



# ITTO-BMEL Teak Newsletter

February 2025 - Volume 7(1)

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1<sup>st</sup> Bimonthly Webinar Series on Teak Supply Chains and Market Demands dated 14 February 2025 1

The Abstract Submission deadline of 5<sup>th</sup> WTC coming up on 28 February! 10

Teak Mekong Newsletter is now re-named as *ITTO-BMEL Teak Newsletter* to reflect changes in the start of 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the project in November 2023 for 3 years for implementation in 6 countries of Asia Pacific and Togo in West Africa. The newsletter support and facilitates teak and other tropical species networking and information dissemination in the Asia Pacific and West Africa through ITTO member countries and partners, and support sharing lessons of the project through short news release, occasional papers, project related research and development information. The bi-monthly newsletter is released online through TEAKNET webpage [www.teaknet.org](http://www.teaknet.org) and co-hosted by Kasetsart University, Thailand.

For more information,

please contact PK Thulasidas (thulasidas.teak@gmail.com) or Yongyut Trisurat (fforyyt@ku.ac.th)



Federal Ministry  
of Food  
and Agriculture

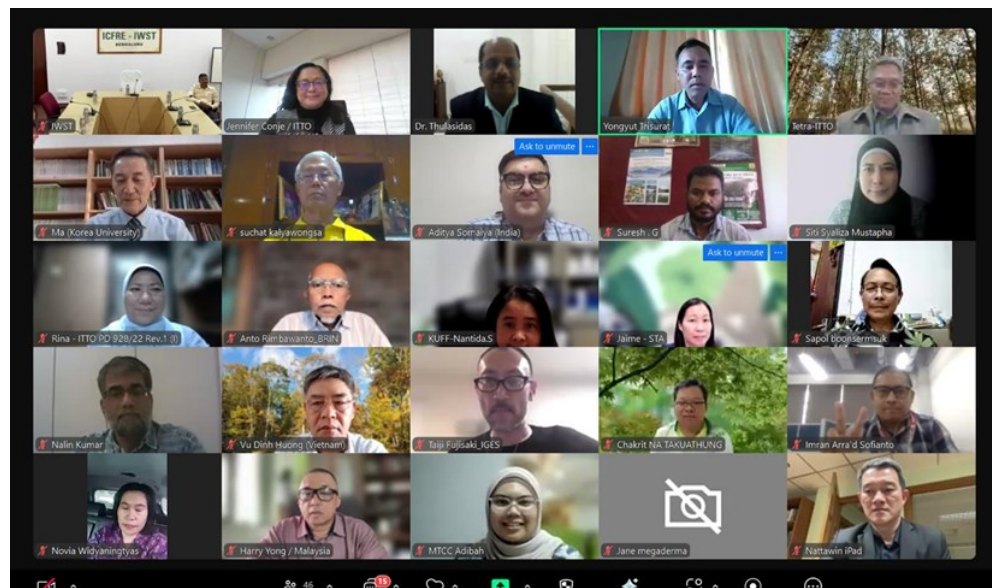


## 1<sup>st</sup> Bimonthly Webinar Series

on

## Teak Supply Chains and Market Demands

Date: 14 February 2025



Attendees of 1<sup>st</sup> Webinar series

The ITTO-BMEL Teak project team organised the 1<sup>st</sup> bimonthly webinar on 'Teak supply chains and market demands' on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of ITTO - BMEL Teak project

*"Promoting Quality Timber Production in Smallholder and Community-based Teak and Other Valuable Species Plantations in the Tropics (PP-A/54-331A)"* now under implementation in six countries in Asia Pacific and Togo in W. Africa.

## Background

A series of 12 bimonthly webinar series are planned in collaboration with TEAKNET to leverage shared expertise, resources, and networks in teak and high-value timber species production. This bimonthly webinar series will provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange up-to-date knowledge and share successful case studies to address challenges in building legal and sustainable supply chains. Key topics include good quality material sourcing, quality timber production (covering silvicultural practices, pest and disease control, and fire management), certification, legality, and the role of carbon finance and incentives for sustainable plantation management of teak and other valuable species.

