

**Partner Event**

**Teakwood Quality: Global Challenges and Opportunities at IUFRO All Division 5 Conference, Cairns, Australia, 4-8 June 2023**

**[Tuesday 6 June 2023 | 09:20-10:40 am | Room: Auditorium B]**

*Report by*

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Participants and organizers of IUFRO Partner Event on Teak

A Teak Side Event was convened jointly by IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (D5.06.02), ITTO and International Teak Information Network (TEAKNET) during the IUFRO All Division 5 Conference held in Cairns, Australia from 4-8 June 2023.

Teak (*Tectona grandis* L.f.) is a high priority tropical species for industries and planted forest in Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The latest reports of the ITTO on wood products production, consumption and trade have caused major disruptions during the Covid-19 pandemic in the global economy to an estimated contraction of 3.3 percent in 2020. In the second half, the global financial situation improved after ease of lifting the lockdown in many countries. The global trade in teakwood is estimated at about 1.02 million m<sup>3</sup> per year, dominated by India, China and Thailand followed by marginal volume by Vietnam. About 70 countries have teak plantations and the future world supply is expected to come from 15-25 year rotations.

The IUFRO - ITTO-Teaknet side-event examined promoting value chains for teak timber products through value-added product development, establishment of incentive mechanisms to promote legal and sustainable teak supply chains and investment in teak plantations. Other topics included genetically improved planting material for quality timber production, application and adoption of enhanced processing technologies, appropriate trading policies and standards, scaling up international cooperation, partnerships and networking to promote the contributions of sustainable teakwood products in addressing climate change and SDG's.

“Changes in the global trading environment for tropical timbers, including teak, are occurring at a rapid pace,” said Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi, Project Manager, ITTO, Japan in his presentation. This requires a longer-term view to enable tropical timber industry policy decisions to be effective. According to Dr. Yanuariadi, demand for tropical primary and secondary wood products is a derived demand, driven by residential, non-residential and public construction activity and by consumer wealth and spending.

Tropical timber producer countries need to regularly assess the competitiveness of their products in international markets to ensure continued maintenance of production and trade of sustainably managed tropical timber products, said Dr. Yanuariadi. Ensuring a sustainable tropical timber trade requires optimizing the utilization and improving productivity of production forests, which will, in turn, benefit conservation and protected forests, in terms of reducing pressures and disturbances.



Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi, ITTO

Teak represents the best opportunity to produce quality timber and is thus of major importance to their forestry economies, according to Mr. Komlan Houelete, Sector Manager, Silviculture and Forest Management, Togo Forest Development and Exploitation Office. For many tropical countries, establishment and management of planted teak forests have attracted large investment from the corporate sector. Teak wood in Togo is mainly produced by state owned company and smallholder teak producers and substantially contributed to the country's economy. India is the main destination country for teak exports from Togo.



Mr. Komlan Houelele, Togo

Speakers at the side-event also addressed forest biomass utilization for bioenergy industry development. Dr. Jingxin Wang, Director, Center for Sustainable Biomaterials & Bioenergy, West Virginia University, reported an integrated modeling framework for the supply chain management of forest biomass utilization for bioenergy, including components of regional suitability and facility sitting assessments and supply chain optimization.



Dr. Jingxin Wang, West Virginia University, USA



The model indicated 30 industrial sites as the top priority sites for forest biomass-based bioenergy industry development in the high- suitable areas, which accounted for 24.26% of the total area of the entire region. The delivered cost of forest biomass for these sites is assumed to range from \$41.90 -50.17 per dry Mg, with a mean of \$44.77. When the carbon emission of the biomass supply chain is reduced from 0 to 3.3%, the average delivered cost of biomass would increase 13.63% from \$44.77 to \$50.87 /dry Mg, and the average opportunity cost of the carbon emission reduction is \$15.37/Mg CO<sub>2</sub> eq.

During the side-event, Dr. PK Thulasidas, representing Teaknet, reported that ITTO, Thailand's Kasetsart University and Teaknet collaborated in implementing the BMEL supported project, *"Enhancing the conservation and sustainable management of teak forests and legal and sustainable wood supply chains in the Greater Mekong Sub-region"*, which was completed in 2022. The planning of the second phase of this collaboration, which will have a greater focus on the production of high-quality teak timber, is in progress, including the organization of teak side events at the IUFRO World Congress in June 2024 in Stockholm, Sweden, and at the Fifth World Teak Conference, which will be hosted by India in 2025.

The 5- day conference concluded with an optional post-conference tour on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> June to ride on the Skyrail to the Kuranda, flying above the world's oldest tropical rainforest, and to the Walkamin Research Station, to see first-hand 20 years of research trials. The IUFRO All Division 5 conference was attended by over 300 participants from 26 countries.

(Photo credit: PK Thulasidas)



Audience in teak partner event

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