

Technical Session Report

“Government Science Advice in Forest Products Industries” in IUFRO WP 5.07.03 Conference on “Green Technology of Pulp, Paper and Allied Industries”



Architect Yeafesh Osman and Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain sharing their opening remarks

The IUFRO WP 5.07.03 Conference: Green Technology for Pulp, Paper and Allied Industry was held from the 12th to 14th of December 2019 at the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Dhaka. A technical session on “Government Science Advice in Forest Products Industries” took place on the second day of the conference. The conference was attended by approximately 300 participants including 32 foreign participants from various countries such as Australia, Canada, China, Finland, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, South Korea and Sudan. About 200 research articles on different fields of Science & Technology were presented. The conference

was inaugurated by Architect Yeafesh Osman, Hon'ble Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain, Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology was present as a special guest at the Congress.



Participants attending the technical session on Government science advice in forest products industries

13th of December 2019

The technical session on “Government Science Advice in Forest Products Industries” was officiated by Prof Abhi Veerakumarasivam, Chair of INGSA Asia, through a video message. This was followed by presentations from twelve invited speakers from Bangladesh, Canada, China and India. In the whole conference, scientific sessions were divided into plenary lecture, invitation lecture and oral presentations. One of the plenary lectures was by Prof Yonghao Ni from the University of New Brunswick, Canada. More than 200 technical papers were presented by attendees from 10 different countries. More information on the technical session can be found in the rapporteur’s report on the next page.

Rapporteur's Report on Government Science Advice for Forest Product Industry

- Bangladesh is deficit in forest produce.
- Thus, the present forest policy must be modified to incorporate the following suggestions on the basis of the outcome of the conference.
- The production of wood in the forest is only 2 – 2.5 m³ in comparison to 7 – 7.5 m³ / ha/yr in village grooves which are under intensive care. So, management of forest land must be improved.
- One of the main reasons for low productivity of forest is acute scarcity of quality planting material (QPM). Forest Department (FD) must ensure good QPM.
- Village grooves supply 70% of timber and fuel wood and 80% of bamboo in the country. These are mostly from agroforestry (AF) system with no techno-management backup. AF management must be a mainstream activity of FD.
- Multipurpose species should be planted in AF.
- The traditional forestry in the country has become ineffective. So social forestry with active participation of the people must be aggressively pursued by involving more poor and extreme poor of the community.
- The co-management programme is confined at the periphery of reserve forest. It must include truly extreme poor forest dependent people living in the territory. The mind-set of the forest officials has to change that they are service providers, not policemen.
- The co-management programme becomes inoperative because of scarcity of fund. So, there should be provision of revolving fund (reserve fund) at local level committees to be utilized by the members of the committees.
- The denuded areas of the forest must be planted with species facilitating rapid greening. Hill forest should be planted with more water holding species.
- Once rich in biodiversity, the country is now endangered both in flora and fauna. So, measures must be taken for strict conservation of protected areas and natural ecosystem.
- Zoom cultivators must be motivated to plant value added trees and crops, viz, coffee, agar, litchi, orange, malta, mango, etc. Tree plantation should include multi-strata cropping so that food security or the income of the hilly people is not disturbed.
- Sal forest is now totally destroyed. The reasons are multifarious. For natural regeneration of the sal coppice, biotic and human interference must be strictly controlled.

- Eco-parks are new initiatives to attract people to forestry. But there is no eco-tourism policy and infrastructure.
- At present wet land and swamp (sweet water) forestry has been given little attention. The villages facing the water bodies and haors can be planted with the species suitable for wetlands.
- Rubber production in Bangladesh is about 0.5 ton/ha/yr only, against about 1.6 tons/ha in India, and 3.0 tons/ha in traditional rubber producing zones. There is no expertise for rubber plantation, and no rubber research in the country. Rubber research facilities should be immediately created.
- It is very important to involve local communities on social forestry approach in coastal afforestation, which is imperative to combat climate change devastation.
- There should be minimum intrusion in the Sunderbans for conservation and growth of the mangroves and wildlife.
- Agar wood is one of the most expensive non-timber wood products of the world. It is grown in Bangladesh. The country should export costly refined agar oil, not raw wood, for perfumery, cosmetics, etc.
- Herbal industries in Bangladesh are largely dependent on raw materials from India. Medicinal plants can be grown in degraded forestland, marginal strip land, homestead marginal land, tea gardens, surplus land and private hilly waste land, etc. FD should take such initiative to grow medicinal plants, which is now absent.
- Bangladesh is deficient in pulp for paper making. It imports wastepaper and high strength pulp in large quantities. It is proven that inferior quality jute can make superior quality pulp. The policymakers should take initiative in pulp making from inferior quality jute.
- The people should be motivated to use seasoned timber, plywood and particleboard and preservative treated timber and bamboo.
- People in the country are more interested in forest resources. FD is under-staffed in professionals to cope the national demand. It must be expanded as with other agro-based departments to render services at upazila level.