

Management strategies for Acacia plantation diseases in Indonesia and Vietnam



Key details

Location

Indonesia, Vietnam

Duration

Start Jul 2015

End Dec 2020

Budget

AUD 1,826,860

Commissioned organisation

University of Tasmania

Partners

Center for Forest Biotechnology and Tree Improvement; Forestry Research and Development Agency; Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute; Gadjah Mada University ; Institute of Forest Tree Improvement and Biotechnology; NSW Department of Primary Industries; University of the Sunshine Coast; University of Tasmania; Vietnam Academy of Forest Sciences; Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences

Project Leader

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Program

Forestry

Project code

FST/2014/068

Overview

This project aimed to reduce productivity impacts of diseases on acacia plantations and build capacity and collaboration on forest health in Indonesia, Vietnam and neighbouring countries.

Indonesia's forest industries are dominated by the pulp and paper sector. To make these industries more sustainable and less reliant on sourcing pulpwood from native forests, Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry has promoted policies that encourage the development of a plantation-based wood supply. Three species, *Acacia mangium*, *A. crassicarpa* and *Eucalyptus pellita* and hybrids currently account for most plantings because of their superior performance. Two significant diseases have been causing significant losses of planted trees in Indonesia.

About half of Vietnam's plantation estate is managed or co-owned by smallholder farmers. The fungal disease *Ceratocystis* has recently caused up to 20% mortality of some acacia plantations in the country.

Effective disease and pest management, with a balance between research, extension and capacity-building, is important to sustain plantation forest productivity.

Project outcomes

- Widespread understanding of health constraints (beyond study areas) to forest production at regional level (SE Asia), and adoption of practices (appropriate management, good biosecurity) to overcome constraints.
- Empowered public and private sectors in Indonesia, Vietnam and neighbouring SE Asian countries to carry out collaborative and proactive research to protect forest resources.
- Reduced impacts due to major forest health issues and the perception that such problems will only get worse and not better is no longer a factor.
- Benefited communities and downstream processing industries from the increased availability of high-quality wood resources, and reduced pressure on native forests.



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