The project *"Promoting Quality Timber Production in Smallholder and Community-based Teak and Other Valuable Species Plantations in the Tropics (PP-A/54-331A)"* aims to support sustainable and productive management of teak and other high-value timber plantations in tropical regions. Aligned with the policies and strategic goals of participating countries, the project focuses on sustainable plantation management, enhancing value chains, and ensuring certification and legality of timber production. By fostering capacity building among smallholders and forest-dependent communities, the project seeks to promote sustainable livelihoods and a high-quality timber supply.

## Webinar Objectives

The webinars aim to create a collaborative learning platform for smallholders, forestry authorities, and academic partners to advance knowledge and innovation across the teak and valuable species supply chains. Specific objectives are to:

- \* Facilitate exchange of experiences in smallholder teak and timber supply and value chains
- \* Promote carbon financing and incentive mechanisms for smallholders
- \* Enhance the understanding and application of sustainable management practices for teak and other valuable timber species, empowering smallholders to increase productivity, and compliance with certification and legality standards.

The Programme Schedule of the 1<sup>st</sup> webinar conducted on 14 February 2025 is shown below.



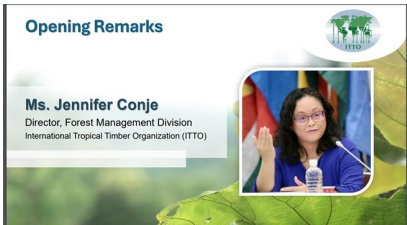
**Invitation to Webinar: Teak Supply Chains and Market Demands**

Join us for an engaging webinar exploring how plantations of teak and other valuable species can meet market demands while ensuring compliance with legality and sustainability standards. It will also discuss the challenges faced by smallholders in addressing supply chains and market dynamics.

**Date:** Friday, 14 February 2025

**Time:** 5:00 pm Japan time (JST) - Thailand, Cambodia & Laos PDR: 3 PM, Myanmar: 2:30 PM, Vietnam: 3 PM, Indonesia: 3 PM, India: 1:30 PM, Ghana & Togo: 9 AM (GMT)

**Via Zoom**  
**Meeting ID:** 620 285 4622  
**Passcode:** Suchn@494



**Opening Remarks**

**Ms. Jennifer Conje**  
Director, Forest Management Division  
International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)



**Speaker 1**

**Dr. Tetra YANUARIADI**  
ITTO Projects Manager  
Division of Trade and Industry  
International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

*Legal and Sustainable Supply Chains: respond to market requirements*



**Speaker 2**

**Dr. P.K. Thulasidas**  
Former Principal Scientist  
Kerala Forest Research Institute & former TEAKNET Coordinator (India)

*Smallholder Teak and valuable species towards market demands*



Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, Regional Project Manager of the ITTO-BMEL Teak project, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand moderated the Webinar. Prof Yongyut briefly introduced the newly initiated 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the ITTO-BMEL Teak project implementing in six countries in Asia – Pacific and Togo in W. Africa with the financial outlay of 1.4 million US dollars funded by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany and executed by ITTO, Japan.



The major aim of the project is to promote the production of quality timber in smallholders and communities-based teak and other valuable species plantations to improve livelihoods and social and environmental outcomes as outlined in the 3 outputs shown below.

### ITTO-BMEL Teak Project Phase II

**Budget:** Ministry of Food and Agr. (BMEL), Germany **USD 1.4 million**

**Duration:** Nov 2023 – Dec 2026

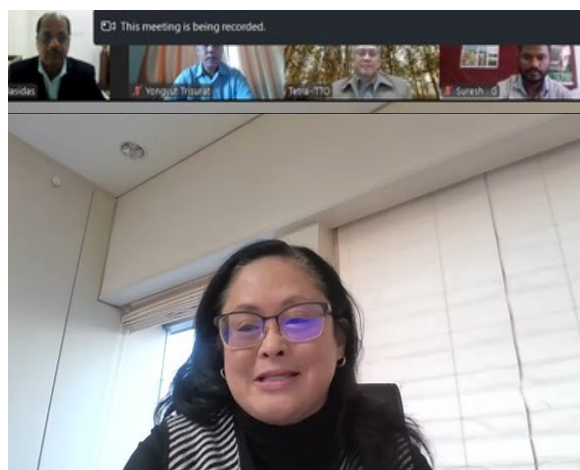
**Asia-Pacific**

Cambodia: Forestry Administration  
Thailand: Royal Forestry Department and Kasetsart University  
Vietnam: Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences  
India: Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education  
Indonesia: Ministry of Environment and Forestry

