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Editorial

In this issue, we bring you the details of the 5th World Teak Conference and invite all our esteemed supporters to be part of the global event in September 2025.

A brief report of the Regional Workshop on "Enhancing smallholder plantations towards quality timber production of teak and other valuable species and carbon neutrality in the tropics" held in Bangkok as part the ITTO – BMEL Teak project is provided for the benefit of our readers. The Regional Workshop organised at Best Western Hotel, Bangkok was attended by nearly 60 participants from 12 countries. The workshop intends to address the challenges faced by smallholders such as access to optimised financial mechanisms to promote longer rotations, improved silvicultural practices and value addition, timber processing and legality throughout the supply chains. In addition, market price of plantation teak imported to India and our regular column on teak prices are included for the benefit of our readers.

We invite your continued support and feedback on issues related to teak and enrich us with articles/news items of interest/research papers of non-technical nature for inclusion in the bulletin.

S. Sandeep
TEAKNET Coordinator



INDIA 2025

Kochi
17-20 September 2025

India will host the 5th World Teak Conference with the theme '*Sustainable Development of the Global Teak Sector – Adapting to Future Markets and Environments*'. This event will take place at the Grand Hyatt, Cochin, Kerala during 17-20 September 2025 and will be organized by the Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), the International Teak Information Network (TEAKNET), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) with the support of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) Teakwood Working Party (Div.5.06.02).

Key Dates

Abstract submission Opens	01 Nov 2024
Registration opens	01 Jan 2025
Abstract submission closes	28 Feb 2025
Early-bird Registration deadline	30 Apr 2025
Registration deadline	31 July 2025
Final programme	10 Aug 2025
Conference starts	17 Sep 2025

Save the date. The [conference website](#) will be launched soon.

Support Smallholders to Produce High Quality Teak and Other Valuable Species

The Regional Workshop on “*Enhancing smallholder plantations towards quality timber production of teak and other valuable species and carbon neutrality in the tropics*” held in Bangkok, Thailand last September 2024 as part of the 2nd phase of ITTO-BMEL Teak project, advocated the provision of providing viable financial schemes to the smallholders to support their efforts to plant teak and other suitable tree species to sustainably produce quality timber in long rotations. Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, India and Togo are the target countries for the project’s interventions in Asia Pacific and W. Africa. The workshop was convened on the occasion of the first [Project Steering Committee meeting](#) on 17 September organised at the Best Western Hotel, Bangkok. The project is being financed by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), Govt. of Germany for a period of 3 years starting November 2023 as an extended support to ITTO, Japan after the successful implementation of teak project in Mekong Sub-region. About 60 participants from 12 countries participated in the regional workshop.



Participants on a field visit to commercial teak plantation at Nan Province, Northern Thailand



Opening remarks by Dr. M. Nurudeen Idrissu, ITTO's Director of Trade and Industry Division

Dr. M. Nurudeen Idrissu, ITTO’s Director of Trade and Industry Division in his welcome remarks said, it is at the right time BMEL’s continued support is targeted to the marginalised smallholders in the 2nd phase to improve the timber quality in production systems of teak and other valuable species, to support communities to build subtle and resilient local economies as well as contribute towards carbon emission reduction through promoting tree plantations. ‘The development of management models for smallholder value chains in forest plantations and providing supportive financial mechanisms will definitely encourage smallholders to plan the sustainable management of their plantations in longer rotations’, he said.

Also speaking at the workshop, Mr. Stephen Wagner, the BMEL representative, said the phase II project will address the pending issues facing smallholders, such as access to optimised financial mechanisms to promote longer rotations, improved silvicultural practices and value addition, timber processing and legality throughout the supply chains.



Opening remarks by Mr. Stephen Wagner, BMEL

Mr. Bannarak Sermthong, Deputy Director General of Thailand's Royal Forest Department (RFD), highlighted recent initiatives by the government to increase the country's forest cover and the Forestry Act 2019, Article 19 to change the status of Teak to 'economic species' farmers to cultivate teak and harvest it with the permission of RFD. This change is encouraging smallholders to invest in small-scale and large-scale plantations. However, productivity and quality of timber produced by the farmers are of poor quality and that they will largely benefit from the deliberations and expertise available from this workshop.

Dr. Kobsak Wanthongchai, Dean of Forestry Faculty, Kasetsart University talked on the bio-circular green (BCG) economy model, which is a main strategy to drive the economy of the country after the COVID-19 pandemic. Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, Regional Project Manager, Phase II project, presented the highlights and importance of convening the 1st Regional Workshop of the ITTO-BMEL teak project that aims to harnessing existing experiences and knowledge from relevant ITTO projects on teak and other valuable species through South-South Cooperation in the two tropical regions, Asia Pacific and West Africa that focus on smallholder farming systems that integrate valuable native multifunctional species to provide alternate income sources to the farmers and enhance livelihood alongside teak planting for long rotations.



