clonal test and able to monitor its growth performance implemented during the 1st phase of ITTO Teak Project. Furthermore, they visited smallholder plantation at Thongphaphum District and discussed the opportunity of micro-finance mechanism (tree bank), passive income from carbon credit, other economic incentives for smallholders' livelihood support, market intervention and capacity building etc.



Field visit to clonal test site



In the evening, the delegates returned to Bangkok and stay overnight at Rama Garden Hotel and on Friday, 14 October, the international participants departed to their home countries marking the culmination of the successful organisation of the Launching workshop. Dr. Tetra YANUARIADI from ITTO expressed their appreciations to the Royal Forest Dept, Kasetsart University, Thailand National Coordinator Dr. Preecha Ongprasert, Dr. Suwan Tangmiycharoen and Prof. Yongyut Trisurat for meticulously organizing the Launching Workshop.

Report by

PK Thulasidas & Yongyut Trissurat

XXVI IUFRO World Congress 2024

Stockholm, Sweden; 23-29 June 2024



The XXVI IUFRO World Congress will be held in Stockholm, Sweden on June 23rd - 29th, 2024. IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div5.06.02) together with TEAKNET and ITTO Japan is organizing a Teak Session titled ***"T2.29: Strengthening Teak Forest Management for Sustainable Teakwood Supply Chains and Trade"*** at XXVI IUFRO World Congress. In total, 12 abstracts have been decided for the Oral Session and 9 abstracts for the Poster session. Authors have been informed if their presentation is accepted for ORAL or Poster. In order to remain in the programme, the registration deadline for Presenting Authors of accepted abstracts is **15 January 2024**. We look forward to your active participation in the design of the scientific program for the 2024 IUFRO Congress in Stockholm.

For more information, please visit www.iufro2024.com

Contact Session Chairs: PK Thulasidas (pktdas@gmail.com)
 Mario Tomazello Filho (mtomazel@usp.br)
 Gilles Chaix (gilles.chaix@cirad.fr)

Editorial Committee

Chief Editor : Dr. PK Thulasidas, ITTO Teak International Consultant, India

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Address all communications to:

TEAKNET Secretariat

International Teak Information Network

Peechi-680 653, Thrissur, Kerala, India

Tel: +91 487 2690396; Fax: +91 487 2690111