**West Africa**

Togo: University of Lomé

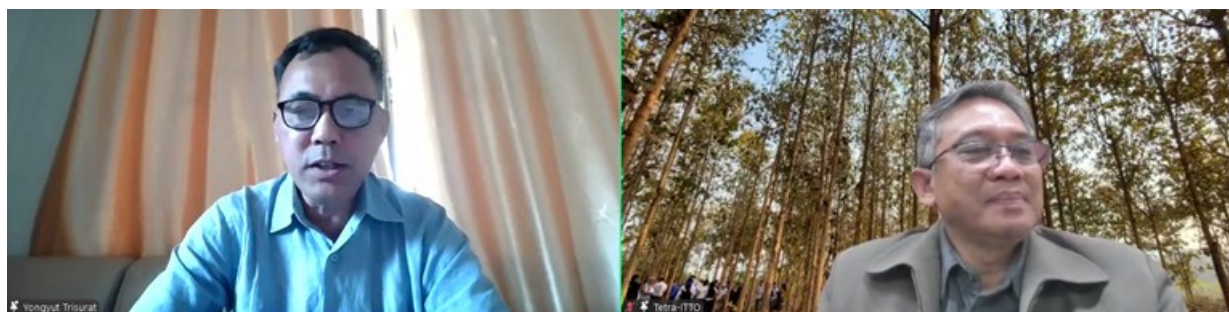
He then invited Ms. Jennifer Conje, Director, Forest Management Division of ITTO, Japan to deliver the Opening Remarks. Ms. Jennifer welcomed the two speakers and participants to the first webinar and highlighted the salient objectives of the ongoing 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the ITTO-BMEL teak project and the anticipated outcomes. She appreciated Dr. Ma Hwan-ok for coordinating this webinar series as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of teak project and consolidation of the outcomes at the end of the project period.



Opening remarks by Ms. Jennifer Conje, ITTO, Japan

After her brief introduction and opening address, Prof. Yongyut invited Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi, ITTO Project Manager to make a presentation on the topic *“Legal and Sustainable Supply Chains: Respond to Market Requirements”*.

Output 1 (3 activities)	Supply chains of smallholders and community-based teak and other valuable species plantation and management systems strengthened with easy availability of high-quality planting stock and implementation of improved practices in silviculture, and timber processing and legality. Conserve teak and other valuable species genetic variation, demonstration plots and field training, national timber legality
Output 2 (4 activities)	Financing schemes for quality timber production in smallholders and community-based teak and other species plantations analyzed and improved Feasibility on contract farming remunerative prices, micro-financing, access to voluntary carbon markets to increase revenues from longer rotation
Output 3 (4 activities)	Regional and international collaboration, information sharing and knowledge management, networking strengthened. Produce and disseminate outreach and training materials, <b>teak networking, sharing lesson learns</b> (regional workshops, IUFRO World Congress 2024 (Sweden) and in the 5th World Teak Conference 2025 (India)



Prof. Yongyut inviting Dr. Tetra (right)

Dr. Tetra first talked about the tropical forests' contribution (45% of the all forests) critical to the sustainable management of forests, how 1.6 billion people depend on it for sustenance. When sustainably managed, tropical forests are healthy, productive and renewable ecosystems contributing to nature-based solutions.

construction indicators and market policy trends and access.

There are needs to demonstrate that forest products are from legally and sustainably harvested sources and produce evidence of legality of imported timber.



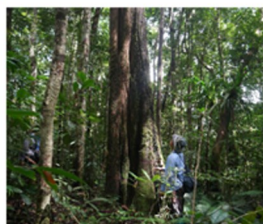
He then elaborated on the tropical timber production, consumption and trade during 2000-2023; touched upon the forest legality and sustainability issues; timber regulation of EUTR and EUDR; and the market developments of tropical timber and timber products. The important factors involved in it are: Economic trends, building and



## Legal and Sustainable Supply Chains: Respond to market requirements

**Tetra Yanuariadi**  
Projects Manager, International Tropical Timber Organization

### Trends on tropical timber production, consumption and trade (2000s–2023)




- Significant changes in global production, consumption and trade in tropical timber and wood products since 1990:
  - less availability of roundwood supply from natural tropical forests,
  - demographic changes - shifted location and growth of wood industries (China, India, Vietnam)
  - location of demand—from developed to developing economies, especially China.
- Major economic shocks:
  - The global financial and economic crisis (2008–2009),
  - The COVID-19 pandemic (2020–2022)
  - Ongoing global conflicts 2021–2023




