



Minutes of the Second Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting

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

Holiday Garden and Resort Hotel, Chiang Mai, Thailand
10 November 2025

Item 1. Welcome and Opening of the Meeting (moderated by Mr. Montri Intasen, RFD)

Mr. Montri Intasen briefly introduced the phase 2 project, 'Promoting Quality Timber Production in Smallholders and Community-based Teak and Other Valuable Species Plantations in the Tropics' or ITTO-BMLEH Teak Project starting from November 2023. This 2nd PSC meeting was arranged in parallel with the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission 31 (APFC 31) and Asia-Pacific Commission Week 2025 (APFW 2025). ITTO, FAO, Japan Forestry Agency and Kasetsart University jointly organized a side even on "*Sustainable wood use, biodiversity and bio-circular economy in the Asia-Pacific region*" on 5 November 2025 (https://www.itto.int/news/2025/11/17/sustainable_use_and_biodiversity_conservation_for_improving_livelihoods_in_the_asia_pacific/).

He invited Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, Regional Project Manager and introduced Chiang Mai province which was the venue of the 2nd PSC meeting and the provisional agenda of the 2nd PSC meeting ([Annex 1](#)).

Welcome Remarks 1: Mr. Stephan Wagner, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity (BMLEH), Germany

Mr. Stephan Wagner, representing Germany's Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity (BMLEH), extends appreciation and a warm welcome to delegates from the six participating countries of the ITTO-BMLEH Phase II project, namely Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and Togo. Key achievements since November 2023, including the successful side event at the 5th World Teak Conference and the addition of India and Indonesia as official project members were highlighted. The project aims to advance high-

quality timber production among smallholders and community plantations in the Asia-Pacific region and West Africa by addressing financial, technical, and value-chain challenges. Germany has committed approximately USD 1.4 million to support implementation from 2023 to 2026, with the fourth disbursement recently released to facilitate ongoing activities.

Mr. Stephan Wagner expresses gratitude to participating national institutions and partners for their active engagement, as well as to the Thünen Institute for its work on financing feasibility studies. With most field data collection completed, delegates will now report on progress made since Launching Workshop in 2023, especially from January to June 2025. The statement concludes with appreciation for ITTO and Kasetsart University's Faculty of Forestry, in particular Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi and Prof. Yongyut Trisurat for their effective coordination and communication, and with well-wishes for the success of the 2nd PSC Meeting.

See full Welcome Remarks at [Annex 2](#).

Welcome Remarks 2: Ms. Jennifer Conje, Director of Forest Management Division, ITTO

Jennifer Conje delivered welcome remarks by extending appreciation to the German Government (BMLEH) as the donor, the Royal Forest Department and Kasetsart University as collaborating agencies, the six participating countries, and the project team led by Prof. Yongyut Trisurat. ITTO acknowledges the strong collaboration among all stakeholders, including the Thünen Institute and various international and domestic consultants, which has enabled smooth implementation of Phase II activities. Over the past year, India and Indonesia completed administrative requirements enabling full participation, joining the 5th World Teak Conference successfully held in September 2025 in India in which the ITTO-BMLEH side event was well attended, and a bimonthly webinar series was launched with five well-received sessions conducted.

With the submission and approval of the 3rd Progress Report, the project received its fourth funding installment from the Government of Germany. The current PSC meeting is highlighted as essential for reviewing progress, addressing challenges, and shaping the project's direction toward achieving its objectives, focusing on the last 6 months. Jennifer emphasizes the need for continued high-quality collaboration across executing agencies, management teams, and participating countries to ensure the successful completion of all Phase II targets.

Her statement also noted that the project is regularly showcased by ITTO in international forums due to its strong impact on tropical timber production and sustainable resource management. Looking ahead, Jennifer on behalf of ITTO hopes that Germany, through BMLEH, will consider supporting a Phase III of the Teak project and, if time permits, welcomes preliminary discussions on its priorities and scope. Jennifer Conje concludes by expressing deep gratitude to all contributors, especially the ITTO Projects Manager (Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi), the Regional Project Manager (Prof. Yongyut Trisurat) affiliated with Kasetsart University, and the six National Coordinators, and looks forward to productive deliberations and upcoming field visits after the PSC meeting.

See full Welcome Remarks at [Annex 3](#).

Opening Remarks 3: Mr. Kamthorn Suwanawech, Director of Forestry Research and Development Office on behalf of the Director-General of the Royal Forest Department and Chairperson of the PSC Committee

Mr. Kamthorn Suwanawech opens the 2nd Project Steering Committee Meeting on behalf of the Director-General of the Royal Forest Department, highlighting the significance of the ITTO-BMLEH Teak Project Phase II. He highlighted teak's global importance as a high-value species cultivated in nearly 80 countries and its long historical role in Thailand's national development. Although Thailand's natural teak forests now lie mostly within protected areas, policy reforms—particularly the 2019 Forestry Act—have reclassified teak as an economic species, stimulating strong interest among smallholders and commercial investors in plantation establishment.

Despite this expansion, many teak plantations in most countries in Asia-Pacific region, especially those managed by smallholders and communities, remain low in productivity due to poor-quality planting material, inadequate silviculture, premature harvesting prompted by financial pressures, and weak market and value chain systems. During this 2nd PSC Meeting, the Regional Project Manager, National Coordinators from six countries, and project partners will report on achievements made since the project's launching events in late 2023 and early 2024, reflecting ongoing regional collaboration and progress.

Mr. Kamthorn Suwanawech commends the ITTO-BMLEH Teak Project Phase II as a model international partnership led by the Royal Forest Department and Kasetsart University. He expressed deep gratitude to all coordinators, partners, consultants, and especially Prof. Yongyut Trisurat for their dedicated work, and conveyed sincere appreciation to the Federal Republic of Germany and ITTO for their support. The remarks concluded with best wishes for a successful PSC meeting and upcoming field excursion program.

See full Opening Remarks at [Annex 4](#).

Item 2. Introduction of all delegates and group photo

Mr. Montree Intasen invited onsite delegates, accompanies and project staff to take a group photo. There were 47 delegates (online 11; onsite 36) attended the meeting. The list of delegates and a group photo are provided in [Annex 5](#).

After the group photo, Mr. Montree Intasen invited Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi, ITTO Projects Manager to chair the PSC meeting according to the draft provision agenda.

Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi accepted the invitation and asked all PSC members to review the draft provision agenda. All delegates endorsed the agenda. Then, Dr. Tetra proceeded the PSC meeting with 7 items (Annex 1).

Item 3. Review of the ITTO-BMEL Project structure and progress (including financial and inputs supplied)

Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi invited **Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, Regional Project Manager**, to present 3 items as follows:

- (i) The project's overall objectives, outputs, work plan, and financial matters
- (ii) Report on the one and a half year of project implementation (3rd Bi-annual report)
- (iii) Progress report by consultants (international and domestic).

With permission from Chairperson, National Coordinators and selected consultants contributed to item 3. They are summarized as follows:

3.1 ITTO-BMEL Teak Project Phase II (2023-2026)

Prof. Yongyut Trisurat as the Regional Project Manager highlighted the origin of project phase I and key achievements and its connection to the project phase II.

The ITTO teak project phase I 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)**” aims to promote the sustainable management of natural and planted teak forests with establishment of demonstration plots for conservation of teak 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.

This three-year project (2019-2022) was implemented in 5 countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region, namely Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. It produced a lot of key outputs and key achievements such as 1) establishment of 16 demonstration plots related to teak clonal seed orchard, seed sources, clonal test and innovative afforestation; 2) organizing 24 training courses related to (1) seed production/nursery techniques, (2) silvicultural practices/improved stand management, (3) minimizing harvesting loss, efficient transport and processing, and (4) supply chains and marketing. There were 673 participants and some trainees become trainers; and 3) sharing knowledge at regional and international collaboration, including two regional workshops, participating in the XV World Forestry Congress in S. Korea and 4th World Teak Conference in Ghana, and the 18th UN Forum on Forests, New York, USA. Additionally, the project published a book titled “Teak in Mekong for a Sustainable Future”, research articles, reports through newspapers and TVs.

However, the project found pending challenges: 1) poor quality planting materials from unknown sources; 2) knowledge gaps in optimizing wood productivity and wood quality (price); and limited and lack of capacity in legal certification and supply chains in particular the potential effect of EUDR on wood production from smallholder plantations.

The ITTO-BMLEH Project phase II (Nov 2023 – Dec 2026) is developed based upon the outcomes of the BMEL-ITTO Project phase I. The project supported 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.

Target areas of project phase II include five countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and Togo in West Africa. Participating institutions are Cambodia’s Forestry Administration, Thailand’s RFD and Kasetsart University, Vietnam’s Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences, Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, Dehra Dun, and the Indonesia’s Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and the University of Lomé. Togo, West Africa. In addition, the Thünen Institute of Forestry, Germany and TEAKNET located in Kerala, India also contribute to micro-financing scheme and information sharing and knowledge management, respectively. The Director-General of the RFD chairs the PSC committee.

Project objectives

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.

Specific objectives

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;

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.

There are 3 outputs and 11 activities designated to implement during the three years period. Prof. Yongyut Trisurat notified the PSC members that as of today (10 November 2025), Kasetsart University as an Executing Agency and the six participating countries has submitted 3 progress reports to align with the BMLEH fiscal calendar as follows:

- First progress report (November 2023 – June 2024)
- Second progress report (July 2024 – December 2024)
- Third progress report (January 2025-June 2025)

All three-progress reported were approved by the BMLEH.

3.2 Official engagement of India and Indonesia

Due to a lengthy internal review process, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding recently signed MoU with ITTO (November 2024). Indonesia had been struggled to sign the MoU due to the reorganization of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Thus, the Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia signed the MoU with ITTO in early March 2025, but the project implementation has been started in August 2025 after the establishment of the project's bank account was finalized.

