

MANUAL OF SEEDS OF FOREST TREES, BAMBOOS AND RATTANS

K.C. Chacko

R.C. Pandalai

Division of Silviculture

K.K. Seethalakshmi

Division of Plant Physiology

C. Mohanan

Division of Plant Pathology

George Mathew

Division of Entomology

N. Sasidharan

Division of Non Wood Forest Products



Kerala Forest Research Institute
Peechi 680 653, Kerala, India

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FOREWORD

In production forestry, seed is still the main propagule for raising large-scale plantations, even though plants raised through tissue culture or vegetative propagation offer alternatives. This is due to the fact that seeds are economical to use and easy to handle as compared to other types of propagules.

Since, now the thrust is on increasing the productivity of plantations through planting stock improvement, knowledge about the quality of seeds attains great significance. In this context, the “Manual of Seeds of Forest Trees, Bamboos and Rattans” is a timely publication brought out with the assistance of the Kerala Forest Department. I am sure, this manual will serve as a useful field guide both for foresters and researchers.

I congratulate the scientists and the Director, Kerala Forest Research Institute, for their effort in bringing out this valuable Manual which will fill a major gap in information on forestry seeds. I would advise all the forest officials and other users to make use of the Manual in best possible way and give their suggestions or inputs, if any, to KFRI for incorporating them during the revision of the Manual in future.

14 August 2002
Thiruvananthapuram

P.K. Surendranathan Asari IFS
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forests & Wildlife Department, Govt. of Kerala

PREFACE

For production of quality planting stock, it is essential to use healthy mature seeds. For planting programmes, usually seeds are required in large quantities, which need to be collected at the right stage of maturity and stored for future plantation programmes. This requires a fairly good understanding of seed biology of the species. Lack of information on appropriate protocols for seed collection, handling and storage can result in deterioration of seed quality and use of substandard seed and wastage of labour and money. There was a long felt need for a manual on forest seeds of Kerala, which is fulfilled through this publication, which brings out for the first time all the required information on forest seeds relevant to Kerala.

This manual, through its introductory chapter, presents the basics of seed science and technology and provides detailed treatise on 113 species of trees, bamboos and rattans grown in Kerala. Nursery practices are also briefly dealt with. Source of information is provided to help the users, especially the researchers for acquiring further details if needed. Information where source is not acknowledged, is based on studies carried out at KFRI as well as field experience of the authors. I am sure, the Manual will be a useful field guide for the officers of the Forest Department, researchers and others involved in seed collection, handling and seedling production.

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Dr. J.K. Sharma
Director
Kerala Forest Research Institute

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Authors