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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

TEAKNET Side Event in the XXVI IUFRO World Congress, Stockholm, Sweden, 23-29 June 2024 1

Brief Report on Fact-Finding Trade Mission by a Joint Forestry Commission of Ghana and Private Sector Representatives to India and Vietnam 4

Special Offer on the book "Social Life of Teak" 15

Prices of Plantation Teak Imported to India 16

Editorial

In this issue, we bring your attention to the TEAKNET Side Event at the XXVI IUFRO World Congress in Stockholm, Sweden, during 23 to 29 June 2024. The event titled 'Strengthening Teak Forest Management for Sustainable Teakwood Supply Chains and Trade' will be organized in collaboration with IUFRO Teakwood working party (Div.5.06.02) and ITTO. The side event would facilitate knowledge sharing, networking and collaborations, and foster innovations and sustainable practices within the teak sector.

We also present a brief report on fact-finding trade mission jointly undertaken by the Forestry Commission and Private Sector Representatives of Ghana to India and Vietnam. The mission's objective was to investigate collaboration opportunities, share best practices, and enhance connections between the forestry sectors of these nations. The valuable insights obtained from these endeavors play a crucial role in informed decision-making and fostering sustainable development within the forestry industry.

We are pleased to announce a special offer for TEAKNET Members on the book "Social Life of Teak," a comprehensive resource exploring the socio-economic and environmental aspects of teak cultivation and utilization. This book delves into the rich history, cultural significance, and contemporary challenges facing the teak industry, making it a valuable addition to the libraries of forestry professionals, researchers, and enthusiasts.

Our regular column on the prices of plantation teak imported to India provides valuable insights into market trends, pricing dynamics, and factors influencing trade in teak wood. We invite your feedback on teak-related issues and encourage you to contribute articles, news, research papers, etc., of a non-technical nature for inclusion in the bulletin. Your insights and contributions enrich our publication and contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the teak industry.

S. Sandeep
TEAKNET Coordinator



TEAKNET Side Event in the XXVI IUFRO World Congress, Stockholm, Sweden, 23-29 June 2024



The IUFRO World Congress stands as one of the foremost global gatherings dedicated to forests. It offers a distinctive occasion for prominent scientists and leaders worldwide to convene, contributing and collaboratively shaping a sustainable future encompassing forestry, climate, and society.

The XXVI IUFRO World Congress will be held in Stockholm, Sweden on June 23-29 2024. IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div5.06.02) together with TEAKNET and ITTO is organizing a Teak Session in this event.



**TEAKNET Side Event at
XXVI IUFRO World Congress 2024
Stockholm, Sweden**

**Strengthening Teak Forest Management for Sustainable
Teakwood Supply Chains and Trade**

Under Sub Theme 2: Towards a responsible forest bioeconomy

Friday, June 28, 08:30 - 10:30 AM (CEST)

Venue: Room No: 9

Teak is one of the most valuable tropical hardwoods in the world. Natural teak forests are fast dwindling in their natural habitats and the genetic resource base is at high risk of losing its diversity. The importance of teak in family farming and forest conservation along with its prominent position in the global timber trade has resulted in the expansion of teak plantations in about 70 countries throughout tropical Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania. IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div. 5.06.02) together with TEAKNET and ITTO is organizing a Teak Session titled *"T2.29: Strengthening Teak Forest Management for Sustainable Teakwood Supply Chains and Trade"* at XXVI IUFRO World Congress, 23-29 June 2024, Stockholm, Sweden. In total, 10 abstracts have been selected for the Oral Session and 6 abstracts for the Poster session.

The *"Global Teak Resources and Market Assessment 2022"* report, carried out by IUFRO-Teaknet-FAO, will be released as an IUFRO publication at the XXVI IUFRO World Congress Innovation Stage.

We look forward to your active participation in the side event by TEAKNET

Organizers



Programme Schedule

Friday, June 28, 08:30 - 10:30 AM (CEST)

Room No: 9

Moderators

Prof. Mario Tommasiello-Filho, Dept. of Forest Sciences, University of São Paulo, Brazil

Dr. Thulasidas P. K., Dy. Coordinator, IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div. 5.06.02), Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi 680 653, Kerala, INDIA.