Nevertheless, the interim National Coordinators in both countries regularly communicated with the ITTO Projects Manager (Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi) and the Regional Project Manager (Prof. Yongyut Trisurat) to facilitate project administration processes and sharing example documents (TORs and sub-contracts, etc). With energetic National Coordinator of India and Indonesia, it is hope that India can catch up all project activities in June 2026 and Indonesia can complete all planned activities by the termination of project in December 2026.

3.3 Recruitment of International and Domestic Consultants

Five participating countries, excluding Indonesia, have successfully recruited consultants to support activity implementation. In addition, ITTO sub-contracted the Thünen Institute of Forestry, Germany, to facilitate micro-financing and credit-lending schemes for smallholder teak plantations (Activities 2.1–2.4), with the support of national experts for field data collection.

Furthermore, ITTO has recruited international consultants to support implementation at the regional and global levels. These positions include:

- Consultant #3: Legality
- Consultant #5: Information Management
- Consultant #7-1: Strategy Development for Teak and Other Valuable Species
- Consultant #7-2: Networking and Capacity Building for Teak and Other Valuable Species

It should be noted that Consultant #7-1 and Consultant #7-2 were split from the original Consultant #7: Teak Strategy Development, as indicated in the project document.

Although two consultant positions for the Indonesia component—Consultant #1: Quality Planting Material and Consultant #6: Value Chains—have not yet been officially recruited, initial discussions have begun with potential candidates affiliated with the Faculty of Forestry, Gadjah Mada University (UGM), located in Yogyakarta, Jakarta.

Table 1 List of national and regional consultants and status

Technical field	Scope	Ref. to Activity framework	Man-month and duration	Potential institution/individual	Host country	Status
Consultant 1 Quality Planting Material	International	Activities 1.1, 1.2	4 months	Mr. Cheat Vichet	Cambodia,	Recruited
				Prof. Widiyatno UGM	Indonesia	In process 2/
				Dr Phan Minh Quang, Silviculture Research Institute, VAFS 1/	Vietnam,	Recruited
				Dr Esse AYIGA	Togo	Recruited
Consultant 2: Field training in seed production/ nursery mgt/ silvicultural practices	National	Activities 1.1, 1.2	3 months	Mr. Phoung Sophea	Cambodia	Recruited
				Dr. Vu Dinh Huong, Forest Science Institute of South Vietnam, VAFS	Vietnam,	Recruited
				Mr. ASSI Hèmou1/	Togo	Recruited
Consultant 3: Legality	International	Activities 1.2, 1.3	4 months	Mr. Taiji Fujisaki Research Manager IGES	ITTO	Recruited

Technical field	Scope	Ref. to Activity framework	Man-month and duration	Potential institution/individual	Host country	Status
Consultant # 4: Efficient teakwood transportation and processing	National	Activity 1.2	2 months	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nopparat KAAKKURIVAARA Faculty of Forestry, KU 1/	Thailand	Recruited
				Dr. Mohammed Ghouse	India	Recruited
Consultant 5: Information management	International	Activities 3.1, 3.2, 3.3	Package	Dr. P.K. Thulasidas	ITTO/KU	Recruited
Consultant # 6: Value chains	International	Activity 1.2	3 months	Dr C. Nalin Kumar 1/	India	Recruited
				Dr. Tomy Lisyanto UGM	Indonesia	In process 2/
				Mr. Kitipong Tangkit Faculty of Forestry, KU	Thailand	Recruited
Consultant # 7-1: Teak and other valuable species Strategy	International	Activities	3 months	Dr. ANTO RIMBA-WANTO, BRIN	ITTO	Recruited
Consultant # 7-2: Teak and Other Valuable Species Networking and Capacity Building	International	Activities	3 months	Dr. Hwan-ok Ma OJEong Resilience Institute, Korea University, Seoul, Korea	ITTO	Recruited
Sub-contract with the Thünen Institute of Forestry	International	Activities 2.1-2.4	package	Thünen Institute of Forestry	TIF-Germany	MoU signed Work started
Total			22 months/ 2 packages			

Notes: 1/ Lead Consultant; 2/ initial discussion made

The work progress of each consultant is embedded in the activity achievement ([Section 3.5: Outputs achievements](#)).

3.4 Highlights of the project implementation (January - June 2025)

3.4.1 Pre-test and Orientation Workshop on Field Data Collection Tools for the Micro-financing Mechanisms

The Thünen Institute of Forestry (Temesgen Jaffo) and Kasetsart University conducted a physical training workshop from 13–14 May 2025 for data collection experts from five Asia-Pacific countries, including Indonesia). Ahead of the workshop, the team carried out extensive pre-testing with smallholder teak growers in Northern Thailand, visited plantation and processing sites, and assessed the draft household survey and consultation workshops using LimeSurvey. Insights from these field activities led to substantial revisions of the data collection tools—including meaningful clearer wording, added explanations, and improved skip logic—to ensure they were systematically understood among national experts, and practical and easy to use in real-world conditions. During the workshop, experts presented preparatory work, reviewed the updated tools, and identify remaining issues.

The workshop concluded with detailed planning for country-level data collection, scheduling the full survey rollout between June and July 2025 and outlining key tasks such as logistics, expert interviews, and focus group discussions. In closing remarks, ITTO's Director of Forest Management, Jennifer Conje, emphasized the importance of the feasibility study on financial mechanisms, noting that understanding socio-economic dimensions is essential for promoting longer-rotation teak and valuable timber species in smallholder and community-based plantations, and for ensuring the long-term sustainability of these systems.

3.4.2 ITTO Project Monitoring meeting during 14-18 May 2025

ITTO delegates, Ms. Jennifer Conje - Director of the Forest Management Division, Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi - ITTO Projects Manager, conducted a project monitoring mission in Thailand from 14–18 May 2025, aligning technical reviews with Activity D01. The mission began with participation in the closing session of the Orientation Workshop on Field Data Collection (see above).

A technical meeting followed on three ITTO projects—two completed (Sustainable Wood Use and Forest Loss Monitoring) and the ongoing ITTO-BMLEH Teak Project Phase II, now at roughly 50% completion. Discussions highlighted achievements such as consumer awareness initiatives and advanced forest monitoring systems, while also stressing the need for long-term sustainability, scaling-up strategies, and continued collaboration.

Field monitoring visits were then carried out in northern and western Thailand to assess achievements from Phase I and ongoing activities under Phase II. Site visits included the Mae Ka Silvicultural Research Station, well-known for its globally significant teak seed orchard and its provision of superior clones for demonstration plots; Sri Trang Company's commercial plantation in Nan, where intensive silviculture and community-based intercropping practices (win-win approach) were observed; a teak-based manufacturing enterprise in Phrae, which emphasized market opportunities, design capacity (limited), and policy reform needs; and FIO's Mae Saroi Reforestation site, where challenges such as teak borer infestations and experiments with mixed-species planting (with rubber) were discussed. The team also visited a nearby smallholder plantation, noting uneven growth caused by limited silvicultural management.

The monitoring mission concluded with a visit to a Phase I teak clonal testing site in Kanchanaburi, where high-performing clones were found to be thriving and free from teak borer damage—likely due to the surrounding intact natural forest supporting natural predators. Across all visits, the mission underscored the importance of continued technical support, improved silvicultural knowledge among smallholders, and stronger integration between

plantation development, processing industries, and market opportunities to advance the goals of the ITTO-BMLEH Teak Project Phase II.

3.4.3 Organizing the Precision Insect Pest Management and Control of Teak Plantation Pests, northern Thailand

According to the project document, each participating country must conduct 4 training sessions. The first training session on “Training workshop on Teak Plantation and Silvicultural Practices for smallholders” was organized in March 2024. The Thailand project team organized a two-day training workshop (2nd event) on “**Precision insect pest management for teak plantations**” on 13–14 March 2025 in Lamphun Province. The workshop focused on one of the most damaging threats—the beehole borer, which can reduce teak timber value by 30–70%. Forty participants, including smallholders, RFD, and FIO staff, received lectures and hands-on training led by Prof. Decha Wiwatwitaya from Kasetsart University with over 30 years of experience in pest control.

The sessions covered the pest’s life cycle, prevention and mitigation strategies, investigation and monitoring techniques, and precision control measures tailored to teak trees under different environmental conditions. Additionally, the workshop emphasized practical, evidence-based pest management. Participants had opportunities to learn how to inspect infected trees, classify damage, apply targeted interventions, and record monitoring data during a half-day field practice. Preventive measures discussed includes mixed-species planting, the use of natural predators, precision fire management, fungal inoculation, and selective pesticide use depending on site conditions.

The training discussion highlighted challenges posed by monoculture plantations, climate variability, and regulatory constraints such as the zero-burn policy, which participants suggested revisiting to allow controlled burning during vulnerable pest stages. Training evaluations showed very high and high satisfaction (>90%) levels. Recommendations also called for nationwide coordination by the RFD and FIO to strengthen long-term pest management strategies.

Following the workshop, the project team met with the Acting Managing Director of the Forest Industry Organization (FIO) to address our concern on ongoing pest outbreaks at reforestation stations. Together, the project team and FIO administrators agree on recommendations, including systematic monitoring of the pest’s life cycle, community-based incentive programs for pest removal, precision fire treatments during early pest stages, creating buffer zones with alternative species, and, if necessary, replacing highly susceptible teak with more resilient species such as ironwood. These measures aim to reduce future outbreaks and safeguard the quality and sustainability of Thailand’s teak plantations.

The PSC members acknowledged the significant achievements during the last six months period and appreciated active participations and efforts made by the participating countries.

