



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.

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Training Workshop on Seedling Production and Planting Techniques of Teak

Thanh Hoa Province (23-24 November) and
Son La Province (7-8 December 2019), Vietnam



Participants of the training workshop in Thanh Hoa Province

Background

Vietnam is one among the five Mekong countries implementing ITTO Teak Project entitled “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) with financial support of the Government of Germany and executed by the International Tropical Timber Organisation, Japan, and the project is coordinated by the Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, Thailand. The project is aimed to demonstrate the legal and sustainable supply chains with the engagement of local communities, smallholders and government actors in Greater Mekong Sub-region including Vietnam. Teak was introduced in Vietnam since 1950s. This exotic species has been well adapted in many eco-region across Vietnam. Teak was planted widely in Son La province in 1990s by some projects which supports households in planting trees for livelihood improvement and reforestation. The existing plantation is about 1,650 ha. From 2015, farmers started thinning or harvesting, with an amount of about 1,000 m³/year. Middlemen buy plantations or thinning to sell to small sawmills (family scale) to produce furniture and floorboard for local use. The price of timber at sawmill gate is about 400 USD/m³ for diameter <30 cm and 600 USD/m³ for diameter ≥30 cm. Although the length of rotation is about 3 times of acacia, the total turnover is still 2 times higher than acacia.

Some households replanted teak, some change to plant fruit trees. Teak plantation has not provided enough materials wood for production. Teak is mainly imported to Vietnam but in small quantities. Imported teak wood are mainly produced for high-value wood carpentry. However, the area of teak plantation in the country is still limited due to lack of technical knowledge as well as poor seedling resources.

Within the framework of the project, during 23-24 November and 7-8 December 2019, Silviculture Research Institute (SRI), Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS) in cooperation with Departments Forest Protection of Thanh Hoa and Son La province conducted two training workshops on nursery and planting techniques of teak in the above Thanh Hoa and Son La province.



Dr. Tran Lam Dong, National Coordinator of the project introduced the overview of teak in the world in the training workshop in Thanh Hoa province.

Various stakeholders had been invited to attend the training workshops including representative of provincial and local People's Committees, households, forestry and extension officers, forestry seed companies, local forest research institute of Thanh Hoa and Son La provinces.



Dr. Dang Thinh Trieu giving lecture at the training workshop in Thanh Hoa province

Outcome

Attending the training workshops, participants were introduced to the current status of teak forest, value of teak timber and potential for development of teak plantation in the world and Vietnam. Training on propagation, nursery practices, planting and tending techniques for teak were provided through lectures, field practice and visiting the demonstration sites. The participants also brought up their real experiences and shared their success stories and lessons about teak growing. Some potential challenges for growing and developing teak plantation in Vietnam were also discussed in the training workshops. The discussion brought up crucial information for not only project members, but also policy makers in order to have good orientations and strategies for developing Teak plantation in Vietnam. Vietnam shows the strong potential in demand of teak timber and supply teak products. Vietnam Government requires imported timber must be from legal sources.

Photo gallery



A teak grower in Thanh Hoa province was sharing their successful lesson about growing teak and asking question about the quality teak seedling resources in Vietnam



Visiting and practicing nursery technique for teak in Thanh Hoa province



Teak planting technique demonstration in Thanh Hoa province



Demonstration on teak pruning technique in Thanh Hoa province



Mr. Do Huy Tuan, Vice Director of Son La Forest Protection Department delivering opening speech at the training workshop in Son La province



Dr. Dang Thinh Trieu giving lecture in the training workshop in Son La province



Dr. Ha Huy Tiep giving lecture on seedling sources in Son La province



A teak grower in Son La province asking question about teak wood supply chain and value of teak timber



Teak pruning technique demonstration in Son La province



Participants in a teak plantation in Son La province



Group photo of participants in Son La province

Report by

Dr. Tran Lam Dong, National Coordinator
Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences, Vietnam
(Photo credit: Dr. Tran Lam Dong)



Federal Ministry
of Food
and Agriculture



Joint Training Workshop on New Management System and Minimize Harvesting Loss

5-7 February 2020 at Phare Nakara Hotel, Phrae Province, Thailand



Participants of the joint training workshop

ITTO Teak Project in Mekong (*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*) aims to enhance the efficiency of natural teak forest management and forest plantations. Aiming to enhance the efficiency of the smallholder community-based plantations and agroforestry systems, a joint training workshop on a new management system and to minimize harvesting loss was organized under the ITTO Teak Project in Mekong (Thailand Component), during 5-7 February 2020 in Phrae Province.

