

Key Messages

1. Secured land tenure and user-rights are essential for teak plantations

Supportive tenure policies for smallholders teak plantations can be effective by eliminating over-regulatory burdens to small-scale plantations, management and harvesting as well as local transportation of harvested teakwood products.

2. Promote innovative certification systems to smallholder teak plantations

Forest certification is increasingly become important for timber with strong demand in international market, such as teak, however, smallholders are unable to bear the high transaction cost involved in the existing certification systems.

The certification of smallholder teak plantations by local forestry authorities such as the scheme in operation under Luang Prabang Teak Program (LPTP), has facilitated the local development of smallholders teak wood products. This could help them in demonstrating the legal origin of planted teakwood.

3. Increase the productivity and quality of smallholder teak plantations by using quality teak genetic resources

Quality teak planting stocks are essential for raising teak plantations with appropriate spacing, pruning and thinning and provision of training and extension for smallholders in good silviculture practices could significantly improve the productivity of plantations and the quality of teakwood.

4. Formation of smallholder farmer groups for effective value chain development

Farmers and traders have to work together to add value to teakwood and to set up community enterprises. Such smallholder farmer groups should be replicated elsewhere in the country with lower taxation systems for smallholders.

Financial incentives in the form of agricultural soft loans and setting up of a tree bank program are encouraged to address the lack of investment resources.

5. Promote value addition from teak thinnings

Product development from teak thinning materials will add value to the harvested teakwood for smallholders for their livelihoods.

Local processing of harvested teak by farmers groups is giving more financial benefits than compared to selling teak logs to middlemen. However, training on wood processing technologies and its efficient use to minimize wastage and handcraftsmanship could improve the local manufacture of teak furniture and do-it-yourself furniture products while creating rural jobs.

6. Enhance networking between growers, processors and traders as well as public-private partnerships

Facilitating communication and information sharing among the stakeholders including research and academic institutions will strengthen teakwood supply and value chains in the region.