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“Resource Management: Private-Public Partnership and Knowledge Sharing”

“Tree Improvement Program in Java”

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Abstract

Introduction

The productivity of trees is very important for the establishment of successful plantation. Trees should be “improved” to obtain the good quality and quantity of wood. If timber production is aimed, the timber quality must be improved for fast growing species.

Tree improvement is a process of managing genetic resources. Through this process the inherent amount and organization of genetic variability in a particular population is managed by recurrent cycles of selection and breeding. These activities involve conservation, selection, breeding, and propagation.

The Indonesian Department of Forestry encourages the activities and dedication of forest tree improvement in Indonesia since the 1980’s. Therefore, Perum Perhutani has been involved in these activities.

Tree Improvement Program in Java

Perum Perhutani is one of the State Owned Forest Enterprise in Indonesia¹, with the working area in Java and Madura Island. The entire forestland total is about 3 million hectares, which is roughly 23 % of the total land of Java.

The enterprise has the authority for planning, management, exploitation and protection of forest in working territory. Most of the composition forest in Perhutani working area are comprise *teak* and *pine*.

Integrated Program

The demand of wood tends to increase both domestically and globally, therefore the competition on the global market of wood is becoming more severe. It is importance that Perum Perhutani as one of the major players in the world of teakwood market to respond the increasingly competitive market. One of the strategies of responding the problem is to develop productive plantations through well-planned tree improvement program.

Tree improvement program of Perum Perhutani started 1981 with the main purpose to obtain and maintain a good quality of trees. In order to speed up the results of tree improvement activities, Perum Perhutani established *Seed Production Area* (SPA), collected “*Plus Trees*” and established a *Clonal Seed Orchard* (CSO), *Seedling Seed Orchard* (SSO), and conserves the genetic materials in *Clone Bank*. Presently, the highest priority for research is given to *teak*.

¹ According to the Government Regulations nr.14 of 2001 Perum Perhutani become the private company, nevertheless right now still in process