3.5 Progress of achievements from November 2023 to date of PSC meeting

Based on inputs from the six participating countries, Thunen Institute of Forestry and TEAKNET, the progress of activity implementation of 3 outputs and 11 activities is summarized as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Progress of activity implementation

Output/ Activity#	Details	Progress
Output 1	Supply chains of smallholders and community-based teak and other valuable species plantation and management systems have been strengthened with easy availability of high-quality planting stock and implementation of improved practices in silviculture, and timber processing and legality	
A 1.1	Conserve teak and other valuable species genetic variation	50 (40)
A 1.2	Demonstration plots and field training	60 (40)
A 1.3	Promote timber legal compliance in smallholder/community plantations	30
Output 2	Financing schemes for quality timber production in smallholders and community-based teak and other species plantations have been analyzed and improvements have been suggested to increase economic outcomes	
A 2.1	Feasibility study for direct contracts/out-grower schemes with sourcing companies	4 (35)
A 2.2	Promote micro-lending schemes	4 (35)
A 2.3	Reduce transaction costs and help improve access to micro-credits	4 (35)
A 2.4	Study to access to voluntary carbon markets to increase revenues from longer rotation	4 (35)
Output 3	Regional and international collaboration, information sharing and knowledge management, networking, policy development and outreach for sustainable smallholder teak and other species plantations have been strengthened	
A 3.1	Produce and disseminate outreach and training materials	65 (45)
A 3.2	Support and facilitate teak networking in ITTO's member countries	40 (25)
A 3.3	Organize two Regional Workshops	50
A 3.4	Support sharing lessons (IUFRO 2024 & 5 th WTC 2025)	100 (60)

Note: progress as of PSC 2 (as of 30 June 2025)

Output 1: Supply chains of smallholders and community-based teak and other valuable species plantation and management systems have been strengthened with easy availability of high-quality planting stock and implementation of improved practices in silviculture, and timber processing and legality

Activities 1.1: Conserve teak and other valuable species genetic variation through improved management of existing seed production areas, seed orchards, and provenance/progeny trials/clonal plantations (India, Indonesia, Thailand).

India component maintains the existing seed orchards/clonal plantations at Walayar (Kerala) and Salem (Tamil Nadu) – About 30 clones are being maintained as genetic resource. In addition, the project team also improves management of the existing demonstration plots for teak and other valuable species. Other activities include 1) continuous availability of Quality Planting Stock to ensure through licensed commercial tissue culture labs; and 2) wood quality assessment in Panampally clonal plantation. Additionally, the project team has engaged with licensed commercial tissue culture laboratories affiliated with ICFRE-IFGTB for the production of tissue culture teak plantlets.

Due to late engagement, **Indonesia** component has initial contact with the Faculty of Forestry, Gajah Mada University, Yogyakarta Province to handle this activity. Subcontract between the Ministry of Forestry and Gajah Mada University will be done soon.

Thailand component collected over 600 mother trees from natural teak forests and 511 clones were identified. Of this figure, over 400 clones and provenance trails had been investigated with the financial and technical support from the Government of Denmark. The remaining clones were successfully completed during the teak project phase I and 3 demonstration plots were established. For the 2nd phase, the Thailand's RFD maintains quality planting materials in the three clonal test plots and establish provenance test of these quality materials in Kanchanaburi and Chiang Mai Provinces (plot size 5 rai or 0.8 ha).

Activities 1.2: Support smallholders and local communities for improved management of existing and new demonstration plots (altogether 14 plots) for teak and other valuable species and field training on the following subjects: (1) seed production/nursery techniques; (2) silvicultural practices and improved stand management, including coppicing as a regeneration method; (3) minimizing harvesting loss, efficient transport and processing of teak roundwood and product designs and innovation; (4) teak and other valuable species and value-chains (5) timber legality and sustainability (all participating countries)

The project document targets **2 demonstration plots for each participating country** with the total of 12 plots. In addition, **4 training sessions** related to the above subjects are targeted.

Cambodia component maintains 10 existing demonstration plots of teak plantation (Kampong Cham province) established during the project phase I. For the phase II, established another 2 demonstration plots for four other native species in Kampong Cham province and Kampong Speu provinces for aiming to improve silvicultural practices towards high quality timber.

Additionally, the Cambodia component already recruited 2 domestic consultants (Consultant 1 Quality Planting and Consultant 2: Field training in seed production/ nursery mgt/ silvicultural practices) to develop training materials and conduct training sessions. As of today, 2 out of 4 training sessions were conducted, Two training sessions on "Production of Good-Quality Planting Materials, Nursery Techniques, and Silvicultural Practices to Improve Stand Management of Teak Plantations and Other Valuable Timber Species" were organized on 23–24 January 2025 in Kampong Cham province and 26–27 February 2025 in Ratanakiri province, respectively. Each session was attended by 27 participants.

The **India project management team** has held discussions with stakeholders who own existing seed orchards and clonal plantations for teak and other valuable species. Potential sites have been identified in Salem, Neyveli, Gudalur, and Walayar, and relevant data has been collected. In the existing seed production areas and seed orchards, the quality of fruit and seed production is scheduled to be assessed during the upcoming season. Additionally, the project team has identified tree growers in Tamil Nadu who have expressed interest in establishing two demonstration plots (1 hectare each) of teak clonal plantations at the farm level. For the demonstration/clonal trials, wood quality assessment has been initiated. Permission has been obtained for felling trees in Panampally, while non-destructive assessments are planned for September in Neyveli and Salem. The project also plans to establish two additional demonstration plots for teak, to be promoted under smallholder agroforestry systems for the sustainable supply of high-quality seedlings and timber. These plots will be located in Coimbatore district (Animoor and Anaikatti) and are scheduled for establishment in late 2025.

Smallholders and local communities have been identified to support the improved management of existing demonstration plots for teak.

Regarding training sessions, two domestic consultants were recruited. Two training sessions on Introducing the Package of Practices for Teak Cultivation to Smallholders” for the forest departments of Tamil Nadu in July 2025 and for those in Chhattisgarh or Maharashtra in August 2025, focusing on the importance of smallholder teak in agroforestry. The remaining sessions—focused on harvesting, transportation, processing, product design and innovation, value chain analysis, timber legality, and sustainability are scheduled for 2026.

Although the **Indonesia component** has not yet established the project management team, the initial identification and engagement of consultants with communities to establish demonstration plots has already begun. *Plot 1* is located at Sedyo Lestari in the Forest Management Resort of Paliyan, while *Plot 2* is in Tani Manunggal, Gunung Kidul District, Yogyakarta Province.

The establishment of the 2nd demonstration plot will focus on logged-over areas to optimize land management and silvicultural practices, and to assess teak growth using coppicing and embroidery techniques.

The *de facto* Coordinator of the Indonesia component has discussed with potential consultants (#1: Quality Planting Material and #6: Value Chain) the plan to conduct four training sessions on the following topics:

- *Training on silviculture (teak pruning and shooting) to conserve teak species*
- *Training on teak nursery development*
- *Training on media for planting preparation*
- *Training on sustainable supply chain*

The actual implementation will begin immediately after the official establishment of the project team and the recruitment of both consultants.

The **Thailand component** allocated funds to Ms. Somporn Khamchompoo, affiliated with the Forestry Research and Development Office, RFD. The funds are being used to maintain the three existing demonstration plots established during project phase I and to establish two new plots in Kanchanaburi and Chiang Mai provinces, each with a size of 5 rai (approximately 0.8 hectares). The main objective of these new plots is to test 25 top-performing clones for smallholder plantations at the farm scale. These clones were selected from provenance trials based on growth performance, heartwood proportion, and bole shape (straightness of teak tree) for commercial purposes. Teak seedlings were planted in the Kanchanaburi plot in May 2025, while planting in the Chiang Mai plot was completed in July 2025.

Thailand component organized the 1st training workshop on Teak Plantation and Silvicultural Practices for smallholders in Nan Province. Thirty-two participants participated in the training workshop. After the lecture, all participants and resource persons had an opportunity to visit a commercial teak plantation at Pua District in Nan province planted by Sri Trang Rubber and Plantation Ltd. Company. The company applies modern technology, high-quality materials and intensive silvicultural practices. In addition, local people were allowed to grow cash crops (intercrop) for 1-3 years. This intercropping system not only to promote co-benefits but also to save the budget

for weeding and fire prevention by the company.

The second training workshop on Precision Insect Pest Management and Control of Teak Plantation Pests was held in Lamphun Province on 27–28 March 2025. The specific objectives of the workshop were to educate participants on insect pests in teak plantations—particularly the beehole borer—and to provide practical, precision-based guidelines on how to investigate, control, and manage beehole borer infestations to ensure the production of high-quality timber. Hands-on practice in investigating affected teak trees was included. A total of 40 participants participated in the training and evaluated very high to high satisfaction.

The two remaining training sessions planned for 2026 are 1) Minimizing Harvesting Loss, Efficient Transport and Processing of Teak Roundwood, and Product Design and Innovation, to be conducted by Consultant #4 (Efficient Wood Transportation and Processing); and 2) Teak and Other Valuable Species and Value Chains, to be led by Consultant #6 (Value Chains)

The **Vietnam** project team discussed with five forest enterprises and one research center in cooperation to establish 3 hectares of Teak in Yen Bai province (plot 1), and teak mixed with cinnamon plantations in Bac Giang province (plot 2). The establishment of demonstration plots is ongoing process. Teak seedlings were imported from Thai Orchids Co., Ltd in March 2025. Besides, VAFS has discussed with the Forest and Farm Facility Project (funded by FAO) to support households in Yen Bai and Son La provinces for establishing seven hectares of pure teak plantations and mixed teak with Cinnamon plantations for demonstration purpose.

The Vietnam Component recruited two consultants (Consultant#1 Quality planting material and Consultant#2 Field training silviculture) to facilitate capacity building for forest enterprises and smallholders. Two training sessions were conducted on for teak nursery and Planting techniques on teak in August 2025. Additional training sessions are planned in 2026.

Togo component has previously introduced teak for the provenance trials at ZOGBÉPIMÉ. In this phase, Togo would like to conduct trials on WOTOU, TETETOU and BLITTA clones, including the selection of high-performance trees based on a certain number of criteria to be defined on three sites from different forest stands. They want to establish seed orchards based on selected trees. Clone tests could also be carried out for *Cedrela odorata* and *Pterocarpus erinaceus*. In addition, Togo component proposes 2 demonstration plots, including 1) Ativémé is a site of the Forest Research Laboratory. The activities undertaken at the site include monitoring and evaluating the effect of the association of *Tectona grandis* and *Khaya* spp, and 2) the Zogbépimé forest station established in 2014 by the Forest Research Laboratory of the University of Lomé, to experiment with the performance of different teak (*Tectona grandis*) provenances but also *Khaya* plantation and *Pterocarpus erinaceus* plantation.

