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# STA dan Rakan2

## 3rd Environmental Compliance Audit Training Course

This monthly news bulletin is produced by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) to disseminate information to our counterparts on training, research and other relevant areas.

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Photo: (top) The Trainer (seated left, front row) and participants of the Training listened to presentation of Closing Meeting from one of the group; (bottom) The Trainer helped answer a question raised by participants of the Training.

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) in collaboration with the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) Sarawak, had successfully organised the 3rd Environmental Compliance Audit Training Course (Course) solely for its members. STA partially subsidised the costs for each participant to attend the course.

This was one of the initiatives taken by STA to enhance capacity building in environmental aspects within its member companies.

Twenty five (25) staff members from fifteen (15) STA member companies had enrolled in this Course which was conducted in two (2) sessions, each

session of five (5) days from 9 to 13 April 2018 and 7 to 12 May 2018 in Wisma STA, Kuching. Upon completion and passing the pre-requisite examinations, these participants will be registered as internal auditors with the NREB. A total of sixty four (64) staff members from STA member companies had participated and benefited from this Course since it was offered in 2015.

Mr Peter Sawal, the Controller of Environmental Quality Sarawak, in his welcoming remarks mentioned that the Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) aims to promote self-regulation within a company as well as to enhance the regulation and monitoring of

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environmental performances against the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Approval Terms and Conditions. He also highlighted that the launching of pilot projects for ECA undertaken jointly by NREB and STA in November 2017, was to prepare the forestry sector for the full implementation of the said Rules.

During the 2 sessions of training, participants of the Course were taught on environmental laws and regulations as well as key principles of auditing. The trainer emphasised that ECA is conducted based on the approved terms and conditions stated in the EIA report through methods such as interview, document review and site inspection.

Mr Tsai Koh Fen, Head of Compliance & Enforcement Section and Ms Elizabeth Nyomek, Senior Environmental Controller Officer (Environmental Audit) from NREB delivered the following presentations in the Training;  
 (i) the Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008,  
 (ii) the Natural Resources and Environment (Prescribed Activities) Order, 1994, and



Photo: Group photo after the conduct of site audit

(iii) the Guidelines for Natural Resources and Environment (Audit) Rules, 2008.

A site audit was also carried out on 11 April 2018 in a forest plantation in Sampadi, Lundu to provide participants of the Course with first hand practical experience on site audit. Participants carried out field audits, after which individual audit reports were submitted for assessment. In the last day of the Course, participants were assessed through both closed and opened book examinations.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Field Visits to the Biofertiliser Trial Plots Established Under the Biofertiliser Formulation Research Project



Photo: Growth assesment conducted by taking, among many others, the diameter of *E.pellita* seedlings

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) granted a Research and Development (R&D) fund to Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus (SUTS) in 2015 for a research project entitled "An Ecosystem Approach towards Formulation of a Biofertilizer Containing Growth-Enhancing Rhizospheric Microorganisms for Silviculture of *Neolamarckia cadamba* and *Eucalyptus pellita*". This research project, expected to be completed by 30 June 2018, aimed to identify and isolate the rhizosphere microorganism from soil that can be used to formulate a biofertiliser to enhance the growth of *Neolamarckia cadamba* and *Eucalyptus pellita*.

This Project is in final stage of the approved period whereby the biofertiliser formulated for *Neolamarckia*

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### Did you know that.....

More countries around the world are preparing to impose ban of export of wood. The federal government of Nigeria and the Tropical Wood Exporters Association of Nigeria (TWEAN) has decided to stop the exportation of processed and semi-processed woods early 2019. A three (3) year moratorium has also been given to wood exporters to prepare for eventual ban of the export of wood from Nigeria to and allow them to explore more wood processing equipment.

Source: FG, Exporters Move to Stop Export of Processed Wood, available at <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2018/05/fg-exporters-move-stop-export-processed-wood/>



**Did you also know that....**

Beginning in the early 2000s, 63 Penan communities have come together to create maps of their territory in the districts of Miri and Limbang in northern Sarawak. Together, these maps cover 10,000 square kilometers which identifies the location of 800 tajem trees, as well as the names of 1,800 mountain summits and ridges as well as 7,000 streams and rivers, all in the Penan ancestral homeland. After years of consultation and debate, the maps were completed in November 2017.

Source: Sarawak's Penan now have detailed maps of their ancestral homeland, available at <https://news.mongabay.com/2018/03/sarawaks-penan-now-have-detailed-maps-of-their-ancestral-homeland/>



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*cadamba* and *Eucalyptus pellita* is being tested in the field.