Opening remarks by Mr. Bannarak Sermthong, Dy Director General of Thailand's Royal Forest Department (left) and Dr. Kobsak Wanthongchai, Dean of Forestry Faculty, Kasetsart University (right) (Photo: Yongyut Trisurat, KU)



Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, Regional Project Manager on Workshop's aim and scope

The opening remarks was followed by Keynote presentations by four speakers. Dr. Khwanchai Duangsathaporn, Member of Thailand's National Boards on Forest Policy, talked on Thai Government Policy on economic tree plantations. The National Forest Policy of Thailand comprises 4 objectives and 24 policies focussing on three main aspects of development: forest management; utilisation of forest products/forest ecosystem services and forest industry development, and effective forest administrations system and organisational development. Thailand aimed to increase the forest cover to at least 40% (20.70 million ha) of the land area by 2037.



Dr. Khwanchai Duangsathaporn on Thai Forest Policy on economic tree plantations

ITTO's Projects Manager Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi who spoke next on the topic '*Promoting sustainable wood use in ITTO producer countries*' highlighted the alarming situations of pandemics, continuing armed conflicts, broken supply chains, inflation, extreme weather events and ecosystems degradation. We need higher awareness and more attention towards sustainable forest management for sustainable development and follow International commitments on sustainability related to forests. When sustainably managed, the forests are healthy, productive and renewable ecosystems that contribute to nature based solutions. The sustainable management of forests (SFM) is of critical importance to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and meet almost all SDGs. Dr Tetra further explained the critical issues surrounding market access and market requirements, including the new European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

Dr. PK Thulasidas, Steering Committee member of TEAKNET who was the Regional Coordinator for Asia Pacific and Oceania for the global teak resources and market assessment (TRMA 2022) report, made a detailed presentation on the collaborative study undertaken by IUFRO, TEAKNET and FAO after the FAO report of TRMA 2010, published a decade ago. The Global Teak Resources and Market Assessment provide country-level information on teak for the year 2022.

As per the report, teak grows in nearly 80 countries in tropical regions and natural teak forests and planted teak forest area increased globally. Natural teak forests in India, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand was estimated at 30.215 million ha, increased by 1.180 million ha (+4.1 percent). Myanmar holds more than half of the natural teak forests. The global area of planted teak forests is estimated at 4.854 million ha, of which 80% is in Asia, 13% in Africa and 7% in Latin America. The global area of planted teak forests has increased by 507 thousand ha compared to TRMA 2010. Significant increases were recorded in Asia(+261 thousand ha) and Africa (+156 thousand ha). Read the TRMA 2022 full report here <https://www.iufro.org/publications/series>

Dr. Osamo SAITO, from Institute of Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan presented a highly simplified model of the complex interactions between the natural world and human societies on the topic '*Nature Futures Framework (NFF): Tool to support desirable futures for people, Nature and Mother Earth*'. NFF was developed by IPBES (Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) to facilitate building future scenarios and models desirable futures for people, nature and Mother Earth as a flexible tool for researchers, policy makers, and local stakeholders. In short, NFF is conceptualised to generate narratives/storylines, to simulate different futures by modelling, and to monitor indicators for global, national and local policy frameworks.



Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi, ITTO's Projects Manager (left) and Dr. Osamo SAITO, IGES, Japan

Representatives from teak growing countries, namely Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Togo briefed the workshop's participants on the status and progresses of teak development in their respective countries in the two Technical Sessions while India and Indonesia are yet to start the implementation of project activities.

Technical Session 1-: *Smallholder plantations towards quality timber production* that included Mr. Say Sinly, Forestry Administration, Cambodia who spoke on the Cambodian component of the project activity; Dr. Narongchai Chonlapap, Forest Industry Organisation (FIO), Thailand who spoke on Long-term teak plantations towards good quality timber; Mr. Boonlert Srisikai, Technical Advisor to Sri Trang Group, Nan province, Thailand presented a model commercial smallholder teak plantations using intensive silvicultural practices; Dr. Dang Thinh Triew, Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences, Hanoi on development of smallholder teak plantations in Viet Nam; Mr. Vongvilay Vongkhamsao, NAFRI, Lao PDR on natural teak forests and plantations in Lao PDR, and Dr. Zar Chi Hlaing, Forest Department, Myanmar talked on management of natural teak forests and teak plantations in Myanmar.