Togo component has nominated the Consultant#2 Field training silviculture to ITTO. In addition, target stakeholders for training were identified. Five technical committee meetings have since been held, focusing on various aspects of project implementation. To carry out these activities, three field missions were conducted: The first mission involved monitoring and evaluating the effect of the association

between *Tectona grandis* and *Khaya* spp. The second mission was to continue the monitoring program of provenance trials and to assess the growth, health, and wood quality of different teak provenances; The third mission consisted of an identification and selection of candidate trees (APC) with a mixed team comprising technicians from ODEF and the University of Lomé.

Togo component recruited the Consultant#1: Consultant 1 Quality Planting Material and Consultant#2: Field training silviculture to ITTO. In addition, target stakeholders for training are identified. Both consultants developed a proposal for a training manual in addition to the concept note which was also sent to the project coordinator.

The 1st training workshop on quality timber production from teak and associated valuable species was Scheduled from 14 to 18 July 2025 in Asrama (Avé Prefecture). Thirty participants attended the training workshop, and both consultants were key instructors.

Table 3 Establishment of new demonstration plots

Country	Plot location	Objective(s)	Note
Cambodia	Plot 1: Smallholder teak plantation (individual), Han Chey commune, Kampong Siem district, Kampong Cham province)	Silvicultural practices to improve teak stand	Ongoing
	Plot 2: Smallholder tree plantation (other valuable timber species), Han Chey commune, Kampong Siem district, Kampong Cham province)	Silvicultural improvement toward high quality timber	Ongoing
India	Plot 1: Smallholder plantation (individual), Animoor	Clonal test at farm scale plantation	Ongoing
	Plot 2: Smallholder plantation (individual), Anaikatti	Clonal test at farm scale plantation	Ongoing
Indonesia	Plot 1: Community-based teak plantation Sedyo Lestari in Forest Management Resort of Paliyan, Gunung Kidul District, Yogyakarta Province	The demonstration plot will be conducted by silvicultural improvement toward high quality timber. It is expected to have a diverse composition of species so that the group gets benefits both in the short term (seasonal plants and green fodder),	Initial discission started

		medium term (MPTS) and long term (timber).	
	Plot 2: Community-based teak plantation Tani Manunggal in Forest Management Resort of Playen, Gunung Kidul District, Yogyakarta Province	Silvicultural improvement toward high quality timber will be implemented. It is necessary to increase the group's capacity in area management and silvicultural techniques due to harvesting, more specifically in using the shoot instead of using seedlings, cultivation techniques, and optimization of plant types and under-stand areas.	Initial discussion started
Thailand	Plot 1: Kroengkrawia Reforestation, Kanchanaburi province	Clonal test at farm scale plantation	Ongoing
	Plot 2: Smallholder plantation, Chiangmai province	Clonal test at farm scale plantation	Ongoing
Vietnam	Plot 1: Mixed planting Teak and Cinnamon cassia. Yen Bai province	Silvicultural improvement plantation quality	Ongoing
	Plot 2: Pure teak plantation, Bac Giang province	Silvicultural improvement plantation quality	Ongoing
Togo	Plot 1: Zogbépimé forest station located in the Avé Prefecture (Maritime Region)	Silvicultural improvement of community-based teak plantations to enhance timber quality, using improved seeds and proper maintenance practices	Site established and baseline data collection ongoing
	Plot 2: Ativémé, Prefecture of Yoto	Evaluation of mixed plantation performance (Teak–Khaya senegalensis) to improve growth and timber yield under species association trials	Growth monitoring conducted in Feb. 2025; infestation by Loranthaceae noted

Table 4 Summary of training sessions by each country

Country	Training/workshop theme	Objective(s)	Note
Cambodia	Session 1: Training on “Production of Good Quality Planting Materials, Nursery Techniques, and Silvicultural Practices to Improve Stand Management of Teak Plantation and Other Valuable Timber Species”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce technical aspects of quality planting material production; • Demonstrate the techniques for seed collection and storage as well as nursery techniques • Demonstrate how to plant trees as plantations and silvicultural practices including thinning and pruning at plantations; • Share experiences that have been compiled from various parts locally and globally. 	Location & date: Kampong Cham province, 23-24 January 2025 (27 participants)
	Session 2: Training on “Production of Good Quality Planting Materials, Nursery Techniques, and Silvicultural Practices to Improve Stand Management of Teak Plantation and Other Valuable Timber Species”		Location & date: Ratanakiri province, 26-27 February 2025 (24 participants)
India	Session 1: Training workshop on Teak Plantation and Silvicultural Practices for smallholders	Introducing the package of practices for teak cultivation to smallholders	Planned in July 2025 in Tamil Nadu
	Session 2: Training workshop on Teak Plantation and Silvicultural Practices for smallholders	Introducing the package of practices for teak cultivation to smallholders	Planned in August 2025 in Chattisgarh
Indonesia	Session 1: Training on silviculture (teak pruning and shooting) to conserve teak species	To apply pruning garden and shoot cuttings to support the conservation and improvement of teak genetics	Not started
	Session 2: Training on teak nursery development	To conduct a proper nursery activities and to upskill farmers to produce high quality seeds	Not started

Country	Training/workshop theme	Objective(s)	Note
	Session 3: Training on media planting preparation	To use a proper planting media to produce high quality seeds	Not started
	Session 4: Training on sustainable supply chain	To educate farmers in establishing smallholders' cooperation and matching global market requirement through legal supply chains and market sustainability	Not started
Thailand	Session 1: Training workshop on Teak Plantation and Silvicultural Practices for smallholders	Introducing the theory and practice of teak plantation and silviculture practices to stallholders	27-28 March 2024 in Nan province (32 participants)
	Session 2: Precision management and control of teak plantation pests	To educate participants on insect pests in teak plantations, especially beehole borer and to provide precision guidelines and hand-on practices on how to investigate, control and manage beehole borers to produce good quality timber	13-14 March 2025 in Lam Phun province (40 participants)
	Session 3: Minimizing harvesting loss, and innovative product designs	To introduce zero-waste wood processing and value addition	Early 2026 by Consultnat#4
	Session 4: teak value-chains in Thailand and opportunities	To promote legal support chains	Late 2026 by Consultant#6
Vietnam	Session 1: Training on teak in nursery		August 2025
	Session 2: Planting techniques on teak		August 2025
Togo	Session 1: Training workshop on quality timber production from teak and associated valuable species	Training workshop on quality timber production from teak and associated valuable species	Scheduled from 14 to 18 July 2025 in Asrama (Avé Prefecture); 30 participants expected Consultant#1, Consultant#2

Activities 1.3: Promote timber legal compliance in smallholder/community plantations, aligning with national and local laws governing forest plantations, management, timber harvesting and legality (global)

The project has recruited Consultant#3 Legality (Mr. Taiji Fujisaki from IGES, Japan) with the honorarium payment of USD 24,000.00 (4 person-months). He proposed the draft workplan and approach on data collection at the 1st PTC meeting in September 2024. At this meeting, he also presented Terms of References (TORs), research design and methodology, progress status, the Policy Review Framework, the proposed report structure, and the next steps. Given the core mandate to review and evaluate policy measures in six target countries—Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Togo, and Vietnam—to promote legal timber production and trade from smallholder plantations, he emphasized that the methodology is based on establishing a Policy Review Framework, defined as an ideal policy mix, and benchmarking each country against this framework through literature reviews and interview surveys. It should be noted that Mr. Taiji Fujisaki has sub-contracted 6 national experts to assist data collection in the six target countries.

He reported that the research is on track for completion by October 2026. The framework development phase has been fully completed. As of the meeting date (10 November 2025), the project is in the data collection and national policy review phase conducted by the national consultants, with completion expected by December 2025. The subsequent phases—including analysis, drafting of the technical report, and preparation of the first policy brief on challenges and opportunities—will begin in January 2026. The analysis will focus on identifying policy gaps, common challenges, and policy receptivity based on the review of all six countries ([Annex 6](#)). Additionally, Dr Nopparat (Consultant#4 Efficient teak wood transportation and processing and national expert for legality) updated the current situation of data collection and national policy review for Thailand.

Output 2: Financing schemes for quality timber production in smallholders and community-based teak and other species plantations have been analyzed and improvements have been suggested to increase economic outcomes

Output 2 consists of 4 activities as follows:

2.1 Carry out a feasibility study for direct contracts/out-grower schemes with sourcing companies to ensure that smallholders' products will be purchased at remunerative prices (all participating countries)

2.2 Carry out a study to promote micro-lending schemes to address the credit constraints of smallholders to explore different options to overcome the problem with collaterals that smallholders often face trees as guarantees, and group-lending to a number of forest growers who can ensure loan repayments from each other (all participating countries)

2.3 Carry out a study to promote the formation of effective forest grower associations to reduce transaction costs and help improve access to micro-credits (all participating countries)

2.4 Carry out a study to access to voluntary carbon markets to increase revenues from longer rotation of smallholder and community-based teak and other valuable species plantations to increase financial security of farmers, address the issue of cash flows, and support their access to micro-lending schemes (global scope)

ITTO already signed MoU with the Thünen Forestry Institute (TIF), Germany to conduct the above four activities. The progress of output 2 ([Annex 7](#)) was presented by Mr. Temesgen Jaffo and summarized as below:

The Thünen Institute of Forestry presented an update on the ongoing feasibility study assessing four financial mechanisms to enhance smallholder and community-based teak and other valuable timber production. The update highlighted the mixed-methods approach combining literature review, household surveys, focus group discussions, and expert interviews across Cambodia, India, Thailand, Togo, and Viet Nam. Indonesia's context is set on hold -due to the late signing of the contract between ITTO and the country counterpart.

