

SEAG-Symposium, October 14-18, 2002, Vietnam

“The role of dialogue and networking:
From a transitional to an industrialized country”

Restoration of Degraded Forest through the Establishment of Agroforestry System: An Action Research in Bogor Agricultural University Forest, Indonesia

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Abstract

Bogor Agricultural University Forest (BAUF), which is located at Sukabumi District-West Java, Indonesia has faced rapid degradation due to illegal cutting and encroachment by local people since 1997. So far about 80 ha of 359 ha area of BAUF has been encroached. Disturbances in this forest could be divided into three types, i.e.: 1) farmers clear cut trees and cultivate agricultural crops on the site, 2) farmers cut some trees then grow agricultural crops, and 3) farmers cultivate area with agricultural crops without disturbing trees. Establishment of agroforestry systems together with the local people is regarded as the most promising solution to restore the forest area and at the same time fulfill the needs of the local people. An action research funded by the ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Project (AKECOP) has been conducted since 2001 at the BAUF. The project is planned to run for five years. Until now the project has completed the phase of problem identification and design of agroforestry and social development. Three models of agroforestry system have been determined according to the present condition of forest stands, the needs of the local people through a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and the biophysical site condition. Trees and crops as components of agroforestry are selected based on site suitability as well as economical value. Forest tree species, which were recommended, are *Paraserianthes falcata* and *Agathis loranthifolia*, while the agricultural crops are rice, corn, banana, pineapple, cardamom and coffee. The designs of agroforestry system are expected to give higher income than the planting system practised by local people.

Keywords: Agroforestry, Participatory Rural Appraisal, ASEAN-KOREA, *Paraserianthes falcata*, *Agathis loranthifolia*.