The objectives of the joint workshop were to introduce to the participants: (1) a basic new management system, (2) introduce sustainable forest management standards that will be applied to the new system management, (3) the basic principle of harvesting loss and reduction of harvesting loss, (4) the bucking optimization that maximize profit and minimize waste, (5) demonstrate the given techniques on the ground. Joint training workshop approaches included lecture, brainstorming exercise & discussions, and field demonstration. There were altogether 30 participants from different organizations; 5 from Royal Forest Department, 15 from Forest Industry Organization and 10 from private and smallholder teak plantations.





Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, Regional Project Manager giving introductory speech in the joint workshop on the Opening day



A delegate asking questions

On the first day of the training workshop, 5th February, Asst. Prof. Nikhom Laemsak explained the basis about the sustainable forest management (SFM) and the national criteria and indicators (C&I) for sustainable forest management that shall facilitate smallholder to achieve the certificate of chain of custody. These national criteria and indicators are not only focusing on a sustainable forest management, but also cover Chain of Custody (CoC). Moreover, participants had a chance to practice Due Diligence System (DDS) process by themselves.

On 6th February, Asst. Prof. Nopparat Kaakkurivaara explained the harvesting loss to ensure that participants understand the types and causes of harvesting loss. Later on, participants brainstormed and discussed about the strategy or method to reduce the harvesting loss. Dr. Nopparat introduced bucking optimization principle as a tool for maximizing profit and minimizing waste, and participants did an exercise on making decision for cross cutting pattern.



Prof. Nokhom Laemsak Consultant #3 giving lecture on SFM and C & I



Dr. Nopparat Kaakkurivaara, Consultant #6 giving lecture on reducing harvesting loss



Delegates on brainstorming session and exercise



Exercise and discussion on minimizing harvesting loss



A participant presenting group exercise on measuring harvesting loss

In the morning of 7th February, a field demonstration was conducted at Khun Mae Kham Mae Log Yard of the Forest Industrial Organization (FIO). Participants had a chance to practice measuring harvesting loss and estimate the percentage of loss by themselves. Moreover, participants had discussed about the feasibility of applying the national C&I in FIO forest plantation and smallholder plantations. In case of large scale plantation (FIO), there is no a substantial problem of applying national C&I, but smallholders might face some difficulties in preparing documents. In this matter, Royal Forest Department (RFD) together with ITTO teak project in Mekong will support the smallholder in the preparation process. In the afternoon, the excursion topic was about efficient processing of teak. Participants visited Technology Transfer Center for Wood Industry Standard Improvement under the FIO, which is established for learning, training, and creating value-added teak timber products, such as sawn timber, furniture, finger joint and plywood.



Participants measuring harvesting loss and estimate percentage loss
(Photo credit: Prof. Yongyut Trisurat)

At the end of the training workshop, an evaluation was conducted among the participants and a score sheet was prepared.

The outcomes were:

- (1) Overall training program satisfactory (4.5 out of 5.0)
- (2) New Management System (4.2)
- (3) Minimize Harvesting Loss (4.46), and
- (4) Knowledge that obtained from training (4.4).

Training report will be documented soon. Please log on to the [FB page of the ITTO Teak Mekong](#) to download the presentations and documents.



Award of participation certificate by Mr. Suchat Kalyawongsa, Director of Forestry Research and Development Office, RFD

Report by

Dr. Nopparat Kaakkurivaara (Consultant#6), Prof. Nikhom Laemsak (Consultant#3) & Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, Regional Project Manager, ITTO Teak Mekong Project
(Photo credit: ITTO Teak Mekong project -Thailand component)

4th World Teak Conference

24-27 August 2020, Accra, Ghana



Abstract submission closed !!

Registration is Open and avail your Early-bird registration till 30 April 2020

New Two Special Sessions (Duration 90 min.)

Sustainable Teak Management for Mekong sub-region

(Dedicated teak session convened by the International Tropical Timber Organization, Japan).

Building Productive and Resilient Forest Landscapes in Africa

(Convened by Forestry Research Network of Sub-Saharan Africa –FORNESSA)

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National Teak Forum in LAO PDR

National Teak Forum in LAO PDR on *Sustainable Value Chains for Sustainable Local Development* is going to be held on 19-20 February 2020 at Vientiane and Luang Prabang, Lao PDR.

The 2nd ITTO Project Steering Committee Meeting “*Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Management of Teak Forests and Legal and Sustainable Wood Supply Chains in the Greater Mekong Sub-region*” (ITTO PP-A/54-331) will be held on 18-20 February 2020, Vansana Riverside Hotel, Vientiane and Luang Prabang, Lao PDR (Participation on invitation only)



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ITTO Teak Mekong Newsletter is a bi-monthly electronic newsletter of the Project Team which is intended for circulation among the 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 concerned with teak. However, we reserves the information on the project and publishing through this newsletter for our esteemed readers.

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