Field data collection is well advanced in Cambodia, Viet Nam, and Togo, while selected components in India and Thailand remain pending. The team emphasized the importance of completing comparable datasets across all target countries to enable robust multi-criteria evaluation of the mechanisms. Stakeholder engagement has involved a broad range of actors—government agencies, private sector representatives, financial institutions, forest grower associations, and NGOs.

Upcoming activities include finalizing data collection (with clarification pending for Indonesia), undertaking data cleaning, and conducting triangulated analysis of the three core datasets. The team will then move toward country-specific assessments and the preparation of a comprehensive feasibility report outlining context-appropriate financial mechanisms and recommendations.

Besides, the ITTO-BMLEH Teak Project (handled by ITTO) also recruited Dr. Anto Rimbawanto from Research Centre for Applied Botany, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia to serve as Consultant7#1: Teak and Other Valuable Species Strategy Development (starting from October 2024). The consultant 7-1 The consultant's principal tasks include analysing national investment policies and legal frameworks, conducting research on market development and forest certification for teak, and presenting findings at various committees and international conferences like the 5th World Teak Conference. Key deliverables comprise a technical report on certification and markets, policy briefs on investment strategies, and articles for ITTO newsletters.

Dr. Anto Rimbawanto virtually presented his progress work. His presentation indicated that as of the 2nd Project Steering Committee Meeting in November 2025, project implementation is on track ([Annex 8](#)). Progress on the analytical tasks is ongoing, with frameworks established for policy review and baseline data compiled for market research ([Table 5](#)). Specific achievements include a presentation at the 5th World Teak Conference and the drafting of newsletter articles scheduled for 2026. The work, covering the period from December 2024 to December 2026, focuses on empowering smallholders and promoting sustainable and legal supply chains for teak and other valuable species.

Table 5 Matrix of Policy Development for Sustainable Management of Teak and Other Valuable Species in Smallholder and Community-Based Plantations in Asia

Theme	Key point	Policy implications/Recommendations	Research Questions
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Species and Importance	Teak, mahogany, acacia, eucalypt, and paraserianthes are vital for smallholders and community plantations in Asia, providing timber, income, and ecological benefits.	Recognize and support diverse species in policy frameworks for multi-species systems.	Which species combinations are most suitable for smallholder systems in different ecological and socioeconomic contexts?
Socio - economic & Environmental Role	Plantations support rural livelihoods, timber supply, ecological restoration, and carbon sequestration.	Policies should promote sustainable management balancing economic, social, and environmental goals.	How do smallholder plantations contribute to rural livelihoods, poverty reduction, and ecosystem restoration in various countries?
Challenges	Limited access to improved genetic material, poor silvicultural practices, insecure tenure, market barriers, financial constraints, and climate vulnerability remain persistent.	Address extension, legal, and market gaps to empower smallholders.	What are the main barriers to adoption of improved genetic material and best management practices by smallholders?
Policy & Institutional Landscape	Existing policies are fragmented; implementation and enforcement are weak; institutional support is often lacking for smallholders.	Strengthen coordination, clarify tenure, and improve enforcement with a smallholder focus	How do current policies and institutional arrangements impact smallholder participation and benefit-sharing?
Ecosystem Services Integration	Carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and soil conservation are key services; PES and carbon markets can incentivize sustainable management.	Develop PES schemes and link smallholders to carbon and biodiversity incentives.	How can ecosystem services (carbon, biodiversity) be quantified and monetized for smallholder benefit?
Case Studies & Lessons Learned	Participatory approaches, capacity building, and market linkages have proven successful in some contexts.	Scale up proven models and adapt lessons for broader impact.	What factors contribute to the success or failure of smallholder/community-based plantation initiatives in Asia?
Genetic Diversity & Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High genetic variation exists within and between teak provenances, with India and Myanmar showing the highest diversity. - Most smallholders rely on wildings or local germplasm of unknown or poor quality due to limited access to improved planting material. - Clonal propagation and tissue culture now allow mass production of superior genotypes, but access remains limited for smallholders. - Use of improved genetic material is associated with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop policies to ensure smallholders have access to improved and diverse genetic material. - Support national and regional breeding programs and germplasm exchange. - Promote participatory breeding and conservation of local genetic resources. - Integrate genetic diversity objectives into certification and plantation registration schemes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the barriers to smallholder access to improved genetic material? - How does genetic diversity within plantations affect productivity, timber quality, and resilience? - What policy mechanisms can support the development and distribution of improved, climate-resilient planting stock to smallholders?

	higher productivity, better timber quality, and greater climate resilience. - Maintaining genetic diversity is crucial for adaptation to pests, diseases, and climate change.		
Recommendations	Socio-ecological impact studies, optimizing genetic improvement, innovative financing, and monitoring frameworks are needed.	Prioritize adaptive management and evidence-based policy.	What is the socio-ecological impacts of policy reforms and innovations in smallholder forestry, and how can they be effectively monitored?

- The draft report is uploaded to Google document.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Hd9CU5MSBv3DiRiFDWluy6snrFHGjd6O/view?usp=sharing>

Output 3: Regional and international collaboration, information sharing and knowledge management, networking, policy development and outreach for sustainable smallholder teak and other species plantations have been strengthened

Activities 3.1: Produce and disseminate outreach and training materials on the conservation and sustainable management of teak and other valuable species plantations and legal and sustainable supply chains in line with outcomes of Activities 1.2 and 2.1-2.4 to support forest policy development (regional scope).

Various activities have been conducted to promote the project and raise public awareness:

- National Newspapers reported the Launching Workshop of the ITTO-BMEL Teak and Other Economic Species Plantations.
- The project website (hosted by Thailand component) was developed (<https://itto-bmel-project.com/>) and regularly updated.
- The project arranged an exhibition to celebrate the Anniversary World Forestry Day on 21 March 2024 at Thong Phaphum District, Kanchanaburi Province.
- Arranged an Exhibition for Bio-economy Launching Ceremony at the Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University on 21 June 2024
- Vietnam arranged tree planting festival in Yen Bai Province.
- ITTO invited Prof. Yongyut Trisurat to participate in the 59th ITTC Meeting held in Pattaya, Thailand, from 13–17 November 2023. On 14 November 2023, Prof. Yongyut had the opportunity to present the achievements of the ITTO-BMLEH Teak Project Phase I, as well as the project context for Phase II. Additionally, Prof. Yongyut presented the progress achievements at the 61th ITTC Meeting held in Panama City, Panama, from 27 October 2025 to 1 November 2025.
- On 5 November 2025, ITTO (project Team), FAO, Japan Forest Agency of Japan and Kasetsart University jointly arranged entitled” Sustainable wood use, biodiversity

and bio-circular economy in the Asia-Pacific region” at the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission 31 (APFC 31) and Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission Week held in Chiang Mai Thailand (Annex 9).

(https://www.itto.int/news/2025/11/17/sustainable_use_and_biodiversity_conservation_for_improving_livelihoods_in_the_asia_pacific/)

- ITTO Communication Unit worked with Cambodia Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam components to develop videos, covering the project's background, objectives, outputs, and key activities. These VDOs have been presented in various international events such as 5th WTC, ITTC60 & 61, APFC31.

Activities 3.2: Support and facilitate teak networking in ITTO's member countries in Africa, Asia- Pacific and Latin America in collaboration with TEAKNET and other partners through the organization of a quarterly-based Webinar (4 every year) to promote the conservation and sustainable management of teak forest resources and legal and sustainable supply chains (global scope).

- Dr. P.K. Thulasidas Consultant#5) was recruited to take overall responsibility to promote knowledge sharing and outreach efforts for the three tropical regions. Since the starting of the project in November 2023, Consultant #5 with the support of project t teams has published 12 out of 18 issues, with the latest—**Vol. 7(5), 2025**. See Google doc.
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_BtpoxhQ42mlcK8yigAWqMO1ORZRTPEj/view?usp=sharing
- Dr. Hwan-ok Ma has been recruited as *Consultant #7-2: Teak and Other Valuable Species Networking and Capacity Building* since October 2024. He is responsible for supporting the effective and successful implementation of *Activity 1.2* and teak networking in the Asia-Pacific and West Africa regions (*Activity 3.2*) through a series of 12 webinars.
- As of the 2nd PSC meeting, five out of 12 webinars were arranged with the following themes:

No.	Date and theme	Invited speakers
1	14 February 2025 Theme: Setting the scene	Dr Tetra YANUARIADI Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi Dr. PK Thulasidas
2	22 April 2025 Theme: Quality planting materials for premium teak production	Dr. Yasodha Ramasamy Dr. Suwan Tangmitcharoen
3	27 June 2025 Theme: Teak Seedlings Innovation via Tissue Culture	Dr. Doreen Goh Dr. Paiboolya Gavinlertvatana
4	20 August 2025 Theme: Best silvicultural practices for teak production	Mr. Fausto Hissashi Takizawa Prof. Dr. Mudji Susanto
5	22 October 2025	Prof. Naoki Tani Dr. Ani A. Elias

	Theme: Innovative Technology for Sustainable Teak Plantations and Volume Estimation	
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At each webinar, there were 70–100 participants from the project countries and other teak-growing nations across the globe.

Activities 3.3 Plan and organize two Regional Workshops in Thailand and in central Java, Indonesia with investors and financial institutions to discuss financing schemes promoting quality timber production in smallholder teak plantations (regional scope).

- The 1st Regional Workshop on Regional Workshop on “**Enhancing Smallholder Plantations Towards Quality Timber Production of Teak and Other Economic Species and Carbon Neutrality in the Tropics**” is planned on 18 September 2024. There are 4 keynote presentations and 10 technical presentations. Over 65 participants from over 10 countries will participate in the Regional Workshop.
- The 2nd Regional Workshop is planned in early October 2026 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Further information will be provided.

Activities 3.4: Support sharing lessons in promoting the quality teak production and legal and sustainable supply chains at the IUFRO World Congress 2024 (Sweden) and in the 5th World Teak Conference 2025 (Kerala, India) for improved global teak collaboration (global scope).