Dr. Gilles Chaix, Senior Scientist, CIRAD, Montpellier, France

- 08:30 - 08:40 Promoting Legal and Sustainable Supply Chains for Sustainable Global Teak Markets
Hwan-Ok MA, officer in Charge, Forest Management Division, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Japan
- 08:40 - 08:50 Development of smallholder teak plantations in Vietnam
Tran Lam Dong, Deputy Director General, Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS), Hanoi, Vietnam
- 08:50 - 09:00 Heartwood production and density of 22-year-old teakwood from fast-growth plantations: a comparative study across three locations in Brazil
Mario Tommasiello-Filho, Professor, Dept. of Forest Sciences, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 09:00 - 09:10 Strengthening small holder community based teak plantations in Thailand
Yongyut Trisurat, Professor of Forestry and Director of Biodiversity Center, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand
- 09:10 - 09:20 Trends of trade and market access of tropical timber and timber products
Tetra Yanuariadi, Projects Manager, Trade and Industry, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Japan
- 09:20 - 09:30 The future is genomic: rapid clone selection for teak productivity and value
Olman Murillo, Professor, Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica, Costa Rica
- 09:30 - 09:40 Global Teak Resources and Market Assessment 2023
Sandeep S, TEAKNET Coordinator, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Kerala
- 09:40 - 09:50 Intensely managed teak plantations - Quality of teakwood & common grading rules for teak logs
Praveen Angusamy, Maharashtra Forest Development Corporation, India
- 09:50 - 10:00 Reducing initial stocking rates in smallholder teak woodlots: results of a Nelder wheel experiment in Northern Lao PDR after 15 growing seasons
Outhai Soukky, Deputy Director of Northern Agriculture and Forestry College (NAFRI), Lao PDR
- 10:00-10:20 Effect of Topographic Conditions on Teak Heartwood Quality in Mountainous Area
Simone Vongkhamho, National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), Lao PDR
- 10:20-10:30 Closing Remarks

Brief Report on Fact-Finding Trade Mission by a Joint Forestry Commission of Ghana and Private Sector Representatives to India and Vietnam

¹Mohammed Nurudeen Iddrisu and ²Kwame Agyei

¹Director, Division of Trade and Industry, International Tropical Timber Organization, Japan
²Manager, Plantations Department · Forest Services Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana

Background

This report presents an overview of observations made by a joint team of private sector and Forestry Commission on a fact-finding trade mission to India and Vietnam, respectively. The report is divided into two parts. Part one reports on trade mission findings in India and reports specifically on teak exports and trade from Ghana. The second part reports on observations made in Vietnam specifically on value addition, thus tertiary production of timber products dwelling on 'low volume- high value concept' based on integrated milling setups of the Vietnamese forest products industry. The Ghanaian delegation comprised of Dr. M. Nurudeen, Mr. Kwame Agyei, Dr. Joseph Boakye from the Forestry Commission of Ghana; and Mr. Richard Nsenkyire, Mr. George Wireko-Brobby, Nana Dwomoh Sarpong, Mr. Daniel Kwasi Asante and Mr. Kwame Addo Kuffour who represented the private sector.

Trade Mission to India

The mission to India was undertaken on 16th – 21st July, 2023. During the Indian trade mission, the delegation visited nine (9) wood processing factories in Kandla and Gandhidham, India as detailed below:

- ⇒ Vibrant Exim Pvt. Limited
- ⇒ Shree Maruti Enterprise
- ⇒ Shyam Timber/ Vandana Timber Pvt. Limited
- ⇒ Organic Wood Limited
- ⇒ Oswal Lumber Pvt. Limited
- ⇒ Deekay Pine Board Pvt. Limited
- ⇒ Parekh Timber Limited
- ⇒ Ramhans Industries
- ⇒ Jaypee Sawmill

The major observation made was that, Ghana teak has premium quality especially with regards to density compared to teak imports from South America. However, it was observed and highlighted by many buyers that, materials currently imported from Ghana doesn't have the right diameter and form desired by the Indian market. It was advised that in order for Ghana teak to remain competitive and not lose the market share despite the desirable quality in density, Ghana should consider longer rotations with better scientific approaches in stand management. The stand management strategies should focus on straight boles and merchantable diameter

Read more on page 5

Continued from page 4



Figure 1: The delegation inspecting imported Ghana Teak (behind) at Vibrant Exim PVT Limited. Beneath are clean square lumber processed from Teak imported from Brazil



Figure 2: The delegation and representatives from Vibrant Exim PVT Ltd. discussing the observed differences in quality between Teak imports from Ghana and Latin America



Figure 3: The delegation inspecting processing of Teak at Shree Maruti Enterprise



Figure 4: Teak billets from Brazil at Shyam Timber/ Vandanana Timber PVT Limited



Figure 5: The delegation at Ramhans Industries PVT Limited



Figure 6: Latin America Processed Teak at Jaypee Sawmill

Read more on page 6

Continued from page 5

Trade Mission to Vietnam

In the second phase of the trade mission, the focus was to learn from Vietnam how their timber industry has evolved to a multi-billion (\$16 Billion USD in 2022) industry in a space of less than three decades following the lifting of USA trade embargo and trade liberalization in 1995. The delegation met with trade associations, private sector operators, and visited mills and furniture production sites to have a first - hand information on such an accelerated growth in a short span of time. Major observations made was that, the industry has a three- pronged approach of doing business. One is the government sector providing an enabling environment by way of working with the banking sector to provide very low interest rates on commercial loans that enable the industry to retool seamlessly. The second approach was raw material availability which has been made possible by intensive industrial plantation by the private sector of fast-growing species of mainly Acacia and Eucalyptus of 5-6 years rotation for the furniture industry. Additionally, huge imports of tropical and temperate species from both the global south and north, is an approach adopted to augment the raw material base. The third approach was the strong and vigorous trade association that work closely with processors and the government. This three-pronged approach has made the Vietnamese industry such a global player. The trade mission to Vietnam was undertaken from 23rd – 28th July, 2023.

