A REPORT ON THE STUDY VISIT TO RESEARCH CENTRE FOR FOREST TREE IMPROVEMENT, VIETNAM

Study Visit Team: 1. Dr. N. Krishna Kumar, Director, IFGTB
2. Dr. B. Gurudev Singh, Scientist 'F' and Head, Genetics and Tree Breeding
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Dates of visit: 11th to 17th September 2011

Places visited: Ho Chi Minh City, Bau Bang, Dong Ha, Ba Vi and Hanoi

The Research Centre for Forest Tree Improvement (RCFTI) functioning under the Forest Science Institute of Vietnam (FSIV) also has a long association with CSIRO, Australia for its genetic improvement programmes for Acacias, Eucalypts and Macademia In particular RCFTI has established two generations of seed orchards and also developed hybrid clones of these species. Large quantities of seed orchard seeds of Acacias and Eucalypts are supplied to planting agencies outside Vietnam through CSIRO. The Project Leader of the IFGTB-AusAID Project, Mr. K. Pinyopusarerk proposed a study visit for a team of Scientists / Officers from IFGTB for understanding the recent development in genetic improvement of Acacias and Eucalypts especially the large scale seed and clone production. The objective of the study visit to gain understanding of seed / clone production systems to meet the planting stock needs of farmers, forest department and industries and explore possibilities of forging regional cooperation in tree breeding. During the study visit one Regional Station each in North, Central and South Vietnam was visited and discussed observations made in the trial plots with Director and Scientists of RCFTI. The advances made by RCFTI in interspecific hybrid production in Acacia and Eucalyptus, clonal testing and large scale cost-effective multiplication of tested clones gave many insights into accelerating similar programmes in IFGTB/ICFRE. The study visit also helped in understanding the stage at which breeding programmes of different species exist in Vietnam so that infusion populations for these programmes can be exchanged for advance generation breeding. The usefulness of a regional network in South and South East Asia to link breeding programmes, exchange germplasm and researchers on study visits with CSIRO as Nodal Agency was also discussed.

A team of Scientists/Officers from RCFTI, Vietnam, IFGTB, India and CSIRO, Australia visiting the Eucalyptus hybrid clonal trial at Ba Vi, North Vietnam