- Six project staff and delegates of Thailand, Vietnam, Togo, ITTO and TEAKNET participated in the IUFRO World Congress 2024 in Stockholm, Sweden from 24 June to 31 June 2024 and jointly organized a side event entitled “*Strengthening Teak Forest Management for Sustainable Teakwood Supply Chains and Trade (T2:29)*”.
- Again, with the support of ITTO, 28 delegates from ITTO, the six participating countries, Thunen and selected consultants attended the 5th World Teak Conference (WTC 2025) with theme “*Sustainable Development of the Global Teak Sector – Adapting to Future Markets and the Environment*” took place in Cochin, Kerala, India from 17-20 September 2025. The conference attracts more than 350 participants from over 43 countries, with the majority coming from India (the host country) and Thailand.
- The ITTO-BMLEH Teak project organized a side event during 5th WTC entitled “Improving High-Value Teak Timber for Sustainable Supply Chains” on 17 September 2025. The objective of the side event was to disseminate and share experiences gained from the project with scientists and practitioners worldwide. Topics included financing schemes promoting quality timber production in smallholder teak plantations, seed production and nursery techniques, silvicultural practices and improved stand management (including coppicing as a regeneration method), teak

and other valuable species value chains, as well as teak timber legality and sustainability.

- The list of delegates and abstracts are uploaded to [Google document.
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LgP7Qal3DMxMX9gXwtPTUckA5b7P2uWK/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LgP7Qal3DMxMX9gXwtPTUckA5b7P2uWK/view?usp=sharing)

Item 4 Consideration of the 3rd Yearly Plan of Operation (YPO)

- Draft YPO (consisting of work plans and consolidated budgets) and proposed budget modification – if any of project implementation
- (Prof. Yongyut and be discussed by the members of the PSC

4.1 Budget allocation, cashflow and expenditures

The BMLEH is pledged to provide financial support of USD 1,413,449 to implement the ITTO-BMLEH Teak project Phase II through ITTO for 3 years or 36 months. The allocation of the budget is shown in the below table. In addition, BMLEH transferred the 1st installment of USD 142,293, the 2nd installment of 424,363 and the 3rd installment of 70,441.78 to ITTO for the total of USD 637,097.78 or 45% of the project funds.

Table 6. Budget allocation for the participating countries

Country/recipient	Amount (USD)	%
ITTO	714,849	50.57%
(Thunen Institute of Forestry, Germany)	(353,954) ^{1/}	(25.04%) ^{1/}
Cambodia	51,000	3.61%
India	71,000	5.03%
Indonesia	110,500	7.82%
Thailand	358,100	25.33%
Vietnam	54,000	3.82%
Togo	54,000	3.82%
Total	1,413,449 ^{2/}	(100.00%) ^{2/}

Note: 1/ Allocated through ITTO; 2/ Include all partners.

Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Togo components have obtained 2nd disbursements from ITTO. Thus, ITTO transferred the 1st installment of USD 182,000 and the 2nd installment (except for India) of USD 166,000 to the five participating countries. Furthermore, a total of USD 49,200 (USD 9,000 for each country) was disbursed to support field data collection for micro-finance mechanisms. ITTO also disbursed USD 132,733 to the Thünen Institute of Forestry following the signing of the agreement in March 2024.

As of 30 June 2025, five participating countries (excluding Indonesia) received a total of USD 397,200 from ITTO, representing 62.32% of the total project budget allocated to those countries. Funds have not yet been transferred to Indonesia due to pending on-the-ground implementation.

The up-to-date ITTO-BMLEH Project expenditures as of 30 June 2025 by the five participating countries were USD 254,309 or 64% of the allocated budget. If ITTO and Thunen included the total expenditures were USD 576,177.57 or 40.7% of the total project budget. The remaining available fund in the Bank Account of the 5 participating countries is USD 161,012, and USD 61,444 for the entire project, including interest earned of USD 524 (USD 209 for India and USD 315 for Thailand component) (Table 7).

As of the reporting date, the combined available balance held by the participating countries and ITTO, including earned interest, stands at USD 61,444.21 (USD 161,012 for five participating countries). The estimated budget required to carry out the upcoming activities is USD 414,600.66. This estimate includes the planned budget for the Indonesia component. However, funds have not yet been transferred to Indonesia due to pending on-the-ground implementation. To fully implement the planned activities for the period July–December 2025, additional funding of USD 353,156.45 is required. This amount includes the allocated budget for the Indonesia component, for which funds have not yet been disbursed.

Note that the fourth fund disbursement (USD 353,156.45) was approved by BMLEH and transferred to ITTO on 14 October 2025. Thus, the total funds transferred to ITTO were USD 990,254.23 or 70.06% of the total project funds.

Table 7. The up-to-date Balance for the funds received from ITTO

Recipient	Fund of 1 st installment (USD)*	Fund of 2 nd installment (USD)*	Micro-finance	Total expenditures (Nov 2023 – Jun 2025)	Planned budget (Jul-Dec 2025)	Fund in project Bank Account (USD)
Cambodia	20,000 (39%) ^{1/}	20,000 (39%) ^{1/}	9,000	34,240.62	18,847.38	14,759.38
India	22,000 (31%) ^{1/}		9,000	10,475.33	-33,541.90	20,888.41
Indonesia ^{2/}					NA	NA
Thailand	100,000 (28%) ^{1/}	106,000 (29.6%) ^{1/}	13,200	164,217.88	72,160.17	55,297.12
Vietnam	20,000 (37%) ^{1/}	20,000 (37%) ^{1/}	9,000	20,446	23,455	28,554
Togo	20,000 (37%) ^{1/}	20,000 (37%)	9,000	24,930.06	36,142.94	24,069.94
Sub-total	182,000 (30.9%) ^{3/}	166,000 (23.8%) ^{4/}	49,200 (62.1%)	254,309.89 (64.02%) ^{6/}	161,012.39 ^{7/}	143,568.85 ^{8/}
ITTO	142,293 ^{9/} (10.1%) ^{1/}	424,363 ^{9/} (30.02%) ^{1/}	70,441.78 (4.98%)			
Thunen	132,733 ^{10/} ; (33%)			132,733 (120,600.15)	132,733	(12,132.85)

Notes: 1/ percentage of the total allocated budget; 2/ Indonesia has not obtained funds from ITTO; 3/ total 1st installment allocated to the 5 participating countries (excluding Thunen); 4/ total 2nd installment allocated to the 5 participating countries; 5/ total expenditures of the 5 participating countries (Nov 2023 – Jun 2024); 6/ total expenditures of the 5 participating countries (Nov 2023 –

Dec 2024); ^{7/} planned budget from Jan-Jun 2025 for the 5 participating countries; ^{8/} available funds for the 5 participating countries; ^{9/} funds transferred from BMLEH to ITTO; ^{10/} funds transferred from ITTO to Thunen.

4.2 Proposed budget modification

Due to adjustments in the implementation of some activities, the participating countries now request a third budget modification (BR-C). The proposed modification reflects an increase in the planned 2025 budget from USD 572,135 to USD 535,252. This figure includes the planned budget for Indonesia component. Note that the first budget modification (Modification: BR-A), and the second request (Modification: BR-B) were approved by BMLEH in September 2024, and in March 2025, respectively.

Details are as follows:

Payment for consultants

- Consultant #1 – Quality Planting Material (Budget Item A04):
The budget increases from USD 6,000 to USD 18,450 due to the early engagement of the consultant. This results in a corresponding reduction in the 2026 budget.
- Consultant #2 – Field Training in Silviculture (Budget Item A05):
The budget increases from USD 5,000 to USD 10,200, also due to early engagement. This adjustment reflects a reduction in the 2026 budget.
- Consultant #5 – Information Management (Budget Item A06):
The budget increases from USD 8,500 to USD 10,000 to comply with the agreed contract and Terms of Reference (TORs), with each instalment amounting to USD 5,000.
- Consultant #6 – Teak Value Chain (Budget Item A07):
The budget increases from USD 6,000 to USD 9,000 due to the recruitment for the India and Indonesia components.
- Consultant #7.2 – Networking and Capacity Building (Budget Item A102):
The budget decreases from USD 12,000 to USD 6,000 in line with the agreed contract and TORs.

Lump sum items

- Operational costs for project offices (Budget Item B01) in the five participating countries increase from USD 6,000 to USD 9,628.
- Technical reports and completion report editing (Budget Item B02) decrease from USD 10,000 to USD 3,000, as the technical reports from consultants are expected in 2026

Reimbursable items

- The remaining budget for organizing the 2nd Regional Teak Workshop (Budget Item C12) is postponed to 2026.
- Regional and national webinars (Budget Item
- Internal travel (Budget Item C21) increases from USD 6,000 to USD 6,994 to support consultants' participation in the 2nd PSC meeting in Thailand in November 2025.
- National and regional webinars (Budget Item C21) decrease from USD 8,000 to USD 4,841 due to 3 out of 12 webinars have been organized.

- Establishment of demonstration plots and nurseries (Budget Item C42) increases from USD 10,000 to USD 32,241 due to early engagement. Additionally, the Indonesia component has planned to establish two demonstration plots.
- Training costs (Budget Item C43) double increase from USD 32,429 to USD 82,083 to align with the planned capacity-building schedules in the participating countries.
- Literature, publications, and webpage (Budget Item C45) increases slightly from USD 2,000 to USD 2,854.96 in line with the plan to update the project website.

ITTO Project Administration

- The entire allocated budget for ITTO program support (Budget Item E01) was fully disbursed in 2024.

The proposed budget modification (BR-C) and workplan were approved by BMLEH on 14 October 2025. The approved budget modification, overall cash flow and the revised workplan on 14 October 2025 are attached in [Annex 10, Table 8 and Table 9, respectively](#).