The agencies/ associations the delegation interacted with in Vietnam are as follows:

- * Handicraft and Wood Industry Association of Ho Chi Minh City (HAWA)
- * AA Corporation
- * Binh Duong Furniture Association (BIFA)
- * Lam Viet Joint Stock Company
- * Hiep Long Fine Furniture Company
- * Tavico Timber Company Limited
- * Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- * Woodsland Joint Stock Company

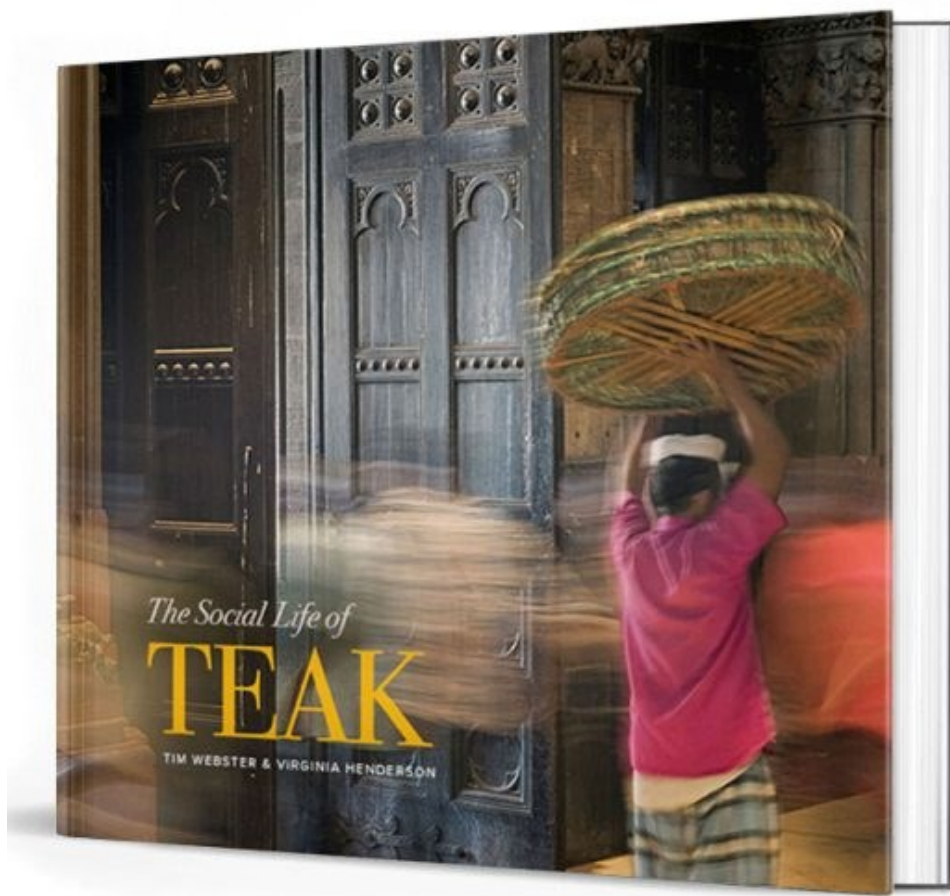


Figure 7: Meeting with officials of Forestry Department, Vietnam



Figure 8: The delegation inspecting Teak products at Lam Viet Joint Stock Company

The Social Life of Teak



SPECIAL OFFER

Until 31 May 2024, *The Social Life of Teak* (River Books, Nov 2023) is on offer to TEAKNET members at a rate of 20% discount. Books are direct from the authors, signed copies if desired.

Amazing work, very fine-tuned... many years of research and extensive fieldwork, contacting people in many walks of life in many countries underpin this excellent book.

Please add the words TEAKNET and indicate SIGNED or UNSIGNED when you place your order here:

<https://timwebster.com.au/product/social-life-of-teak/>

Prices of Plantation Teak Imported to India

Prices of recent shipments of plantation teak logs and sawnwood imported to India

Teak Logs	Hoppus cu.m	US\$ C&F
Brazil	93	395
Colombia	118	340
Costa Rica	147	350
Benin	142	515
Tanzania	94	315
South Sudan	137	385
Guatemala	193	455
Venezuela	95	315

Price range depends mainly on length and cross-sections

Sawnwood	cu.m	US\$ C&F
Benin	51	630
Brazil	97	355
Colombia	123	345
Costa Rica	99	375
Ghana	106	425
Nigeria	69	375
South Sudan	138	390
Tanzania	97	375
Togo	147	380
Panama	91	460

Courtesy: ITTO TTM Report 28:6 16 – 31 March 2024

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Teaknet Bulletin is a quarterly electronic newsletter of TEAKNET brought out through its website. It is intended for circulation among the members of TEAKNET and other stakeholders of global teak sector. The views expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization. The readers are welcome to express their opinions or pass on information of value to teak growers, traders, researchers or others concerned with teak. However, TEAKNET reserves the right to choose the contributions for publishing and also to make necessary editorial modifications in the articles in consultation with the authors.

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