### Market developments of tropical timber and timber products

3 important factors:  
Economic trends, Building and construction indicators, and Market policy trends and access

**Market policy trends and access**




- Numerous policy measures are now being implemented to improve forest law enforcement and governance and counter the trade in illegally harvested timber
- Certifications, procurement policies, and CITES species protection




Important among the timber regulations are EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) and the newly introduced EU Deforestation and Regulation (EUDR) which was supposed to get implemented since December 2024 and its implementation was postponed for more constructive discussion and consensus among various stakeholders and delayed for another 1 year to take effects. Dr. Tetra elaborated its pros and cons and the new opportunities it provides.

### Forest legality & sustainability requirements



- Key requirements of sustainability is compliance with all relevant legal frameworks.
- Forest governance and legality requirements to counter the negative impacts of illegal practices in tropical forests.
- There are needs to demonstrate that forest products are from legally and sustainably harvested sources.
- National and international legislations and regulations require evidence of the legality of imported timber.
- Major markets for tropical timber and timber products sent strong signals to importers for legal & sustainable products. More and more emerging requirements are being faced by producers.



## Immediate Impacts

### Those who trade in or out of Europe

- Requirements of EUDR must be met for trade to occur.
- This will (in many cases) require significant trade and government investments in supply chain management.
- Of note are small entities who may struggle to find the funds and/or manpower to invest in the required tracking..
- Trade flows may change – this does not necessarily mean a lack of compliance or confidence, just a lack of proof.
- Laws may change in other countries to ensure compliance for affected industries.
- Some elements of EUDR have galvanized producer countries and/or industry groups concerned about implementation issues.



## EUTR → EUDR



### Implications for Producing Countries

#### CONSEQUENCES / RISKS

- Increased scrutiny and compliance requirements
- Need for enhanced traceability systems
- Increased production costs without associated premiums
- Potential market access challenges
- Segregated markets at the expense of smallholders/S.M.E.

#### OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunities for sustainable forest management
- Access to new markets or market segments with premium prices
- Improved traceability and supply chain efficiency
- Certification and sustainability incentives
- Access to capacity building and financial support
- ...

In the ITTO supported Macao GLSTF 2024 conclave conducted last year in September, it was agreed for an Action Framework for Promoting Legal and Sustainable Timber Supply Chains in the eight major lines as outlined below.



Macao GLSTF 2024 (11-12 September 2024)

**Action Framework for Promoting Legal and Sustainable Timber Supply Chains**

1. Partnership networking; 2. Information sharing; 3. Market access facilitation;
4. Certification and traceability innovation;
5. Innovative technologies and technology transfer;
6. Ways and means for sustainable green finance and investment;
7. Industrial clusters and parks development; 8. Capacity building and training

**Ensuring sustainable supply chains**



**FOREST PLANTATIONS**

- Larger productivity (forest and operations).
- Smaller working area.
- Technology available to continue to further improve productivity.
- Uniform industrial raw material.
- Improved logistics.
- Reduced costs.
- Lower operational risks.
- Investors and funding options available.
- Less environmental pressure.

Dr. Tetra continued to elaborate that forest plantations can ensure larger productivity and provide continuous supply of tropical timber with enhanced yield through the intervention of technology available to produce uniform industrial raw material.

He cited investment in Teak plantations as an example with knowledge of silvicultural management and adaptability of the species to varied climate and soils, have the capacity for enhanced yield and productivity. The sustaining teak forests in Asia pacific promote engagement of smallholders and communities for quality timber production.

**Ensuring sustainable supply chains**



**TEAK PLANTATION IS AN EXAMPLE**

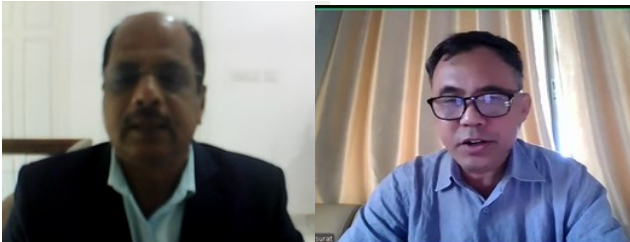
- Knowledge in silviculture and management available.
- Elastic species, adaptation to different tropical climates and soils.
- There are plantations in 73 countries.
- Total planted area - almost 7 million ha.
- Mean annual increment up to 20 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/year.
- Sustainable timber production capacity of existing plantation 31.3 million m<sup>3</sup>/year.
- Expanding market share, but logs and blocks are still the main part of the international trade.