Table 8 Overall cash flow, expenditures and planned budget until December 2025

	Installments	Amount (USD)	Installments		
				1. 1st, 2nd and 3rd installment from BMEL	637'097.78
	#1 The 1st installment that ITTO received from BMEL in December 2023 after signing the agreement	142'293.00	#1 The 1st installment that ITTO received from BMEL in December 2023 after signing the agreement	2. Expenditures (Nov 2023-Jun2025) by the participating countries, Thunen and ITTO Secretariat	576'177.57
	#2 The 2nd installment that ITTO received from BMEL in September 2024.	424'363.00	#2 The 2nd installment that ITTO received from BMEL in September 2024.	3. Balance	60'920.21
	# The 3rd installment received from BLEH in March 2025	70'441.78	3rd installment received from BLEH in March 2025	4. Bank interest earn 1/	524.00
	Total	637'097.78	Total	5. Balance + Bank interest	61'444.21
				6. Total planned budget Jul-Dec 2025 2/	414'600.66
				7. 4th call for funds (from BMEL) 3/	353'156.45

1/ Bank interest US\$ 315 (Thai component Nov 2023-Dec 2024)

2/ planned expenditures during Jan-Jul 2025 (i71) + (Balance + Bank Interest) <d70>)

3/ required budget to implement planned activities. However, all balances are in bank accounts of the participating countries, while the balance of ITTO is negative.

Table 9 An updated work plan which reflects the changes requested in the BR-C

Outputs and Activities	Responsible party	Year 1 (2023)	Year 2 ('24)				Year 3 (25)				Year 4 ('26)				
		Nov	Quarter				Quarter				Quarter				
		Dec	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	Note
Output 1: Supply chains of smallholders and community-based teak and other valuable species plantation and management systems have been strengthened with easy availability of high-quality planting stock and implementation of improved practices in silviculture, timber processing and legality															
1.1 Conserve teak and other valuable species genetic variation through improved management of existing seed production areas, seed orchards, and provenance/progeny trials/clonal plantations (India, Indonesia, Thailand)	Reg. Proj. Manager Nat. coordinators Consultant # 1 & 2														
1.2 Support smallholders and local communities for improved management of existing demonstration plots for teak and other valuable species and field training on the following subjects: (1) seed production/nursery techniques; (2) silvicultural practices and improved stand management, including coppicing as a regeneration method; (3) minimizing harvesting loss, efficient transport and processing of teak roundwood and product designs and innovation; (4) teak value chains and other valuable species and NTFP (5) timber legality and sustainability (all participating countries)	Reg. Proj. Manager Nat. coordinators Consultants # 1,2,3,4 & 6														
1.3 Promote timber legal compliance in smallholder/ community plantations, aligning with national and local laws governing forest plantations, management, timber harvesting and legality (global)	ITTO, Reg. Proj. Manager Consultant #3.														Hosted by ITTO
Output 2: Financing schemes for quality timber production in smallholders and community-based teak and other species plantations have been analyzed and improvements have been suggested to increase economic outcomes.															

Outputs and Activities	Responsible party	Calendar year 1	Calendar year 2 ('24)				Calendar year 3 (25)				Calendar year 4 ('26)				Note
		Nov	Quarter				Quarter				Quarter				
		Dec	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
2.1 Carry out a feasibility study for direct contracts/out-grower schemes with sourcing companies to ensure that smallholders' products will be purchased at remunerative prices (all participating countries)	ITTO, Reg. Proj. Manager Nat. coordinators TIF- Germany Consultant #7													Hosted by TTO	
2.2 Carry out a study to promote micro-lending schemes to address the credit constraints of smallholders to explore different options to overcome the problem with collaterals that smallholders often face trees as guarantees, and group-lending to a number of forest growers who can ensure loan repayments from each other (all participating countries)	ITTO, Reg. Proj. Manager Nat. coordinators TIF- Germany Consultant #7													Hosted by TTO	
2.3 Carry out a study to promote the formation of effective forest grower associations to reduce transaction costs and help improve access to micro-credits (all participating countries)	ITTO, Reg. Proj. Manager Nat. coordinator TIF- Germany Consultant #7													Hosted by TTO	
2.4. Carry out a study to access to voluntary carbon markets to increase revenues from longer rotation of smallholder and community-based teak and other valuable species plantations to increase financial security of farmers, address the issue of cash flows, and support their access to micro-lending schemes (global scope)	ITTO Reg. Proj. Manager Nat. coordinators TIF-Germany Consultant #7													Hosted by TTO	
Sub-contract with the Thünen Institute of Forestry to carry out feasibility studies for financing schemes for smallholder teak plantations	TIF-Germany/ITTO													Jan 2024	
Output 3: Regional and international collaboration, information sharing and knowledge management, networking, policy development and outreach for sustainable smallholder teak and other species plantations have been strengthened															
3.1 Produce and disseminate outreach and training materials on the conservation and sustainable management of teak and other valuable species plantations and legal and sustainable supply chains in line with outcomes of Activities 1.2 and 2.1-2.4 to support forest policy development (regional scope).	Reg. Proj. Manager Nat. coordinators Consultant #5													Jointly managed by ITTO and KU	

Outputs and Activities	Responsible party	Calenda year 1	Calenda year 2 ('24)				Calenda year 3 (25)				Calenda year 4 ('26)				
		Nov	Quarter				Quarter				Quarter				
		Dec	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	Note
3.2 Support and facilitate teak networking in ITTO's member countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America in collaboration with TEAKNET and other partners through the organization of a quarterly-based Webinar (4 every year) to promote the conservation and sustainable management of teak forest resources and legal and sustainable supply chains (global scope).	Reg. Proj. Manager Nat. Coordinators ITTO/TEAKNET													Hosted by ITTO	
3.3 Plan and organize a regional workshop in Thailand for timber legality and another regional workshop in Java, Indonesia with investors and financial institutions to discuss financing schemes promoting quality timber production in smallholder teak plantations (regional scope).	Reg. Proj. Manager Nat. Coordinators ITTO													Jointly managed by ITTO and KU; 1 st Reg workshop Aug-Sep 2024	
3.4 Support sharing lessons in promoting the quality teak production and legal and sustainable supply chains at the IUFRO World Congress 2024 (Sweden) and in the 5th World Teak Conference 2025 (Kerala, India) for improved global teak collaboration (global scope).	Reg. Proj. Manager ITTO/TEAKNET													Jointly managed by ITTO and KU; IUFRO – Jun 2024; 5 th WTC – Sep 2025	
Reporting and monitoring															
Submission of inception report (before start of Project)	Reg. Act. Manager Nat. Coordinators ITTO													Jan 2024	
Submission of Yearly Plan of Operation for the first year (before start of Project)	Reg. Act. Manager Nat. Coordinators ITTO													Jan 2024	
Submission of progress report (b-annual) with training, workshop, technical report	Reg. Act. Manager Nat. Coordinators ITTO													1 st Prog Report May 2024	
Submission of Yearly Plan of Operation for the second and third year (before start of Project for the second year and third year)	Reg. Act. Manager Nat. Coordinators ITTO		Incept./ 1 st PSC		2 st PSC									1 st PSC – Sep 2024; 2 nd PSC – Nov 2025	
Submission of financial report (bi-annual) and audited financial report (every twelve months)	Reg. Act. Manager Nat. Coordinators ITTO													Apr 2024	

Submission of Project Completion Report	Reg. Act. Manager Nat. Coordinators ITTO															Nov 2026
Technical and Steering Committee Meetings (back-to back) and monitoring	Reg. Act. Manager Nat. Coordinators ITTO															1 st PSC – Sep 2024; 2 nd PSC – Nov 2025

Item 5 Recommendations

Chairperson (Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi) appreciated the achievements of the project implementation in the last 2 years. He summarized that the project spent about 41% of the total project funds, while the overall completion was approximately 50%.

He thanks the active engagement of national coordinators from India and Indonesia to speed up the process. He then invited all PSC members to ask questions and comments.

Indonesia (Dr. Rina)

She elaborated why Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry took more than 1 year to officially engage with the project. She is also grateful to the support and advice provided by Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi and Professor Yongyut Trisurat.

Mr. Temesgen (Thunen)

He thanks Kasetsart University to host Orientation workshop in May 2025. He notified that data collection in Thailand and India is not completed and request the Regional Project Manager to communicate with national experts and possibly organize a zoom meeting to follow up assignment. The Regional Project Manager took note on this request.

Dr. Sven Gunter, The Thunen Institute of Forestry, Germany

He notified the meeting in particular Indonesia component that the planned activities are quite behind the schedule due to field data collection and engagement by Indonesia. Thunen will analyze information when all data collection is completed. Indonesia (Dr. Rina) responded that initial discussion with potential expert is arranged. She will sign agreement with the consultant upon return to Indonesia and communicate with Temesgen to carry out the activity.

Dr. Tran Lam Dong, VAFS

He informed the meeting that TEAK farm from Cambodia approaches him to facilitate teak trading in Vietnam. However, he noted that the proposed price of USD 400-500 per cubic meter is quite high compared to wood quality and other products delivered from Latin America.

Dr. Suwan Tangmitcharoen, Ex-Chairperson of PTC

He provided information to the PSC members that now Thailand in particular the RFD also work with Sweden and private companies to promote sustainable wood use in Thailand. Engineered wood and modern designs are targeted.

Mr. Sapol Boonsermsuk, Ex-Senior expert of the RFD

Mr. Sapol read the summary of teak benefits and management synthesized from AI.

The Regional Project Manager (*Prof. Yongyut Trisurat*) reminded all domestic consultants under the same title to work together and produce a synthesis technical report via standardized format. He also reminded national coordinator to look at the indicator shown in the Logical Framework such number of demonstration plots (2) and training sessions (4) per country.

Without further comments and suggestions, the Chairperson summarized as follows:

- 1) The PSC committee acknowledged the progress of project implementation from November 2023 to November 2025.
- 2) The PSC committee encourage India and Indonesia to speed up the implementation of planned activities, and hope that both countries will catch up all activities before the project termination in December 2026.