SUTS, in collaboration with SARAWAK FORESTRY Corporation (SFC) and STA Member Companies, have established the biofertiliser trial plots at Sabal Forest Reserve, Simunjan and two (2) Licences for Planted Forests (LPFs) in Bintulu, namely Zumida Sdn Bhd and Samling Reforestation (Bintulu) Sdn Bhd.

\* \* \* \* \*

Field visits to all the 4 on-going biofertiliser trial plots were conducted to verify the growth performance of the *Neolamarckia cadamba* and *Eucalyptus pellita* seedlings under the different types of treatment which SUTS had reported before.

Meanwhile, the growth assessment and sample collection of Kelampayan and *Eucalyptus pellita* seedlings were also conducted by SUTS during the visits, assisted by staff from SFC, STA Member Companies and STA.

**Briefing cum Discussion on the Proposed Study of Ceratocystis Wilt Disease in Acacia mangium Plantations in Sarawak**

A Briefing cum Discussion on the proposed *Study of Ceratocystis Wilt Disease in Acacia mangium Plantations in Sarawak* was called by Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) on 22 May 2018 at the GoldenBay Hotel, Bintulu. The Meeting was chaired by Mr Jack Liam, Deputy Director of Forests, FDS and was attended by representatives from FDS, SARAWAK FORESTRY Corporation (SFC), Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), Licence for Planted Forests (LPF) Holders and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) Secretariat.

In his opening remarks, Mr Jack Liam informed the participants of the Meeting that FRIM, in collaboration with FDS, SFC and STA, will be conducting a study on *Ceratocystis* wilt disease affecting the *Acacia* plantations in Sarawak. He hoped that this Meeting can provide a platform for both FRIM and LPF Holders to discuss the components of this Study. He stressed the importance of pests and diseases control in the development of forest plantations and the actions which should be taken to prevent the spread of *Ceratocystis* wilt disease in the State. He then urged the LPF Holders to provide full support to this study.

He informed the participants of the Meeting that this study will be expanded to cover other diseases as well as other planted species.



Photo: (left & right) Symptoms of Ceratocystic wilt disease on *A. mangium* tree

He also mentioned that although the problems associated with pests and diseases is still at a low severity level in the State, the technology and knowledge acquire from FRIM is crucial in preparing the local planters with the necessary skills and knowledge in the management of pests and diseases. He added that the tree breeding programme to produce disease-resistance clones would be the solution for the long term disease management programme.

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Dr Mohd Farid Bin Ahmad, Head of Forest Health and Conservation Programme, FRIM presented to the Meeting, the research proposal on “*Survey and Assessment of Ceratocystis Wilt Disease in Acacia Mangium Plantations in Malaysia*”. He provided a brief introduction on the *Ceratocystis* wilt disease and further explained to the participants of Meeting the research scope, objectives, design and expected outputs of this project.

He added that co-operation from FDS, SFC, STA and LPF Holders are needed for the plot establishment and disease assessment. FRIM will also provide training to the local planters on the wilt disease identification and assessment. At the end of the project, it was hoped that a wilt disease management strategy can be developed. Dr Farid also shared with the participants of Meeting the results of *Ceratocystis* wilt disease surveys and assessment conducted in Peninsular Malaysia.

The Meeting was further enriched with the presentation from Dr Mohd Zaki Bin Haji Abdullah, Head of Tree Improvement Programme, FRIM, on his research paper entitled “*Breeding Strategy on Acacia spp. for Resistance to Wilt Disease Caused by Fungus Ceratocystis*”. Dr Zaki highlighted the three (3) major scopes of this research i.e. (i) Screening of *Acacia* spp genotype for wilt disease; (ii) Comparing the transcriptome profile between the

*Ceratocystis*-infected and not infected *Acacia mangium*; and (iii) Assessing the genetic diversity of *Acacia mangium* germplasm in Malaysia by using the microsatellite DNA markers.

During the discussion session, participants were informed that FDS will be the main coordinator for this project in Sarawak. The Meeting also agreed to link this project to the Planted Forest Research Programme (PFRP) where majority of the LPF Holders have already participated in. Meanwhile, information and results gathered from this project will be shared with the LPF Holders through a workshop after the completion of the Study.

In conjunction with the Meeting, a field visit to LPF 0002 Zumida Sdn Bhd, Bintulu was also organised on 23 May 2018. During the field visit, Dr Farid and Dr Zaki explained to the participants how the survey and assessment shall be conducted in the field. In addition, they also described some common signs and symptoms of *Ceratocystis* wilt disease and demonstrated how a *Ceratocystis* sample is collected from an infected tree.