## Sustaining Teak Forests in Mekong Basin (ITTO-BMEL Regional Workshop, Yangon, Myanmar in September 2019)

- **Enhancing the *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation of teak genetic resources** through seed production areas and seed orchards to improve the genetic base of populations and avoid genetic erosion; **improving silvicultural aspects of teak plantations**, from the selection of suitable sites to thinning and harvesting techniques.
- **Promoting the engagement of smallholders and communities**, including young people and women, and motivated local restoration leaders
- **Promoting value chains for teak timber and timber products** through value-added product development, improved marketing and greater access to finance and long-term investment

[https://www.itto.int/news/workshop\\_explores\\_contributions\\_of\\_mekong\\_teak\\_forests\\_to\\_sdgs/](https://www.itto.int/news/workshop_explores_contributions_of_mekong_teak_forests_to_sdgs/)

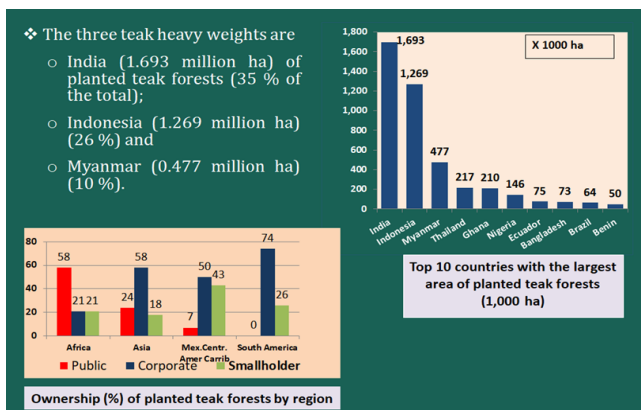
The 2<sup>nd</sup> presenter was Dr. P.K. Thulasidas, Former Principal Scientist of KFRI, Peechi and former TEAKNET Coordinator, India on the topic *“Smallholder Teak and other valuable species plantations towards market demands”*.



Dr. PK Thulasidas (left) being introduced by Prof. Yongyut Trisurat



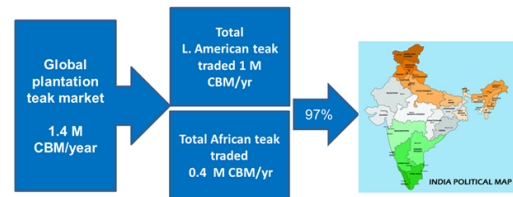
Dr. Thulasidas gave a global overview of planted teak forests in 80 tropical regions and the area increased as per the recent assessment of [TRMA 2022](#). The three heavy weights of planted teak forests are India, Indonesia and Myanmar in the top 10 countries as shown below.



The trade of planted teak roundwood is less than 2% of total roundwood volume globally. India imports 1.4 million cubic meters traded In 2022, 97% percent of the trade volume of teak was directed towards India and less than 2.5% by China followed by Vietnam (0.5%) as shown below.

### Indian imports

❖ In 2022, India imported 97% of the trade volume of teak round logs sourced from 43 countries, followed by 2.5% by China.



❖ The global import value of teak roundwood is estimated at USD 311.6 million (UN Comtrade database) and represents 10.1% of the total import value of tropical hardwoods roundwood (323.9 Million M3, ITTO, 2023)

The projections of global roundwood demand to 2050 indicate substantial increase to 5.25 billion cubic meters as per FAO 2024 report.

### Projections to 2050 indicate significant increases in wood demand



Coming to smallholder teak farming systems in the tropics, Teak tree is also widely cultivated by smallholders in combination with other agricultural crops or alone as an alternative livelihood option and served as farmer's living saving bank to meet immediate financial requirements. Teak-based small-scale production systems enable farmers to diversify farm production, support food security, generate income and reduce financial risk.