In **Technical Session 2: *Forest plantations and restoration contributing to carbon neutrality and teak value chains & microfinance***, 5 papers presented were: Enhancing teak value chains: challenge and opportunities by Mr. Nattawin Phongsphettrarat, Managing Director of TPS Garden Furniture Co. Ltd; Dr. Michael Jenke, Kasetsart University on Advancing the sustainability and quality of Thailand's forest through innovative silviculture and governance; Dr. Ponthep Meunpom, KUFF on Low-cost UAV as a tool for aboveground biomass assessment in teak plantations: Pros and Cons; Dr. Decha Wiwatwittaya, KUFF on Monitoring and prevention of insects pest in teak plantations; and Prof. Kokutse from University of Lome, Togo who joined online talked on 'Comparative study of historical and newly introduced provenances'.

Field visit to Nan, Phrae and Lampang provinces

The workshop included a field visit to Nan, Phrae and Lampang provinces in northern Thailand on 19 to 21 September to give participants additional insights into the challenges faced by smallholder teak-growers. Generally, the smallholder woodlots established by farmers are not productive and teak quality is poor as no silvicultural practices were undertaken by them. The earnings depend on the middlemen who negotiate the price with the farmer and sold the small dimensional timber at comparatively low price. The participants got an opportunity to visit a large-scale commercial teak plantation established by M/s. Sri Trang Rubber Plantation Ltd in 2021 at Pua district in Nan province in about 180 hectares at spacing

of 7x4 meters, showcasing the best example of intensive silvicultural practice followed. The farmer groups in the adjacent villages were allowed to the plantations to intercrop cultivating pumpkin, corn and upland rice of their choice which they are allowed to sell in the market, thereby support the livelihood of dependent communities. This intercropping pattern involving farmer groups is beneficial to both the parties, and without incurring extra cost for weeding the plantation owners were able to look after the teak silvicultural management more effectively.



Teak intercropping with pumpkin and upland rice in a commercial teak plantation in Pua district, Nan Province. The harvested pumpkin by farmers loaded in vehicle to market (Photo: PK Thulasidas & Yongyut Trisurat)

The visit to smallholder teak wood-based furniture factories in Phrae province on 20th September gave an insight into the working of small, and medium furniture manufacturing aimed for domestic market. With limited machineries available, quality furniture products are manufactured and sold in domestic market with marginal profit that sustained the community based enterprises. There was no incentive mechanism available to farmers to keep the tree for longer rotations.



Visit to smallholder teakwood- based community enterprises at Phrae province (Photo: PK Thulasidas)



While at the same time, average teak based medium enterprise in Phrae province used sophisticated machineries imported from Germany and elsewhere, and quality teakwood products are manufactured for both domestic and export market alike. Design products are manufactured by qualified and trained skilled designers. Almost 60% of the teakwood is obtained from FIO plantations and often 40 percent sourced from smallholders woodlots.



Dr. Nurudeen Idrissu, ITTO's Director of Trade and Industry (with microphone) interacts with teakwood manufacturers at Phrae province (Photo credit: Yongut Trisurat, KU)

The visit to the Forest Industry Organisation's (FIO) log yard at Lampang showcased different quality class of teak timber graded according to Thai grading rules was a fascinating experience to the participants.





Participants at FIO teak log yard at Lampang province, northern Thailand (Photo: PK Thulasidas)

On 21st September after a city tour to important tourist destinations and historical places in Chiang Mai, the participants departed back to their home countries.

Read the latest edition of the [ITTO-BMEL Teak Newsletter](#) for a detailed report.

The presentations are also available [here](#)



Participants and delegates of the Regional Workshop (Photo credit: Yongyut Trisurat, Kasetsart University)

Report by
 PK Thulasidas | Yongyut Trisurat | Tetra Yanuariadi
 ITTO-BMEL Teak project team



Prices of Plantation Teak Imported to India

Prices of recent shipments of plantation teak logs and sawn wood imported to India. Benin has banned export of long length logs.

Sawnwood	cu.m	US\$ C&F
Benin	186.5	680
Brazil	118.3	625
Costa Rica	94.8	495
Panama	120.8	480
Ghana	156	415
Ivory Coast - Plantation	173.6	845
Ivory Coast - Commercial	91.2	495
Nigeria	124.2	400
South Sudan	163.9	650
Tanzania - Commercial	97.8	465

Teak Logs	Hoppus cu.m	US\$ C&F
Brazil	213	450
Colombia	193	405
Costa Rica	138	325
Tanzania	96	450
South Sudan	176	675
Guatemala	89	330

Price range depends mainly on length and cross-sections

Courtesy: ITTO TTM Report: 28:18 16-30 September 2024

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