- 3) Project Steering Committee remind consultants and national coordinators to evaluate the achievements against indicators show in the Log Frame, and ask the Regional Project Manager to take notes all comments provided by the PSC members.
- 4) The PSC committee approved the 3rd progress report and proposed workplan and budget.:

Item 6 Concept idea for the project phase III

Chairperson invited the Regional Project Manager to present the concept idea for the project phase III. Prof. Yongyut Trisurat notified the PSC members that Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi, Dr. P.K. Thulasidas and Prof. Yongyut Trisurat had an initial discussion after Dr. Gerhald. This proposal aligns with the South-South Cooperation promoted by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity (BMLEH). ITTO Director of Operation Division visited the BMLEH. The draft concept idea is shown below:

Potential project title for Project Phase III

Enhancing technological innovations and value addition of short rotation teak resources in the Global South

Participating countries:

Asia Pacific: Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam

West Africa: Togo

South America: Costa Rica

Specific objective

To enhance value-added products of short rotation teak resources for sustainable supply chains

Potential Outputs

Output 1: Sustainable supply chains of short rotation teak resources of global teak resources have been analyzed and strengthened

Output 2: Capacity building on innovations of utilization of short rotation teak resources strengthened (e.g. processing technology for increased durability and stability, innovative products design, engineered wood products for value addition of short-rotation timber...?)

Output 3: Regional and international collaboration, information sharing and knowledge management, networking, and outreach for utilization of innovative and value-added short rotation teak resources strengthened

Chairperson invited comments from PSC members.

Dr. P.K. Thulasidas

He mentioned that the proposed concept idea is a draft idea. The final decision and modification will be done later.

Dr. Suwan Tangmitcharoen

He recommends to include value addition in the concept note.

Prof. Yongyut Trisurat

He notified another option in Latin America is Panama.

Chairperson asked the Regional Project Manager takes notes all comments for revision.

Item 7 Other Business

7.1 Review the involvement of Teak Project in the 5th World Teak Conference in Kerala, including organizing a special side event

Chairperson asked Dr. P.K. Thulasidas to summarize the 5th WTC and engagement of ITTO-BMLEH project.

The 5th World Teak Conference (WTC 2025), held from 17–20 September in Cochin, Kerala, focused on “Sustainable Development of the Global Teak Sector – Adapting to Future Markets and the Environment.” Organized by KFRI with TEAKNET, KSCSTE, MoEFCC, and ITTO Japan, and supported technically by FAO, IUFRO, MAFF Japan, and the Ghana Forestry Commission, the event gathered over 300 participants from 43 countries across six continents. Delegates from governments, research institutions, universities, the private sector, and local communities exchanged knowledge on teak’s economic, social, and environmental contributions through a programme featuring sessions on genetics, management, markets, smallholder plantations, legal supply chains, and forest landscape restoration.

A major highlight was ITTO’s thematic side event presenting progress from the second phase of the ITTO-BMLEH project, which aims to strengthen smallholder and community-based teak and valuable-species plantations in Southeast Asia and Togo. Led by Regional Project Manager Yongyut Trisurat, the 30-member ITTO delegation, including Executive Director Sheam Satkuru, emphasized the centrality of high-quality teak production to sustainable forest management and legal timber supply chains. Presenters discussed achievements from Phase 1 and ongoing work in Phase 2, including improved planting materials, enhanced silviculture and processing practices, and microfinance solutions to support smallholders during long rotation periods.

In closing, Sheam Satkuru, ITTO Executive Director underscored that the teak sector can only advance by integrating science, policy, and practical field approaches—a strength exemplified by the ITTO-BMLEH project’s milestones. ITTO representatives actively contributed to panel discussions, and their recommendations were incorporated into the conference’s final outcomes, later featured in the October issue of the [ITTO-BMLEH Teak Newsletter](#).

All national coordinators and PSC members take note.

7.2 Next bi-annual progress report

Regional Project Manager, Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, reminded all national coordinators that the 4th bi-annual progress for the period July – December 2025 will be submitted to ITTO and BMLEH in early January 2026. He counts on cooperation of all national coordinators, project partners and consultants. Importantly, he noted BMLEH would like to monitor cash flow, expenditures and bank statement. In this regard, the ITTO-BMLEH project will provide a template for financial report and encourage all participating countries to strictly follow this guideline and to submit the financial report by the schedule date.

All national coordinators and PSC members take note.

7.3 Next PSC Meeting

The 3rd PSC meeting and the 2nd Regional Workshop will be held in October 2026 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Specific venue and date will be notified later.

Well noted.

7.4 Field excursions

Regional Project Manager, Prof. Yongyut Trisurat notified PSC members about field excursion program as follows:

11 November 2025

Morning session:

Visit Demonstration plot in Chiangmai (project phase II). This plot was established during the project phase II aiming to demonstrate the 25 top-performing clones for smallholder plantations at the farm scale. These clones were selected from provenance trials based on growth performance, heartwood proportion, and bole shape (straightness of teak tree) for commercial purposes. Teak seedlings were planted in July 2025.

Visit Teak-wood industries (Thaweephan Co. Ltd, Chiang Mai). The company was established in 1950 as a traditional wood-based company, which engaged in both sawmill and furniture. After logging banned in 1989, the amount of trading steadily declined and import of old-growth logs from Myanmar was limited. Since 2010, the company was transformed to only high-end furniture business that includes innovative wood products for home interiors and buildings. The business is concentrated in domestic market and is growing quite well.

Afternoon session:

PSC members visit Silvicultural Research Center 1 (Chiang Mai), the Royal Forest Department. The objectives of visit are to 1) learn high demanding forest tree (*Dipterocarpus alatus*) healing in urban landscape, which are affected by road construction, and 2) to explore closed painting by tree leaves to generate additional income for local communities.

12 November 2025: Visit Doi Inthanon National Park

All delegates visited Doi Inthanon National Park. It is 1 of 15 national parks located in Chiang Mai province. The park is the highest mountain peak in Thailand, 2,565 msl featured by the cool climate with rich biodiversity. Forest type is high altitude upper montane cloud forest with mossy wet floor and comprises a lot of *Quercus* and *Lithocarpus* species as well as temperate species. It is the origin of Ping River, which is 1 of 4 tributaries of Chaophraya river. Wachirathan waterfall is one of the most attractive accessible waterfall in the park.

Item 8: Closing of the 2nd PSC Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 17:30 with a vote of thanks to BMLEH and Kasetsart University, ITTO and all online and onsite delegates for various productive discussions towards the effective implementation of the project. Ms. Jennifer Conje, Director of Forest Management Division, ITTO expressed her appreciations to the RFD, KU, Dr. Preecha Ongprasert, Prof. Yongyut Trisurat and the project staff for organizing the 2nd PSC meeting a great success. She hopes that BMLEH will consider the concept idea of the project phase III and provide financial support.

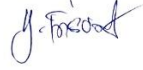
We the undersigned endorsed the minutes as a record of this PSC meeting.

Date: 25 November 2025



Dr. Tetra YANUARIADI

International Tropical Timber Organization



Prof. Dr. Yongyut Trisurat

Regional Project Manager

List of presentations

Consolidated 3rd bi-annual progress report by Prof. Yongyut Trisurat

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GHB629DksmqQgG6wfudin8pBFshhIfsJ?usp=drive_link

Presentation on the progress of Cambodia component by Mr. Sinly Say

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Fze2w1ZcdcH-YUSaXeOxeBzIJ5CYJo-b?usp=sharing>

Presentation on the progress of India component by Dr. Yasodha

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1LgmOxT4ZOAWtcQwh_KfBdsNynwHelA26?usp=sharing

Presentation on the progress of Indonesia component by Dr. Rina Kristanti

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1L3IEMN84xi7BAuMjxHfoYwPFGaFviTx_?usp=sharing

Presentation on the progress of Thailand by Mr. Montri Intasen

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Ti3F07RpokYSiuH2KZGI3S6ApaVRbc60?usp=sharing>

Presentation on the progress of Vietnam component by Dr. Trieu Dang Thinh

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18eqwpxMwkK4D9K5WdS925s9311G7O9AO?usp=sharing>

Presentation on the progress of Togo component by Prof. Kouami Kokou

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13dfLHTwaqr1C4U6zBurNhurEp6dLohD2?usp=sharing>

Annexes

Annex 1 Provisional agenda of the 2nd PSC meeting

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FqMFqEmHYxUs2aiubfoBMkHZ0ZxdYACN?usp=sharing>

Annex 2 Welcome remarks by Mr. Stephan Wagner, BMLEH

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Umek5TM1jMM5ltSy0Qa-YrpKFqIAtYHn?usp=sharing>

Annex 3 Welcome remarks by Jennifer Conje delivered, Director of ITTO Forest Management Division

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1004t1-nLONdrM5q6-hJxCv9pJMTuGKB_?usp=sharing

Annex 4 Opening Remarks by Mr. Kamthorn Suwanawech, Director of Forestry Research and Development Office, the RFD, Thailand

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1z1KmsQvUwwg_d5THl0pqt63LqwqD4xyO?usp=sharing

Annex 5 List of delegates attending the 2nd PSC meeting

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1faVwO7h7RrAN7fVKi6omX9DKvWN06TzJ?usp=sharing>

Annex 6 Presentation by Mr. Taiji Fujisaki (Consultant#3 Legality)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tDUNlfpHoKe9tyEJh71S15rltHADxltL?usp=sharing>

Annex 7 Presentation on microfinancing mechanism by Temesgen (Thunen Forestry Institute (TIF), Germany)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BJSr00_uGuMbXViTr9z6fQF8nyXFmY3v?usp=sharing

Annex 8 Presentation by Dr. Anto Rimbawanto (Consultant#1: Teak and Other Valuable Species Strategy Development)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1T_rpEAdbluSZNvkHqmXFST-Nobwd189G?usp=sharing

Annex 9 Presentations at the side event “Sustainable wood use, biodiversity and bio-circular economy in the Asia-Pacific region”

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iHx5Too2IA3hXSxxS4c2F1abGzSEwrlQ?usp=sharing>

Annex 10 Approved budget modification (BR-C)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aEGw1IBl_isqP23JmXONQsU76kzFvRRA?usp=sharing