## Smallholder farming systems

- Teak is also widely cultivated by millions of smallholders who grow the trees on their privately owned plots.
- Smallholder plantings account for about 25% planted teak covering total ca. 1.2 million ha (19% of the teak area in Africa and Asia, 31% in Central America, and 34% in South America)



However, the smallholders are facing multifaceted challenges for profitable tree farming in their marginal woodlots that ranges from less than 1 ha to more than 10 ha. These key challenges includes insecure land tenure often with high transaction costs involved in certification schemes which farmers cannot afford without the support of government; non-availability of good quality germplasm material; inadequate technical know-how and lack of training on silvicultural tree management; long gestation period of teak and lack of financial support to sustain the farmers' livelihood to keep the tree for long rotations; and involvement of middlemen reduces their bargaining power and ultimately sold the teak at low market prices. Most importantly, the smallholder tree growers are unorganized and do not have the financial resources to support for quality wood products due to lack advanced machineries available at their disposal.

## Smallholder farmers- key challenges

- ❑ Insecure land tenure;
- ❑ Use of poor germplasm and seed source
- ❑ Inadequate technical know-how on tree management;
- ❑ Lack of awareness on market price and know-how;
- ❑ Limited bargaining power
- ❑ Getting low price for timber due to middle men
- ❑ Long gestation periods of teak
- ❑ Lack of alternate income to sustain livelihood
- ❑ Limited financial resources
- ❑ Smallholder tree growers are unorganized and do not have collaterals or co-operatives
- ❑ Relying informal rural finance that lead them to debt trap



In spite of all these challenges, they do have good opportunities as well. Dr. Thulasidas presented the case studies of Indonesia, Thailand and Cambodia to highlight the good practices followed by the teak smallholders to produce larger volume of quality timber products.

## Smallholder farmers- Opportunities

### Case studies of Indonesia

- ❖ In Indonesia, smallholder farmers play a significant role in the national teak sector.
- ❖ Over 1.5 M smallholder farmers manage nearly half a million ha of tree-based agroforestry systems.
- ❖ Around 80% of raw material used by small- to medium-sized teak-furniture firms comprises short-rotation small diameter logs, with a diameter (dbh) equal to or less than 30 cm, that are grown by smallholder farmers.
- ❖ These SME firms account for more than 90% of furniture-making in Central Java (Achdiawan and Puntodewo, 2011).
- ❖ If the farmers are provided with good quality planting material, adopt silvicultural practices, financial incentives, they have the potential to produce 8.2 million m3 teak per year

In Indonesia, over 1.5 million smallholder farmers holds around 80% of raw material used by small- to medium-sized teak furniture firms that utilizes short-rotation small diameter logs, the diameter less than or equals to 30 cm. They produce quality furniture products that are acceptable to the domestic market and SVLK certified furniture products are aimed at export market and the government offer support to smallholders on their efforts.

In the case of Cambodia, the Forestry Administration encourage Public- Private Partnership in providing tree cultivation in leased govt. land (ELC) and allow investments in tree farming by smallholders.

### Success story of Teak Farm- Cambodia

Teak is not a native tree in Cambodia and it holds only limited area of teak plantations ca. 6200-7000 ha only

The Forestry Administration of Cambodia encourage Public -Private Partnership in providing tree cultivation in leased govt land (ELC) and allow investments in Tree farming by smallholders.



Photo courtesy: Mr. Guy Yogeve, CEO, Teak Farm, Pers. Commun.



In Thailand's northern province of Phrae, the small and medium enterprise smallholders produce novel furniture products for domestic markets and engaged trained youths to manufacture new design products to attract foreign markets using sophisticated machineries. In Pua district, the integrated commercial teak plantation owners encourages the village farmers to cultivate agricultural crops like, pumpkin, upland rice and other cash crops of their choice intercropping with teak in their plantation and harvest the crops 100% free to take it to the market thereby farmers and the planter's are mutually benefitted as detailed in the low slides.

#### Case studies of Thailand

Smallholder commercial teak plantation established in 2021 at Pua district in Nan province, northern Thailand managed by M/s. Sri Trang Group showcase the best example of intensive silvicultural practice with periodic fertilizer applications for enhanced yield of quality teak production.

