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### Editorial

One of the commitments of the Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) in India, over the past three decades, is the development of teakwood sector. With a good basic infrastructure and a core group of well qualified/experienced personnel of proven track record in international arena of teak, KFRI is planning to set up Teaknet Centre for addressing the key issues of sustainable management of teak. The long-term objective is to promote sustainable management and utilization of global teak wood resources by facilitating the capacity building among international stakeholders particularly farmers/teak growers, teak resource managers, processors, traders, researchers and policy makers in responding effectively to the changing social, economic and environmental needs.

Although such a Teaknet was established in 1998 in Myanmar, there is growing concern among the international stakeholders to strengthen the activities of global networking mechanism. Therefore KFRI has taken initiatives in this direction for complementing the efforts and launching this Bulletin one such activity. For greater benefits, it is urged all those who are concerned to make use of this Bulletin as a common vehicle for sharing and dissemination of useful information, new inventions, new research findings, etc.

### Outbreak of Pink Disease in Young Teak Plantations

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Recently, severe incidence of pink disease (stem canker and girdling) in young (1 to 2-year-old) teak plantations raised in high humid tracts of the Kerala State, India was noticed. Outbreak of disease occurred immediately after the South West monsoon (July-August) and plantations raised with both root trainer-grown seedlings as well as conventional stumps were found equally affected with the disease. The disease occurs in small patches affecting 3 to 5 plants and spreads at a very fast rate causing multiple infection (main stem and branch cankers) in a large number of nearby plants; the disease incidence ranged from three to sixty per cent in different teak plantations in the State. Disease incidence as well as severity was noticed more in plantation sites where weed growth is more and with high precipitation and relative humidity.

### Management of the Teak Defoliator Using the Viral Biopesticide- HpNPV

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One of the major research areas addressed by the Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) is pest management in teak plantations. Among the pests of teak, the most destructive in India is the teak defoliator, Hybiliae puera (Cramer). Outbreaks of this insect occur every year in teak plantation in Kerala and other teak growing areas in the country. KFRI studies have revealed that considerable economic loss is caused by this pest due to reduction of about 44% potential volume increment of trees. It is estimated that over 50% additional gain can be realized from teak plantations if protected against the teak defoliator. Considering the cost of teak, the gain in revenue would be substantial.

In view of the economic importance of the teak defoliator pest, KFRI initiated focused research since early eighties to develop an eco-friendly technology to manage this pest. Detailed studies had been carried out to elucidate the pest movement and population dynamics and the natural mortality factors affecting the pest.

### Background

It is extremely vital that Teaknet is revitalized and is able to fulfill the original objectives it was set up for. With that as a background, some initial tasks have been identified which will build towards strengthening Teaknet.

Under the overall supervision and technical guidance of the Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office, Bangkok, and in close collaboration with RAP Forestry Staff, the Consultant will carry out the following activities:

1. Develop a database of international stakeholders of teakwood sector, including growers, processors, traders, users, policy makers and researchers, and identification of focal points in various countries/regions for networking;
2. Collect and compile available literature pertinent to the teak development programmes, particularly on international teak resource management, timber price and trade trends;
3. Launch and disseminate a quarterly information bulletin under the Teaknet banner (in both electronic version and hardcopies) for year 2007;
4. Produce abbreviated versions of the above studies (1 & 2) for reporting in the Teaknet bulletin.
MANAGEMENT OF THE TEAK DEFOLIATOR USING THE VIRAL BIOPESTICIDE- HpNPV

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Now KFRI has developed a bio-control technique to manage the pest, which is based on HpNPV, a baculovirus naturally infesting the teak defoliator pest. Baculoviruses form a group of insect pathogen and many of them are extensively used as biopesticides for managing forestry and agriculture pests worldwide. The technology to mass multiply the teak defoliator baculovirus and to produce a storable biopesticide formulation using the virus has been standardised. The HpNPV formulation which is in the wettable powder form has been field tested and proved very effective in controlling the teak defoliator. The HpNPV formulation developed by KFRI is highly target specific, eco-friendly and safe to all other organisms.

As part of the technology transfer, KFRI conducted two training workshops for the field staff of Nilambur North and South Forest Divisions during 2004 and 2005. Further in 2004, a field trial using HpNPV was carried out jointly with KFD in about 36 ha of young teak plantations in Nilambur to control teak defoliator which was highly successful. KFRI plans

As part of the extension program, KFRI had supplied HpNPV in 2005 and 2006 to a teak farmer in Chattisgarh, who owns about 50 ha

50 ha teak plantations, to test its field performance. The result was very promising as evident by the report from the said farmer (Email communication attached). The bio- cide contains 1x1011 viral particles per gram of the product which is sufficient to cover one hectare of young teak plantation. The cost of the bioicide required for applying in one hectare teak plantation works out to about Rs.250/-. Now KFRI is looking for an entrepreneur to whom the technology for mass multiplication of HpNPV for which a patent has been filed can be transferred so that this major break-through in biological control of teak pest is utilized by all the State Forest Departments who grow teak.

