

Germplasm Assemblage of *Ailanthus excelsa* a fast growing native tree species.

Ailanthus excelsa Roxb. belonging to the family *Simaroubaceae*, is native from South East Asia to Northern Australia, and is popularly known as Tree of Heaven. *Ailanthus excelsa* has been identified as one of the important multipurpose tree species by All India coordinated research Project (AICRP) on Agro forestry. It is one of the top priority species for the safety matches industry in Tamilnadu. Its fast growth, adaptability to high density planting, ready market and substantial revenue is likely to make it an attractive species to farmers. Tree improvement holds the key for boosting the productivity and yield of the plantations. The desirable characters are fast growth, good tree form, high yield and resistance to pest, disease and drought. The promising *Ailanthus excelsa* clones can be popularized in farmland to meet the industrial demand in a sustainable manner.

As a first step towards tree improvement, three Germplasm banks of *Ailanthus excelsa* have been established by IFGTB in different agroclimatic zones, at Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Salem and Kanchipuram (Tamilnadu) with seeds collected from different agroclimatic zones of Tamilnadu and bulk seeds collected from different physiographic zones of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttrakhand, Jharkand and Maharashtra.

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GPS marking of Germplasm Assemblage