This intercropping pattern involving adjacent village farmer groups for cultivating cash crops is beneficial to both the parties and without incurring extra cost for weeding, the teak plantation owners were able to look after the teak silvicultural management more effectively



#### Small and Medium Enterprises in Phrae Province, Northern Thailand

Smallholder teak wood-based furniture enterprise in Phrae province , northern Thailand also manufacture novel teakwood products for domestic markets.



With limited machineries available, quality furniture products are manufactured and sold in domestic market with marginal profit that sustained the community based enterprises.



In fact, the ITTO-BMEL Teak project phase II encourage smallholders and forest dependent communities to plan sustainably manage forest resources and increase income by diversifying their product value chain.

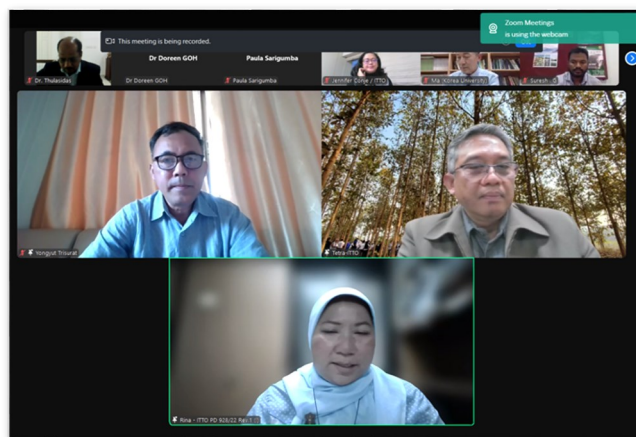
Dr. Thulasidas summed up the presentation with the following key points for future consideration to sustainably manage smallholder teak and other valuable species production systems.

#### Summary and Conclusions

The lessons and experiences of smallholder teak farming highlights the following to sustainably produce quality timber:

1. Provide good quality planting stock (seeds and superior clones) to smallholders
2. Provide field training for effective silvicultural management of teak and other valuable species plantations
3. Simplify land tenure and reduce transaction costs for national certification schemes
4. Promote legal compliance in smallholder/community plantations
5. Provide incentive mechanism for smallholders to retain the tree for longer rotation
6. Promote intercropping with cash crops for alternate income for livelihood support
7. Market access and updates of the timber price to better equip bargaining power for their timber products
8. Promote innovative design furniture making for value addition
9. Meeting consumer expectations and legal requirements significantly influence growers and processors, particularly those dependent on the markets in USA and Europe

This was followed by Q & A in which the two presenters Dr. Thulasidas and Dr. Tetra answered the queries raised by the audience joined online.



Dr. Rina, Indonesia raising queries to ITTO

Over 70 participants attended the webinar. The link to the detailed presentations are available for download at the [ITTO-BMEL Teak project website](#)

#### Report by

PK Thulasidas & Yongyut Trisurat  
ITTO-BMEL Teak project team

**Hurry up !**

**The Abstract Submission deadline of 5<sup>th</sup> WTC coming up on 28 February !**

<https://worldteakconference2025.com/abstract/>



The banner for the 5th World Teak Conference 2025 features a background image of a lush teak forest. On the left, there is a circular logo for the '5th WORLD TEAK CONFERENCE INDIA 2025' with the dates 'Kochi 17-20 September 2025'. A green ribbon banner across the top right says 'Second Announcement'. The main text in the center reads '5<sup>th</sup> World Teak Conference 2025' followed by 'Grand Hyatt Kochi Bolgatty, Kerala, India' and '17-20 September 2025'. Below this, the theme is stated: 'Sustainable Development of the Global Teak Sector – Adapting to Future Markets and Environments'. The website 'www.worldteakconference2025.com' is at the bottom. Logos for organizers (KFRI, TEAKNET, ITTO) and supporters (FAO, MAFF, IUFRO) are at the bottom.

- \* Join global experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss sustainable teak management, trade, and innovations.
- \* Details & Registration: See the [2nd Announcement](#)
- \* We look forward to your participation! For any enquiries regarding the various sponsorship options, please contact the Conference Secretariat at [infowtc2025@gmail.com](mailto:infowtc2025@gmail.com)

URL:

[www.worldteakconference2025.com](http://www.worldteakconference2025.com)

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*ITTO –BMEL Teak Newsletter* is a bi-monthly electronic newsletter of the Project Team which is intended for circulation among the 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 concerned with teak. However, we reserves the information on the project and publishing through this newsletter for our esteemed readers.

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