The advantages of HpNPV bioicide are many compared to chemical pesticides:

- Highly specific to the teak defoliator
- Eco-friendly and safe to all organisms
- Based on naturally occurring insect pathogen
- Non-hazardous and non pollutant
- Economical
- Being a natural pathogen remain in nature to cause epizootics

OUTBREAK OF PINK DISEASE IN YOUNG TEAK PLANTATIONS

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Pink disease: The disease is caused by a fungus, Corticium salmonicolor. The fungal pathogen causes canker on the main stem as well as branches. The cankered areas become depressed with pronounced discoloration of tissues beneath the bark. Usually, the visible disease symptom appears as small ‘screw cap’ type vertical split on the bark, which later enlarges into large vertical splits along the diseased areas. Formation of callus tissues around the infected areas takes place as a result of host defense mechanism. Partial to complete girdling of the bark around the cankered area occurs depending on the disease severity. Yellowing and browning of the foliage and gradual die-back of shoot above the cankered area occur. A large number of epicormic shoots usually develop from the area just below the canker. Quick spreading of multiple cankers on the main shoot under conducive environment often leads to outright killing of the affected plant. Association of an insect (caterpillar) belonging to Pyralidae was also noticed in some diseased plants. The insect, though a scavenger type makes galleries inside the fleshy callus tissues and produce ‘frass’ (excreta of the insect + wood particles webbed together), and also cause discoloration of the bark and stem tissues.

The causal fungus, C. salmonicolor produces its four stages: cobweb, pustule, pink encrustation (basidial stage) and necator (conidial stage) on the cankered area. The pathogen has wide host range (> 400 host spp.) and affects forest plantation species including eucalypts, acacias, casuarinas, etc. Even though, teak has earlier been reported as the host plant of pink disease pathogen, the recent outbreak of disease in young plantations has caused great concern.

Management of disease: Application of Bordeaux paste (10%) is found effective in controlling the canker disease. However, in severely cankered stems, as the Bordeaux paste (contact fungicide) is found not sufficiently reaching inside the cankered area (crevices of longitudinally split bark), application of systemic fungicide like Calixin (Tridemorph 0.1% a.i. with Delaware wetting and spreading agent) is recommended. Since, the insect association was noticed in many affected plants, application of insecticide (Ekalux @ 0.1%) along with fungicide is recommended. At present, the disease is under control.
A variety of teak timbers is noted in Indian market depending on the source of supply as originated from various geographic locations or countries. The recent timber survey recorded the following types timbers mainly due to variations in log size wood colour/grain and growth rate/rotation age. The price trends of teak timber showed continued increase in India over the decades of later half of 20th century and the forecasts for the year 2015 indicate a range of Indian Rupees of 71,000-90,000 (US $ 1480-1850) per Cu.m depending on the girth class (Krishnankutty 2001).

The present market price range for round wood (Cu.m) in Indian Rupees and US $ is shown below:

- Home garden/farm grown teak: 26842-38841 (US$ 597-863)
- Myanmar (Burma teak): 44138-51200 (US$ 980-1138)
- Colombian teak: 21186-24717 (US$ 470-549)
- Ghana teak: 21186-28248 (US$ 470-628)
- Benin teak
- Togo teak
- Costa Rican teak
- Equador teak
- Teak, Ivory Coast

**Did you know?**
- In South America, FOB price range is USD130-USD230 as against USD200-USD300 in West Africa and US 140-240 in Asia (India) depending on quality (colour, grain, etc), diameter and length.
- With an investment of US $10,000 per hectare, teak plantation can give an average return of about US Dollars 320,000 in 25 years from the sale of roundwood at stump/plantation site – This means 32 times returns in 25 years, equivalent to doubling investment in every 5 years (Centeno 1996).
- The central part of India (with Site Quality II), the best Internal Rate of Returns (IRRs) can be expected from 25-year rotations although for higher Net Present Value(NPV) the rotations need to be longer (Rawat and Negi 1980).

Even with very low input management, teak plantations are profitable if planted in suitable sites (Chundamannil 1998).
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Gunns Plantations Limited, Lindsay Street, Launceston TAS 7250, PO Box 572, Launceston TAS 7250, Tasmania, Tel: (03) 6335 5290, Fax: (03) 6333 0646, Email: gpl@gunns.com.au, www.gunns.com.au/plantations

Thailand
Phyapai Inter-corporation Ltd., Mr. Decha Thippayanon, Director, 26/677 Soi Familay Park 8, Sukprayoon Rd., Amphur Maung, Chon Buri, Thailand, Zip/Postal Code: 20000, Phone: 66-01-172-2306, Fax: 66-038-44-1177